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Re: Michael Maddox:

Kim, my wife, purchased the rundown 60-70 year-old Kaiser-Fraser building in Palmer Lake, CO, about 19 years ago to be used by an up-start group of local artists who needed a building for their craft and as an art center for the town. The art center would provide a venue for various types of artistic presentations, including art exhibits, plays, and musical concerts. The group established a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization known as the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts—TLCA.

Over the years, many members and directors came and went. The TLCA struggled with maintaining the building and its surrounding land, membership, and money. But, it managed to keep the doors open and it soon became a focal point for the arts in Palmer Lake and the surrounding communities.

In 2009 Michael Maddox and debi, his wife, became members of the TLCA. Mike served on the board for a year or so. Then in 2010 Mike was named the director of the TLCA. In the intervening seven years, Mike has transformed the TLCA into a bustling art center (while several other local art groups, such as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, failed). Under his directorship, the building has been updated by adding a “green” room for visiting musical acts; a kitchen for catered events and refreshments during receptions; a bar for selling refreshments; a sound system for visiting acts; professional murals and sculptures decorating the outside of the building; not to mention repairs and restoration of the building itself.

Mike works with the local art community, and the expanded art communities from Colorado Springs to Denver, to always have high-quality art exhibits at the TLCA on a continuous basis.

Mike uses his prior background in booking musical artists, some of whom are well known, to bring increasingly well-known artists to the TLCA, such as Moe Bandy, Judy Collins, Shawn Colvin, Richy Furay (Poco), Michael Martin Murphy, Peter Yarrow (Peter, Paul, and Mary), and Colin Hay (Men at Work). Not bad for a 200-seat venue!

In addition to Mike, his family also contributes to Palmer Lake and the TLCA. Mike’s son Jesse and daughter-in-law Carla donate many hours per month helping out with events at the TLCA. Jesse designed and frequently sets up and controls the sound system for visiting artists. Carla often helps out with tickets and other activities. Jesse and Carla also have a thriving business in Palmer Lake—Taikos.com. They manufacture and sell world-class taiko drums for world famous musical groups; e.g. Metallica and Imagine Dragons. debi works tirelessly behind the scenes at the TLCA ensuring everything is set up, torn down, and that the shows go on without a glitch. In addition, her art decorates many of the walls AND floors of the TLCA! It is truly a family operation—making Mike look good!

Needless to say, our local communities are blessed to have such local, domestic, and international entertainment and art available in our small town. Without Mike Maddox, the TLCA might have floundered and closed several years ago. Mike is a tremendous asset to Palmer Lake. It will be interesting to see what his vision brings in the years to come.

Please contact me if you require additional information.



Roger W. Ward