



July 6, 2015

Dear Friends,

This is the time of the year that we are usually waist high in the high grass of preparing for the Duke Employee Art Show. For a number of very good reasons, we have decided to postpone this **year's show until the spring of 2016.**

As many of you may know, Sam Morrison, our visual arts coordinator, will be retiring effective September 30. Sam has facilitated 36 Duke Employee Art Shows since he started at Duke in 1976. He joined this department, then called Cultural Services, in 1979. This year from July 8 through August 31, **we will feature Sam's most recent series of artwork, *The Art of Appreciation*,** which is a departure from his well-known cartoons. A reception will be held for Sam in the concourse of the Arts & Health galleries at lunchtime on August 26, 2015. All are welcome.

We are in the process of re-tooling how we do the Duke Employee Art Show because of some concerning trends we have noted over the past 5 years including:

- Registrations by our employee artists are down significantly and consistently each year for the past 5 years.
- Approximately 30-35% of registrants fail to show up with their work on the drop off date each year.
- Our Duke art show is supported with a grant from the National Arts Program which supports community participation in visual arts for display in public spaces, including work by amateurs and professionals. However, if our registrations and exhibitors fall below a certain number, we risk losing that funding. Last year, we were within 5 exhibitors of losing that funding after the show was hung.
- The Duke Employee Art Show and contest is a staff intensive project, involving multiple locations and is the equivalent of hanging and promoting 4-5 hospital exhibits. Volunteers for this program have also fallen off dramatically. By moving the 2016 contest and show to spring, our hope is that we will be better positioned to work with Duke student volunteers who are not available during our summer launches.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates:

- Deadline for Registration: Monday, February 8, 2016
- Duke Employee Art Show Exhibit Dates: March 4—May 2, 2016
- Reception: March 9, 2016, 5:00 p.m. (location to be announced)

Registration forms will be available in print and online at artsandhealth.duke.edu in November 2015. Printed copies will also be available at the Arts & Health tables at our November/December Holiday Invitational events in the Duke North galleries concourse. Please share this information with others who may be interested. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 919.684.6124.

Sharon Swanson
Program Coordinator