

November 12, 2009



**CENTER FOR
DESERT
ARCHAEOLOGY**
a nonprofit corporation

Dear Members and Friends,

As the shadows grow longer—even here in the balmy Sonoran Desert—I find my thoughts turning to home, friends, and the things that sustain me. Year’s-end is a reflective time for most of us, I expect. As I reflect on the Center’s activities over this past year, I see **the concrete steps we have taken to ensure the sustainability of this organization—and the endurance of our mission to preserve the places of our shared past.**

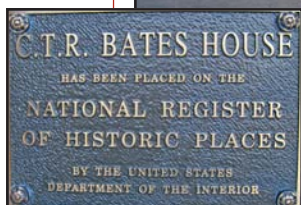
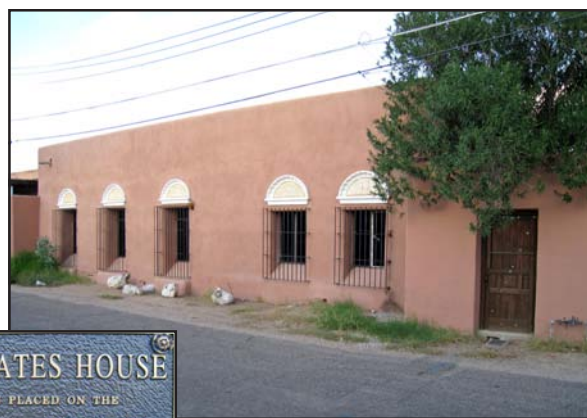
I am so pleased to be able to share the progress we have made toward our strategic goal of

Achieving long-term financial security and organizational viability.

New board members Demion Clinco and Donna Tang bring a wealth of fundraising, marketing, and programming expertise—as well as enlivening enthusiasm—to the Center’s Board of Directors. Center membership has grown and is holding steady at more than 1,000 supporters. Our **redesigned, content-rich website** underscores our commitment to **connecting people and place** in innovative and meaningful ways, and to **growing the message of preservation archaeology** across the globe. I encourage you to visit

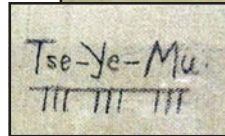
this outstanding, continually expanding resource often, and to share it with colleagues, students, and friends: www.cdarc.org. It will dramatically increase our visibility and support for our mission worldwide for many years to come.

And last, but certainly not least, **the Center will soon have a new home...** that was once a home! This past spring, a unique preservation opportunity arose in the heart of downtown Tucson. A historic residential and commercial complex known as the **Bates Mansion** and



Our new home embodies Tucson’s unique heritage; its history weaves ranching, business, western and native arts, border connections, and local architects and craftspeople. Originally built by merchant Charles Shibell in the 1880s, the core residence saw a few changes before accountant and rancher Charles Bates and his wife fell under the spell of the old adobe structure and bought it in the 1950s. Their love for the place is reflected in its name, Sientese (please be seated), and in their investment in it: they remodeled and enlarged the mansion in the mid-1950s and the late 1960s, and even created a special haven at the second-floor swimming pool! In the mid-1970s, Sientese became the new home of Tucson’s renowned Mountain Oyster Club, which occupied the mansion for nearly 30 years.

The Bates family's renovations incorporated distinctive works of art and craftsmanship—most notably, four rare murals by noted mid-century Mexican muralist and one-time bullfighter Salvador Corona (b. 1895, d. unknown), and a painting by San Ildefonso artist Romando Vigil (Tse-Ye-Mu, 1902–1978). Corona's work is found on the interior and exterior of the complex, in areas that will eventually serve as gathering places for meetings and events. Tse-Ye-Mu's ceremonial dancers are found above the grand walnut and mesquite staircase that recalled Mrs. Bates's family home in Delaware. Conservation treatment of these once-hidden treasures is planned.



Ash Alley became available, and we were fortunate to join with two long-time Tucsonans—as Prudent Preservation Partners, LLC—to **purchase, protect, and restore this singular gem.** The residential portion of the property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We plan to honor the Bates family's investment in beautifying this special place with our own investment in protecting and refurbishing it, fifty years later. At first, the Center will occupy a group of adobe buildings on the Ash Alley (west) side of the property. During the Bates' time, these were apartments for employees, but many Tucsonans fondly remember them as important galleries and artists' studios, the heart of a vibrant arts scene in the 1970s.



Our new quarters will immediately afford us more laboratory, library, meeting, programming, storage, and parking space. We are particularly excited about the upcoming installation of **our first fully equipped, digital media studio.** The ability to produce, edit, and distribute a wide range of content at the cutting edge of new media technologies will only further our effectiveness at communicating and sharing every aspect of our practice in preservation archaeology with a global audience.

More importantly, our new home will enable us to fulfill our mission of becoming **a true center for preservation archaeology**—a nexus for responsible research, pioneering outreach, strategic priority-setting, and insightful advocacy. By creating our headquarters in downtown Tucson, we are reaffirming our established commitment to downtown redevelopment, directly investing in our community, and creating a local resource, while at the same time, building an international center dedicated to the preservation and study of human heritage in this threatened region.

It is only through your ongoing support that we are able to realize this vision. Together, we will continue to build and sustain this legacy for generations to come. **As you consider your year-end giving plans, I invite you to support this exciting restoration and transformation.** Your generous gift is a direct invest-

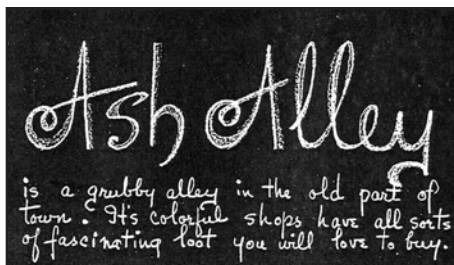
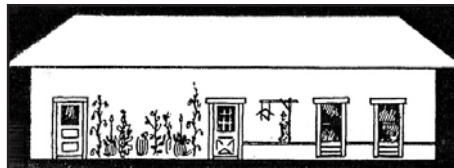
ment in the expansion and sustainability of the Center's mission to preserve the places of our shared past—well beyond our own lifetimes.

As always, my best to you and yours in 2010,



William H. Doelle
President & CEO

P.S. We're preparing to move as you're reading this letter! The Center will ring in 2010 at 300 N. Ash Alley, Tucson, AZ, 85701. We'll be in touch soon with more information about our new home, its history, and its unique artworks. In the meantime, you might find it convenient to support our restoration and transformation through our new monthly giving program. A growing number of Center friends have chosen this safe, easy way to increase the effectiveness of their gifts. For more information, visit www.cdarc.org/how-to-help/monthly-giving/, or call us at (520) 882-6946.



Our new home at 300 N. Ash Alley, as depicted in a 1970s promotional ad for the entire Ash Alley arts district. The upper left photograph shows a current view of the building exterior; below, our new laboratory space.