

## A Valuable Volunteer Venue

*by Maureen McGarry*

There is a special place in Eureka that is filled with light and calm and a sense of awe. Creativity is in the air, and quiet and contemplation, part of its history. Although in the center of downtown, it can transport you into another reality.

Standing in the rotunda of the Morris Graves Museum of Art, this architectural treasure is our regional art museum with seven galleries and a performance area for music and other

arts. Formerly Library, this built in 1902 National Historic older adults remember a child when it Now it is the a wide range events and

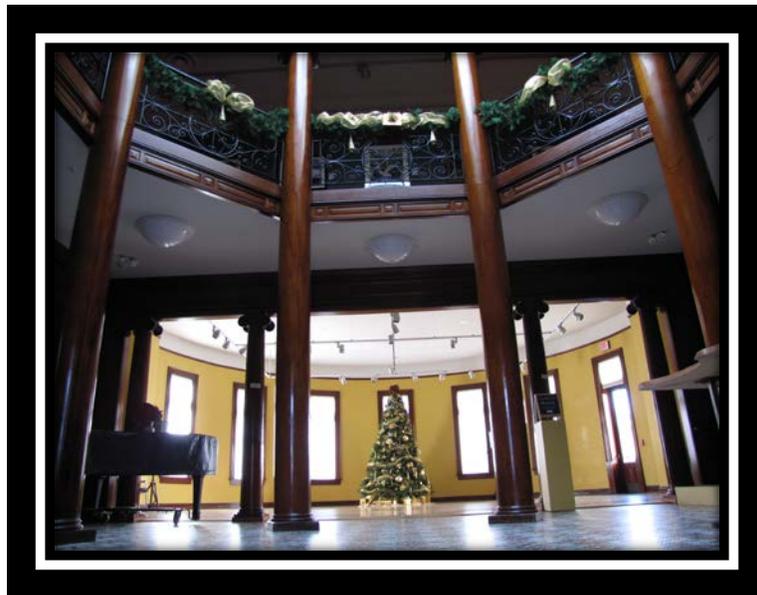
As with so programs, strong need for

Museum greeters, Arts Alive! volunteers, museum store attendants, and Family Arts Day volunteers are all needed to keep the museum's programs going.

"Volunteers are essential to the Museum. When visitors first step in the door they are welcomed by a volunteer Museum Greeter. During all Museum open hours we need volunteers to fill this role. We are always looking for friendly folks who want to be Museum Greeters."

Museum greeters collect admission, promote membership, share information about upcoming exhibits, and act as light security and safety monitors for the museum.

When asked why she enjoys volunteering at the Museum, 3rd year volunteer Linda Kwan answered, "I like the art, the people and being helpful."



performing the Carnegie building was and is on the Register of Places. Local might going there as was a library. destination for of cultural experiences.

many art there is a volunteers.

The museum store assistant performs similar duties in the downstairs part of the museum and processes museum store purchases. During Arts Alive!, volunteers greet and count visitors, sell and pour wine, assist musicians with set up and help maintain safety protocols.

“Arts Alive! is on the first Saturday of each month from 6-9 p.m. and is our most highly attended event of the month. In December we had over 900 visitors to the Museum for Arts Alive! Arts Alive serves as the opening reception for new art exhibitions, featured artists are here to meet visitors and discuss their work, we have live music, and sell wine. It’s an exciting event and we need all the volunteers we can get to ensure it’s a success.”

Many older adults in our community, especially those who are retired, could help by signing up as a museum volunteer. Research suggests that volunteering and having the opportunity to serve others provides needed constructive activities and productivity for those with time on their hands (Rouse & Clawson, 1992). Older adults live healthier happier lives if they stay involved. Volunteering in support of the arts is crucial because of limited funding for the arts. Volunteering at the museum is also a way to meet people and learn more about art as well as supporting this important asset in our community.

For more information about volunteering at the Morris Graves Museum, contact Janine Murphy at 442-0278, ext. 202, or email at [janine@humboldtarts.org](mailto:janine@humboldtarts.org).