

POST STAR ADK TALK

Hold on to your 'seats'

Lynn Shanks On Crandall Public Library | Posted: Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Craig Murphy A chair design by Kate Austin, entitled 'The Shirt Factory.'



This is one of those moments when I find myself thinking, "Wow, this is an amazing place to live." Let me tell you why.

The summer of 2010 brings great potential for Glens Falls. Potential beyond the everyday charm of this fair city, generated by a project that has been embraced by the entire community.

This summer brings the very first "Have a Seat in Glens Falls" outdoor arts initiative. Crandall Public Library has proudly partnered with the City of Glens Falls, Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council and Business Improvement District to produce what each of us agrees, modestly speaking of course, is an awesome venture.

Beginning Memorial Day, visitors to downtown Glens Falls will be treated to an impressive assortment of Adirondack chairs, each uniquely decorated in a Glens Falls theme by a local artist. In the meantime, images can be viewed on the Have a Seat website, www.haveaseatglensfalls.com. A picture is worth a thousand words but, having seen these chairs in person, I can tell you a picture alone will not do. You simply must visit downtown Glens Falls after Memorial Day, pick up a brochure at one of many locations, and walk among the chairs. I am very impressed by the creativity of our local artists and I think you will be too.

These talented artists have been but one cog in an elaborate wheel. Planning and implementing this project has been a long road that started well over a year ago with an idea. Nick Caimano planted the seed and cleared a path for Have a Seat.

Nick's concept became reality with the support of a dedicated committee including Ellen Butz and Stacy Bissell of LARAC, Alice Grether with the City of Glens Falls, Patty Gray Whann, Business Improvement District (BID) representative and owner of Glens Falls Area Realty, and myself, representing Crandall Public Library.

The vision, based on the success of Catskill's "Cat'n Around Catskill" project, was that this initiative would be a big tourist attraction, hence economic stimulus, for Glens Falls and the surrounding area.

That hope was dependent upon many things, not the least of which was funding to cover the significant expenses of the project.

And so it was. This community embraced our vision and invested in the project. Dozens of businesses recognized the potential and put their support behind it, through cash sponsorships and in-kind services.

Artists signed on and received their blank canvas - an unfinished, "some assembly required" Adirondack chair. Have a Seat in Glens Falls moved from possibility to certainty. Marketing plans went into action and very soon 90,000 rack cards will be distributed at rest stops and visitor centers up and down eastern New York, from Suffern to Plattsburgh. 20,000 brochures will be placed at local venues.

Banners will be displayed over Glen Street and in Queensbury. Ads will appear in print and on radio. And now we anxiously await the unveiling of these whimsical, wacky, fanciful, edgy, beautifully detailed, fun additions to downtown Glens Falls.

Everyone (and there are many) who has had a hand in this project should be very proud. I personally am thrilled that Crandall Public Library is included in this effort, and equally grateful for a top-notch committee, a remarkably generous and supportive community, and a public that embraces the power of art. Yes, this is an amazing place to live.

Are you ready for "Have a Seat in Glens Falls?" Hold on to your "seat," because this is going to be a fantastic summer.

"Have a Seat in Glens Falls" runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

On Sept. 15, the public can bid on their favorite at the "Chair"-itable auction. Visit www.haveaseatglensfalls.com for artist and sponsor information, a chair map, other related events and more.

Lynn Shanks is development director at Crandall Public Library. She can be reached at lishanks@sals.edu.

Posted in [Greater glens falls](#) on *Wednesday, May 5, 2010 1:00 am* | Tags: [Have A Seat In Glens Falls](#)