

**Prescott artist invests in creative future
Endowed scholarship benefits aspiring artists, musicians**



Eleanor Bostwick has enjoyed a long, fulfilling life of artistic expression and she credits Yavapai College with giving her the tools and inspiration to pursue her passion.

The fiber artist could have expressed her thanks to the college in one of the frame-able cards she creates and sells at a local gallery. Instead, she is expressing her gratitude in a more meaningful fashion: Ensuring that future generations of YC students are able, like their benefactor, to flourish in the art world.

Bostwick established the Bostwick Family Endowed Scholarship in Art five years ago with more than \$20,000 in proceeds from her artwork sold at Van Gogh's Ear, a gallery in downtown Prescott. "I felt that the best investment I could make was to provide scholarships for art and music students in financial need who might otherwise never have a chance to learn from this wonderful faculty," Bostwick said, adding, "People who follow their creative heart do not always have the same guarantees in life as those pursuing other professions. I wanted to create this fund at Yavapai College -- which had a major role in shaping me as an artist -- to help fine artists and musicians do what they really want to do."

The 98-year-old Bostwick made another immeasurable investment in the future when she donated a collection of capes she created over a 30-year period to the Phoenix Airport Museum, ensuring generations of Arizona travelers could enjoy them as they arrive or depart Sky Harbor. The eight wearable art capes currently are on display on the second level of Terminal 3, adjacent to the TSA checkpoint entry. The cape exhibit is expected to run through the summer.

"Mother wanted a permanent home for the cape collection where it would be kept together as a body of work. She wanted them to be used for educational purposes," said Barbara Kiger, Bostwick's daughter and fellow fiber artist. "This museum has proven to be a wonderful location for her work as the viewing audience is vast and her pieces are well liked, so they are shown often."

A variety of materials combine to fashion each cape's unique color and texture, including more than 10,000 paper beads that Bostwick hand rolled out of paper from fashion magazines. Bostwick's pride in the cape collection and the inspiration for the painstakingly crafted pieces is revealed in a video interview the airport museum produced. An excerpt of the video can be accessed on the airport's YouTube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_tod_S11BY&t=192s

Bostwick took multiple studio art classes at YC in the 1980s after making Prescott her home. The courses reignited a lifelong interest in all forms of art and instilled a desire to create.

As a child, Bostwick created Grimm's Fairy Tale dioramas with items plucked from nature. She sewed and embroidered scraps from her mother's fabric bag. And, to her family's chagrin, she crafted paper dolls with clippings from the Sears catalog.

Fiber art became Bostwick's first love, Kiger said, allowing her to work with "soft, flexible and colorful fibers and fabrics. "Stitchery, in particular does not require a large studio space, or expensive equipment, so it has been easier for her to do in her later years," Kiger said.

For someone who asserts: "I see art all around me," the creative process can never cease. Bostwick continues to produce and sell cards at Van Gogh's Ear. The works are a gallery mainstay and continuing source of revenue for the YC art scholarship.

"Mother wanted very much to give to others the opportunity to experience and benefit from the art education, as she had. She also hopes that others will see this need and contribute scholarship funds to keep this opportunity available to prospective art students," Kiger said.

Information about contributing to or establishing YC scholarship funds is available from the Yavapai College Foundation, www.yc.edu/foundation.