



Jan. 12, 2013

**From: The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theater
119 Park Ave W, Denver, CO 80205**

To: Deborah Jordy - Colorado State Arts Commission

Re: Tim Duffy

I met Tim 40 years ago, as I was getting my company started. He was starting his innovative jazz/fusion orchestra. We both were ambitious.

- He is a Colorado treasure. And remarkable.
- Acclaimed as a musician and jazz composer, arrived in the 70's; innovator, incomparable. Comical improvisation.
- Arrived as a graduate sculptor RISD 1970 in bronze, and a filmmaker.
- Western states' listeners and dancers from the 70's and 80's will testify that his music arts ensemble The Orchestra of Clouds was the most creative ever to grace the region.
- Over these years he has collaborated selflessly with my company, with original music and performance, set design, and art direction.
- While the expression may be overused these days, he is accurately *a renaissance man* - film, design, music.

- I have witnessed him over the years at conferences, seminars, and on stage, and he is eloquent.
- I embrace him as a friend and most creative colleague that I go to for insight.
- He has released 11 albums of original music, including vocal, jazz, and orchestral.
- John Denver and such genres dominated the Colorado image, while jazz and dance bands flew under the radar in the 70's. They didn't have a commercial front, and didn't have management.
- He led a dance band for 20 years up and down the region, acknowledged to have the best musicians in the western states.
- He delivered for non-profits and causes tirelessly through the 70's and 80's.
- Over the years I have seen bronze sculptures he created for collectors.
- Disney brought Tim to Florida for motion picture design and television from 1986-1995.
- Returned to Colorado in 1995, and had a fierce stroke in 2002.
- The return from the stroke has been major. He regained eyesight, walking, speech, and brain methodically. Lost feeling on his left side. Now sculpts with one hand, one arm effectively. Doesn't even notice!
- He earned a Masters Degree in Urban Design, just as the economic collapse arrived in 2006. He credits this with helping rework from the brain operation that accompanied the stroke event. I find him brighter than ever.
- "Jazz Explorers" has had a return for him to recording new works in the recording studios, but no performances as yet.

- Last year he fearlessly tried to come back, without a safety net, maybe too determined. Last year it all discouraged him, and as he speaks, he hit a wall. His creative rebound this year is nothing short of remarkable.
- He has been self-managed all these years, to a fault, and he longs for management, guidance.
- He has returned to his original pursuit, sculpture. He has scraped to create these new works we have pictures of.
- Not a bad businessman. Not a good one!
- This is a not casual project - he is brilliant. His best years are yet ahead of him.
- Still modest, Tim greatly needs support, endorsement, sponsorship, and patronage. His return after years from the stroke is so impressive.
- It is wrong to give you the impression that he is overly prolific, but the creativity is so impressive, and yes he is prolific.
- The MacArthur Foundation (“genius”) grants come to mind, but an even bigger body of work might be called for. The next few years should bring greater work yet, with his emphasis in sculpture.

So here is a master of design.
 A master of improvisation.
 He is a master of film making.
 Here is a master sculptor.

I kid you not.

Because this means so much to me, I have been careful to not exaggerate.

Today Tim says he is rebuilding. He says he hit a wall; I told him that we all do.

I wish to introduce him, and I want to join you in imagining the high level of encouragement and support that's called for. He is a treasure worth supporting.

His sculpture is gorgeous!

Warm regards,

Cleo Parker Robinson

Artistic Director