



THE CHRONICLE PAGES

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Publishing a newspaper today requires considerable effort. Editorial folk have been restricted from mentioning, by our own ethical constraints, the extraordinary contributions of our advertising partners. Here, in our last weekly print edition for the foreseeable future, we pay tribute to all the businesses, organizations and institutions that have been our greatest supporters along the way. If you like us, you must thank them. Like the Yellow Pages, consider The Chronicle Pages a way and means to navigate your conscientious community. As Garrison Keillor would say, "Be good. Do good work. And keep in touch."

Articulate City

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Julie and Jeanie Sutter

The Vietnam era gave dissidents the bogus ultimatum "love it or leave it." Innovative sisters Julie and Jeanie Sutter – creators of Fort Collins' relatively new art-appreciating social club Articulate City – know that between the loving it and the leaving it there is the changing it.

New to town and frequenting Fort Collins arts events, the Sutters noticed a conspicuous lack of similarly aged peers out and about. The Sutters concluded that it wasn't the art environment that was lacking. It was the audience.

"There is a bunch of art going on," Jeanie says. "We don't see people our age there; there are grandparents there. How can we support the situation?"

Thus, they designed Articulate City to yank the 25-to-44 demographic out of their homes and out on the town once a month to find what Fort Collins has to offer. They lure folks with booze, food and socializing, with themed dress-up parties and exclusive artist demonstrations. The message is that art is here, it's fun, and it doesn't require a snooty disposition.

So far they've enlisted 61 members (the cost to join is \$250 a year/\$20.82 a month, including drinks, food and tickets for each monthly event). And while getting more locals jazzed on local culture isn't an overnight job, the Sutters keep their success in perspective with the idea that Fort Collins is relatively young when it comes to facilitating a large arts culture.

"Fort Collins has been hauling ass since 1868 as a cow town and with a train coming through our community," says Jeanie. "And now we are trying to be something else, and we are trying to grow a little bit. And what a better way to do it than art?" – E.J.