

Brucemore's Fifth Annual Tahitian Party Raise a Coconut to Grant Wood

Written by Tara Richards
Friday, 31 May 2013 12:52

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Revel poolside amid flickering tiki torches and listen to the beat of steel drums with a cool beverage in hand during the fifth annual **Tahitian Party on June 28 from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m.** Throw on a hula skirt or Hawaiian shirt and relish the atmosphere of Tahiti in Cedar Rapids thanks to Howard Hall's famous Tahitian Room located in the basement of the Brucemore Mansion. Enjoy roast suckling pig, noshes, and Polynesian drinks. Join the list of contributors and raise a coconut to support the conservation of the Grant Wood Sleeping Porch. You will not want to miss this popular event.

In 1925, Irene and George Douglas commissioned Grant Wood to design and install a plaster mural on Brucemore's second floor sleeping porch. Wood, who earned world-wide fame five years later with the iconic *American Gothic* portrait, was still relatively unknown. The former high school art teacher accepted commissions for portraits, graphics, and decorative arts from his home and studio behind Turner Mortuary. Wood's stylized presentation of flora and fauna on four walls of the sleeping porch utilizes common plaster and paint in unconventional ways. A rare example of Wood's work in decorative arts, the porch is evidence of local patrons who helped launch his career and a unique reminder of Iowa's most famous artist. This summer, Brucemore will undertake the much needed conservation of the mural to ensure future generations the opportunity to enjoy this important part of the community's heritage.

Tickets are \$60 per person. Space is limited; purchase tickets by June 19 by visiting www.brucemore.org or calling [\(319\) 362-7375](tel:(319)362-7375)

. Sponsorship levels are also available beginning at \$125 and offering additional benefits. The Anderson Group at Morgan Stanley is the presenting sponsor. Tahitian Star Title Sponsors include Kathleen and Tom Aller; Echo Batson and Mike Ahart; Bradley and Riley PC; Brenda Duello and Kirk Haefner; Dr. Fred and Janet Manatt Pilcher; Paulson Electric; and Shuttleworth

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and Ingersoll PLC. Mercy Medical Center is the Printing Sponsor.

Experience Brucemore, an unparalleled blend of tradition and culture, located at 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. At the heart of the historic 26-acre estate stands a nineteenth-century mansion filled with the stories of three Cedar Rapids families. Concerts, theater, programs, and tours enliven the site and celebrate the heritage of a community. For more information, call [\(319\) 362-7375](tel:3193627375) or visit www.brucemore.org.

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