



ART

ACTIVISM

IT'S NO SECRET that sculptor Doug Hays is interested in fire: Much of his art takes shape through the coupling of traditional blacksmithing techniques with modern technology, resulting in steel sculptures that are as raw as they are sleek. It's also no secret that this Paisley resident is very active in supporting the public arts, as evidenced through the donation of his time and talent to The Public Arts & Music Committee (PAM) in Lake Eustis. Many of Doug's art pieces are displayed in PAM's galleries. According to him, understanding art is essential to appreciating it. "That's the greatest reason to educate the public: to gift people with the opportunity to enjoy something new," he said.

Most recently, Doug lent a helping hand to the creation of an imposing 8-foot-tall aninga, which proudly occupies the space in front of PAM's Arts Accord building, spreading its majestic wings for gallery-goers to admire. Plans are in progress to add a 14-foot steel heron next to the aninga. Through the investment of his time and the donation of his artwork, Doug helps in perpetuating PAM's goals for growth of an artistic community; one that will continue to support not only Florida artists but public art education for years to come.

A long-time PAM volunteer, Doug has been committed to the program since its inception in 2000. With acquisitions from him and other local artists, PAM and Lake Eustis are bringing their strong focus on the arts to the forefront in Central Florida. "While the state and county programs are important, the efforts of the citizens of a small city are more personal," Doug said.

Spoken like a true activist.

- Megan McDonald