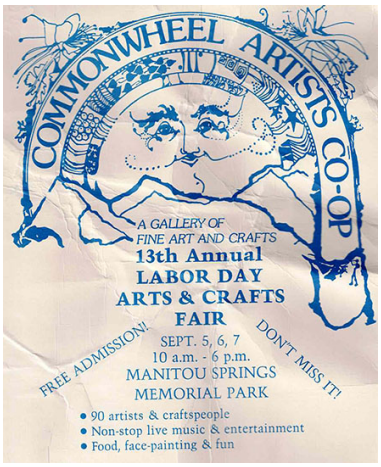

THE SECOND DECADE - 1985 - 1994

In 1985 the population of Colorado Springs had almost doubled from 240,000 (when the Commonwheel first opened in 1974) to 460,000. Manitou Springs felt the reverberations of this growth as we entered our second decade in business. The Commonwheel in 1989 had 32 artists.

Over the first decade, the focus had evolved, mirroring the challenges and triumphs of our dynamic community. In the second decade, we embraced financial concerns, immersing ourselves in business planning and long-term success strategies.

To adapt and thrive, we expanded our horizons, forming the Commonwheel Artists Association. This umbrella organization united artists under a shared vision, fostering collaboration, and creativity. Membership criteria were refined, ensuring that our standards of uniqueness, quality, and craftsmanship remained unwavering. As we reflect on our journey, we celebrate the synergy of old and new members, a blend that has kept our artistic landscape vibrant and ever-evolving.

Join us for a jubilant year-long celebration of our 50th Anniversary, filled with art, music, and memories.

The Commonwheel Artists Co-Op Annual Labor Day Festival will be a wonderful culmination of this momentous anniversary and will be shared with our customers, sponsors and art community. Let's honor our past and embrace the limitless possibilities of the future together. Come join us for the First Friday's through September, as we are celebrating this occasion.

Warmest regards,

The Artists of the Commonwheel