Rockdale Art Center and the Aston Cultural Corridor Compiled by Veronica Batter, vbatpat@gmail.com

Rockdale is a historic and growing artistic community nestled between the scenic hills and creek of Aston. This area is an ideal setting for a cultural corridor building on the presence of the artist studios at Heron Crest and at 1 New Road. The convenient location of Aston to major highways and Media as well as the reasonably priced real estate and historic natural beauty of Rockdale, Lenni and Aston Mills give considerable credence to the pursuit of this cultural corridor. In support of growing the artistic community I'm planning on opening a small art center in Rockdale. Rockdale Art Center will be located at 654A Mount Road in the building adjacent to my residence. The building has two large rooms, a full bathroom, utility room and a large gravel parking lot.

The mission of Rockdale Art Center is educating area residents in the arts and growing the surrounding cultural community. Rockdale Arts Center strives to become a resource for any level of arts enthusiast, from beginner to professional, offering a variety of classes and specialty art studios. In the successful future of the art center there is a collection of small studios and art spaces within Rockdale expanding into the surrounding area complementing existing historical and cultural institutions. The Goals and objectives of Rockdale Arts Center are the following. Have consistent course offerings and enrollment. Quickly respond to students' tastes and interests offering dynamic classes in a variety of media. Provide employment and job growth for local artists and residents as well as host art events for the community. Partner with local cultural and historical institutions for the betterment of the community.

I feel my unique background has amply prepared me for this undertaking. I attended Sun Valley High School and graduated in 1996. Then I attended Moore College of Art and Design graduating Cum Laude in 2000. My teaching career began in Philadelphia at two schools where I taught music, art & computers however the next school year I came back to Sun Valley to teach art and stayed for the next ten years. During this time I received my Masters Degree from Widener University graduating Summa Cum Laude. I also continued working at two Philadelphia museums in their public programs departments, The Academy of Natural Sciences and The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. My many duties and responsibilities ranged from weekend manager to program registrar to event hostess and event manager to everything in between. I took up 18th century blacksmithing at Newlin Grist Mill and volunteered on weekends for several years demonstrating blacksmithing techniques to the public.