THANK YOU SPEECH

FOR

KATHLEEN SEARS

(**In your best and most sincere 60’s hippie attitude, say**) Wow man… Right on!! That intro was beautiful and really super groovy!! It’s like, really trippy to be here at this “Love In” (**or you can use “happening”)** and believe me, this honor is like **RIGHTEOUS**!!! I’m totally trippin!! (**Wait for the laugh**) …Or as “they” say in this new millennium…thank you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for those generous and kind words. It’s been a privilege to serve at Open Arts for the past six years and it is really **I** who should be thanking all of **YOU**, for the honor to support all of the incredible work generated by this wonderful organization.

John Lennon said, “The thing the sixties did was show us the possibilities and the responsibility we all had. It wasn’t the answer. It just gave us a glimpse of the possibility.” That statement really rings true for me and my relationship to Open Arts. Being affiliated with all of the talent we mentor and promote, and sharing that talent with the public opens up worlds of possibility for all involved. There’s an expression I’ve seen around town and online recently, and it’s very simple. It states, “The e**ART**h without **ART** would just be **eh**… And it’s true. And it has been my privilege to do whatever I can to make sure that we **all** experience the joy of art in our lives.

I have learned so much throughout my years here at Open Arts and the friendships I’ve made are really a gift I will always keep with me. I cannot even imagine what my life would have been like without the color and brilliance I’ve observed through knowing and working with all of you. I would like to thank all of you, the totally “choice” staff for all of your true “grooviness,” and in particular, there are some “super cool dudes” (**since one is a woman, you can also say “freaks” if you prefer)** that keep this place going strong. To the three most “rad” executive directors any chick would ever want to work with…. and I mean **YOU**, Gary Zeff, Jane Saltzman and Bill Capsalis, you inspire us with your devotion and hard work. Each one of you has made Boulder a more colorful place to be and that is a true gift…. of course a certain new law doesn’t hurt either!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) I know that the work will continue to inspire and brighten the lives and locations of our community, and whether you’re an artist, observer, or student of either, I am eager to follow the progress of possibility fostered by Open Arts.

Thank you all!!