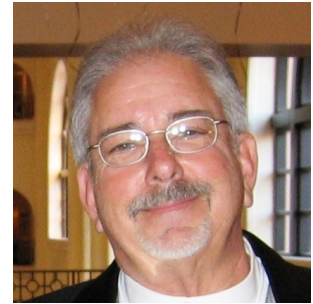


Focus On...

David Pashkow

David Pashkow, President of the Sonoran Glass School Board of Directors, says he was always doing something creative when he lived in the Chicago area. Before moving to Arizona, he spent 60 years split between the northern suburb of Highland Park and downtown Chicago. He always lived within walking distance of Lake Michigan before moving to the desert Southwest.



Through the years his creative outlets included ceramics, silver jewelry and lapidary. Like a lot of creative people that move, David left behind a network of friends, fellow artists and sometimes, like in his case, a large home studio where he indulged his creativity.

Once in Arizona David looked for things to do. He saw an ad for Sonoran Glass School and decided to check it out. He started by taking glassblowing classes and instantly fell in love with Hot Shop work. That was in 2008, twelve years ago.

When asked what it is about glass art that appeals to him, in typical David fashion he replied, “The thought of working with a material that resembles volcanic lava was exciting.”

A love of the arts, and of glassblowing doesn't necessarily mean a willingness to commit to serving on the Board of Directors. But David felt that SGS was a hidden gem. He used to call it “The Little Tin Shack at the end of 18th Street.” He saw beyond the little tin shack to all the possibilities that SGS held. He hoped with his business experience he could bring something more to the table. So, when a position on the Board was offered, he readily accepted.

David has been closely involved with SGS for 12 years. He's seen the school weather many changes. The changes that stand out most to him is the fact that SGS, although not yet a big player, has become part of the Tucson Arts Community. He's also seen how the school has become a destination with visitors from out of town for Make-Your-Own Experiences.

If you start at a glass school by taking classes and end up as the Board President, it's safe to assume you've had some rewarding experiences. For David those include working with Executive Director, Lynn Davis, who David says, has raised SGS to be highly respected in the arts community. He says it's also been rewarding to watch the “fabulous” staff in three shops demonstrate, teach, and create glass art.

“Seeing the joy on people's faces when they pick up something they've made out of glass is very rewarding.”

With rewarding experiences comes challenging ones as well. The temporary closure of the school to the public due to Covid-19 has presented serious challenges. But, to David, the challenge that has been most enduring is securing large donors. That is why SGS values and needs the ongoing support of everyone that walks through the door.

What is David's hope and vision for Sonoran Glass School's future? He hopes that SGS will always be an integral part of the Tucson Arts community. With his time and enduring effort David has moved SGS closer to that goal.