

NORTHWEST BRIEFS



Despite the tough economy, supporters were still bidding at CAP's auction.

for the coinciding mixer/auction, were down. Still, he didn't expect it to go "that far down." Last year's tally was \$620,000 — 15 percent of CAP's annual budget. Kaplan approximated the final gross for the 2009 gala between \$400-\$500,000 — "at least a hundred thousand off," leaving him with some potentially "tough decisions" to make.

"It is at a point that it may result in some slight reduction of offerings, programmati-

cally, that aren't contractually based," Kaplan explained. "Our events allow us to create a program, where government contracts allow us, 'Okay, you do *this* with *this*.'" He maintained that CAP was financially sound, with an operating balance of at least several months, saying, "We'll just have to tighten our belts more."

Kaplan, who joined CAP last fall, admitted he had no point of reference but had heard only rave reviews for this year's gala. "Everyone says it was one of the best ones they went to," he said, noting optimism despite the recession's impact and fewer top dollar sponsors. "Frankly, I don't at all think it's a bad [thing]."

The auction's smaller numbers won't jeopardize CAP's move to its centralized downtown offices this summer, long-term strategic planning and "creative new things" like the upcoming Project 150: Screw Stigma! event, Kaplan said. "The way the community rallied, the amount of the support, the amount of people who raised their paddles to try to give something was amazing."

That, and a staffer who wouldn't give up. CAP Special Events Coordinator Donna Gabriel broke her elbow in three places a couple of hours before the event and awaited surgery as *Just Out* caught up with Kaplan. "In her lucid moments between Vicodin, she's doing 'thank you' cards to the [event] committee," Kaplan laughed.

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Elizabeth Kramer and Poison Waters (both are on CAP's Board of Directors). With Roma Peyser (CAP's Director of Development) partying at the silent auction.

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