



Spotlight on Montana's  
Symphonies  
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Fall 2019 ■ Montana - The Land of Creativity

Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana

MAC NEWS



Poets Laureate Melissa Kwasny and M.L. Smoker  
(Photo by Barbara Weissberger)

Montana Poets Laureate  
Melissa Kwasny and M.L. Smoker  
share title and responsibilities

Melissa Kwasny and M.L. Smoker were appointed by Gov. Steve Bullock in July as Montana's next poets laureate – and the first to share the position since it was established in 2005.

"The Montana Arts Council is inspired by this innovative approach and encouraged by Gov. Bullock's selection," said MAC Executive Director Tatiana Gant. "We look forward to seeing how Ms. Smoker and Ms. Kwasny will build on the work of past poets laureate to promote poetry."

The Montana Poet Laureate is a two-year honorary position created by the state legislature in 2005 and administered by the Montana Arts Council. Kwasny and Smoker take over from outgoing Poet Laureate Lowell Jaeger, and serve through Aug. 1, 2021.

As co-poets laureate and women from marginalized communities, Kwasny and Smoker "aim to celebrate poetry as an art that fosters connection, relationships and bridge building."

During their tenure, they aspire to share their poetry and their creative processes with communities across Montana, highlighting issues of diversity and inclusion, landscape and the environment, and culture and history. Kwasny and Smoker say they believe in creative collaboration and wish to use their shared title to demonstrate the value of working together.

"As life-long educators, we are also committed to working with teachers and at-risk youth to demonstrate how poetry can provide a source of understanding and hope," writes Kwasny.

This won't be the poets' first shared endeavor. They also were joint editors of the anthology *I Go to the Ruined Place: Contemporary Poets in Defense of Global Human Rights*, published by Lost Horse Press.

See Poets Laureate, page 5



Artist's Innovation Awards

The response to the Artist's Innovation Award application process was fantastic, according to MAC grants director Kristin Han Burgoyne. "Thank you to everyone who applied!"

Application deadline is Oct. 1, and the winners will be announced in the winter issue of *State of the Arts*.

Crow storyteller Grant Bulltail  
named National Heritage Fellow

Crow storyteller Grant Bulltail is among the National Endowment for the Arts 2019 National Heritage Fellows, recipients of the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. Each fellowship includes an award of \$25,000 and the recipients were honored at two public events on Sept. 18 and 20 in Washington, D.C.

Bulltail joins Heritage Fellows Dan Ansotegui, a Basque musician and tradition bearer from Boise, ID; Linda Goss, an African-American storyteller from Baltimore, MD; James F. Jackson, a leatherworker from Sheridan, WY; Balla Kouyaté, a balafon player and djeli from Medford, MA; Josephine Lobato, a Spanish colcha embroiderer from Westminster, CO; Rich Smoker, a decoy carver from Marion Station, MD; Las Tesoros de San Antonio, featuring Beatriz (La Paloma del Norte) Llamas and Blanquita (Blanca Rosa) Rodríguez, Tejano singers from San Antonio, TX; and Bob Fulcher, a folklorist and state park manager from Clinton, TN.



National Heritage Fellow Grant Bulltail (Photo by Gary Wortman, EveryMan Productions)

Master storyteller and teacher

Grant Bulltail comes from one of the last of the traditional storytelling families of the Apsáalooke or Crow people. He is a member of the Úuwuutasshe (Greasy Mouth) clan, and a child of his father's clan, the Ash-íooshe (Sore Lip) clan.

His Crow name is Bishéessawaache (The One Who Sits Among the Buffalo), a name given him by his grandfather. He is a member of the Crow Culture Commission at Crow Agency, a Lodge Erector and Pipe Carrier in the tribe's Sacred Tobacco Society, and a Vietnam War veteran in the Marines.

Bulltail grew up on a horse ranch in the Pryor Mountains of Montana but also spent much of his youth in the Heart Mountain area of Wyoming. In both states he worked as a ranch hand and competed professionally in local rodeos. His original home in Montana stood close to what is now the Chief Plenty Coups Museum, home of the renowned Crow leader who was close to Bulltail's family and related directly to them.

See Grant Bulltail, page 8

"Belief" born again  
Julie Cajune takes one-woman play to NYC

"Belief: Lives and Stories of Montana's Salish Women," a one-woman show featuring Salish tribal member, cultural historian and actress Julie Cajune, was selected for a one-week run Sept. 18-22 at the historic Gene Frankel Theatre in New York City.

The play draws from Cajune's personal life experiences and the true stories of generations of the women in her family living on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Northwest Montana. The stories told in "Belief" offer a rare opportunity for audiences to participate in a genuine cultural exchange, and to gain insight into the daily lives of people in a Native American community as they grapple with the human condition, as well as with the broader historical legacies and events of our time.

The play premiered in December 2012 at the Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts, and went on to Missoula, Bozeman and Dillon in Cajune's home state. She performed in Honolulu, HI, Salamanca, Spain, and, in 2016, Scotland, where the historic connection between the Highland Clans and the Native people of Montana came



Julie Cajune rehearses "Belief" with musician Swil Kanim.

full circle. "We were hosted by Duncan MacInnes on the Isle of Skye at Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the Gaelic college," recalls Cajune. It was an opportunity that came about through her connection with Scottish historian James Hunter. "We thought 'Belief' had run its course," says Cajune. "But life has many surprises."

The New York performance started with her daughter's vision. "She called me and told me that she had this vivid dream of us in a large city walking down the street and seeing a poster for 'Belief.'"

Cajune forgot about the dream until a friend who was living in New York City dropped by for a visit, was intrigued with "Belief," and suggested Cajune bring the play to New York.

"At that exact moment, I remembered Sarah's dream and so I said OK, but how would I go about even finding a space to host me?"

See "Belief," page 8





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### Sign up for MAC's eNews

Between the quarterly issues of the *State of the Arts*, our staff publishes four separate e-newsletters with opportunities and information:

- Artists' eNews
- Arts Educators' eNews
- Arts Organizations' eNews
- Public Artists' eNews

If you'd like to sign up for one or more of these, please offer us your contact information and what you'd like to receive at: art.mt.gov/enews or send us an email at: mac@mt.gov.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Tatiana Gant**, Executive Director  
tatiana.gant@mt.gov



Photo by Czelsi Gomez

### Connected & Collaborative

I had the good fortune to be in Billings for North x Northwest, activities curated by Billings Cultural Partners to spotlight the richness of Montana's metropolitan center. Regional board members Tracy Linder and Lynne Montague keep me updated on the health and vibrancy of the cultural scene, but nothing replaces being present.

I had a whirlwind of conversations with the leadership of some of the community's cultural anchors such as the Yellowstone Art Museum, the Alberta Bair Theater, SCRaP Billings, the Western Heritage Center, and the Northcutt Steele Gallery at MSU Billings. Corby Skinner and Anna Paige invited me to chat with them on Yellowstone Public Radio.

I got a peek at the home and studio of Jane Waggoner Deschner and Jon Lodge while meeting artists from across the region. I wandered through a special Art Walk on a beautiful fall evening. I was able to experience a delightful performance at Billings Studio Theatre and catch the haunting presentation of "The Other Mozart" in Petro Theater at MSU-Billings.

In a brief break for a cup of coffee, I struck up a conversation with a fellow patron, only to discover that it was Mark Fee, a prolific poet and social activist that I had been com-

municating with by email. I literally couldn't turn around without experiencing the arts.

Billings has an active community of support; it is connected, collaborative, and inspired. The Montana Arts Council will be conducting the winter business meeting in Billings. I look forward to hearing about their impressions.

#### Active community engagement

While my time in Billings is fresh on my mind, active community engagement is what keeps the arts relevant in Montana. I was in Whitefish to attend the North Valley Music School's scholarship luncheon and witnessed the commitment to keeping music education accessible. During my visit to northeastern Montana for the Fort Peck Theatre's 50th anniversary, I could see the way in which that cultural anchor draws together a community of theatre professionals, from across the state and country, to develop the skills that serve as the foundation of successful careers.

The same is true of Montana Actors' Theatre in Havre, and their internship that hands the power of producing and presenting theatre productions, along with a summer camp, to young professionals.

## Mary Anne Carter confirmed as new NEA Chair

The United States Senate voted Aug. 1 to confirm Mary Anne Carter as chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Carter has served as acting chairman of the agency since June 5, 2018, and becomes the Arts Endowment's 12th chairman since its inception in 1965.

"I look forward to continuing to lead a talented and dedicated staff of professionals in our important work of ensuring that every American – in every community and in every neighborhood – has access to the arts," Carter said.

"From the moment that she became involved with the NEA, Mary Anne Carter has placed a high priority on listening and being available," says MAC Executive Director Tatiana Gant. "She has demonstrated that she is an adept leader and values the roles of state arts agencies. I'm thrilled to have her confirmed as chair and look forward to welcoming her to Montana."

"From inspiring thousands of arts administrators and supporters in cities and states across America, to representing the United States abroad in demonstrating the importance of collaboration and communication across



Mary Anne Carter

cultures at the International Federation of Arts Council and Cultural Agencies conference in Kuala Lumpur, Mary Anne understands the inherent value of the arts, the importance of using the arts to help enhance quality of life, and the transformative power it has to individuals as well as to places," said Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch.

"Americans for the Arts is grateful to have a partner who shares our steadfast commitment to providing access to the arts for all Americans, and we look forward to working with Mary Anne in the coming years."

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) also praised her appointment. "Her deep engagement with state arts agencies demonstrates her dedication to the federal-state partnership," said NASAA President and CEO Pam Breaux. "It is clear that Mary Anne understands the economic, educational, civic and cultural value that the arts bring to communities throughout the nation."

#### About the new NEA chief

Since arriving at the agency, Carter has

### MAC adds business specialist to team

Lauren Pan, the Montana Arts Council's new business specialist, joins the agency with 10 years of experience in education, international relations, program development, and grants and budget management.

Having spent the past seven years studying and working in China and in various cities along the East Coast, Pan is excited to be back in Helena serving the mission of the Montana Arts Council.



Lauren Pan

She has a bachelor's in international studies and enjoys exploring new places and sharing her love of the Chinese language and culture with anyone who will listen.

As business specialist for the MAC team, Pan will be responsible for managing council data and supporting general grants, accounting, and office administrative functions for the agency. She can be reached at 444-6510 or Lauren.Pan@mt.gov.

### Grant Bulltail: Preserving stories across generations

When I received the call that Grant Bulltail would be recognized as a National Heritage Fellow, I had difficulty finding information on him. As I spoke to those who have worked with him and heard the tales that he has preserved, I was humbled to think of the extraordinary commitment, across generations, to protect Apsáalooke culture.

I am so fortunate to have colleagues across the region, from Wyoming to Utah, who have been carefully capturing his knowledge. We can be sure that through audio, video, written word and, most importantly, live storytelling, we can be sure the art endures.

### Montana: Committed to the long game

All of this makes me wonder: what could we risk if we don't keep arts opportunities widely available? What if there wasn't the chance for a child in Whitefish to learn music, and all of the joy that comes with that? Or for a theatre student to spend a summer developing professional skills that can launch a career? Or the chance to hear the story of the land we are on and appreciate the gift we have?

In my job, I am often looking to data linked to return on investment to demonstrate value, generally in a relatively short time-frame. This string of experiences has cemented for me that Montana is committed to the long game, knowing that each art opportunity builds to a future full of beauty.

pushed to make the National Endowment for the Arts more accessible to the American people, directing an expansion of Creative Forces (an arts therapy program for U.S. service members and veterans) and bolstering many of its national initiatives, including Shakespeare in American Communities, NEA Big Read, Poetry Out Loud, and the Jazz Masters and National Heritage Fellowships.

To further expand the reach of the Arts Endowment, Carter has held the past several public meetings of the National Council on the Arts at locations outside the agency's offices, including a meeting in Charleston in June 2018 and in Detroit in June 2019.

Carter brings a unique perspective to the Arts Endowment. Prior to her appointment, she was engaged in public policy analysis, issue tracking, and corporate and campaign communications through her work as a public affairs consultant. During her time at the Arts Endowment, she has demonstrated that lessons learned in her prior professional life are effective tools in directing the work of an agency dependent upon the support and confidence of Congress.

## STATE OF THE ARTS

*State of the Arts* is published four times a year by the Montana Arts Council and produced by *Lively Times*.

*State of the Arts* welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

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**Next Deadline:** The deadline for submissions is Dec. 3 for the Winter issue (January-March). Send items to: Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201; phone 406-444-6430, fax 406-444-6548 or email mac@mt.gov.

**Subscriptions:** *State of the Arts* is available free of charge upon request as a public service of the Montana Arts Council. To subscribe, call 406-444-6430, or update or sign-up online at art.mt.gov.



# CONGRATS TO ...

Billings artist **Judd Thompson**, 36, who was asked by Pendleton Woolen Mills to create a design for one of their world-famous wool blankets. The invitation came at the Denver Summer Art Market, where a Pendleton representative invited the artist to submit some of his work for a potential blanket design.



Pendleton blanket design by Judd Thompson

After a year of gathering images of his work and preparing for the presentation, Thompson submitted 13 designs. Pendleton selected "A Horse Named Paint," which Thompson described to KTVQ.com as a dreamlike "silhouette of a horse running through this snow-covered field." Thompson grew up around the Pendleton blankets sold at his parents' business, The Custer Battlefield Trading Post Cafe in Crow Agency. "Because of the store, I constantly had artwork around me and artists coming into the Trading Post, selling art out of the back of their truck, and I thought that was cool," Thompson said. The blanket featuring his artwork made its national premiere in late September, and a limited number were available during Crow Fair at his family's trading post. They are currently available there, at the Stapleton Gallery in downtown Billings, as well as other Pendleton outlets.

– KTVQ.com



"Fearless" by Barb Schwarz Karst

Missoula artist, **Barb Schwarz Karst**, whose acrylic painting, "Fearless," recently won the Richeson/Shive Award in the National Society of Painters in Casein and Acrylic's (NSPCA) 65th annual national juried exhibition. The NSPCA displayed her artwork at the Salmagundi Club in New York City in June 2019. Schwarz Karst has been juried in, and displayed with, NSPCA in the Big Apple for the past 13 years and this is the second national award she has received. The first was the Judy and Elias Newman Memorial Award, given for her painting of Chief Joseph. She is best known as a contemporary painter, whose acrylic series, "Shifting Winds," emphasizes how the West is still intriguing and often romanticized; her "Montana Rust Belt: Abandoned Industries" depicts abstract close-ups of the machines used centuries ago during Big Sky Country's early labor development.

Great Falls artist **Jay Joseph Contway**, who was honored Sept. 6 by the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and the C.M. Russell Museum with the Saddle of Honor award during a chuck-wagon barbecue at the museum. "Montana's Storyteller in Bronze" has spent a lifetime creating western sculpture. His knowledge and respect for the working cowboy shows clearly in his art, and his sculpture displays an appreciation for history, his own native ancestry and the people and animals of the West. Contway was inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2015, and now joins last year's Saddle of Honor recipient Charles M. Russell. The event is part of a pilot project currently taking place between the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and the C.M. Russell Museum to find a home for all honorees of the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame. Both organizations share the mission of honoring the Montana cowboy as integral to defining the values of the "Soul of the American West."



Jay Joseph Contway



Minding Nature, cover art by Sandra Dal Poggetto

Montana artist **Sandra Dal Poggetto**, whose artwork is featured in the Fall 2018 issue of *Minding Nature* and graces the front cover of the journal. In an article titled "Landscape Art?" senior editor Anya Claus interviews Dal Poggetto about her paintings, which Claus says "cross temporal and spatial scale, creating an amazing array of pulsing and colorful canvases." The artist, whose artwork and accompanying essays have been published in several academic and literary journals, says of her abstract works: "The natural world is a profound place. It really is a place that never ends. And if you're truly engaged in your art and if your artwork or your painting is about landscape, it is a never-ending discovery." Read the interview at [www.humansandnature.org/fall-2018](http://www.humansandnature.org/fall-2018).

Whitefish author **Jeff Giles**, who was recently hired by *Vanity Fair* to hold the newly created position of executive Hollywood editor for the magazine's Los Angeles bureau. Giles, who joins full-time after serving as a *VF* contributing editor and as a contract writer for *The*

*New York Times*, will oversee the bureau and be charged with assigning and editing entertainment stories across all platforms. In the entertainment journalism realm, Giles is well known for his long run as an editor at *Entertainment Weekly* where he oversaw the movie team and books coverage from 2006 to 2014. He has also held editorial positions at *Rolling Stone*, *The New Yorker* and was a senior editor at *Newsweek* where he led arts coverage and created that publication's Oscar Roundtable franchise. A bit of Giles personal trivia: He appeared as an extra in "The Lord of the Rings" while writing about the franchise. While living in Whitefish, he published two young-adult novels, centered in northwest Montana: *The Edge of Everything* and *The Brink of Darkness*.

Montana State University film graduates **Charles Burt and Omar Parker**, who traded in their post-commencement academic regalia for tuxedos for their first trip as filmmakers to the Cannes Film Festival in France. Burt and Parker traveled to the prestigious European film festival with the short independent film, "Anna." The duo and Egerton Crescent Productions, a company they formed while MSU students, were executive producers for the film. Written and directed by Dekel Berenson and made in the Ukraine, Israel and United Kingdom, the 15-minute "Anna" was one of 11 films that vied for the 2019 Palme d'Or in the festival's short film category.

Missoula artist **Teresa Garland Warner**, whose oil painting, "Sunrise Glow," was accepted in the National Oil and Acrylic Painters' Society 28th Best of America National Exhibition at Montgomery Lee Fine Art Gallery in Park City, UT. The exhibition is on display Sept. 27-Oct. 27.

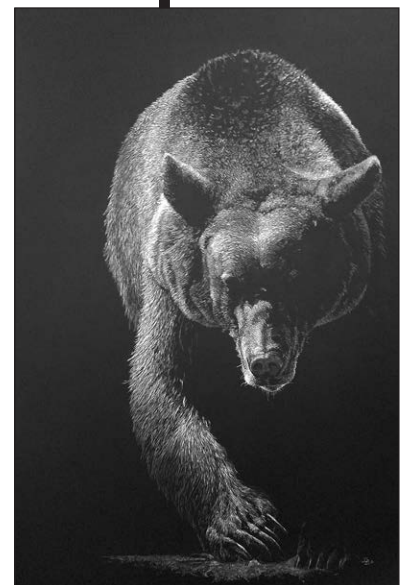


"Sunrise Glow" by Teresa Garland Warner

Whitehall artist **Janice G. Bogy**, whose scratchboard of a grizzly bear titled "True Grit" has been selected for the international "Animals in Art" exhibition of the Society of Animal Artists. The prestigious show opened at the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio, TX, on Sept. 19 and continues through January 2020.

The **MAPS Media Institute**, an award-winning educational non-profit based in Hamilton, which was recently awarded a five-year, U.S. Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, which specifically funds afterschool and summer programs. Since 2004, MAPS' free-of-charge media arts courses have served 8th to 12th graders in Ravalli County, and in recent years outreach workshops have been offered in a number of rural locales, including on the Flathead, Blackfeet and Fort Belknap Reservations. Beginning in November, MAPS will add year-round after-school media arts classes for students in grades 8 to 12 in Helena and East Helena, modeled after the Ravalli County program. The new MAPS – Lewis and Clark County program was inspired by a collaboration with the Holter Museum of Art in 2018 that resulted in the student Emmy Award-winning mini documentary "Art for Survival." A narrative film, "EAST," also was created with East Helena students in 2019 as part of a Myrna Loy Theater project. "MAPS was so inspired by the students' excitement and commitment, that we immediately started brainstorming how we could bring a year-round afterschool and summer media arts program to this part of the state," said MAPS Executive Director Clare Ann Harff. Half of the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant funds are earmarked for MAPS – Lewis and Clark County. MAPS will find a new home with some old friends at the Holter Museum of Art, which will house a new media arts studio. For its inaugural year in Lewis and Clark County, MAPS is offering two after-school classes: a graphic design class on Mondays and Tuesdays and a filmmaking class on Wednesdays and Thursdays from November to May.

The **Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale (BSO&C)**, which recently received a \$25,000 grant from the Tippet Rise Fund of the Sidney E. Frank Foundation for its Explore Music! program. The music education and community engagement program of the BSO&C was created to share symphonic music with as many people as possible while cultivating a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts, and reaches tens of thousands of children, youth, adults, and seniors each year. The \$25,000 grant will expand the already successful outreach program and bring symphony concerts and programs to more Montanans in towns across Stillwater and Carbon counties. The funds help support Musicians in Schools, Rural Rhythms concerts, Adventures in Music Day, the family concert of "Peter and the Wolf," and master clinics for high school students.



"True Grit" by Janice G. Bogy



## Send us your good news

Artists, writers, musicians, arts educators and arts administrators: Please let us know about major awards and accomplishments, especially beyond the borders of Montana.

Send your good news to Congrats, c/o Kristi Niemeyer, 207 6th Ave. E, Polson, MT 59860; or better yet, email [kristi@livelytimes.com](mailto:kristi@livelytimes.com).

If you include a digital photo, please make sure it's at least 200 lines per inch (lpi or dpi) and a file size of over 500kb.

Congrats, Transitions and Condolences compiled by Kristi Niemeyer for *State of the Arts*





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## TRANSITIONS



Emily Paris-Martin

Congratulations to **Emily Paris-Martin**, who was recently promoted to the position of executive director of the Bozeman Symphony. Paris-Martin comes from within the organization, having played violin (2002-2015), and served as orchestra operations manager, director of marketing and orchestra operations, director of communications, and director of business operations.

Paris-Martin holds a bachelor's in business from Montana State University and a master's in communications from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. She makes her home in Bozeman with husband Charlie Martin, a cellist in the orchestra, and 4-year-old daughter Iris. Paris-Martin was recently selected as one of 35 orchestra professionals from across the country to participate in Essentials of Orchestra Management, the League of American Orchestras' premier educational course for developing effective and innovative orchestra administrators. The 10-day seminar, held July 8-18 in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California, represents the gold standard of orchestra management training, offering a powerful curriculum and invaluable career network for the future. "This experience had the utmost impact on the work and vision I have for the future of the Bozeman Symphony, from the relationships formed with an outstanding group of professionals from across the country to working directly with executives from today's most innovative orchestras," she says.

### WESTAF adds public policy director

David Holland joined WESTAF (Western States Arts Federation) in August as director of public policy, a new role that will guide WESTAF's public policy and arts advocacy programs and services.

Holland previously served as associate director of the Arts and Business Council of Greater Boston, a chapter of Americans for the Arts. Prior roles include management positions with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) da Vinci Center for Innovation, VCU School of the Arts, Arts and Business, and the UK innovation think-tank Nesta.

For more than 10 years, he has served as an independent management consultant working primarily in the arts and culture field both nationally and internationally.

"I am both honored and humbled – not to mention excited – to be joining WESTAF," he says. "I look forward to working with our network of western state arts agencies as well as regional and national partners to strengthen the cultural policy and arts advocacy capacity of the region and the wider field while deepening WESTAF's role as a convener, thought leader, coalition builder and catalyst."



Photo by Randy Clemens

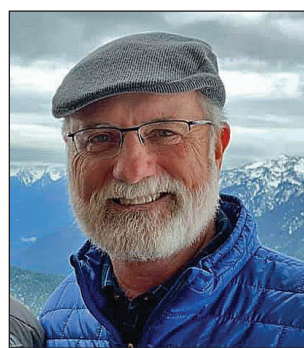


Oboist Dr. Paul Chinen (left) and violinist Luis Angel Salazar (above)

Welcome to **Jo May Salonen**, who was hired as executive director of the Missoula Symphony Association after a months-long search. Salonen served as the association's interim executive director for the past seven months and applied for the job, along with a large number of national and international applicants. Salonen is a longtime resident of Missoula, working in the community in a variety of marketing and public relations roles. She is the former owner/partner of Salonen-Smith Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations, and had been working as a freelance marketing professional since before joining the MSA. Classical music has always been her passion and she continues to play the cello in small ensembles. MSA President Jim Valeo believes her knowledge of the organization and the community is a plus. "Jo May undertook the interim job with enormous enthusiasm and brings pertinent experience and continuity," said Valeo. Salonen is excited about her new endeavor, "especially as we head into a new concert season where five finalists will vie to be the new music director for our orchestra and chorale." She praises the organization as "a strong group of musicians, staff and board members – all working tirelessly to bring the highest quality of classical music to our community. It's an honor to be a part of the organization."



Jo May Salonen



Lowell Stuck

Welcome to **Lowell Stuck**, who was named new executive director of the Butte Symphony following the retirement of **Mark Hayden**, who served the symphony for 13 years. Stuck comes to Butte from Portland, OR, and brings experience in business and the arts, a passion for Butte and the symphony, and a strong vision for its future. Recently retired from the commercial printing industry, he has been active in music and the arts throughout his life. Stuck attended the

University of Michigan where he was business manager and student conductor of the Men's Glee Club, and performed in The Friars, the university's longstanding a cappella performance group; he also attended further music classes at Portland State University. From his first visit to Butte seven years ago, Stuck says he "just plain fell in love with the city, its history and that 'Butte Pride.'"

Welcome to oboist **Dr. Paul Chinen** and violinist **Luis Angel Salazar**, who join the Great Falls Symphony for the 2019-2020 season. Chinen is the new principal oboist in the symphony and the newest addition to the Chinook Winds, the symphony's resident wind quintet. He succeeds **Lauren Blackerby**, who was recently appointed principal oboe of the Boise Philharmonic. Prior to joining the Great Falls Symphony and Chinook Winds, he held the position of second oboe with the Miami Symphony Orchestra, and second oboe/English horn with the Palm Beach Symphony and Florida Grand Opera Orchestra. He has also performed with the Miami City Ballet, Symphony of the Americas, the New World Symphony, Greenville Symphony Orchestra, American Festival Pops Orchestra and Fairfax Symphony, among others. He recently received his

doctorate in musical arts from the University of Miami Frost School of Music and earned a master's from the Lynn Conservatory of Music and a bachelor's from George Mason University where he also studied saxophone. Salazar is the interim principal second violin in the symphony and performs with the Cascade Quartet for the 2019-2020 season. He fills in for **Mary Papoulis**, quartet member and concertmaster of the symphony, who is taking a well-deserved leave of absence after 29 years of service. Salazar has toured nationally and internationally as a soloist, chamber musician and educator. He joined the St. Petersburg String Quartet in April of 2014, and has traveled with the group throughout Europe, Canada and the United States. Cascade Quartet member and violinist **Megan Karls** assumes the role of symphony concertmaster.

Welcome to **Dr. Coreen Duffy**, who recently took the helm as artistic director of the Missoula Community Chorus, a 90-voice mixed choir and select chamber ensemble. Duffy is director of choral activities at the University of Montana School of Music, where she conducts the Chamber Chorale and University Choir, teaches conducting and choral methods, and supervises student teachers. Before arriving in Montana, she served on the faculty at the University of Miami Frost School of Music; she is an active clinician as well as a composer, whose choral works are published by Walton Music, ECS Publishing, and Pavane Publishing and regularly featured in reading sessions and as recommended repertoire. A specialist in Jewish choral music, Duffy has designed performance sessions dedicated to Jewish repertoire at two National American Choral Directors Association Conferences; she also founded the Second Avenue Jewish Chorale of South Florida.



Dr. Coreen Duffy

Welcome to **Nicole Maria Evans**, who recently joined Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art in Great Falls as the new curator of art. Evans brings a diverse knowledge of historical and contemporary art to her new post. She co-founded Itinerant Arts Collaborative, an artist/historian-led exhibition group in San Diego, and was curatorial research associate at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston for the exhibition "Goya: Order and Disorder." In addition, she helped write educational content for the C.M. Russell Museum of Art in Great Falls. Evans resides with her family in Great Falls, and is excited to be joining the Square's team. Her goals for the curatorial department include bringing in more regional and nationally recognized artists to provide workshops in conjunction with exhibits and installations, as well as grow the Square's permanent collection of contemporary and outsider art. Evans received her master's from Tufts University in Art History and Museum Studies, with an emphasis in modern and contemporary art of the Americas. While obtaining her graduate degree, she was granted a fellowship at the Smithsonian Latino Center at the Smithsonian Institution. In addition, she has taught art history at multiple colleges including Massachusetts College of Art and Design and Otis College of Art and Design.



Nicole Maria Evans

Welcome to **Joanne Feinberg**, who was selected to serve as the guest-programming director of the 2020 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. Joining the institute to helm the selection process for the 17th annual event, Feinberg succeeds long-time director of programming **Doug Hawes Davis**, who is on sabbatical, and senior programmer **Michael Workman**, who began his MFA in documentary film and video at the Stanford School of Art and Art History this fall. Feinberg is an award-winning filmmaker and curator who served as the programming director at the Ashland Independent Film Festival for 11 years, and graduated with honors from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

So long (although he's not going far), and best wishes to **Eric Whitney**, who recently stepped down as Montana Public Radio (MTPR) news director and is moving on to a new job with National Public Radio, where he'll serve as NPR bureau chief for 10 Rocky Mountain and Great Plains states, including Montana. Whitney will still be based in Missoula but will be travelling a bit more, he says. During his tenure at MTPR, he oversaw the news team's award-winning coverage of public lands, politics and the Legislature, wildfires and health care, and more. His leadership established two news podcasts, SubSurface and Richest Hill, which was dubbed a "must listen" by *The New Yorker*. Whitney is also a fellow in the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Editorial Integrity and Leadership Initiative.

So long and best wishes to **Matt and Emily Free Wilson**, who are moving their popular Helena ceramics studio, Free Ceramics, to the Oregon Coast. Helena has been Matt's home for 35 years and Emily's for 17 years. Together, they built Free Ceramics and Studio Art Center, located in an old Nabisco factory on Boulder Ave. According to a story in the *Independent Record*, Free Ceramics "became a place for artists to work, play and create community." It hosted a yearly Christmas sale, the multimedia "This Is Helena" art show and a local singer-songwriter showcase, Solid 15, plus ongoing classes and other community events. Emily notes that leaving Helena is "bittersweet," and says the couple is "beyond grateful to all the support, love and friendships we received over the years." Their building, Free Ceramics, is for sale. "We are excited to see who takes our building and makes it their own."



## Montana Poets Laureate (from front page)

### Melissa Kwasny

Kwasny is the author of six books of poetry, most recently *Where Outside the Body is the Soul Today* and *Pictograph*, as well as a collection of prose writings, *Earth Recitals: Essays on Image and Vision*. She is the editor of *Toward the Open Field: Poets on the Art of Poetry 1800–1950*, and her first book of investigative nonfiction, *Putting on the Dog: The Animal Origins of What We Wear*, was recently published by Trinity University Press.



Melissa Kwasny

*Thistle* was the Silver Meadow winner of *ForeWord* magazine's 2007 Book of the Year Award for Poetry and won the Idaho Prize. Christopher Howell, judging for the Idaho Prize, found *Thistle* to be in "the great tradition of meditative poetry." *Reading Novalis in Montana* was picked by Anis Shivani of the Huffington Post as one of the top 10 books of 2009.

Her work is widely published in journals, including *Willow Springs*, *Threepenny Review*, *Ploughshares*, *American Poetry Review*, *Orion* and *Kenyon Review*, and her poems and essays have appeared in the anthologies *The Arcadia Project: North American Postmodern Pastoral*, *Montana Women Writers: A Geography of the Heart*, *Poems Across the Big Sky*, *New Poets of the American West*, and *West of*

98: *Living and Writing the American West*.

She received the Poetry Society of America's Cecil Hemley Award and Alice Fay di Castagnola Award for a work in progress, the Montana Art Council's Artist's Innovation Award, and has participated in several artist residencies. Kwasny has taught as visiting writer at both the undergraduate and graduate level, including MFA programs at the University of Wyoming, Eastern Washington University/Inland Pacific Center for Writers, and the University of Montana.

She lives near Jefferson City in the Elkhorn Mountains.

### M.L. Smoker

M.L. Smoker, a member of the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, is the author of a collection titled *Another Attempt at Rescue*. Her poems have appeared in the anthology *Poems Across the Big Sky*, and the literary magazines *Shenandoah* and *South Dakota Review*. Her work has been translated for *Acoma*, an Italian literary journal published by the University of Rome.

Smoker is a graduate of Pepperdine University and the University of Montana, where she was the recipient of the Richard Hugo Fellowship. She attended the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Colorado.

She won a regional Emmy Award for her work as a producer on the PBS documentary, "Indian Relay."

Smoker currently works for Education Northwest as a practice expert in Indian Education, focusing on equity and inclusion for

Native education in the Pacific Northwest. She was formerly the director of Indian Education for the Montana Office of Public Instruction where she oversaw statewide efforts related to closing the achievement gap and fostering Indian Education for All, curriculum aimed at

recognizing the distinct cultural heritage of Montana's Native people.

She was named the Indian Educator of Year by the National Indian Education Association in 2015 and was appointed to the National Advisory Council on



M.L. Smoker

Indian Education by President Barack Obama.

Smoker has worked as a school administrator in a rural public school in her home community of Frazer and taught courses at Fort Peck Community College and the University of Montana.

*The Montana Poet Laureate selection process was overseen by Montana Arts Council members Arlene Parisot and Renée Westlake, and chaired by Sean Chandler. Montana poet and educator Heather Cahoon, former Montana Poet Laureate Henry Real Bird, and Barbara Theroux, former owner of the Missoula bookstore Fact and Fiction, provided additional review assistance.*

For more information about the program, visit [art.mt.gov/poet\\_laureate](http://art.mt.gov/poet_laureate).



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### Music for Bedside, Smiles for Patients

Nearly 30 years ago, a cultural exchange between the Kumamoto Symphony and Great Falls Symphony began, building upon the sister-state relationship between the Kumamoto Prefecture and the State of Montana. The exchange took Gordon Johnson to Kumamoto in May 1991 to lead a concert with the Kumamoto Symphony Orchestra, and brought Masahiro Shirakawa to Montana to lead a concert with the Great Falls Symphony.

Several years later the entire Kumamoto Symphony presented concerts in Great Falls and Helena, again celebrating the sister-state relationship.

Maestro Shirakawa died about a decade ago. His wife, Taeko, a physician specializing in geriatrics, is fulfilling her dream of coming to Montana this October to share a translation of her 2018 book, *Music for Bedside, Smiles for Patients*, which chronicles her work using music to treat dementia. Johnson, who helped her translate the book into English, is also helping her schedule lecture-demonstrations based on the book.

Two presentations are in the works: 6 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Grandview in Great Falls, and Oct. 11 at Touchmark in Helena. Both will feature concert pianist and physician Dr. Ohnuma.

Contact Johnson at [orkstra@gmail.com](mailto:orkstra@gmail.com) for details.

## CONDOLENCES TO ...

### The family and friends of folklorist Nicholas Curchin Peterson Vrooman.

He died June 26 in Helena; he was 69. He was born Aug. 11, 1949, in Rochester, NY, and his family later moved to Schenectady, where his love of history, community, families, research and storytelling began. In 1975 he traveled from New Mexico to Montana where he took a job as a ranch hand for Bert and Darlene Mannix in the Helmville Valley, and immersed himself in the cultural traditions of the Mannix family, ranch work, and the valley, including the little-known history of the region's Métis people. Becoming Montana's second State Folklorist in 1989, Vrooman worked with traditional and cultural arts and folkways across Montana; he also served as state folklorist for North Dakota. In 2010, he returned to school receiving his doctorate in history from the University of Montana, with the dissertation, "Infinity Nation: The Métis in North American History." He also researched and wrote *The Whole Country was ... One Robe: The Little Shell Tribe's America*, which one reviewer described as an "intelligent, extremely well-written and thought-out history of a people whose past was obscure." His latest book, *Infinity Nation: New Peoples, the Medicine Line, and American Prejudice*, will be published in 2020. Considered one of the West's most passionate and important folklorists, historians and creative spirits, Vrooman was always larger than life, and generous with his knowledge. Krys Holmes, executive director of the Myrna Loy Center in Helena, writes, "Nicholas is a part of the landscape, the stories, the songs, the rivers, and the place of Montana. There is so much knowledge that would have disappeared if not for him. The wingspan of his life and work touches three centuries. It was an honor to know him, to have heard that laugh, and to have felt his warm encouraging bear-hug greeting."

— From the *Independent Record*, July 19, and Humanities Montana



Nicholas Vrooman

The family and friends of accomplished Butte writer Edwin Charles Dobb Jr. He died unexpectedly July 26 of complications from a heart condition; he was 69. Born in Butte on April 17, 1950, to an Irish mother and a Cornish father, Dobb attended St. John's Catholic School and graduated from Butte High School. In addition to his brilliant mind and gentle soul, he had a quick wit, a little bit of the devil in him, and was a true native son of Butte. Writing wasn't just his career; it was a way of life, and came easily to him. Dobb taught narrative writing and environmental journalism at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. He began teaching there in 2000, and was beginning preparations for the fall semester at the time of his death. A former senior editor and acting editor-in-chief of *The Sciences*, Dobb has been published in a broad swath of publications from *Reader's Digest* and *Vogue* to *Discover*, *Audubon* and *The New York Times Magazine*. For the past several years he wrote predominantly for *National Geographic Magazine*. From 1998 to 2007, he was a contributing writer at *Harper's*, and continued to publish in that

magazine as recently as last fall, when he wrote a treatise on adoption, breaking down in Baja, and "the ecology of indebtedness," titled "Nothing but Gifts: Finding a home in a world gone awry." "I defy anyone to read that memoir and not be touched by Ed's expressive genius, big heart and deep humanity," said UC Journalism Dean Ed Wasserman. His love for, and commitment to Butte were immense. One of his proudest moments was when the documentary film, "Butte, America," premiered at the Mother Lode Theatre in 2009. He was co-writer and co-producer of the film, which told the story of the miners who fled to Butte's "Richest Hill on Earth" in the early 1900s. The film's director/producer Pamela Roberts wrote in a message to the *Montana Standard*, "To say that Ed was kind, to say that he was a brilliant writer, to say that he was ferociously his own person, to say that he was charming, witty, clever ... a good father, a faithful friend, does not begin to express what we've lost with his passing." Butte and the Berkeley Pit were also at the heart of Dobb's most recent passion project, "Extraction: Art on the Edge of the Abyss," intended to coincide with an international movement by artists in 2021 "to raise a ruckus in defense of the Earth, our only home."

— From the *Montana Standard*, Aug. 20

The family and friends of music director and teacher John Phillips Varnum. He died July 1 in his home in Polson, surrounded by his loving family, after a long-fought battle with cancer; he was 86. Varnum was born June 23, 1933 in Fort Belknap, attended school through his sophomore year in Ronan, and graduated from Harlem High School in 1951. It was here that he met his wife, Alice Nelson. He joined the USAF, and after his honorable discharge in 1956, attended the University of Montana, graduating with his master's in music performance in 1959. He was principally a clarinetist, but also played flute, saxophone and piano. The growing family moved to Helena, where he was the music teacher for Helena Public Schools, directed the Helena Symphony Orchestra, and drove the tour train during the summer. In 1963 the family moved to Havre, where Varnum was an associate professor of music, and later (1970) became chairman of the music department at Northern Montana College. He applied for the Teacher's Education in East Africa (TEEA) program, sponsored by Aid For International Development, and the family moved to Kisii, Kenya in 1967, where he and his wife taught at the same college and the family explored Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in a VW bug. Varnum also recorded Kuria and Gusii traditional music, and collected traditional African musical instruments. The music he recorded was eventually made into an album for the Library of Congress/Smithsonian Folkway collection, and he donated several African instruments to the Chicago Museum of Natural History. Varnum retired from Northern Montana College (now MSU Northern) in 1986 and the couple moved to Polson, where Varnum worked for five years at Salish Kootenai College as a grant writer. They continued to travel around the world, and the talented musician, intellectual, and Mr. Fix It also became an accomplished woodworker.

— From the *Missoulian*, July 7



Edwin Dobb





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## ARTS EDUCATION

# Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts: Cohort 4 on the Rise

By **Monica Grable**  
Arts Education Director

August marked the beginning of another yearlong course of study for a dozen innovative and inspiring Montana educators recently invited to join the fourth cohort of the Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts (MTLA) program.

A partnership between the Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Arts Council, MTLA has been in existence since 2015. The program was originally designed for professional learning directed toward the development of coaches, mentors and advocates who would go on to support fellow teachers, schools and administrators with the adoption of the newly-updated Montana Arts Standards. MTLA has since evolved to focus on arts integration through a culturally sensitive lens and, more generally, on advocacy for the arts in education.

Since beginning, three previous cohorts (36 educators in total) have graduated from MTLA and gone on to become advocates for arts education in Montana, leading integrated lessons, workshops and in-service programs to the benefit of schools across the state. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) provided funds to begin the program initially and has continued to support MTLA since its inception, recognizing the need for this type of peer-to-peer support in a state as geographically vast as Montana.

Following a year's hiatus during the 2018-19 school year as the agencies awaited word of continued grant funding, the Office

and Jenny Bevill. Wes Hines served as media and technology specialist and Frank Finley as Native arts specialist for the duration of the Summer Institute.

Throughout the weeklong institute, participants began developing proposals for the fieldwork they will conduct over the course of the school year, supported by mini-grants provided through the program.

The 12 teachers selected to participate as members of Cohort 4 are: Katie Coyle of the Ennis Institute of the Art; Ciara Everett of Clinton School; Marianne Filloux of Monforton School; Heidi Foreman of Helena Capital High School; April Fox of Turner Public Schools; Katie Knight of Helena School District; Laurie Lutgen of Cayuse Prairie School; Keely Perkins of Miles City Schools; Marlene Schumann of Sacajawea Middle School; Becca Stevens of Chief Joseph Middle School; Chrissie Tharp of Sun-

burst School District; and Julynn Wilderson of Cohesion Dance Project in Helena.

Following monthly online meetings and webinars, Cohort 4 will convene again in April to share the results of their fieldwork with their peers at the April Capstone Weekend in Livingston.



Members of Cohort 4 pictured with Arts Integration and Teaching for Creativity workshop presenter Jenny Bevill (holding heart on a stick). (Photos by Monica Grable)

of Public Instruction was notified by the National Endowment for the Arts in late spring that it would be the recipient of a new two-year grant to support the program. The second year of grant funding will enable MAC and OPI to bring together all four MTLA cohorts as a combined resource team available to provide professional development in arts education statewide.

### Summer Institute

The launch pad for the current cohort was a six-day Summer Institute, held Aug. 4-10 on the campus of Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, a superb environment for cross-curricular study, Indian Education for All (IEFA) integration, and hands-on learning across arts disciplines.

Returning MTLAs led workshops throughout the week along with guest teaching artists from around the region, including photographer David Spear, poets Sean Hill and Lowell Jaeger, violinist Tim Fain, and artists Tracy Linder, Corky Clairmont, Linda King



Cohort 4 participants Keely Perkins and Katie Knight work on monoprints in Corky Clairmont's studio during MTLA Summer Institute.



MTLA Cohort 1 member and teaching artist Jennifer Ogden led students in a session titled "Post Model: Tableau Vivant," which offered participants an opportunity to bring art to life.

### Artists in Schools and Communities: Under \$1,500 open

The Montana Arts Council's Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant program is a decades-old funding program supporting artist residencies in K-12, as well as community-based arts learning environments. The three subcategories of AISC funding are regularly accepted and reviewed each spring.

This current second-round opportunity is for the Grants Under \$1,500 only, and applications will be accepted through Nov. 1. Guidelines are available on Montana Arts Council's website or can be emailed by request.

Contact MAC Arts Education Director Monica Grable for further information or support through the application process: [Monica.Grable@mt.gov](mailto:Monica.Grable@mt.gov) or 406-444-6522.

## Susan Luinstra: An exemplary Teacher Leader in the Arts

By **Monica Grable**  
Arts Education Director

The education realm, and arts education in particular, is filled with teachers of great heart, depth of knowledge, innovation and dedication to collaboration.

Susan Luinstra is one of those exemplary educators, and her teaching – no doubt – will be with her students for life. In 1974, fresh out of college, Luinstra began a 38-year journey at Bynum School, a one-room schoolhouse near Choteau, where she remained for the entirety of her lively career. Teaching every possible combination of K-8 throughout those years, she has had the privilege of being the sole teacher for many students whose school years were spent at Bynum.

A member of the first cohort of Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts, Luinstra's sense of leadership in the arts is a great inspiration to her peers. Her passion for the arts and its influence in developing self-confidence and



Susan Luinstra: Passion for the arts and its influence

a sense of community is her driving force, fueled in part by the upkeep of a tradition begun by her predecessor, Ira Perkins, who also spent his career of 53 years in Bynum.

Each day, as beautifully chronicled by NBC's Harry Smith in early 2017, Luinstra and her students (as with Ira Perkins and his

students before her) began each day by putting on vintage records and dancing, as well as singing along to old-time traditional songs. Visual art also held a place of prominence in her classroom teaching, and as one component of integrated learning.

Named Montana Rural Teacher of the Year in 2007, Luinstra's profile was elevated even further the following year when she was named National Rural Teacher of the Year by the National Rural Education Association, leading her to speaking engagements and panel discussions in front of her national peers.

Although she retired from the classroom in June, Luinstra is continuing to serve the arts education community through her role as president of Choteau Arts, a community arts organization offering classes, concerts and outreach experiences, and through availing herself as a resource for colleagues across Montana.



## ARTS EDUCATION

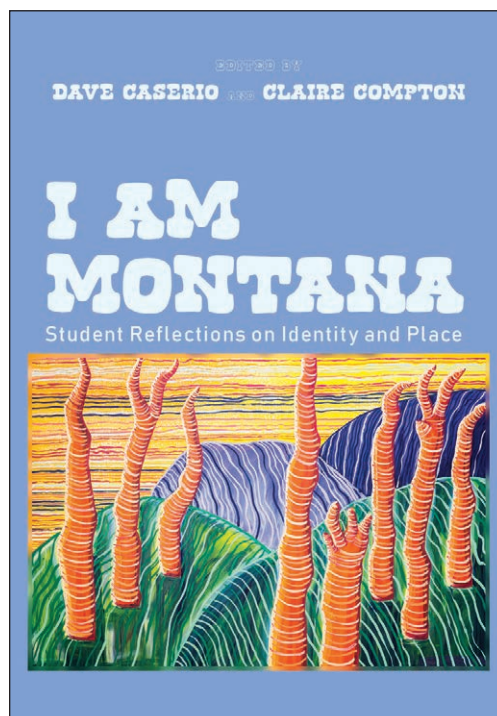
*I Am Montana*

## New student anthology reflects youth experience

In educational facilities across Montana, a creative transformation has unfurled. During the fall of last year, young people in juvenile detention centers, high school classrooms and alternative learning facilities dove into a semester-long exploration of Montana's history, culture and literature with a special focus on the ways our home places shape our identities. The project, titled "I Am Montana," asked students to reflect on their own lives while crafting honest and thought-provoking responses through poetry and prose.

The resulting anthology of student work, *I Am Montana: Student Reflections on Identity and Place*, is a mosaic of meditations and questions sprung from adolescent life that illuminates both the universal and unique aspects of growing up in Montana. Through these young writers' eyes, the state comes alive as they take their readers on a journey through their home places.

From the "trap houses" to a "one Walmart kind of town," students share pieces of their lives: their memories, their wisdom, their hopes and fears, their experiences of home. As one student from Pine Hills Youth Correctional Center writes, "Montana is not perfect. Drugs are sold, guns are held in the palm of the unknown ... But the people, we the people, know that Montana is a place of beautiful land ... [a] place to walk, a place to see, a



place to feel your emotions flow through your body."

Born from the desire to include Montana youth's voices in the greater narrative of our state, "I Am Montana" is a collaboration among organizations and individuals work-

ing in the Billings area. Claire Compton and seven teachers from the Missoula-based nonprofit, Free Verse, teach literature and creative writing to students in juvenile detention centers across the state.

Reno Charette and Second Season work with Northern Cheyenne youth and families to promote development grounded in the Northern Cheyenne way of life. Writers Dave Caserio and Tami Haaland bring poetry workshops to students in Billings Public Schools.

Together, these collaborators worked to bring Montana's cultural legacy to life in classrooms across the state. By bringing together youth from a variety of backgrounds, the project gave students across the state the opportunity to share their experiences, to break down social barriers, and to creatively express themselves while educating their communities.

To learn more about this project and about Free Verse, visit [www.freeverseproject.org](http://www.freeverseproject.org) or find the organization on Facebook @freeversewritingproject. For information about Second Season, visit [www.wolfstarpr.wixsite.com/secondseason](http://www.wolfstarpr.wixsite.com/secondseason) or find them on Facebook @northerncheyennesecondseason.

Copies of the book may be purchased on Amazon or from This House of Books, 224 N. Broadway in Billings. All proceeds benefit the I Am Montana project.



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## Explore Indian Education for All at MAM

The Office of Public Instruction's Indian Education Specialist, Mike Jetty, joins the Missoula Art Museum's Educator Coordinator Jenny Beville for a free workshop, 4-6 p.m. Oct. 29 at the museum (two PIR credits available).

Connecting with the newly updated Seven Essential Understandings of Indian Education for All (IEFA), participants will explore Native American artist Rick Bartow's exhibition, "Things You Know but Cannot Explain," on view through Feb. 15. Themes of self, dialogue, tradition and transformation will be explored, with space to amplify Native voices.

Teachers of all grade levels and disciplines are welcome to explore IEFA through the lens of contemporary art.

Call 406-728-0447 or email [jenny@missoulaartmuseum.org](mailto:jenny@missoulaartmuseum.org) to register.

*Signatures from Big Sky* celebrates 30 years

Montana's Association for Gifted and Talented Education (MT AGATE) is seeking submissions for the 2020 edition of *Signatures from Big Sky* – the only publication that features the writing and artwork of Montana's K-12 students. The 2020 edition will mark the magazine's 30th anniversary.

In October of 1990, Shirley Olson and Del Siegel from AGATE and Jan Clinard from MATELA discussed the need for a student literary and art magazine in Montana and later convened with seven other educators at the MEA Convention in Bozeman. Three goals emerged from the collaboration:

- To provide an opportunity for young Montana artists and writers to publish;
- To make it a publishing experience, striving for excellence, not a contest; and
- To provide a resource for teachers and students in classroom work in the arts.

Several hundred pieces of writing and art were received in 1991: 85 K-12 students were published from 39 schools. Each selected contributor received one copy and another for his/her teacher.

*Signatures from Big Sky* continued to reach out to as many Montana students as possible by various means. The publication welcomed Montana Arts Council Artists in Schools and Communities work in a special section when they were unable to publish their student work as they had in the past.

*Signatures* board members were invited to present sectionals at the annual teacher conventions and other state meetings. Posters were sent to all school libraries and flyers were delivered to elementary and middle school principals, high school art and writing teachers, county superintendents and the list of submitting teachers from the previous year. In addition, *Signatures* contributed student art for a Montana Health and Services Calendar for five years.

Every year, the publication receives hundreds of submissions and enjoys a robust selection from talented young people across the state. The work displayed in *Signatures* has shown what it has been like to grow up in Montana over the last 29 years, in small towns, cities and ranches, from foreign exchange students, fifth-generation Montanans and Native students whose ancestors go even further back than that.

"The perspectives are as unique as the art and writing itself and we are proud to share them," says coordinator Mandy Maass.

*Signatures* relies on funding from MT AGATE as well as grants to continue publishing and has recently received financial support from the Montana Cultural Trust, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, North-Western Energy, Humanities Montana, Town Pump Foundation and the Sweet Pea Festival of the Arts.



"Peacock Pride" by Brodi Niebaum, Power Schools

The deadline for the 2020 issue is March 27. Find submission guidelines, as well as art and writing from the 2019 edition, at [signaturesfrombigsky.weebly.com](http://signaturesfrombigsky.weebly.com). For more information, contact Mandy Maass at [signaturesfrombigsky@gmail.com](mailto:signaturesfrombigsky@gmail.com).

## Poetry Out Loud begins a new year

Poetry Out Loud 2019-20 has launched its new program year – the 15th year of the program nationally and in Montana. Created and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, and in partnership with the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud (POL) engages high school students in learning about poetry through the memorized recitations of poets' works, both contemporary and those from throughout history.

A hallmark of the program is the way in which students find their own voice through the words of poets of significance and take ownership of the recitation as if it were their own.

Relying on the teaching and support of educators and librarians, students first engage

with POL within individual classrooms, then schoolwide, and – for some – in regional contests across the state. From each regional event, four to five students will advance to the State Finals, scheduled to take place in Helena on March 7, 2020.

With access to the online anthology of nearly 1,000 poems, and an array of support materials and curricular resources, Montana Poetry Out Loud provides teachers with everything needed to begin a POL program in their school, or to join their fellow colleagues in engaging their students with poetry.

To learn more, contact Monica Grable, MAC's arts education director and statewide Poetry Out Loud coordinator, at 406-444-6522 or by email at [Monica.Grable@mt.gov](mailto:Monica.Grable@mt.gov).



Emma Krall of Red Lodge High School recites during the 2019 Montana Poetry Out Loud State Finals. (Photo by Czelsi Gómez)



## NATIVE NEWS

## Crow storyteller Grant Bulltail (from page 1)



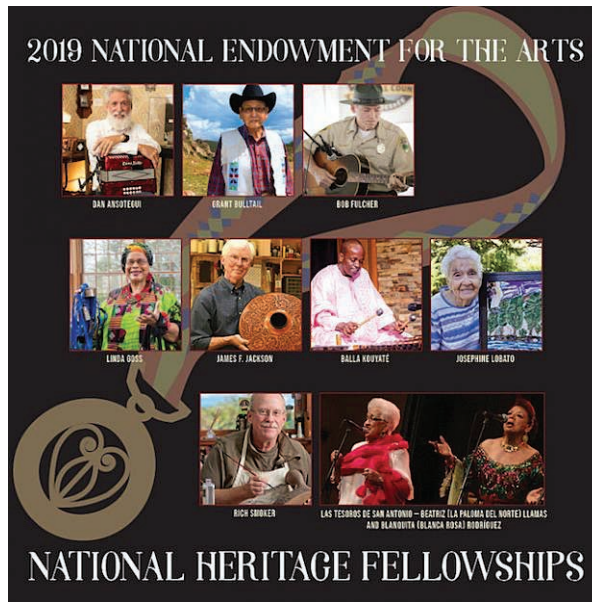
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Bulltail also claims as his lineage Chief Wolf Bow (Treaty of 1868), Chief Blinky (Treaty of 1868), Chief White Horse (Treaty of 1855), Chief Long Hair (Treaty of 1825), Chief Little Black Dog (Treaty of 1825), Chief Double Face (Treaty of 1825), and Chief Plays With His Face (Treaty of 1825). Bulltail's second name implies this proud lineage – an individual earned the right to place the tail from a buffalo bull on their tipi to designate the chiefs of their lineage.

Bulltail learned most of his stories from his grandfather, Comes Up Red (1847-1947), and also from his grandmother's cousin, Yellow Brow. Comes Up Red was a well-known warrior and respected storyteller. Bulltail learned his grandfather's stories by listening far into the night and later going into a trance-like state to recite them.

Comes Up Red actively encouraged his young grandson to carry on the family's oral traditions: storytelling, memorizing the histories of battles, the use of edible and medicinal plants, and other cultural narratives.

After serving with the Marines, Bulltail



Grant Bulltail joins a roster of distinguished National Heritage Fellows honored Sept. 18-20.

spent a year at Utah State University studying with folklorist Austin Fife, where he confirmed his commitment to carrying on the cultural heritage of his people. He has shared his stories with classes at Little Big Horn College, at state and national parks (including Yellowstone and Grand Teton) and at places

of importance to the Crow people, including Heart Mountain, WY, and Rainy Buttes, SD. He has also taught classes at Utah State University, home of the Fife Folklore Archives, which is building a collection of Bulltail's work.

Bulltail has represented the Crow on Ken Burns' "Before There Were Parks: Yellowstone and Glacier Through Native Eyes" and for the BBC's "Unnatural Histories: Yellowstone." In 1992, he was a key consultant for the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area's Ethnographic Resource Overview.

From 1994 to 1998, he worked on Yellowstone National Park's Ethnographic Resource Overview, a project that drew consultants from a half-dozen tribes historically connected to the landscape of what became the nation's first national park. Bulltail is a founding member of the Native Memory Project and currently serves on its board of directors.

Sharon Kahin, PhD, who wrote this profile, nominated Bulltail for the Heritage Fellow in honor of his efforts to revitalize the histories of the Crow people – stories that have largely disappeared or been replaced by colonizers' history. She has worked with Bulltail for about 20 years on various endeavors, including the Native Memory Project, which records Native perspectives from Montana and Wyoming.

## ImagineIF Libraries host linnii Art Show

The linnii Art Show, which features works of Blackfeet artists that explore the sacred significance of the buffalo to the Blackfeet Nation, is on display through November at the ImagineIF Library in Columbia Falls, after a two-month showing at the library in Kalispell. The exhibit is co-sponsored by The linnii Initiative, Medicine Spring Library and ImagineIF Libraries.

The linnii Initiative was launched by leaders of the four tribes that make up the Blackfoot Confederacy (Blackfeet Nation, Kainai Nation, Piikani Nation and Siksika Nation) to conserve traditional lands, protect Blackfeet culture, and create a home for the buffalo to return to. Medicine Spring Library serves as the academic library for Blackfeet Community College, the Blackfeet Archives and a community library for the Blackfeet Reservation.

This collaborative project provides a window into Blackfeet landscape and culture through the lens of art. It also offers Blackfeet artists more exposure for their work, while helping educate the public about the Blackfeet Buffalo Program's linnii Initiative.

Learn more at [blackfeetnation.com/iinnii-buffalo-spirit-center/](http://blackfeetnation.com/iinnii-buffalo-spirit-center/).

## "Belief" born again (from page 1)

Cajune notes that not only was she an unknown in the Big Apple, but so are Native people in general, and her tribal nation in particular. Her friend, however, was connected with the arts community in Lower Manhattan and put her in touch with Gail Thacker from the Gene Frankel Theatre – a small nonprofit, with no sponsorship or funding capacity.

"That's how this started," says Cajune. "Then I had to raise funds to pay for all of the expenses."

She reached out to friends and family, who responded with modest donations. One was made in memory of her "sister-cousin Gyda Swaney," who died in July, and the first performance was dedicated to her. Finally, Peter Buffet's NoVo Foundation stepped forward and funded the project, with the money arriving just two days before the crew left for New York.

Flutist Gary Stroutsos, pianist David Lanz and violinist Swil Kanim created the play's original music score. Stroutsos funded his own way to New York City, crafted new studio work for the show with musicians David Revelli, Mark Fauver and Tony Garone, and performed on stage with Cajune.

"All of this was done gratis," she says. "On a wing and a prayer people have lifted the project with remarkable and loving gifts."

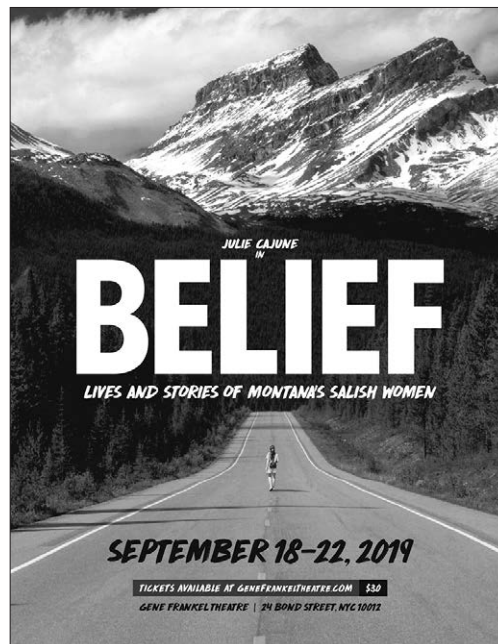
"So here we are," she adds, "the day before our first rehearsal in the theater, heading out to the copy store with the script and then a walk to the Brooklyn Bridge."

"I believe we are standing in a state of grace to be here. Regardless of the size of the audience, I believe there is someone here meant to hear one of these stories, and for that it is worth the time and effort."

### About "Belief"

Cajune's mixed heritage is a direct consequence of the collision of people and cultures. "I am the sum of many stories from many places," she explains. "My mother was Salish, Nez Perce, Scots and Irish. My father was Chippewa and French. These different stories and places all occupy memory and space inside of me, but the largest part of my identity is Salish and it is my Salish homeland that holds my affection. It is where I grew up and live today."

"Belief" originated seven years ago as an idea to weave music, story and poetry into a theatre piece that would portray the lived experiences of Native women. The play was written by Cajune and poet Jennifer Finley, and directed by Linda Grinde.



Poster for the performance of "Belief" at the Gene Frankel Theatre in New York City.

"When Julie came to me with the idea for an evening of theatre, she had no intention of telling personal stories," says Grinde, an experienced actor and director. "I explained how a theatre piece might be shaped and suggested that we collect the stories she wanted to use and allow a theme to emerge."

"So Julie brought me stories and told me stories too," recalls Grinde. "She would say, 'That reminds me of something my Aunt Florence did,' or 'that happened to me as a child.'"

Grinde urged her to write some of them down. "She protested that she wasn't a writer but then she would show up at the next meet-

ing with a well-crafted essay and a big smile. And then Jennifer would write these amazing poems that connected to themes or drew out something powerful and unspoken between the lines."

By the end of that summer, the three of them went through the narratives and poems. "The words were secular and sacred, sorrowful and hopeful," says Cajune.

Grinde selected and arranged the pieces, and they were paired with original music into a theatrical structure with the arc of a storyline.

They aptly titled the play "Belief," says Cajune, because of "the human experience of belief in self, in life and in love. We felt these individual women's voices offered connections to our shared humanity and could lead us to see that perhaps what connects us is more powerful than what divides us."

"Belief" is a play with much to say about today's world, believe its creators. "We enter this world wired for story," says Cajune.

"From childhood and throughout our life, story is the filter we use to make meaning – to understand who we are. Story informs our identity and our place in the world. Story characterizes our relationship with our self, with others, and with the world. Daily we rely on story to communicate the profound, the humorous, the mundane and the exotic episodes of our lives."

"The challenge before humankind today," she adds, "is to find or build the bridge that connects us with one another and with the natural world."

The New York production was supported, in part by The Salish Institute in St. Ignace. For more information, visit [www.thesalishinstitute.org](http://www.thesalishinstitute.org).

## Eyapaha offers glimpse of Indian Country

In Rapid City, SD, two newspapers joined forces to create a publication named *Eyapaha*, offering readers and tourists a glimpse into the lives of the Native Americans in the region and to promote the culture and tourism sites of their Native Nations.

The idea came together earlier this year when *Rapid City Journal* publisher Matthew Tranquill and Tim and Jackie Giago, owners of the *Native Sun News Today*, decided to collaborate on a project. Tranquill, who was new to South Dakota, wanted to learn more about the state's history, and at the same time, educate his readers. By mid-March, the idea for *Eyapaha* was born.

The special publication, which included stories about all nine reservations in South Dakota and one Montana reservation, ran in both newspapers as an insert on May 29. Its name means "town crier" in Lakota.

The Giagos and Tranquill hope to work together again in the future to continue to educate readers about Native American life and share *Eyapaha* on their respective publications' websites in the near future.

– From *Editorandpublisher.com*, Aug. 13



# ABOUT MUSIC

– By Mariss McTucker

## Chelsea Hunt and Jim Averitt: *Music in My Coffee*

Gallatin Gateway's Jim Averitt and Bozeman's Chelsea Hunt have teamed up for Averitt's new album, this one an all-instrumental effort. Averitt is an excellent acoustic guitarist and a singer-songwriter, and Hunt is one of Montana's finest violin/fiddle players.

Guest artists on a few tracks are Randy Tico, acoustic bass and percussion (and a member of Jeff Bridges' band, The Abiders), and well-known Bozeman phenom Tom Murphy on mandolin (on "There Is a Love Somewhere").

Averitt and Hunt co-wrote seven compositions, and Averitt himself, four; the pair shares writing credits with Jonee Degiorgio on the first number, "Hold On." Songs are a mix of Americana sounds – folk, jazz and blues among them.

Averitt says the duo had fun making the recording, and one can see why. It's chock-full of good musicianship, clean production, and pretty melodies. Complex arrangements, too. The classically trained Hunt can switch from roots sounds to a more traditional approach with ease; she's comfortable with any style, really.

"Hold On" sports silky violin, ringing guitar harmonics, and a jazzy and syncopated style underpinned by cookin' bass. Hunt channels a bit of Stéphane Grappelli, too.

"Playing in the Park" opens with the soft sounds of guitar and violin walking up the scale; it's bright and airy. In contrast, "Chelsea's Tune" is contemplative, with lots of intricate interplay among violin, chin cello, and guitar. The deep cello sound creates a pensive mood.

"Music in My Coffee" is tightly woven, has cool chunky guitar chords and stutter-step rhythm. "Snoring Dog" and "Bug of Insecurity" appeared on earlier albums, each with a bigger band sound; here, they are given a more delicate touch. Hunt's tender, bluesy interpretation of "Bug" feels very sweet and improvisational. There's much to like about this album!



## Diagenesis Duo: *Hands and Lips of Wind*

In geology, diagenesis describes "the physical and chemical changes occurring during the conversion of sediment to rock." It's an apt description for former Helenans Heather Barnes, soprano, and Jennifer Bewerse, cello. They are purveyors of "modern classical music," throwing out accepted musical concepts to create something new.

On their debut album, the pair smash the traditional constructs of rhythm, harmony, melody, and phrasing and morph the shards into new sounds. They have also introduced the genre to children, encouraging them to make their own instruments and write their own pieces.

The two classically trained performers, who met at a contemporary music conference in 2010, clicked when they realized they both chafed at the restrictions of traditional music. So they started working together. Modern classical music is uncharted territory, they say. And complicated, yet varied. You can break the rules, and as Bewerse notes, "for performers, the rule-breaking is often about technique."

Several of the pieces they've commissioned appear on the album. "In the Lodi Gardens," from *Hands and Lips of Wind*, was written by Mischa Salkind-Pearl. Bewerse's sustained low cello growl opens, then Barnes's powerful, full-throated soprano abruptly springs up high on the lyrics. It's haunting.

"Marche Funébre," by Stephen Lewis, is riveting and visceral. Barnes hisses as Bewerse plays short, sharp double-stops, dissonant and foreboding. Barnes's voice quivers as she takes heavy breaths and makes whooshing sounds. There's more hissing, and wiggly bow-sliding noises, then a double-stop minor chord, then, what? Ambulance sounds? A car-horn noise? Softly, Barnes repeats a plaintive "Gone ... gone."

Astounding, and chilling. Here's a chance to visit musicians at the top of their craft, playing what they love.

The two recently parted ways – Barnes to China, where her husband is working, and Bewerse to Los Angeles. They are looking forward to new and exciting collaborations, made possible by modern communication.

## Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs: *Sweet Little Lies*

If you intend to sit and listen to Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs' first studio album, it won't work unless you're driving. The Bozeman-based group is self-described "relentlessly energetic folk-rock band." Duh! Most songs are propelled by lightning-fast tempos, supersonic breaks and killer harmonies, interspersed with a few calmer ones. Songs have dashes of gospel, blues, spooky swamp music, country/folk, and the ever-present bluegrass feel.

Laney Lou is Lena Schiffer on vocals, guitar and percussion. The Bird Dogs are brothers Matt Demarais, banjo, and Ethan, bass and percussion; Brian Kassay on fiddle, mandolin, harmonica and tambourine; and Josh Moore, guitar. All the fellas sing except Ethan.

Schiffer wrote three songs, Kassay wrote one ("Carolina"), Moore authored two, and Matt Demarais, the rest. Mostly, whoever wrote the song sings it.

Moore's "Black Train," with its clickety-clack rhythm and chain-gang ambience, is riveting. It's eerie, with a stylish, bent-note instrumental riff and mournful fiddle. A train collects the dead for a trip to the beyond; the southern-born Moore growls out the lyrics in great storytelling fashion.

Schiffer's mid-tempo bluegrass, "Time or Tears," is a bittersweet love song with soaring fiddle and harmony a cappella "oohs." Love it!

Matt Demarais's bluesy "Gamblin' Man" might be a hit. He tears up the vocals, and everyone kicks in with an infectious refrain, "never put your



money down on a gamblin' man." A blistering guitar riff makes for a great ending.

Schiffer's wistful "House of Burdens" could be a monster hit as well. Her clear, light voice on the lead is joined on the refrain by Moore and Kassay. "Built our house of burdens just to watch it fall ..." they sing. The soft, layered harmonies create a chorale effect. Stunning. This talented group can do it all.

## Storyhill: *Stages—The 30th Anniversary Album*

Guitarists and songwriters John Hermanson and Chris Cunningham have released a live album from their 30-year career performing as the Bozeman folk duo Storyhill. It highlights songs from shows they played from 2003-2015 at various venues in Minnesota, as well as two previously unreleased songs.

The long-lived and much-loved twosome split up to pursue other musical endeavors, and attend to family obligations. They reunited, and then went on a long hiatus in 2015. They are touring again and getting rave reviews.

The men's voices share a style popularized by the Everly Brothers starting in the mid-'50s, and later by groups like Seals and Crofts, Stills and Young, and others. Too, wisps of Dan Fogelberg come to mind at times. They swap leads and chime harmonies with flair to some smooth and masterly acoustic pickin', and you can hear how their voices have matured over time.

Cunningham's is the higher voice. He sings a pretty falsetto with ease on "Background for Your Blue," from 2003. On "Highlight," from 2015, Hermanson's deeper baritone complements Cunningham's sound and provides contrast.

"Better Angels," from 2008, has a gospel feel and a little John Denver magic woven in. They channel a bit of Simon and Garfunkel on "World Go Round," from 2015; and "Sacramento" (2014) is a quiet, thoughtful ballad with a clever bend in the chord progression to go along with its pretty melody.

"Well of Sorrow" has unison lead and some cool "oohs." Both singers possess terrific control, making it easy to synchronize breath and phrasing.

They lull us with their well-paced dynamics and lovely inflections, reminding us how terrific they have been over the years. You'll find lots to love on this immaculately produced recording. Hooray for retrospectives!



## Regan Clancy: *Give Up Your Salt*

Helena's Regan Clancy, a self-taught guitarist and songwriter, has released an album of rockin' originals. Clancy, who has fronted various bands and enjoyed a solo career ever since he picked up a guitar at 16, is also the bassist for the synth-punk-disco band Hard Hugs.

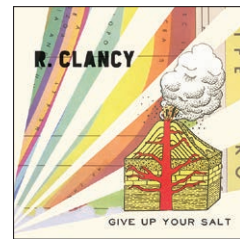
His "indie folk rock" amalgam is heavy with fuzzed-up guitar and pretty melodies. He is joined here on various tracks by Jon Anderson, drums; Joshua Loveland, pedal steel, keyboards and horns; Ryan Rebo, bass; and Lenny Eckhardt, keys. Harmony vocals are courtesy of Jennifer Murphy.

Clancy counts among his influences older bands like Nada Surf, and current groups such as Parquet Courts and Broken Social Scene. He admires the Beatles, too, and Built to Spill, with its heavy electric guitar sound, has also played a role in his writing.

"Losing Steam" has a mesmerizing, Beatle-esque riff and dreamy layers. "Do You Feel" has a slowly rockin' feel and building energy; and "Gravity," featuring just guitar and drums, has massive, Bonanza-sounding guitar chords.

"Race to the Middle," with its cool intro riff of hi-hat and guitar, is an uptempo rocker. And "Love to Share" is a tightly wrapped cooker with sci-fi guitar effects to open. Clancy sings, "You're part of the working class now, you settled on a heart of glass."

Clancy's robust baritone and guitar chops are perfect for rock 'n roll, and, like his promo states, you should turn up the volume!



## Britchy: *Call Me*

Missoula's singer/songwriter duo Richie Reinholdt and Britt Arnesen, aka Britchy, have released their fourth album together. The two sport solo albums too, and several songs on the CD were previously recorded on them. Reinholdt is a long-time staple of the Missoula music scene, and plays in Lochwood Bluegrass Band as well as in The Acousticals. Arnesen, who moved here from her native Alaska a few years back, is also in The Acousticals, and Pinegrass as well.

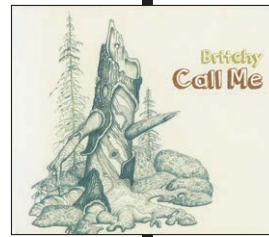
After her arrival in Missoula, the two soon hooked up to play, write and perform. Reinholdt is a multi-instrumentalist who plays guitars, banjo, mandolin and bass on the CD. He also engineered the album. Arnesen contributes acoustic guitar, upright bass and piano. Special guests include Victor's Jack Mauer on Dobro and master fiddler Isaac Callender, who lives in Great Falls.

The title tune, "Call Me," is Arnesen's broken-hearted ballad from her album *Middle of the Rainbow*. It's a soft, country-folk number with a pretty chorus.

"Home Now," from Reinholdt's *Night and Day*, is his look back at a bucolic, yet mercurial, way of life. Pancakes, coffee and snoozing dogs give way to subways and college life. His tasty mandolin links the ideas together. Arnesen sings harmony on this and other songs; the duo's voices mesh in inflection and tone for good synchronization.

Mauer's wiggly Dobro provides a melodic interlude on Arnesen's "Tight Rope," and her "Eagle Cove" features the welcome addition of silky fiddle from Callender.

"Three A.M.," Reinholdt's dark, somber loper, has a great chord progression and an exotic feel. His adept guitar notes almost whisper a Spanish style. There's even a slight Beatle-esque nuance. Good atmosphere here. "Sleep won't last through the night ..." go the lyrics, "... letting go and holding on are having a fight." I like this un!



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## State of the Arts welcomes CDs

*State of the Arts* welcomes CD submissions by Montana musicians for inclusion in the About Music section. The recordings must be professional, commercially available, full-length CDs recorded within the past 12 months, with cover art and liner notes. Reviews also appear at [livelytimes.com](http://livelytimes.com), Montana's statewide source for arts and entertainment.

Brief biographical information on band members would be helpful to the writer.

Please send submissions to CD reviewer Mariss McTucker, P.O. Box 81, Dixon, MT, 59831.



# ABOUT BOOKS

Fiction

## Fall Back Down When I Die

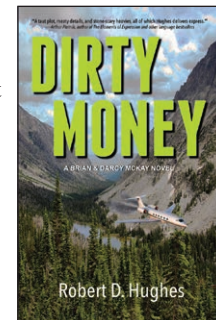
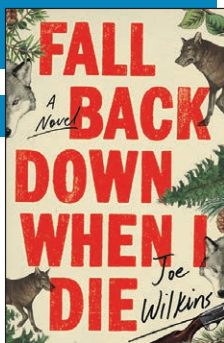
By Joe Wilkins

Poet and memoirist Joe Wilkins turns his pen to fiction with his debut novel, set in eastern Montana. Early on, he writes “The moon came up whistle thin. A tooth, a claw, the leanest blade.” *Split Rock Review* notes that this quality of language permeates the novel, and “is symbolic of the stunning, haunting and complex story that Wilkins weaves.”

Orphaned and destitute ranch hand Wendell Newman finds himself having to care for the traumatized, 6-year-old son of his incarcerated cousin. A murder and subsequent manhunt put the two in grave danger as Wendell tries to protect the child while avoiding the same violent end that claimed his father a decade earlier.

“Following in the literary roots of Montanans Jim Harrison and Rick Bass, Wilkins packs a lot of story and stylistic wallop into this gripping, outstanding novel,” writes *Kirkus* in a starred review.

A Montana native, Wilkins is the author of three poetry collections; his most recent, *When We Were Birds*, won the 2017 Oregon Book Award in Poetry. His work has appeared in numerous literary journals, and his memoir, *The Mountain and the Fathers: Growing up on the Big Dry*, won a New Writers Award in 2014 from the Great Lakes Colleges Association. He now directs the creative writing program at Linfield College in Oregon.



## Dirty Money

By Robert Hughes

*Dirty Money* is the second of Livingston author Robert Hughes’s Brian and Darcy McKay mystery novels, following his debut, *Bone Mountain*. In the new novel, college student Darcy and her uncle, ex-FBI agent Brian McKay, risk their lives as they investigate the murder of Darcy’s boyfriend in the office of a corrupt Chicago mega-company. A string of killings by a greedy and twisted cabal of corporate gangsters at Belcoe, Inc. ensues.

The McKays trace the evidence to Belcoe’s spectacular Montana ranch, where they face off against a squad of goons, a homicidal cop, a malevolent corporate bigwig and a runaway fire.

Arthur Plotnik, author of *The Elements of Expression*, describes *Dirty Money* as fraught with “a taut plot, meaty details and stone-scary heavies.”

Hughes is a member of the Mystery Writers of America, and his short stories of crime and mystery have appeared in numerous anthologies and magazines. As a financial professional in Chicago, he investigated white-collar crime, bringing several embezzlers to justice.

Non-fiction/Memoir

## Down From the Mountain: The Life and Death of a Grizzly Bear

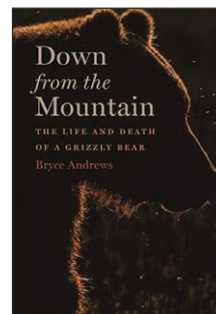
By Bryce Andrews

In searing detail, award-winning writer, Montana rancher, and conservationist Bryce Andrews tells the story of a grizzly sow, who descends from the Mission Mountains on the Flathead Indian Reservation to seek food for her two cubs. Millie is a typical mother: strong, cunning, fiercely protective of her cubs. But raising those cubs – a challenging task in the best of times – becomes ever harder as the mountains change, the climate warms and people crowd the valleys. There are obvious dangers, like poachers, and subtle ones as well, like the cornfield that draws her out of the foothills and sets her on a path toward trouble and ruin.

The author’s story intersects with Millie’s, and a singular drama evokes a much larger one: an entangled, bloody collision between two species in the modern-day West, where the shrinking wilds force man and bear into ever closer proximity.

“Rife with lyrical precision, first-hand know-how, ursine charisma, and a narrative jujitsu flip that places all empathy with his bears, *Down from the Mountain* is a one-of-a-kind triumph even here, in the home of Doug Peacock and Douglas Chadwick,” writes David James Duncan, author of *The River Why* and *The Brothers K*.

Andrews also wrote the *Badluck Way*, winner of the Barnes & Noble Discover Award and the Reading the West Book Award; he works with the conservation group People and Carnivores.



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## How to submit a book for State of the Arts

To submit a book published in the past 12 months by a Montana author for inclusion in the About Books section of *State of the Arts*, email the following information to [kristi@livelytimes.com](mailto:kristi@livelytimes.com) or [mac@mt.gov](mailto:mac@mt.gov):

- Title, author, publisher and month/year published;
- A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;
- A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf or jpg format;
- If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks.

Books submitted to *State of the Arts* appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council’s discretion and as space permits, and will not necessarily be reprinted at Lively Times.com.

## Sweeney on the Rocks

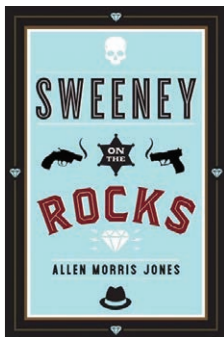
By Allen Morris Jones

Ted Sweeney, an affable everyman in a small Montana town, comes home to find a corpse tidily arranged in his favorite recliner, his “old pal of a piece of furniture.”

Sweeney can’t help but admire the efficiency of the work, the slice deep across the guy’s throat. Somebody knew what they were doing.

He dumps the body into the Yellowstone River without attracting attention. But over the next few days, as the corpse tumbles its way downstream, Sweeney’s complicated circumstances gradually start rolling into the unflattering light. His is a story that includes the waning days of Italian wise guys in Brooklyn, the rise of the Russian mafia, and his own reluctant retreat into the witness protection program. Throw in a bag of uncut diamonds, an ex-wife turned sheriff, a beloved mentor who might or might not be dead, and a former mistress cashing in favors, and Jones has delivered “a unique and tasty treat for crime-fiction fans.” (*Booklist*)

Although it’s his first foray in the crime genre, Jones is also the author of two novels, *Last Year’s River* and *A Bloom of Bones*, and wrote *Montana for Kids: The Story of Our State*.



## You, Me and Mr. Blue Sky

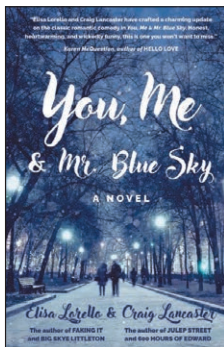
By Craig Lancaster and Elisa Lorello

Novelists Craig Lancaster and Elisa Lorello are partners in fact and now in fiction, with the release of their co-authored romantic comedy, *You, Me and Mr. Blue Sky*.

Jo-Jo Middlebury is done with love. Linus Travers wants one more shot at it. Mr. Blue Sky, their 1970s-loving guardian angel, offers perspective on both when he’s not diving into reruns of “Happy Days” and “Barney Miller.”

Lancaster is the author of nine books of fiction, including the bestselling series featuring the character Edward Stanton (*600 Hours of Edward*, *Edward Adrift*, *Edward Unspooled*) as well as a collection of short stories. His work has been recognized by the Montana Book Awards, the High Plains Book Awards, the Utah Book Awards, the Independent Publisher Book Awards and others. Lorello has taught rhetoric and writing at the college level for more than 10 years. She is the author of 11 novels, including the bestselling *Faking It*. She has been featured in *Montana Quarterly* and *Rachael Ray Every Day* magazines, and in Jane Friedman’s blog series *5 On*.

“Honest, heartwarming, and wickedly funny, this is one love story you won’t want to miss,” writes Karen McQuestion, author of *Hello, Love*.



## Chai Another Day

By Leslie Budewitz

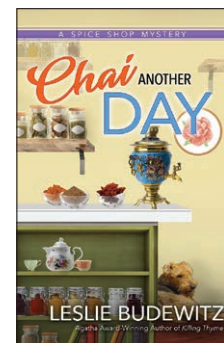
Pepper Reece probes murder while juggling a troubled employee, her mother’s house hunt, and a fisherman who’s set his hook for her in Bigfork author Leslie Budewitz’s latest mystery.

As owner of the Spice Shop in Seattle’s famed Pike Place Market, Reece is always on the go. Between conjuring up new spice blends and serving iced spice tea to customers looking to beat the summer heat, she finally takes a break for a massage. But the Zen moment is shattered when she overhears an argument in her friend Aimee’s vintage home decor shop that ends in murder.

Wracked by guilt over her failure to intervene, Reece investigates, only to discover a web of deadly connections that could ensnare a friend – and Pepper herself.

According to *New York Times*-bestselling mystery author Kate Carlisle, the latest Spice Shop installment “has everything I love in a cozy mystery: a smart, gutsy protagonist determined to find the answers; a savory setting steeped in history; an abundance of mouth-watering food, drink, and spices; a truly delightful doggy; and best of all, an expertly seasoned murder plot that had me guessing – and grinning – to the very end.”

The award-winning author and attorney also writes the Food Lovers’ Village Mysteries, set in a little burg that mysteriously resembles her hometown of Bigfork.



## Grinnell: America’s Environmental Pioneer and His Restless Drive to Save the West

By John Taliaferro

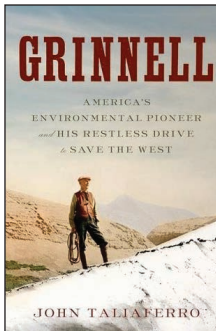
Before Rachel Carson, there was George Bird Grinnell – the man whose prophetic vision did nothing less than launch American conservation.

The son of a New York merchant saw a different future for a nation in the thrall of the Industrial Age. With railroads scarring virgin lands and the formerly vast buffalo herds decimated, the country faced a crossroads: Could it pursue Manifest Destiny without destroying its natural bounty and beauty?

One of the most important originators of the American conservation movement, Grinnell founded the first Audubon Society and, with Theodore Roosevelt, the Boone and Crockett Club (which promoted the concept of “fair chase”), helped create Glacier National Park (where a glacier now bears his name) and worked to install legal protections for migratory birds. He was also a highly respected ethnologist who published numerous articles and books including *The Cheyenne Indians: Their History and Ways of Life*.

In a starred review, *Publisher’s Weekly* calls the book “an impressive, eminently readable biography ... Anyone who’s ever set foot in a national park and wondered how it came to be will find an important part of the answer in this expansive look at an equally expansive life.”

Taliaferro is a graduate of Harvard College, a former senior editor at *Newsweek* and the author of five previous books. He lives in Montana and Texas.



## Political Hell-Raiser: The Life and Times of Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana

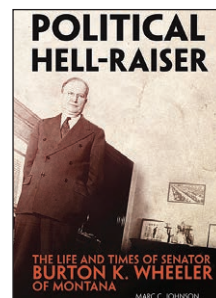
By Marc C. Johnson

Burton K. Wheeler (1882-1975) may have been the most powerful politician Montana ever produced, and he was one of the most influential – and controversial – members of the United States Senate during three of the most eventful decades in American history. A New Deal Democrat and lifelong opponent of concentrated power, he consistently acted with a righteous personal and political independence that has all but disappeared from the public sphere.

Wheeler came of political age during World War I amid antiwar and labor unrest in Butte. As a crusading U.S. attorney, he battled Montana’s powerful economic interests, championed farmers and miners, and won election to the U.S. Senate in 1922. There he made his name as one of the “Montana scandalmongers,” uncovering corruption in the Harding and Coolidge administrations.

Drawing on extensive research and new archival sources, journalist Marc C. Johnson gives a thorough telling of the homegrown maverick’s career, including all its accomplishments and contradictions.

“We Americans need a good and true story like this – about a determined lawyer who defended the rights of day laborers in a hard-rock mining camp out west and went on to represent his constituents as their U.S. senator to his final breath,” writes Pat Williams, U.S. Representative from Montana, 1979–1997.





# ABOUT BOOKS

## Myths and Legends of Yellowstone: The True Stories Behind History's Mysteries

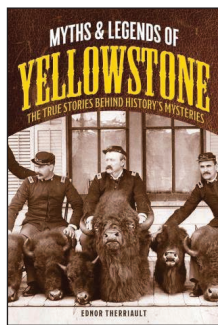
By Ednor Therriault

The world's first designated national park, Yellowstone is famous for its steaming geysers, bubbling mud pots, and wildlife-caused traffic jams. But few people may know about the many Native American tribes that visited the area long before John Colter "discovered" it, how one man nearly decimated the park's bison population, or the strange music that emanates from Yellowstone Lake.

Missoula author Ednor Therriault explores unusual phenomena, strange events, and mysteries in Yellowstone National Park's history. From rumors of ghosts in the iconic Old Faithful Inn to Bigfoot sightings throughout the park, *Myths and Legends of Yellowstone* pulls back the curtain on some of this national treasure's most fascinating and compelling stories.

Relive the grueling trek made by George Cowan, who spent four days dragging his broken body through the park after being shot and stoned by hostile Nez Perce. Read about dangerous amusements once practiced by Yellowstone's visitors and even park rangers, from feeding bears to "soaping" geysers.

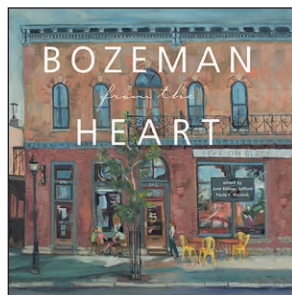
Therriault's Montana roots run deep: his great-great-grandparents homesteaded on Douglas Creek in the late 1800s. In keeping with a penchant for quirky tales, he has also written *Montana Curiosities* and *Montana Off the Beaten Path*.



## Bozeman from the Heart

Edited by June Billings Safford and Paula K. Beswick

Bozeman denizens share their personal stories and histories in this one-of-a-kind compilation that offers a reflection on why the town and community are so beloved. Original pieces from 25 local writers, actors, musicians, artists and educators are accompanied by June B. Safford's vibrant paintings of the people and buildings that comprise Main Street and surrounding institutions. Together, this visual and narrative feast offers a heartfelt picture of the people and unique places that make Bozeman so special.



*Bozeman from the Heart* blends collective memories, hopes for the future, and the contributors' views of Main Street today. According to the editors, "Bozeman's undeniable growth has prompted a need to assess our core and take the town's temperature while it is still possible."

Readers learn about some of the quirky characters who once called Bozeman home, and others who still do; discover the nascent arts and cultural scene of the 1950s, '60s and '70s; and get a hint of the city's contemporary flavor.

For long-time residents the book nourishes their love for Bozeman and sense of awe; for new residents or those who are visitors, it offers a storied heart-line to introduce the meaning of "I live in Bozeman" from people who do.

## Butte and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic

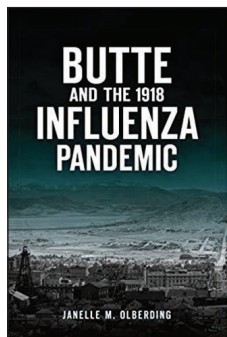
By Janelle M. Olberding

Butte was an incomparable city, but in late 1918, some of the things that made it so exceptional also made it incredibly cruel. That year, the Spanish flu swept across the country, killing some 675,000 Americans before year's end. Some of the country's highest mortality rates occurred in its cities – Philadelphia, San Francisco, Boston and Butte.

In less than six months, the virus killed almost 2 percent of Butte's residents and overwhelmed public health systems. Experimental treatments, civil unrest, death, and human resilience followed in the dramatic final weeks of the year.

Author Janelle Olberding recounts the emotional struggle of the men and women who fought against, suffered from, and succumbed to influenza on the "Richest Hill on Earth."

The historian and writer says her interest in communicable disease was piqued while working in public health, and she began studying its effects on culture and history as a graduate student at Norwich University. She currently works in higher education and lives in Glendive, with her husband and daughter.



## Montana's Big Hole Valley – Montana Pioneers of the Old West – Vol. I

Published by the Big Hole Valley Historical Society

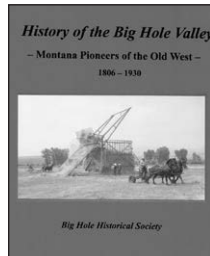
A new 448-page book, years in the making, recounts the settlement of Montana's Big Hole Valley from 1806 through 1930.

"From the gate of the Big Hole, Divide, through Dewey, Wise River, Wisdom, Briston, Fox and Jackson, we visit our vibrant communities as well as places no longer here and tell the stories of the many families and individuals who helped settle this historic part of Montana," said Ruth Nelson Little, president of the Big Hole Valley Historical Society and lead editor of the new book.

The volume includes hundreds of stories of early-day settlers and the struggles they went through to establish a way of life in this high-altitude valley, pressed against the mountainous border with Idaho. Several hundred black and white and color photographs also depict the valley historically known as the "Land of 10,000 Haystacks," in part for its innovative "beaverslide" hay stacker.

Chapters also cover such subjects as the Lewis & Clark Expedition's visit to the upper valley in 1806, the Native American presence in the valley, early explorers, the famous Battle of the Big Hole in 1877 between the U.S. Army and the Nez Perce, mining, trapping, logging, agriculture, family histories and much more.

The book is available from the Big Hole Historical Society at Box 847, Jackson, MT 59736, or from Stoneydale Press, 800-735-7006 or [www.stoneydale.com](http://www.stoneydale.com).



## Young Adult & Children

### Birds of Every Color

By Sneed B. Collard III

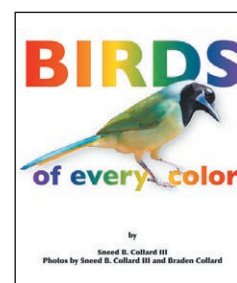
Bucking Horse Books' 10th title, *Birds of Every Color*, takes a whimsical yet fascinating look at a little-known topic, the colors of birds.

As the book's title proclaims, birds almost literally come feathered in every color, and author Sneed Collard gleefully explores the diversity, functions and sources of these spectacular hues.

On each page or spread, oversized text provides a charming, engaging narrative for read-alouds or beginning readers, while smaller, more detailed text answers questions for older readers, parents and teachers – anyone who has ever been intrigued by the vibrant red of a cardinal or startling blue feet of a Blue-footed Booby.

The book features stunning photographs by the author and his son, Braden Collard, an accomplished birder and photographer, and a student at Hellgate High School in Missoula.

Collard is the author of more than 80 books for young people and the winner of many awards, including the prestigious *Washington Post*-Children's Book Guild Nonfiction Award for his body of work. Together, Sneed and Braden write a weekly birding blog at [FatherSonBirding.com](http://FatherSonBirding.com).



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### Earth to Charlie

By Justin Olson

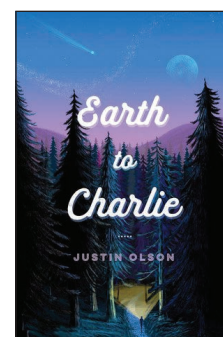
Convinced his mother has been abducted by aliens, Charlie Dickens spends his nights with an eye out for UFOs, hoping to join her. After all, she said the aliens would come back for him.

Charlie will admit that he doesn't have many reasons to stick around; he doesn't get along well with his father, he's constantly bullied at school and at work, and the only friend he has is his 600-pound neighbor Geoffrey, and Geoffrey's three-legged dog, Tickle.

Then Charlie meets popular, easy-going Seth, who shows him what real friendship is all about. For once, he finds himself looking around at the life he's built, rather than looking up. But sooner than he expected, Charlie has to make a decision: should he stay or should he go?

"Olson's story is one of losing something and finding it again, told in the voice of an easily relatable protagonist as he faces the ups and downs of friendship and family," writes *Booklist*. "Poignant yet hopeful, this is a lesson in grief, loneliness, and what it means to truly dream."

Olson taught high school English and theater in Montana before moving to Los Angeles, where he continues to write novels and is an independent film and TV producer. *Earth to Charlie* is his debut novel. He currently splits his time between California and Montana.



### Bear in the Bathtub

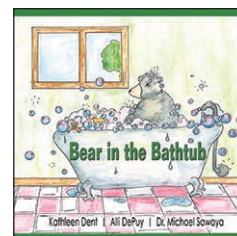
By Kathleen Dent and illustrated by Alli DePuy

Mia is a curious girl, and the thing she loves most is being outdoors in the big, beautiful world. Every day, she races out the door, eager to explore, experiment, play, and learn. She doesn't want to end her fun – not even for dinner, and especially not for a bath. Mia's in luck, though, because every night she finds a bear in the bathtub, so her skeptical mom is forced to send her off to bed without a bath. But what is that bear doing in the bathtub, anyway?

Elementary and middle school students from across the U.S. were asked to imagine just that. Their artwork, combined with that of Alli DePuy, brings lively text from Kathleen Dent to life. A non-fiction section based on the research of carnivore ecologist Dr. Michael Sawaya explains the science behind bathing bears everywhere and why it is important to understand their behavior in our changing climate.

This collaborative effort aims to ignite curiosity about bear behavior and then teach children the biological reasons behind that behavior using text that is interesting, approachable, and based on published research and a current scientific study in Yellowstone National Park.

Inspired Classroom co-owners Dent and DePuy each live in Missoula, where they run an education technology start-up that's focused on building, delivering, and facilitating educational content via in-depth virtual learning experiences and projects with a real-world focus. Learn more at [inspiredclassroom.com](http://inspiredclassroom.com).



### Arrowheads, Spears, and Buffalo Jumps: Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers of the Great Plains

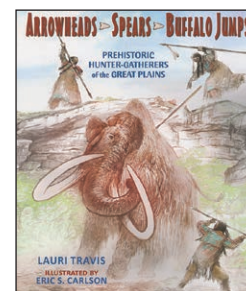
By Lauri Travis; illustrated by Eric Carlson

Ancestors of today's Native Americans populated the Great Plains about 14,000 years ago, about the time glaciers of the last Ice Age began melting back to the north. Prehistoric people living on the dry plains east of the Rocky Mountains were hunter-gatherers, moving from place to place in search of animals to hunt and seeds, roots and berries to gather.

Archaeologists have reconstructed the history of these hunter-gatherers by studying old campsites and tools made of stone and antler. Helena author and scientist Lauri Travis introduces readers to the science of archaeology, shedding light on how field scientists find evidence of people who did not build permanent houses and how researchers determine the age of an arrowhead and what it was used to kill.

Archaeological illustrator Eric Carlson, who lives in Missoula, brings to life the daily activities of early people, showing how they funneled animals over buffalo jumps, used sinew to attach points to spears, and employed grinding stones to mash seeds into flour.

The book, published by Mountain Press, also includes photographs of artifacts and excavation sites, a glossary of archaeological terms, and a list of sites to visit while exploring the vast plains where mammoths used to roam, including several in Montana.



## Montana Center for the Book Prize winners

From early childhood reading programs to writing workshops with at-risk youth, Humanities Montana recognizes the passionate work being done across Montana with the annual Montana Center for the Book Prize.

This year's winners, celebrated Sept. 14 during the Montana Book Festival in Missoula, are:

- Absarokee Lending Library
- Children's Festival of the Book in Bozeman
- Rising Voices high school writing group in Browning
- Empower Place in Missoula
- Free Verse in Missoula, Billings, and Miles City

Learn more at [www.humanitiesmontana.org/centerforthebook](http://www.humanitiesmontana.org/centerforthebook).





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## Alpine Artisans Tour of the Arts

Visit and see over 25 artists at work in their studios, galleries and local historical museums from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 12-13 during Alpine Artisans' two-day self-guided tour of the Seeley-Swan and Blackfoot valleys. Artwork includes jewelry, photography, woodworking, ceramics, stained glass, copper bowls, oil and watercolor paintings, ceramics, fiber art and more.

The tour continues Alpine Artisans' collaboration with three local historical museums: Condon's Upper Swan Valley Historical Museum, Seeley Lake's Historical Museum and Ovando's Brand Bar Museum. Each is housed in a fascinating historical building, and also showcases local artists at work.

The Tour of the Arts stretches over 90 miles, from Condon to Lincoln. Maps are available in Seeley Lake at the Grizzly Claw Trading Post and online at [www.alpineartisans.org](http://www.alpineartisans.org).

The annual event is timed to coincide with the Tamarack trees as they change from green to gold. "No need to do it all in one day," suggests Alpine Artisans member Jenny Rohrer. "Take the weekend to enjoy the event."

For information, call 406-754-0034 or email [jenny@alpineartisans.org](mailto:jenny@alpineartisans.org).

# Grant helps Holter expand Healing Arts Program

Research shows viewing and creating art provides a positive diversion, inspires hope and contributes to a healing atmosphere. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT) hopes a \$50,000 Healthy Kids, Healthy Families® grant to the Holter Healing Arts Program will extend the health benefits of art to a broader population.

"My heart is racing a thousand miles an hour," said Chris Riccardo, executive director of the Holter Museum of Art, after receiving the grant in August. "We strongly believe that art can help heal. It has taken us four years of careful collaboration with our partners and it's so exciting to see people benefit from these programs."

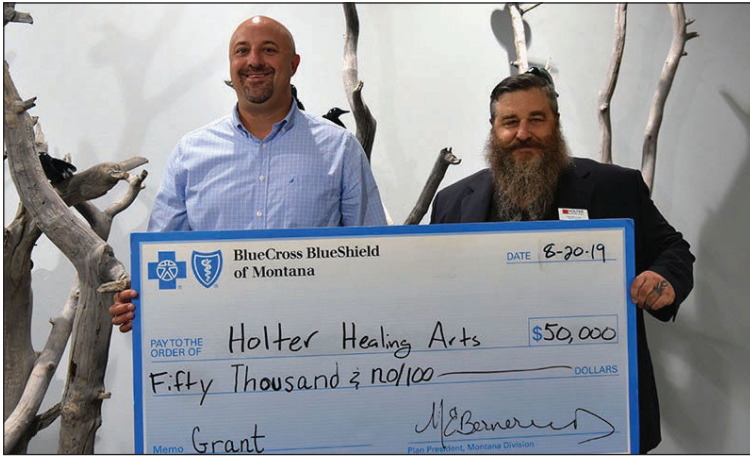
The Holter created Operation Healing Arts in 2014 as the umbrella for all its healing arts programs, which were developed to address the health of the human body and spirit through the presence of art, artists and art experiences. The Holter launched the Healing Arts Program in partnership with St. Peter's Health in 2019 with the goal of introducing it to other healthcare facilities and institutions in Helena and across Montana.

The Healing Arts Program currently consists of four components: a Holter Mini-Museum, Maker Stations, Holter Art Cart and a Mobile Museum Onsite.

Riccardo says the idea of introducing an Art Cart, equipped with art-making supplies, was born "some years back when my father was battling cancer and I would spend countless hours in waiting rooms watching patients and families with nothing to do."

"I thought how great it would be if I had art supplies with me and I could help them be creative and hopefully make time go by a little more quickly," he says.

Likewise, program director Nicole Keintz has a very personal connection to healing and art. The Montana native decided to pursue a



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana's Corey Palmer, left, presents the Holter Museum of Art's Chris Riccardo with a \$50,000 Healthy Kids, Healthy Families grant.

career in photography after having surgery to remove a benign brain tumor in 2009 renewed her appreciation for life. Her career was beginning to take off when an MRI in 2016 revealed the tumor had grown back.

After enduring a second surgery, and facing another long recovery, and the associated physical and cognitive challenges, "Art was an essential ally in my journey to wellness," she writes.

As director and co-creator of the Holter's program, Keintz has an opportunity to share her "experiences, positivity and the healing power of art with those who need it most."

The collaborative between the Holter Museum and St. Peter's is intended to benefit patients, caregivers, medical staff and the community at large, and serve as a pilot program to test and refine the Healing Arts Program's components.

"St. Peter's is already asking for more art carts and more maker stations," says Riccardo. "Other health organizations in town are seeing what is happening and they want to be involved."

"We want to help connect more people in our community," he added.

"We couldn't do it without this grant."

Already, the staff is working with the Helena-based PureView Medical Center on ways to integrate the arts into their facilities. Ultimately, the hope is that the program helps address the need for low-cost alternatives to treat anxiety, depression and other illnesses.

Healthy Kids, Healthy Families® (HKHF) is a signature program of BCBSMT and part of an ongoing commitment to invest in, and partner with, like-minded nonprofit organizations that offer sustainable, measurable programs to reach children and their

families in the five following areas: nutrition, physical activity, disease prevention and management, substance abuse prevention and suicide prevention. The \$50,000 HKHF grant is one of four BCBSMT awards each year.

"The Holter Museum has been at the forefront of exploring the healing power of the arts," said John Doran, divisional vice president of external affairs at BCBSMT. "Together with St. Peter's Hospital, the Holter is proving that emotional healing through art can also speed physical healing. It's a concept we are eager to see come to life here in Helena."



Ready to roll: One of the Holter Museum's Art Carts.

## MONTANA ART NEWS

### Four public art pieces unveiled in Missoula

The City of Missoula Public Art Committee celebrated four new public art pieces Sept. 7 at the Dana Gallery.

Three of the four pieces are part of the community's Traffic Signal Box Art Project (TSB). For 12 years the committee has worked with the state and local agencies, local organizations, businesses and individuals to enrich Missoula's street corners. The boxes serve as "canvases," enhancing the community and enriching the visual surroundings.

This year's TSBs were created by Brian Thomas, Jen Ryan Hickes and Cameron Klise.

In addition, a new mural, "We Are But One Thread" by Lillian Nelson, was unveiled at the Van Buren I-90 interchange. In an ongoing spirit of collaboration, the City of Missoula Public Art Committee and the Montana Department of Transportation have joined with the Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council to install public art on one of the retaining walls at one of Missoula's newest roundabouts.

The title is taken from a quote by Chief Seattle, which the artist felt pertained to the connection between the valley and its original people.

Learn more at [www.missoulapublicart.org](http://www.missoulapublicart.org).

### Bozeman sculptor's work installed at Story Mill Park

A sculpture by Montana State University art professor Jim Zimpel that was inspired by Bozeman's natural, cultural, commercial and recreational history has been installed in the city's new Story Mill Community Park located in the historic Story Mill and cannery district off Griffin Lane.

Called "Flourish," Zimpel's work is one

of two sculptures selected for the park by a design committee organized by the nonprofit Trust for Public Land. A sculpture by Arizona artist Stephen Fairfield has also been installed. Both pieces of public art are located in the nature sanctuary in the 60-acre city park.

Styled as a whimsical boat frame, Zimpel's powder-coated, welded steel sculpture rises 25 feet. Its design references industrial windmills and the frames of boats. He said its crossed paddles that move kinetically in the wind recall traditional paddles from various cultures; the birds in the park's wildlife refuge, which include nesting sandhill cranes; and agricultural wheat. The boat frame is silver blue, which will allow it to blend into the surroundings in some light and appear to float, and the paddles are orange.

Zimpel said the sculpture addresses the historic uses of the area from the era of nomadic foraging through industrialization, urban housing (part of the site was once a mobile home park) and now leisure.

"The site has a rich history, including use by indigenous populations. It is a public space for all people, and I think (the piece) represents that."

— Carol Schmidt, MSU News Service



Jim Zimpel and "Flourish," at Story Mill Park. (Photo by Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez)

Juni Clark, a native Montanan and avid supporter of the visual arts, purchased the gallery from Dave Kirk's estate with the goal of carrying on Kirk's unique vision for encouraging artists.

"Dave ran the gallery purely for the love of art, which made Aunt Dofe's an artistic oasis," says Clark.

The mission statement for the revived Aunt Dofe's says simply, "The Reason for Being: The Artist." According to Clark, the gallery aims to emphasize the aesthetic quality, not the monetary value of the work.

"I am grateful and very excited to continue Dave's philosophy for running a gallery. I believe that our artists here in the region rival the most well-known contemporary artists anywhere," she says. "And I want this venue to be used by emerging talented artists to jumpstart their careers."

A few renovations to the original building, built as a mercantile in 1903, have been necessary to make the space more accessible for creativity. Kirk's woodworking shop has been transformed into the Earl S. Parks Gallery, which allows more area (approximately 1,200 square feet) for larger pieces. Aunt Dofe's Gallery remains the same with the addition of new windows and fresh paint, says Clark.

Upcoming exhibits feature work by Phoebe Knapp, a rancher and sculptor who divides her time between her ranch near Fort Smith and a studio on Billings, Oct. 4-Nov. 15; and Bozeman painter and sculptor Jay Schmidt, Nov. 22-Dec. 31.

Submissions for future exhibits are welcome; visit [auntdofegallery.com](http://auntdofegallery.com) for more information.

### Aunt Dofe's Gallery reopens in Willow Creek

Aunt Dofe's, a gallery on Main Street in Willow Creek, re-opened its doors this summer with works by acclaimed contemporary artist Sandra Dal Poggetto, on display Aug. 16-Sept. 27.



# ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

**Here We Are Now: Works by Anne Appleby**  
**Through Oct. 18 at Helen E. Copeland Gallery, MSU Bozeman,**  
**with a closing reception and gallery talk 5-8 p.m. Oct. 17**  
**Artist's website: [www.applebystudios.com](http://www.applebystudios.com)**

"Here We Are Now" showcases prints and paintings of indigenous Montana flora and trees by Anne Appleby. However, this is no traditional botanical exhibition. In the late 1970s and '80s, Appleby held a 15-year apprenticeship with a Chippewa elder, learning to deeply observe nature and transpose the quintessence and marrow of it to the canvas.

Regarded as a minimalist painter, she creates color field compositions that consist of at least 30 layers of wax and oil paint washes. Her luminous surfaces capture not just the various hues of landscape or object, but the overall sentiment of a specific time and place.

Artist and art writer Diane Armitage, puts it this way: "Walking into the gallery during the artist's show and taking a quick look around gave local viewers the impression that they had stepped into an ecosystem that they knew very well yet were also seeing for the first time."

"My paintings are not about the other world," writes Appleby. "They're about our place in this world. What nourishes the soul is the experience of being in the body."

Appleby was born in Harrisburg, PA, and received her BFA in painting from the University of Montana and her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. She has shown nationally and internationally and her work is in the permanent collections of the National Gallery, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Daimier Art Collection in Berlin, and the Boise Art Museum. She currently resides and works in Jefferson City and will have a solo exhibition, "A Hymn for the Mother," at the Missoula Art Museum in 2020.



"Oregon Grape" by Anne Appleby

**Cory Holmes, "Orphaned Iron," and Tom Otterness,**  
**"Loopy Landscapes"**

**Through Oct. 31 at Artitudes Gallery in Havre**  
**Artists' websites: [tomostudio.com](http://tomostudio.com); [www.facebook.com/corywc.holmes](http://www.facebook.com/corywc.holmes)**

Artists from New York City and Havre join forces in a photography and sculpture show at Artitudes Gallery, located on the upper level of the Atrium in Havre.

The most famous anonymous sculptor in Montana, Cory Holmes of Havre, shares his eccentric, welded fence art in a tandem exhibit with another sculptor, Tom Otterness, who ventures into panoramic photography for this show.

To create his sculptures, Holmes welds together found steel objects. These materials could include machine gun links, buggy parts or railroad spikes.

Among his better-known works are the Iron Buffalo on Main St. in Havre, giant iron spiders crawling on rooftops, or more abstract objects that appear on random fence posts between Havre and the Bear Paw mountains. Some are graced with poetic, but enigmatic titles like "Angels Wept," "A Tsunami of Sloth" or "Robbed of All Dignity."

Holmes has installed more than 750 sculptures in 17 states and four Canadian provinces in the last 22 years. He roams the country in a pickup alongside his toughest critic, wife Charlotte Miller-Holmes, or with a small gang of retired railroaders. After choosing a fence post for the sculpture installation, and using Zen-like intuition, Holmes records the sculpture's exact location with a GPS.

"Cory's populist impulse in his work as the 'Fence Post Bandit' is almost like a 3D version of the train graffiti that travels on boxcars," says Otterness, who came to Havre with his partner, the filmmaker Coleen Fitzgibbon, 30 years ago. They have returned with their daughter Kelly every summer since.



Sculptors Tom Otterness and Cory Holmes

After a mysterious iron sculpture with the title, "A Twinge of Resentment," showed up on one of the couple's fence posts west of town, Otterness asked people in Havre who the anonymous artist was and eventually tracked down Holmes. The two families have remained friends for the last 20 years.

Otterness may well be "the world's best public sculptor," as the art critic Ken Johnson opined in *The New York Times* in 2002. Public art is his focus, and Otterness has had major outdoor exhibitions of his sculptures throughout the U.S. and around the world, with more than 35 permanent installations in locations ranging from small towns in western Washington to the Doha International Airport in Qatar.

He typically casts his smiley-faced cartoon-figure sculptures in bronze, and many pieces are designed with children in mind. However, having grown up in Kansas, flat landscapes are nothing new to him. Inspired by the plains and the endless sky of the Hi-Line, he began using the panorama setting on his camera to craft the fluid, painterly image on display in "Loopy Landscapes."

**Melanie Alvarez-Home Gun, Portraits of the Blackfeet**  
**Through Nov. 22 at the Emerson Center for Arts and Culture in**  
**Bozeman**

Melanie Alvarez-Home Gun, who was born in Brownsville, TX, of Mexican and American heritage, finds inspiration in the Mexican muralists, Diego Rivera and Siqueros, and painters Orozco, Frieda Kahlo, and Tamayo. Her work focuses on the human condition and indigenous people, depicting "the raw side of life that we all came from, where endurance is recognized and the spirit of humanity is revealed."

Her formal art schooling began in Mexico at the prestigious Bellas Artes and at the Instituto de Allende. Later, she attended the Glassell Museum School and the University of St. Thomas in Texas, and earned her BFA from the Parsons School of Design in New York City. Her work has been collected nationally and internationally.

She was co-owner of the Catlin Gallery in Missoula, which became the Melanie Alvarez Gallery, from 1999 to 2004, when she moved to the Blackfeet Reservation with her husband. For the past 11 years, she taught on the reservation and along the Hi-Line and became part of the second cohort of the Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts.

Alvarez-Home Gun is currently teaching special education at Castle Rock Middle School in Billings, a move that allows her two children to attend school in a more urban environment. She's also completing her doctorate in curriculum and instruction at MSU Bozeman, with an emphasis on "the importance of using the arts in education for at-risk children."

Her exhibit at the Emerson pays homage to her husband's tribe: "the culture and values of the Blackfeet and the benevolence and the strength that they have given, shared and taught me." The titles of her paintings reflect these values: "Strength," "Wisdom," "Mother and Child," "Warrior," "Elder," "Medicine Man" and "Young Woman," a tribute to "the beauty and strength of the Blackfeet women and how they have taught me about my position as a woman on this earth, my role and my identity."

**Carla Potter: Go Figure**

**Oct. 4-25 at the Clay Studio of Missoula, with a reception**  
**during First Friday**  
**Artist's website: [carlampotter.com](http://carlampotter.com)**

For her solo exhibition, "Go Figure," Helena-based ceramic artist Carla Potter creates several small vignettes that parody historic artists or impersonate contemporary artists she admires and knows.

Potter, who spent most of her life in Alaska, says a long-term residency at Helena's Archie Bray Foundation in 2005 "shook me loose from the hold of that vast domain." She went on to earn her MFA at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and spent 15 years presenting workshops in the public school system in Alaska, including collaborative projects with institutions such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, CA, and the Sheldon Art Museum in Lincoln.

At the same time, she's exhibited her work across the U.S., while finding time to serve on the board of directors of the Holter Museum of Art. "My service on the board has been a wonderful context for deeper conversations and relationships with art supporters," she says. She was recently elected chairman of the Holter board and is embracing that role with an increased commitment to the museum and its vital role in the Helena community.

Working from her studio in Helena, Potter uses hand-building techniques and works primarily with porcelain. Her work has taken a dramatic shift from the exuberant colorful sculptures inspired by her Alaskan environment to making delicate unglazed porcelain vessels and figurines that weave her own personal narrative with her experience of nature, Catholicism and the history of European art. As her website professes, "Work is a place to be absolutely free and wonderfully devious."



"Doing the Holy Dishes" – in reference to Tony Marsh, by Carla Potter

(Photo by Tom Ferris)



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## Send your submissions for About Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit in Montana (on display during some portion of the three months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist's work, with title of the piece (at least 200 dpi and 500kb);
- A brief bio and description of the artist's work;
- Date range and title of exhibit; and
- The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.

MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Submissions for the Winter issue (January-March, 2020) are due Dec. 5; send ingredients to Kristi@livelytimes.com with About Visual Arts in the subject line.

About Visual Artists is compiled by Kristi Niemeyer



## SYMPHONY SPOTLIGHT

### New season begins for Montana's seven symphonies



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#### Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale

Venue: Lincoln Center

Connect: [billingsymphony.org](http://billingsymphony.org) or 406-252-3610

The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale (BSO&C) begins a historic year at the Lincoln Center for its 2019-2020 season, while the Alberta Bair Theater closes for renovations. The Lincoln Center is located at 415 30th Street, in downtown Billings.

In the words of Maestra Anne Harrigan, "The 2019-2020 Season will be one of the most exciting seasons in the history of the BSO&C as we start the ramp-up to the reopening of the Alberta Bair Theater. From Gershwin to Stravinsky, and from Celtic to 'West Side Story,' we have programs that will capture the imagination of our diverse audiences. I can't wait for opening night!"

The BSO&C's 2019-2020 season features an array of special guests ranging from American composer and pianist Conrad Tao, who opened the season Sept. 21; returning favorite Celtic fiddler Jeremy Kittel, who joins the orchestra Dec. 21 for Celtic Christmas; and for the first time in Montana, a quartet of Broadway stars for "West Side Story in Concert," March 14.

This season highlights Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras (MASO) Young Artist Competition winners Tanner Jordan, piano, and former BSO&C intern Rosie Weiss, violin. The BSO&C also continues its community engagement program, Explore Music!, providing over 90 community outreaches each season.

The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale is the largest professional orchestra in Montana. Established in 1951, the organization strives to enrich lives through music. Consisting of over 135 musicians, the BSO&C serves a regional population of 400,000 people located throughout south-central and eastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming by introducing music to children, youth, adults and seniors through Explore Music!, its community engagement program.

#### Bozeman Symphony Orchestra

Venue: Willson Auditorium

Connect: [www.bozemansymphony.org](http://www.bozemansymphony.org) or 406-585-9774

The Bozeman Symphony's 2019-2020 concert season features world-class guest artists such as pianist Marika Bournaki, violinist Angella Ahn and clarinetist Jon Manasse, along with many local favorites such as Elizabeth Croy, Melina Pyron, Concertmaster Carrie Krause, Pico Alt, and Tristan Hernandez – the senior division runner up from the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras 2019 Young Artist Competition.

After launching a search earlier this year, the symphony received more than 200 applicants for the position of music director.



Billings Symphony: Maestra Ann Harrigan (Alsa Photography)

• **Andrew Crust**, assistant conductor of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Memphis Symphony Orchestra, conductor of the Memphis Youth Symphony, and cover conductor of the Kansas City Symphony;

• **Norman Huynh**, associate conductor of the Oregon Symphony;

• **Wesley Schulz**, associate conductor of the North Carolina Symphony and music director of the Auburn Symphony (Washington State);

• **Thomas Heuser**, music director and conductor of the San Juan Symphony and the Idaho Falls Symphony; and

• **Janna Hymes**, music director of the

Carmel Symphony (Carmel, IN).

The organization's board of directors will host the finalists over a span of two weeks as each participates in guest conducting rehearsals and performances, along with scheduled activities. Music director finalists also participate in the season's programming with each presenting a "conductor's choice" piece, highlighted during the concert series performances at Willson Auditorium. The season begins Sept. 28-29 with "Nights in the Gardens of Spain" and concludes May 2-3 with "Te Deum."

Relying heavily on community input, a new music director will be appointed at the end of this search season. For a complete schedule, visit [www.bozemansymphony.org](http://www.bozemansymphony.org).



Butte Symphony: At home in the Mother Lode Theatre

#### Butte Symphony

Venue: Mother Lode Theatre

Connect: [www.butesymphony.org](http://www.butesymphony.org) or 406-723-5590

The Butte Symphony opens its 70th anniversary season with the dramatic Lalo Cello Concerto in D Minor, featuring cellist Adam Collins of the University of Montana, on Oct. 26, in a program titled "An Evening of Cello, Fire and Dances."

As Montana's original and oldest symphony, the community orchestra continues its mission to provide music to southwest Montana under the baton of Luis Millan, serving his 10th season as musical director.

Other concerts for the season include "Holidays with the Symphony" on Dec. 14, and "Silent Films and their Music" on Feb. 22. The season ends April 11 with "The Unfinished Symphonies of Great Composers." The symphony also plays a free concert each summer at the Original Headframe featuring silent films with the orchestra providing the musical thrills.

The Butte Symphony is made up of volunteer musicians who continue their musical careers with a mission of providing classical music to southwest Montana through concerts, outreach programs to schools and rural areas, as well as special events. A chamber music concert will be held in the spring and a series of recitals are planned for the historic Clark Chateau in Butte.



Glacier Symphony Orchestra: Maestro John Zoltek with flutist Cobus Du Toit.

#### Glacier Symphony Orchestra & Chorale

Venues: Flathead and Glacier High in Kalispell and Whitefish Performing Arts Center

Connect: [glaciersymphony.org](http://glaciersymphony.org) or 406-407-7000

The Glacier's Symphony's 2019/20 season, The Music Makers, "Year of the Piano," features nine weekends of masterworks, sacred and pops concerts from September through April including the new Masquerade Winter Gala benefit slated for Jan. 18.

Masterworks highlights feature three internationally acclaimed pianists: Andrew Tyson, Oct. 19-20, in a piano concerto by Grieg; Sheng Cai, Nov. 23-24, in a concerto by Mozart; and Roman Rabinovich, Feb. 22-23, in a Tchaikovsky concerto. Each of these performances is preceded by an intimate evening concert with the guest artist.

According to Maestro John Zoltek, The Year of the Piano recognizes the recent donation "of a beautiful Steinway nine-foot Concerto Grand Piano" made to the symphony by the Flathead Valley Live On Stage organization.

The season began Sept. 21-22 with Equinox Music - Generation Next! featuring five awardees from the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras Young Artist Competition as part of the symphony's "Youth Music Experience" education program.

Other highlights include the Glacier Chorale in concert, Handel's Messiah and Holiday Pops in December; and the Spring Festival Finale, April 25-26, featuring Beethoven's sacred masterpiece Missa Solemnis and four guest soloists.

The 12th annual Festival Amadeus, held in August, was heralded by Zoltek as another "great success." It included a fully costumed opera performance of Mozart's *Così fan tutti*.

#### Great Falls Symphony

Venue: Mansfield Theater

Connect: [gfsymphony.org](http://gfsymphony.org) or 406-455-8514

The Great Falls Symphony kicks off its 61st season Oct. 5 with "Legends," a program filled with epic tales of myth and magic, including Respighi's *Pines of Rome*, and film scores from "How to Train Your Dragon" and "The Lord of the Rings." The orchestra also offers



Bozeman Symphony: The Search Season

Six finalists were recently announced and each takes a turn at the podium this season. Finalists are:

• **Stefan Sanders**, music director of the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra and Round Rock Symphony;



Great Falls Symphony: Americana with Béla Fleck



# “God Help Us!” with Ed Asner returns to Montana

The Montana Actors’ Theatre of Havre and the Billings Studio Theatre are partnering to bring “God Help Us!” – starring legendary actor Ed Asner – to Billings Oct. 4-6.

The political comedy, features Asner as God – a wise, cantankerous and wildly funny deity. He confronts two political pundits with a romantic history: Lawrence (a liberal) and Randi (a conservative). He is not at all pleased with our divisive politics or what humans have done to his Creation, and grills the pundits on the dismal state of affairs on Earth.

LA veteran Mitch Levine directs the show, which was written by Samuel Warren Joseph and Phil Proctor. The comedy speaks to audiences of all political persuasions with one essential argument: that we have to listen to each other so that we can all live – and laugh – together.

This marks the second time that Asner has teamed up with Montana Actors’ Theatre performers Jay Pyette (Lawrence) and Kate Hagen (Randi) with supporting “angel” roles by Andi Daniel and Derek Eldridge. The show ran at MAT’s theatre in Havre last October and, due to its enormous popularity, Asner and his team have agreed to return to Montana.

Pyette says working with Asner last year was both “absolutely wonderful” and



Jay Pyette, Ed Asner and Kate Hagen in “God Help Us!”

nerve-wracking. “After all, Ed had been ‘in the business’ for longer than I’d been alive,” he notes. “But the minute he arrived he put everyone at ease, mainly by poking fun. He has a great sense of humor and sarcasm.”

The veteran actor also sets a high bar for his cohorts. “He’s sharp – right on top of his game,” says Pyette. “As actors, we needed to be prepared and ready, because if we weren’t, Ed would call us out on it.”

Pyette, a member of the Montana Arts Council, helped found MAT and serves as the company’s artistic director. Hagen, a Havre grade school teacher, is an accomplished costumer, and has performed in MAT productions for the past five years.

Last year’s performance of “God Help Us!” in Havre was only the fourth time that the show had been produced, and followed runs in Los Angeles, Chicago and Coeur d’Alene.

According to Pyette, “The question we always get is ‘how did THAT happen?’”

Director Levine had been in every state in the union except Montana and wanted to come here. When Liza Asner, the actor’s daughter and manager, googled Montana and Theatres, Montana Actors’ Theatre popped up first. She reached out to Pyette, “we started chatting, and the rest fell into place.”

Since then, the show has toured across the country. “But I think we established a real connection with them here and when we reached out this time to ask them back, they readily agreed.”

Asner started acting in credited roles in the 1950s but rose to stardom with his role as the irritable but warm-hearted and lovable news editor in “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” and followed with the title role in the spinoff, “Lou Grant,” which earned him five Emmys and three Golden Globe Awards. He has been nominated for 20 Emmy awards, and won eight. As Pyette says, “The guy is an A-List actor.”

Tickets are available through the Billings Studio Theatre’s website ([www.billingsstudiotheatre.com](http://www.billingsstudiotheatre.com)) or by phone, 406-248-1141.



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## USArtists International supports performances abroad

The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation has a grant program for performing artists/ensembles in the United States and its territories called USArtists International (USAI) that helps fund performances by U.S. artists traveling abroad.

The program provides grants to ensembles and individual performers in dance, music and theatre who have been invited to perform at significant international festivals and performing arts markets. USAI provides grants of up to \$15,000 towards artist fees, travel, accommodations, per diem, shipping and visa preparation.

**Application Deadlines:** Nov. 22 for projects happening March 15, 2020-March 14, 2021; April 1 for projects happening July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. Visit [midatlanticarts.org](http://midatlanticarts.org) for details.

## SYMPHONY SPOTLIGHT (FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

“Tricks or Treats,” a free family concert at 11 a.m. Oct. 26.

World-famous banjo player Béla Fleck performs his second banjo concerto, Juno, with the symphony Nov. 9. Fleck constantly pushes the limits of what the instrument can do, and that mastery will be on full display. The all-American program also includes Aaron Copland’s ballet, “Billy the Kid.”

Join the Great Falls Symphony and Choir for their annual holiday program, “Winterscapes,” on Dec. 8. The program includes the premiere of “Grace,” a new choral work by esteemed cowboy poet Paul Zarzyski.

Welcome the New Year Jan. 18 with “Queen of the Night,” featuring music of the Viennese masters, soprano Caitlin Cisler in Mozart’s Exsultate Jubilate, and Haydn’s sprightly London Symphony.

“Café Noir,” the symphony’s annual Valentine’s program on Feb. 8, features music by Shostakovich and Milhaud, and cellist Inbal Segev in Kabalevsky’s playfully melancholic Cello Concerto No. 1.

The Great Falls Symphonic Choir celebrates its 60th anniversary on March 28 with “Jubilee,” an all-chorus program featuring everything from hymns and folks songs to a Handel oratorio.

The Great Falls Symphony and Choir presents its season finale on April 25 with “Gloria,” featuring soprano Stephanie Jennings, and the symphony’s own Dorian Antipa in a bassoon concerto by Gioachino Rossini.

### Helena Symphony

**Venue:** Helena Civic Center  
**Connect:** [helenasympphony.org](http://helenasympphony.org) or 406-442-1860

The Helena Symphony has much to offer as it celebrates its 65th season. Maestro Allan R. Scott has once again created an exciting line-up of concerts, guaranteed to satisfy everyone’s musical palate.

Returning instrumental soloists this season include world-renowned violinist Tim Fain, who opened the season Sept. 14; firecracker violinist Robyn Bollinger, who performs Édouard Lalo’s fiery Symphonie espagnole Jan. 25; and superstar pianist Carl Cramner in Gershwin’s jazzy Piano Concerto, Feb. 29.

Contemporary composers such as Philip Glass and Jennifer Higdon will be featured, as well as Gershwin, Mendelssohn, Dvořák



Helena Symphony: Maestro Allan R. Scott (Wandering Albatross Photography)

and Bruckner. Vocal soloists galore join the orchestra and chorale in several performances, with three soloists joining over 200 performers in Orff’s Carmina Burana on Oct. 19; four soloists performing in Rossini’s Stabat Mater, March 28; and eight soloists singing Bizet’s Carmen, which will be performed May 2 for the season finale.

Non-Series Concerts include Mozart by Candlelight (with clarinetist Ricardo Morales), Nov. 16 at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, and the traditional Christmas in the Cathedral Dec. 16, featuring the Helena Symphony Orchestra and Chorale and four acclaimed soloists performing Handel’s Messiah in the Cathedral of St. Helena.

Also included this season are four free Symphony Kids concerts, and the annual Youth Concert for 4th and 5th graders.

### Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale

**Venue:** UM Dennison Theatre  
**Connect:** [www.missoulasympphony.org](http://www.missoulasympphony.org) or 406-721-3194

After bidding farewell to popular music director Darko Butorac, the Missoula Symphony and Chorale is embarking on “a big year – the biggest we’ve seen in more than a decade,” says the new executive director Jo May Salonen. After careful consideration of more than 100 talented candidates, the organization narrowed the field to five conductors from across the globe, who will come to Missoula this concert season as finalists.

Each has selected a unique program showcasing their talents and distinct styles in a season aptly titled “Pass the Baton!”

The season opens with Sept. 28-29 with Julia Tai. Praised by the *Seattle Times* as

“poised yet passionate,” she leads the orchestra in works by Bernstein, a piano concerto by Gershwin featuring pianist Jeffrey Biegel, and Beach’s Gaelic Symphony No. 2.

Steven Smith wields the baton Nov. 2-3. He has served as music director of Virginia’s Richmond Symphony, the Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus, as well as the Grammy Award-winning Cleveland Chamber Symphony. He leads the orchestra in works by Berlioz, Copland, Borodin and Brahms.

Paul McShee, the assistant professor and director of orchestral studies at the University of Connecticut, conducts the orchestra Feb. 1-2 in Mozart’s Requiem, featuring four guest soloists, and Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 5. McShee is known for the blend of warmth, energy and driving rhythmic vitality he evokes from orchestras.

Scott Seaton takes the podium Feb. 29 and March 1, in works by Torke, Sibelius and Dvorak. Seaton is in his fourth season as music director of the North State Symphony in California where he has garnered acclaim for his dynamic performances, innovative programming and community/youth outreach.

The season wraps up April 18-19 with Zoe Zeniodi, the principal conductor of the Greek-Turkish Youth Orchestra. In 2016, she was selected by the Dallas Opera for the prestigious five-year Fellowship of the Institute of Women Conductors. She’ll lead the orchestra in works by Saint-Saens, Berlioz and Franck.

Missoula Symphony: Pass the Baton!





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## Humanities Montana reopens grant programs

Humanities Montana has reopened grant applications this fall, with a deadline of Dec. 20 for regular grants, fellowships and three-year sustaining grants. Learn more at [humanitiesmontana.org](http://humanitiesmontana.org).

Brush up on grant-writing skills at workshops sponsored in partnership with the Montana History Foundation. These free sessions for museums and nonprofit organizations provide practical, step-by-step tools and tips for developing winning grant proposals.

Upcoming workshops are slated for Oct. 2 at the Dillon Public Library; Oct. 8 at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman; Oct. 29 at the Montana History Foundation in Helena; and in Baker, sometime this fall. To register, head to [www.mthistory.org](http://www.mthistory.org).

# New standing sets lure filmmakers to Montana

## Introducing Gunslinger Gulch and Yellowstone Film Ranch

By Allison Whitmer  
Montana Film Commissioner

This summer, theaters across the country have been screening the latest Brad Pitt and Leonardo Di Caprio film, "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," which follows the exploits of a fading film star, Di Caprio, and his faithful stuntman, Pitt, as they party, work, look for work, and encounter a group of young hippies in their neighborhood.

A pivotal sequence in the film happens at the Spahn Movie Ranch, a faded, dusty western town that Pitt's character once used to film TV westerns. A tense stand-off ensues, only instead of nervous horses and dusty pistols, it's a cream yellow Cadillac and a tire iron against an intense group of women. It's not a leap to envision the 1950s westerns the ranch once used as a standing set.

Places like Paramount Ranch, Pioneer Town and Old Tucson Studios have a permanent set of buildings, props and movable elements that a film director can walk into and begin filming right away. The sets are "standing," or ready to use. This is different from a "backlot," which is literally the back lot of the film studio, separate from the soundproofed studio spaces. No film jargon lives alone, so some studio operations have standing sets on their backlots.

Wanting to move off the backlots, filmmakers sought more remote locations. These movie ranch standing sets can be found in the sandstone formations and scrub brush hills of California, New Mexico and Arizona since the early days of filmmaking on the West Coast.

Here in Montana, filmmakers have utilized real towns and authentic spaces for sets. Historic Virginia and Nevada Cities were famously shown in "Missouri Breaks" and "Return to Lonesome Dove." Actors' spurs clanked along

water and safe work areas.

Until recently, dependable standing sets have not existed in Montana, and I'm pleased to introduce you to not one, but two new locations.



Gunslinger Gulch in the foothills near Anaconda is now "film ready."

In the foothills of Anaconda, Gunslinger Gulch was last seen in the featurette for the video game series "Far Cry 5." It's set up against a set of hills, sloping gently to the white church at the end of the street. Assembled from a collection of period-correct buildings moved to the site and set in the 1880s, Gunslinger Gulch is film ready and boasts the additional bonus of sleeping rooms and modern plumbing. The tucked away cabins and out-buildings offer many creative possibilities. Several crews have staged their shoot-outs

on main street, bellied up to the saloon at the end of a hard day, and walked right to their sleeping rooms in the next building. Check it out at [facebook.com/gunslingergulch](http://facebook.com/gunslingergulch).

Adding spectacular and immense vistas to the equation, the Yellowstone Film Ranch is under construction in Paradise Valley. Perched on a bluff, this new studio, backlot and standing set facility brings to life everything needed for a dramatic western.

Set to take advantage of magic hour, that golden late afternoon sunlight, the ranch offers a livery stable, saloon, dance hall and church. That breakaway railing and fight down the stairs? Plenty of room for lights, actors and cameras. The stunning mountain views and backdrops provide incredible angles and can become a character in the script. Take a sneak peek at [yellowstonefilmranch.com](http://yellowstonefilmranch.com).

Both of these locations are open for filming and photography. Learn more about incentives, Montana crew and locations, at [montanafilm.com](http://montanafilm.com).

real boardwalks. Bannack Ghost Town came alive in "The Ballad of Lefty Brown," hosting a tense rifle fight and a showdown in the hotel.

Sometimes, the script demands more than what filmmakers can safely do at a historic site where buildings are delicate and meant to be preserved. Intense fight scenes with flying furniture, breaking glass, and old-west standoffs will put any historic preservationist on edge. The filmmakers worked closely with Montana officials to avoid damaging Bannack's structures, while creating intense drama. You'll notice on careful viewing that there are no bullet hits on the buildings, windows or interiors.

This is where a standing set really shines. Directors can control and manipulate the environment. Sometimes the walls are made of foam, to cushion the actors as they slam against them. Jail cells have removable bars, and the railings at the town bar breakaway at precise, dependable points for safety. Buildings on standing sets have electricity, running

## Heritage Keepers honored at Montana History Conference

Each year the Montana Historical Society's Board of Trustees honors individuals or groups who have made exceptional contributions to the study and preservation of Montana's past. This year, board members presented the Heritage Keeper award to **Mardell Plainfeather** of Billings and the Extreme History Project of Bozeman. Additionally, the board recognized an additional Heritage Guardian: **Larry Len Peterson** of Sisters, OR.

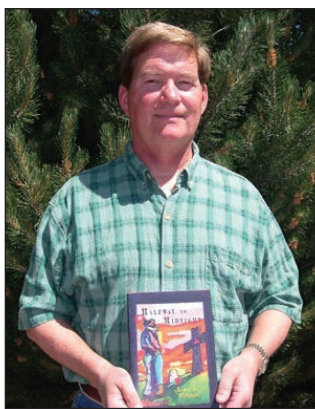
According to MHS Board president Kent Kleinkopf of Missoula, "these awards represent the highest honor the Historical Society can bestow upon those doing the daily work of saving Montana's past for future generations! Their contributions, and their level of devotion are amazing."

**Mardell Plainfeather's** Crow name – Baa Hinnaché, or Always Working – reflects her tireless spirit and dedication to preserving, documenting, promoting and teaching the history, culture and identity of the Crow Apsáalooke people. She is an enrolled member of the Crow (Apsáalooke) Tribe, a member of the Big Lodge clan, and a Whistling Waters child.

She speaks fluent Crow and is adopted in the Sacred Tobacco Society of the Crow – the original "medicine" of the tribe. Over the past 20 years, Plainfeather has been instrumental in developing and completing a wide range of



Mardell Plainfeather



Dr. Larry Len Peterson



Extreme History Project: Marsha Fulton and Crystal Alegria



museum, tourism and public outreach projects on Crow history through partnerships with a wide variety of organizations. From public lectures, museum exhibits and tribal tourism initiatives, to extensive oral history projects, articles and books, her collected work comprises an invaluable contribution to the permanent record of the Crow people.

**Marsha Fulton and Crystal Alegria** founded the Extreme History Project in 2011. Dedicated to bringing attention to underrepresented communities and overlooked historical subjects, the Extreme History Project began with Fulton and Alegria's research on the first Crow Indian agency at Fort Parker. The result was, in 2015, the preservation of Fort Parker along with the collection of more than 15 oral histories with Crow tribal members.

The Extreme History Project continued to grow with the launch of its website, social media platforms, and public lecture series in 2012. Since 2013, Extreme History has championed efforts to draw attention to a wide range of lesser-known histories through both conventional and offbeat presentations that

reach a wide audience. "After Dark" ghostly living-history tours, "Red Light" district tours, bus tours, workshops, plays and college courses call out hidden-away history and show how it informs us today.

**Dr. Larry Len Peterson**, a Montana native born and raised in Plentywood, was recognized for his outstanding efforts to preserve and promote Montana history and culture by writing engaging books about Montana's historic artists. Through these publications, Peterson has not only dedicated his efforts to well-known artists like Charlie Russell and L. A. Huffman, but also brought to light lesser known, but extremely significant Montana artists like John L. Clarke, John Fery, and a variety of artists who worked in Glacier National Park.

Peterson has published a prolific eight books relating to Montana artists, and his non-art, 2017 masterwork, *American Trinity: Jefferson, Custer, and the Spirit of the West*, has won several prestigious awards.

The honorees were recognized Sept. 27, during the Montana History Conference. For more information visit [mhs.mt.gov](http://mhs.mt.gov).



## LITERARY LANDSCAPE

## Poet Laureate Joy Harjo visits Billings for Big Read

The Writer's Voice received a \$15,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant to host the Big Read in Billings Oct. 10-Nov. 10. An initiative of the NEA in partnership with Arts Midwest, the Big Read will focus on Joy Harjo's poetry collection, *How We Became Human*. Harjo, who was recently named the U.S. Poet Laureate, will read from her collection at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Petro Theatre on the campus of MSU-Billings.

Writer's Voice director Corby Skinner said Harjo's poetry collection "provides leadership and inspiration, and her work speaks to the resilience of Native cultures."

As Harjo explains, "A lot of my poetry is inspired by injustice, love, the move for balance and compassion. This debris of historical trauma, family trauma ... stuff that can kill your spirit is actually raw material to make things with and to build bridges over that which would destroy you."

The Big Read kicks off Oct. 11 during the High Plains BookFest with a reading featuring Indigenous writers Dallas Hunt, Susan



U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo reads from her work Nov. 9 in Billings.

(Photo by Paul Abdo)

Devan Harness, Chris La Tray and Valerie Guillemain, 2 p.m. at the Western Heritage Center. Devan Harness, author of *Bitterroot: A Salish Memoir of Transracial Adoption* and a candidate for a High Plains Book Award, offers an evening presentation at the Billings Public Library titled "Adopting a Child of a Different Race? Let's Talk."

The festival continues Oct. 12, with readings by woman writers, poets and an art and photography presentation. For a schedule,

visit [highplainsbookawards.org](http://highplainsbookawards.org).

Luzene Hill (Eastern Band of Cherokee), a multimedia artist based in Atlanta and best known for conceptual installations addressing the issue of violence against women, performs at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 14 in Petro Hall on the MSU-Billings campus. Through work informed by pre-contact culture, Hill advocates for indigenous sovereignty – cultural, linguistic and personal.

Joseph McGeshick of the MSU-B Native American Studies program, offers a lecture titled "Waiting for the Earth to Move: The 1890 Ghost Dance," at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Yellowstone County Museum. Contemporary Indigenous writers share their work at 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 31 in LA-205 on the campus of MSUB; and Montana's two new poets laureate, Melissa Kwasny and M.L. Smoker, join former poet laureate Tami Haaland for a reading at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 7. The Big Read culminates with Harjo's reading on Nov. 9.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information contact Corby Skinner, [Corby@skinnerbenoit.com](mailto:Corby@skinnerbenoit.com).

Lewis & Clark Library centers Big Read on *Lab Girl*

The Lewis & Clark Library in Helena received \$15,000 to host the NEA Big Read in Lewis & Clark County, with activities taking place in October. In mid-September, the library began distributing 1,200 copies of *Lab Girl*, a memoir by Hope Jahren "about the life of a woman in science, a brilliant friendship, and the profundity of trees." Copies of the book, as well as a full schedule of events, are available at all Lewis & Clark Library locations.

During October, the library will host an array of activities centered around the theme of the book, including lectures, panel discussions, a writing workshop, activities for kids, teen trivia night, films, a 21-day health challenge, art and crafts for all ages, nature walks, book discussions and more.

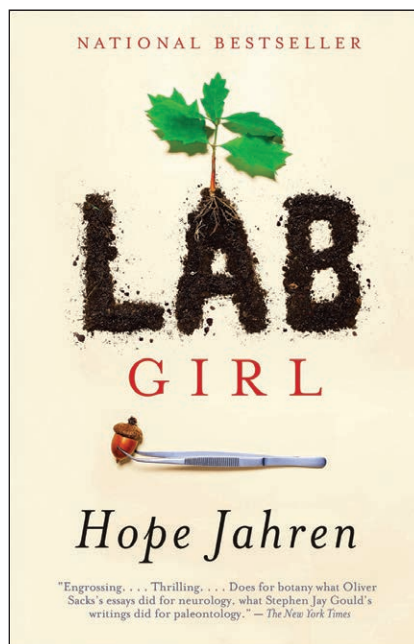
Highlights include:

• **Telling Stories One Scientist to Another: *Lab Girl* and Carroll College's Women in Science**, a panel discussion at 7 p.m. Oct. 3 at Carroll College, hosted by Dr. Jennifer Glowienka.

• **Author Jim Robbins and The People Who Plant Trees**, 7 p.m. Oct. 7 at the library: the well-known local author discusses David

Milarch, the central figure in his book, *The Man Who Planted Trees*, and tree scientist Hope Jahren, and explores how both have a passion for the simple yet incredibly complex world of trees and the hope they inspire.

• **Creating Your World: A Writing Workshop with Virginia Reeves**, 6 p.m. Oct. 15: In her memoir, *Lab Girl*, Jahren asks, "What if the landscape wasn't setting the stage for the plants, but the plants were setting their own stage ... ?" With this year's Big Read as inspiration, acclaimed novelist Reeves explores the same question as it pertains to the landscape and setting of fiction in this workshop (sign up at [www.lclibrary.org](http://www.lclibrary.org) or call 406-447-1690).



• **Reading: *Montana's Pioneer Botanists***, noon Oct. 25 at the Montana Historical Society: Join editor Rachel Potter as she shares stories of botany and history from the book she co-edited with Peter Lesica. *Montana's Pioneer Botanists* brings together more than 30 biographies of Montana botanists and traces the growth of botanical knowledge in this wild and beautiful state.

• **Plant One Tree This Year: Inspired by *Lab Girl***, the Lewis & Clark Library and Growing Friends of Helena are cooperating to help Helenans plant one tree, or

more, in the coming year.

Learn more about the Big Read in Helena by calling 406-447-6681 or visiting [www.lclibrary.org](http://www.lclibrary.org).

## Legacy of the Land

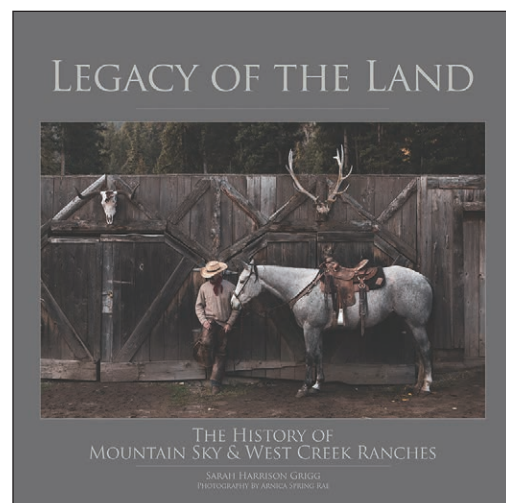
## Philanthropist's book project helps preserve history of Paradise Valley

In Fall 2017, Arthur Blank, businessman and owner of the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta United, commissioned a history project focused on his family's Mountain Sky Guest Ranch and West Creek Ranch, located in Paradise Valley. The project was intended to preserve and chronicle the rich history of the ranches and was turned into a book, *Legacy of the Land*, written by Sarah Grigg and photographed by Arnica Spring Rae, both of Bozeman.

Blank purchased Mountain Sky nearly two decades ago "after falling in love with the land, the people and the wildlife during many memorable family vacations."

The team set out to write and produce a story that avoided Hollywood tropes about "Cowboys and Indians." They aimed to offer the most truthful version of history they could, as told through the players themselves or their descendants, and to honor the struggles that so many on the Montana stage endured.

"The narratives in the pages that lie ahead represent our best attempt at capturing and preserving the rich history and characters



linked to Paradise Valley – from the Native American tribes that hunted its river banks to the pioneers and homesteaders who created the first cattle camps in the late 19th century," writes Blank of the book.

The story of these two ranches in the Paradise Valley carried the team into the lives of people from Sheridan, WY, to Crow Coun-

try; from Pray to the heart of the Blackfoot Nation; from the basement of the Yellowstone Heritage Center in Gardiner to the digital archives of the Smithsonian Institution.

The project took 10 months to produce and then another eight months of post-production. The result is a 294-page coffee table book detailing a 500-million-year ranch history which includes geology and natural history, Native American history, the homestead era, the dude ranch years and the story of the ranches today. The team collaborated with more than 150 museums, private collections, artists, essayists and individuals to pull together the final project.

Copies of the book are available for ranch guests at Mountain Sky and West Creek as well as several local institutions, including: Gallatin History Museum in Bozeman, Montana State University Library Special Collections and Archives, Yellowstone Gateway Museum in Livingston, Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center in Gardiner, Montana Historical Society in Helena, and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody.

Learn more at [www.sarah-grigg.com](http://www.sarah-grigg.com).



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## High Plains Bookfest and Book Awards

Writers from the western U.S. and Canada read from their work during the annual High Plains Bookfest, Oct. 10-12 in downtown Billings. The festival culminates in the High Plains Book Awards presentation, 6 p.m. Saturday at the Yellowstone Art Museum.

The festival kicks off with A Reading of Their Own, featuring nonfiction by women, 7 p.m. Thursday at MoAV Coffee. Friday brings a variety of discussions and readings that explore science, nature and indigenous writers at the Western Heritage Center.

Several venues host readings and lectures Saturday that continue to highlight the 38 book award finalists.

Among the titles by Montanans: *Bitterroot: A Salish Memoir of Transracial Adoption*, by Susan Devan Harness; *West to Montana*, a memoir by Christine Wortman-Engren; *Prison Paws: Max's Story*, a children's book by Donna Cochran; two short-story collections: *Cloudbursts* by Thomas McGuane and *Come West and See* by Maxim Loskut-off; *A Death in Eden*, a novel by Keith McCafferty; and *All That Held Us*, a collection of poems by Henrietta Goodman.

Visit [highplainsbookawards.org](http://highplainsbookawards.org) for a complete schedule.



## PUBLIC VALUE PARTNERSHIPS

# The 3 Rs at work in Montana



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Public Value Partnership grants between Montana nonprofit arts organizations and the Montana Arts Council champion the fact that the arts are of benefit to all the citizens of Montana and are worthy of state and federal investment.

Public Value Partnerships utilize three tools we call “The Three Rs” to expand the public value of the work being done by Montana’s non-profit arts organizations:

- Building relationships;
- Creating greater relevance and meaning; and
- Establishing return on investment (measured both as economic vitality and impact on people’s lives).

MAC believes that using “The Three Rs” strengthens participation, understanding and support from audiences, donors and funders. We’d like to share some of the best examples of these stories:

Jake passed away Nov. 22, 2006, of complications from a progressive neuromuscular disease. Jake’s family and friends established a theatre scholarship fund in his memory which is invested within the Fort Peck Theatre Preservation Endowment of the Montana Community Foundation. The interest from this investment provides up to two scholarships per year for undergraduate students pursuing a career in the fine arts.

The 2018 recipient of the Jake Etchart Fine Arts Scholarship award was a young lady who started performing as a community volunteer in 2015. She continued volunteering for the next two summers. In the fall of 2017 she began her freshman year at the University of Montana pursuing her interest in science and math. Even though these subjects had been her passion, she was questioning this as her career choice. She got the opportunity to be involved in the theatre at the University and soon changed her academic goals to pursuing a bachelor’s in theatre.

This past summer she was an intern for the Fort Peck Theatre, not only helping and performing in the productions, but also serving as one of the lead counselor’s helpers for 3-12 grade students in the annual Performing Arts Camp. The camp, which draws youth from Washington, Canada and all over Montana, explores all areas of theatre as professional company members mentor the youth.

The Fort Peck Summer Theatre provided her with the experience, skills and the knowledge which solidified her decision to pursue a career in the fine arts. The Fort Peck Fine Arts Council is happy to provide a place and opportunity for people to experience the arts in our part of the state which is often geographically isolated from the theatre.

### Return on Investment

**Arts Missoula:** Arts and Economic Prosperity 5, a study compiled by Americans for the Arts every five years and released in June 2017, reveals that Missoula’s nonprofit arts organizations are a \$54 million industry, which is a combination of over \$20 million as direct impact from the organizations, and more than \$33 million from audiences, excluding the cost of admission. This is more than three times as large as the median of cities this size, and half again as large as all American cities.

The nonprofit arts sector is not simply healthy, but it is much larger and healthier than



**Fort Peck Fine Arts Council:** During the production of “Leader of the Pack” the theater had a car show in the parking area, with about 10 antique cars on location. (Photo by Melani Vandall)

previously thought. It is also responsible for 1,913 FTE jobs. The medical industry and higher education, often recognized as the two largest industries in town, have 2,300 and 1,400 FTE’s respectfully. This changes the conversation in Missoula about jobs, employment, and economic vitality, placing the decentralized industry of nonprofit arts in the same sentence with Missoula’s two hospitals and the University of Montana.

Breaking down the study further, audiences spent \$25.99 per arts event on food, drink, lodging, transportation, or anything else related to attending that specific event, excluding the cost of admission. This is nearly \$6 more per person and per event from the previous study, released in 2012. The increase in spending is most likely related to an improved view of the economy and one’s own fiscal confidence, which was quite low during the last study, coming as it did in the midst of the major recession beginning in 2008.

The study also separates locals from the cultural tourist. Roughly 20% of audiences are from outside Missoula County. Yet that 20% spends over \$53 per event, while locals spend just over \$18. The study thus shows great potential for increased cultural tourism in Missoula. The full study can be found at [www.artsmissoula.org](http://www.artsmissoula.org).

This study clearly shows that an investment in one’s community through the arts can reap great benefits. Missoula is a town that is currently experiencing a construction boom, while more and more businesses and individuals are choosing to relocate here. This is in large part because of the attractiveness of the town, and the arts play a large part in that.



**Arts Missoula:** MCPS 5th grade students participate in Drama Arts Integration through SPARK! – Arts Ignite Learning.

(Photo by Jackalynn Snow)

### Statewide arts service organizations

Montana has many arts-discipline-specific statewide service organizations. You can find a complete list here: [art.mt.gov/arts\\_service\\_orgs](http://art.mt.gov/arts_service_orgs)

### Montana Arts Council grants, awards & commissions

Visit the Montana Arts Council’s website for a complete listing of grants, awards and commissions:

**Individuals:** [art.mt.gov/gac#ind](http://art.mt.gov/gac#ind)

**Organizations:** [art.mt.gov/gac#orgs](http://art.mt.gov/gac#orgs)

**Schools:** [art.mt.gov/gac#schools](http://art.mt.gov/gac#schools)

**Programs and Services:** [art.mt.gov/ps](http://art.mt.gov/ps)



**Stumptown Art Studio:** Young artists enjoying a kids-only art night with a Harry Potter theme.

### Building Relationships

**Stumptown Art Studio, Whitefish:** Our specific technique? Provide something for everyone and make it easy to access us!

Our physical presence in downtown Whitefish draws in people constantly. Thousands of visitors stop on the main street going through Whitefish to admire our “Windows on Whitefish” mosaic murals, depicting life in the beautiful Flathead Valley. Our outreach programs broaden our audience to include the less mobile, and those with special needs.

This past year we began to offer “make and take” art opportunities in response to visitors from out of the area who wanted to create art but were only in town for a short time. We also expanded our adult Canvas and Cocktail classes to offsite locations including local breweries. This has brought in more attendees from outside Whitefish, as did starting an after-school art club in Kalispell.

Additionally, last year we upgraded Stumptown’s website with a portal that allows patrons to register and pay for classes online. We saw an immediate increase in enrollment – people prefer the easiest way to sign up for events (one-click shopping).

### Creating Relevance

**Fort Peck Fine Arts Council:** The Jake Etchart Fine Arts Scholarship honors Jake Etchart, who grew up spending summers at Fort Peck Lake with much of his time spent around the Fort Peck Theatre where his family actively served as volunteers.

## MAC NEWS

### Percent for Art announces new projects in Billings and Butte

The Percent for Art Program will have two projects beginning this winter. The Southwest Montana Veteran’s Home in Butte and the Life Sciences Building renovation and expansion at MSU-Billings will be requesting proposals.

To receive updates, sign up for Public Art eNews on the website: [public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTArts/subscriber/new](http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTArts/subscriber/new).

### Arts and Disability: Improving access is key

Czelsi Gómez, MAC’s administrative assistant and media specialist, recently attended the Kennedy Center’s Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) conference in Denver. LEAD brings experienced and new professionals together to explore practical methods for implementing accessibility in cultural environments, to share resources and knowledge, develop best practices, and experience accessibility in action.

“One piece that really stuck with me was the conversation around social media because it’s such a

big part of our daily lives,” says Gómez. “You may have noticed descriptive texts on posts on all our social media channels – it’s our first step in making what we do accessible.”

The American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law passed 29 years ago that prohibits discrimination based on disability. “It’s time to start thinking about how we can all make the work we do for our communities more inclusive,” says Gómez.

For more resources, visit [ada.gov](http://ada.gov); for tips on improving access to social media, head to the digital.gov/resources/federal-social-media-accessibility-toolkit-hackpad/.



# MONTANA ARTREPRENEURS

## Montana Artrepreneur Program launching new cohorts

By Liz Chappie Zoller  
Certified MAP Coach

The Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP) is currently in the process of establishing two cohorts (groups) of 10 artists, under the leadership of certified MAP coaches, which are scheduled to begin meeting in February/March 2020. The location for each cohort is yet to be announced.

MAP is an art-centered business development program taught by working artists and open to all Montana visual artists. It provides more than 40 hours of college-level instruction covering 35 practical marketing tools, and consists of four 10-hour, weekend-long workshops, taking place on average every two months. Four to six interim meetings are held during the months between workshops.

MAP coaches foster a safe and welcoming environment for artists as they work their way through this nationally acclaimed program. Training emphasizes each MAP artist's ability to articulate the purpose and story of their art, to strategically target appropriate markets, and to engage in the arts community.

Workshop days begin with a practice called "Start with Art," in which artists briefly present one piece of new work and talk about their art, as though they are speaking to potential collectors. Although this sounds intimidating, the level of

improvement and ease each artist experiences by the end of the program is remarkable. Practice with, and insights from, supportive peers is so important, and MAP is proven to be very effective in this way, too.

artists, as well as deciding on business-of-art internships. Workshop IV: Funding the Story includes grant writing, proposals, marketing strategies, business plans, and more.

Additionally, MAP covers branding, and general business practices such as recordkeeping—all necessary for creating a sustainable art business. The interim meetings are in-depth discussions of specific tools, and might also include studio visits to MAP artists who have completed the program.

MAP coaches are always excited to welcome new MAP artists into the very supportive community of more than 470 Montana artists who have completed this program in years past. At the end of the MAP year, artists are encouraged to certify by creating a comprehensive toolbox demonstrating their effective and appropriate

understanding of each MAP tool as it is applied to their own art business. A panel of certified MAP coaches judges the toolboxes and awards certifications thereafter.

Are you interested in becoming a MAP artist? Is MAP right for you? MAP coaches are always available to answer any additional questions. Feel free to contact Rickie van Berkum at [vanBerkumFiberArt@gmail.com](mailto:vanBerkumFiberArt@gmail.com), or Liz Chappie Zoller at [PearlSnapStudio@gmail.com](mailto:PearlSnapStudio@gmail.com).

For more information and to apply, visit [art.mt.gov/map](http://art.mt.gov/map).



MAP meetings include intense and lively discussions about each artist's work. (Photo by Liz Chappie Zoller)

Workshops are presented in topics that revolve around each artist's story. In Workshop I: Discovering the Story, coaches work with artists to discover and articulate the story of their art as they write artist's statements and learn best practices for beginning their art business journey. Workshop II: Showing the Story illustrates how best to present one's art, including promotional materials and the design and creation of booths for shows and exhibitions.

Workshop III: Telling the Story has artists advancing proficiency in their medium by pairing up for mentorships with professional



### Strategic Investment Grant funds available

Strategic Investment Grant (SIG) funds are still available for upcoming projects and professional development.

These grants provide up to \$1,000 in matching funds for professional artists, nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations and Preschool-Grade 12 teachers in Montana, and are available in four categories:

- **Professional development grants** help build individual art skills and knowledge, arts careers and/or arts businesses.

- **Market expansion grants** help increase exposure and improve marketing or promotion, opportunities for exhibition, performance and/or sales to a wider or new audience.

- **Grants for public outreach arts activities** fund ongoing or one-time activities that are designed to reach a new or expanded audience.

- **Challenges and emergencies grants** provide resources for artists or arts organizations experiencing challenges or emergencies that impede the ability to continue work.

The application deadline is the 15th of the month.

For guidelines and more information visit [art.mt.gov/sig](http://art.mt.gov/sig); contact Kristin Han Burgoyne ([kburgoyne@mt.gov](mailto:kburgoyne@mt.gov) or 406-444-6449) for more information.

## Strategic Investment Grant Awards FY2019

The Montana Arts Council Strategic Investment Grants provide up to \$1,000 in matching funds to artists, nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations and preschool–grade 12 teachers in Montana for:

- **Professional Development:** Grants to help build individual art skills and knowledge, arts careers and/or arts businesses.
- **Market Expansion:** Grants to help increase exposure and improve marketing or promotion, opportunities for exhibition,

performance and/or sales to a wider or new audience.

- **Public Outreach Arts Activities:** Grants for ongoing or one-time arts activities by arts organizations and/or artists that are designed to reach a new or expanded audience.
- **Challenges and Emergencies:** Grants to provide resources for artists or arts organizations experiencing challenges or emergencies that impede their ability to continue their work.

Organization/Individual	Application Title	City	Award
Art House Cinema & Pub	Cine Billings	Billings	\$1,000
Arts & Above	The Things	Missoula	\$1,000
Carol Barmore	Artist Workshop at the Triple D Ranch	Bozeman	\$1,000
Mary Callahan Baumstark	Traveling Artist and Lecturer for NCECA 2019	Lewistown	\$613
Mary Aldea Bell	Haven Writing Retreat Montana	Helena	\$1,000
Grace Brogan	Learning from the Masters: Broom Making at the John Campbell Folk School	Missoula	\$1,000
George Bumann	Bird Language Workshop with Jon Young	Gardiner	\$732
Lynn Cain	Western Art Week Show and the Western Art Association Show	Townsend	\$1,000
Dolce Canto	Dolce Canto Outreach~ Whispers of Nature	Missoula	\$1,000
Experimental Theatre Cooperative	Last Chance New Play Fest 2019	Helena	\$1,000
Heidi Faessel	Workshop: Advanced Abstract Painting	Whitefish	\$1,000
Flathead Celtic Festival	Flathead Celtic Festival	Kalispell	\$1,000
Fort Peck Fine Arts Council/ Busted Knuckle Brewery/ Glasgow Chamber of Commerce	Mural on the East side of the Busted Knuckle Brewery	Glasgow	\$1,000
Nola Freestone	Tulip Time Artisan Market in Holland, Michigan	Helena	\$1,000
Hermina Harold	JUNIOR (the band) West Coast Tour	Missoula	\$1,000
Carol Hartman	Paul Artspace Artist Residency	Red Lodge	\$1,000
Patrick Hoffman	Making International Connections: 2019 Minneapolis NCECA	Bozeman	\$680
Morgan Irons	Grand Central Atelier Winter Drawing Bootcamp	Bozeman	\$1,000
Neal Lewing	NAI Conference	Polson	\$1,000
Mineral County Performing Arts	Bravissimo Broadway Performance and Outreach by O Sole Trio	Superior	\$1,000
Janet Moczar-Buti	Wild Bunch Art Show	Livingston	\$1,000
Montana Playwrights/P. Mencher	Queen City Roundup for Cowboy Poets, Playwrights & Storytellers	Helena	\$1,000
Catharine Moser	In the Winner's Circle	Lewistown	\$575
Mountain Time Arts	West Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit	Bozeman	\$1,000
Ronda Oldchief	Fashion Show	Missoula	\$1,000
Olive Parker	Las Vegas World Market Show	Stevensville	\$1,000
Michael Pasini/ HaltForce Art Collective	HaltForce Art Collective Artist in Residence: Bare Bait Dance Company	Billings	\$1,000
Matthew Piedalue	Denver Pop Culture Con Booth Exhibition	Bozeman	\$1,000
LeeAnn Ramey	LeeAnn Ramey Art Gallery	Bozeman	\$320
Russell Rowland	Breakfast in Montana	Billings	\$1,000
Stoney Sasser	Artist-in-Residence Conference	Missoula	\$1,000
Stacie Smith	The Bench – Southwest Makers Symposium	Bozeman	\$1,000
Jay Schmidt	Collaborative Ceramics Project	Bozeman	\$904
Sara Swartz	Fus'd Glass Art Festival Bound!	Bozeman	\$1,000
Alana Waksman	We Burn Like This	Missoula	\$1,000
Douglas Wales	Montana – Havana Bridge Project	Bozeman	\$1,000
Laurel Wall-MacLane	Anya Cloud to Guest Teach at MDF 19	Missoula	\$1,000



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## STATE OF THE

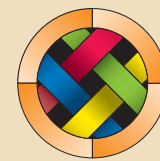
# Arts



**Symphony Under the Stars: Aretha!** The Helena Symphony, with guest artists Ryan Shaw (above) and Capathia Jenkins, paid tribute to the Queen of Soul during its annual outdoor concert on the campus of Carroll College. (Photo by Jerry Kozak)

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## MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

AN AGENCY OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Strengthening the Creative Economy of Montana

### MAILING ADDRESS:

PO BOX 202201, HELENA, MT 59620-2201

### STREET ADDRESS:

830 N. WARREN ST., HELENA, MT

V: 406-444-6430; T: 711

Fax 406-444-6548

website: [art.mt.gov](http://art.mt.gov)

email: [mac@mt.gov](mailto:mac@mt.gov)

### Change Service Requested

#### Montana Arts Council

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**Arlene Parisot**  
**Jay Pyette**  
**Jean Steele**  
**Renée Westlake**

All Montana Arts Council members can be reached by email at [mac@mt.gov](mailto:mac@mt.gov) or by mail c/o Montana Arts Council, 830 N. Warren Street, Helena, Mt. 59620

#### MAC Staff

**Tatiana Gant, Executive Director**  
[tatiana.gant@mt.gov](mailto:tatiana.gant@mt.gov) • 406-444-6546  
**Jenifer Alger, Chief Financial Officer**  
[jeniferalger@mt.gov](mailto:jeniferalger@mt.gov) • 406-444-6489  
**Kristin Han Burgoyne, Database & Grants Director,**  
**Accessibility Coordinator**  
[kburgoyne@mt.gov](mailto:kburgoyne@mt.gov) • 406-444-6449  
**Monica Grable, Arts Education Director**  
[monica.grable@mt.gov](mailto:monica.grable@mt.gov) • 406-444-6522  
**Czelsi Gómez, Administrative & Media Specialist**  
[cgomez@mt.gov](mailto:cgomez@mt.gov) • 406-444-4700  
**Lauren Pan, Business Specialist**  
[lauren.pan@mt.gov](mailto:lauren.pan@mt.gov)

## Montana's new Poets Laureate

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