

One of Butte's most distinctive landmarks returns to Uptown, as the M&M bar's sign is relit four years after the tavern's devastating fire.

ABOUT THE MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

Frequently-Used Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AFTA	Americans for the Arts
AIA	Artist's Innovation Awards
AIE	Arts in Education
AISC	Artists in the Schools and Communities
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act
CoP	Communities of Practice
C&A	Cultural and Aesthetic Grant Program also referred to as Cultural Trust
CARES	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020
501-c-3	Internal Revenue Service code for charitable organizations
504	504 Section for the '83 Rehab Act – <i>Access for People with Disabilities</i>
GAA	Governor's Arts Awards
GIA	Grantmakers in the Arts
IMLS	Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency
MAC	Montana Arts Council
MACAEF	Montana Arts Council Arts Education Fund
MACGAAF	Montana Arts Council Governor's Award for the Arts Fund
MAGDA	Montana Art Gallery Director's Association
MAM	Montana Association of Museums
MAP	Montana Artrepreneur Program
MASO	Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras
MCAM	Montana's Circle of American Masters
MCF	Montana Community Foundation
MDAA	Montana Dance Arts Association
MPAC	Montana Performing Arts Consortium
MTLA	Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts
NASAA	National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
NEA	National Endowment for the Arts
NISP	National Information Standards Project, a coding for arts funding
NEH	National Endowment for the Humanities
OPI	Office of Public Instruction
PL	Poet Laureate
POL	Poetry Out Loud
PVP	Public Value Partnership
RFP	Request for Proposal
SAA	State Arts Agency
SABHRS	Statewide Accounting Budgeting and Human Resources System
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIG	Strategic Investment Grants
SITSD	State Information Technology Service Division
SSO	Statewide Service Organization
SWCAP	Statewide Cost Allocation Plan
TA	Teaching Artist
WESTAF	Creative West (formerly WESTAF—Western States Arts Federation)

MAC Program Reference Guide

Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC)

Program Description

The Montana Arts Council continually strives to foster access to robust arts learning opportunities to benefit citizens of all ages and abilities. To that end, MAC's Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant program supports a broad range of arts learning projects through its two subcategories: AISC Experiences and AISC Residencies.

The **AISC Experiences** grant program is designed to engage learners as audience members, viewers and artists through activities that plant a seed of inspiration, often proving both foundational and transformative. Awards under this process range from \$250 to \$2500 and an applicant cash match is not required. Applications are accepted three times per year, though only one AISC Experiences award per calendar year may be received by each grantee organization.

AISC Experiences offers financial support of arts learning activities in three categories:

- Purchase of tools, supplies or small equipment to support experimentation with new arts media and methods
- Transportation to support first-hand experiences with art or artists
- Direct engagement with guest artists for a virtual or in-person session that may or may not include a hands-on learning component

AISC Residencies grants connect learners of all ages and abilities with professional teaching artists through a diverse array of learning settings, program formats and artistic disciplines. Residencies range from a couple of hours to months-long experiences and may engage one or several guest artists working with a single core group of learners or with multiple groups, all sharing the key components of experiential learning, a depth of knowledge gained and a strong emphasis on the process of art creation. Because of this emphasis, activities under the AISC Residencies grant category must include hands-on learning.

The award range under the AISC Residencies category is \$2500 - \$10,000 and a 1:1 applicant cash match is required. First-time applicants, along with Class C and Tribal schools, are eligible to receive funds with a 2:1 cash match supporting 2/3 of the project expense. Applications are accepted once per year, typically in mid-March, and may be paired with an AISC Experiences award in the same calendar year.

Timeline

New guidelines post to the website in January, with an AISC Residencies due date of mid-March—for projects taking place inside of the next fiscal year—and AISC Experiences deadlines of mid-April, mid-August and mid-December for projects taking place in the 6-month period following each deadline.

Staff Contact: Monica Grable Monica.Grable@mt.gov | 406.444.6522

Website: <https://art.mt.gov/aisc>

Communities of Practice (CoP)

Program Description

Designed to engage similarly aligned professionals around their shared interests, Communities of Practice (CoPs) are organized groups of individuals that communicate about and collaborate within their field of work, sharing knowledge, strategies, goals and experiences. Each community is held together by a common purpose, which usually focuses on sharing experiences and insights related to a topic or discipline. MAC is in the beginning stages of developing Communities of Practice to support teaching artists, museum and art center education directors, and K-12 fine arts administrators.

Typically informal in nature, to allow for greater sharing potential as a professional learning experience, each CoP will have a designated facilitator and that facilitator may change from meeting to meeting. In each case, a minimum of quarterly meetings will be organized in the coming year with the potential to meet in person, with MAC's support, at least once. The Teaching Artist Community of Practice is especially important as we focus on building that community in Montana for future involvement in MAC's Creative Aging initiative and other career development opportunities expressly for teaching artists.

Timeline: TBD / Ongoing

Staff Contact: Monica Grable Monica.Grable@mt.gov | 406.444.6522

Website: Pending

Creative Aging

Program Description

This lifelong learning-oriented practice of providing arts learning opportunities to adults 60 and over has emerged by name over the past 15 years as a nationally recognized field of work within arts education. Just as there are best practices and standards that guide the development of K-12 arts curriculum, Creative Aging (CA) programs are built on the belief that learners of every age deserve access to robust sequential arts learning opportunities and that those opportunities lead to mastery in an arts discipline. This kind of programming respects learners' abilities, no matter their age, and provides meaningful experience in the arts that stand in contrast to the one-off "arts and crafts" engagement that is typically offered through many senior centers.

Programs in the realm of Creative Aging focus on a depth of study and progression of learning that reflects the tenets of true arts education. Though there are subcategories of CA that focus on the needs of older adults with cognitive and physical impairments, such as serving older adults with dementia, the primary focus of MAC's Creative Aging work involves the development of arts learning programs providing experiential opportunities to adults with a desire to learn an art form or media new to them. Still new for Montana, our initiative launched late in fiscal year 2021 with initial foundational learning workshops led by Lifetime Arts, a national leader in Creative Aging work, and is continuing through the 2026 fiscal year with our inclusion in Lifetime Arts' Advancing Creative Aging in Western Region initiative, funded by the Smith Charitable Trust.

Timeline: TBD / Ongoing

Staff Contact: Monica Grable Monica.Grable@mt.gov | 406.444.6522

Website: Pending

Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program (Currently in Development)

Program Description

The Folk Arts Apprenticeship program will help to assure the survival, development and continued evolution of community-based traditional art forms found throughout Montana. The program allows master traditional artists to pass along their unique skills to promising novice artists that work in their art form. The master artist works with the apprentice on a one-on-one basis over an agreed upon period of time to teach specific aspects of the tradition.

Timeline

Early 2024 program launch.

Staff Contact

Brian Moody, brian.moody2@mt.gov, 406-444-4700

Taylor Burby, folkloristburby@gmail.com

Governor's Arts Awards

Program Description

The Governor's Arts Award honors outstanding citizens and organizations in Montana whose achievements in the arts, or on behalf of the arts, benefit all Montanans.

Awardees demonstrate: 1. Achievement and artistic excellence 2. Dedication to Montana 3. Ongoing contributions to the cultural community 4. Worthiness of recognition

Anyone or any organization in Montana with commensurate accomplishments can be nominated for the Governor's Arts Awards. The Montana Arts Council makes recommendations of honorees to the Governor, who makes the final decision. The honorees are selected from candidates who have been put forth in a formal nomination process by the public.

The Governor's Arts Award (GAA) was first awarded in 1981. Since that time, approximately 125 awards have been presented.

"For generations, Montana has stirred the creativity of writers, artists, and musicians who have helped shape our vibrant culture. We're proud to honor these individuals for their unique talents and contributions to Montana." -Governor Greg Gianforte

Timeline

The Governors Arts Award ceremony is presented every other year. The last ceremony was held in December 2022 (FY23) and the next is scheduled for FY25 in conjunction with the December council meeting in Helena. (Tentative consideration of moving from December 2024 to May 2025 to be presented in alternating years from the Montana Circle of American Masters Ceremony and to avoid winter weather.)

Staff Contact

Kristin Burgoyne, kburgoyne@mt.gov, 406-444-6449

Website Links

<https://art.mt.gov/gaa>

Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP)

With a mission to help artists build a sustainable life in the arts, the Montana Arts Council provides a program to artists called the Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP). Over the course of the program's history, MAP has provided professional development to more than 500 artists in our state and in so doing has garnered national recognition. MAP provides practical coursework covering 35 pragmatic, professional practice tools of art and business following a general outline of discovering, showing, telling, and funding each artist's story.

As an art-centered business development program taught by working artists and open to artists of all disciplines, the program provides:

- 40 hours of college-level instruction
- Experience with 35 practical business tools
- Demystification of the world of business
- Affirming the title of 'Artist' as a credible profession
- A mentorship opportunity with an artist of each participant's choosing
- Peer to peer support within the cohort

At the program's heart is the philosophy that a sustainable career in the arts is attainable when artists advance their proficiency in a chosen medium, gain understanding of and proactively engage in the arts community, and when they are able to confidently articulate their story and purpose as an artist through the strategic development of their patron network.

Timeline: May 1 deadline for applications; cohort begins with Workshop 1 in late August, concludes Workshop 4 in November.

Staff Contact: Brian Moody brian.moody2@mt.gov | 406.444.4700

Website: <https://art.mt.gov/map>

Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM)

Program Description

The Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) is a program of the Montana Arts Council that celebrates the contributions of our state's master folk and traditional artists. A member of MCAM is a person who throughout their lifetime of work in the traditional arts has created a notable body of work. Of significant cultural and artistic stature, their work is representative of the historic, traditional, and innovative arts and handcrafts distinctive to the State and is worthy of note on both a state and national level.

Folk and traditional arts include fine handcrafts, decorative arts, and performance arts that are indigenous to an ethnic, geographic, linguistic, religious, or occupational community. They reflect the aesthetics and values of the community in which they arise and are often symbols of a group's identity. The traditional arts recognized by these awards include traditions such as quilting, beading, dance, leatherwork, woodwork, metalwork, storytelling, weaving, ledger art, and music.

Timeline

The application process will open in June 2023. New inductees are confirmed by the full Council at the December Council meeting. The next induction ceremony will occur in May 2024.

Staff Contact

Brian Moody, brian.moody2@mt.gov, 406-444-4700

Taylor Burby, folkloristburby@gmail.com

Website Link

<https://art.mt.gov/mcam>

Percent for Art

Program Description

The Percent for Art program was established in 22.2.4 of the Montana Code in 1983. MAC is the administrator of the selection and installation process. The project budget generally includes administration (19%), maintenance (1%), and artwork (80%) if using a contractor. If the program is administered in-house, the administration costs may be lower.

The Percent for Art program currently includes over 150 works of art around the state in public buildings.

Timeline

Public Art projects are determined by MAC and DOA based on HB5 eligible projects after the legislative session.

Staff Contact

Kristin Burgoyne, kburgoyne@mt.gov, 406-444-6449

Website Links

<https://art.mt.gov/percentforart>

Poet Laureate

Program Description

The Montana Poet Laureate recognizes and honors a citizen poet of exceptional talent and accomplishment. The Poet Laureate also encourages appreciation of poetry and literary life in Montana. This position was created by the state legislature in 2005.

The Poet Laureate is chosen on the basis of three criteria:

- Artistic excellence and achievement
- Ongoing contributions to the cultural community
- Worthiness of statewide recognition

To be eligible, the poet must currently reside in Montana and have been a resident for at least one year. Montana Arts Council members, staff, or their immediate family or household are not eligible.

Timeline

Nominations are made in the spring of even-numbered years, and these nominations are narrowed to three finalists by a panel. These finalists are confirmed by the Council at its June meeting and sent to the Governor's office for the Governor to select the next poet laureate from.

Staff Contact

Eric Heidle, eric.heidle@mt.gov, 406-444-6133

Website Link

https://art.mt.gov/poet_laureate

Poetry Out Loud (POL)

Program Description

Created in 2005 by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud (POL) engages high school students in all fifty-six states and jurisdictions in the art of poetry through recitation of notable poets' work, past and present. The Montana Arts Council, tasked with administering the program in our state with \$25K in funding from the NEA, engages students in grades 9-12 through participation within their respective classrooms or through school clubs, or individually through a virtual support team if their schools are not participating.

Typically led by classroom teachers or school librarians, Poetry Out Loud provides a wealth of resources and curriculum, together with the anthology accessible online via poetryoutloud.org. The anthology—from which students choose poems that resonate with them—includes more than 1200 poems and includes poets' biographies. In most cases, students participate in a classroom recitation that advances them to a schoolwide contest and subsequently advances the top three students at each school to one of 4 Regional competitions and finally to the Montana Poetry Out Loud State Finals, held in early March in Helena. One POL Champion will emerge from the State Finals to represent Montana at the National Poetry Out Loud Finals in DC and compete for the program's top monetary prizes, including the \$20,000 grand prize.

In Montana, we are fortunate to have long-term participation with Poetry Out Loud by many of our state's Poets Laureate, who return year after year to serve as judges and to coach our State Champion, as well as the support of our campus partners—colleges and universities in the state—who've acted as hosts for our regional events. Through participation in POL, students build their self-confidence, gain fluency in poetry recitation and spoken word performance, develop and hone their public speaking skills while discovering their unique voices and meet and celebrate peers from around the state.

Timeline: Recruitment period begins in August and extends through October; students are engaged with poetry throughout November and December, with school contests taking place in January; Regional events are held in the first half of February, followed by State Finals on the first Saturday in March.

Staff Contact Monica Grable Monica.Grable@mt.gov | 406.444.6522

Website: <https://art.mt.gov/pol>

Public Value Partnerships (PVP), Statewide Service Organizations (SSO),

Cultural Trust (C&A)

General Operating Support: **Public Value Partnerships (PVP), Statewide Service Organizations (SSO)**

General Operating Support, Special Projects, and Capital Expenditures: **Cultural Trust (C&A)**

Public Value Partnerships (PVP) provide operating support for the artistic and educational mission of Montana arts organizations. The program recognizes strong operations, stable management, ongoing engagement, and high-quality programming for the communities being served.

Statewide Service Organization (SSO) grants provide operating support for Montana non-profit arts organizations with statewide service impact and members and clients must include organizations, not just individuals. The program recognizes strong operations, stable management, ongoing engagement, and high-quality services. A Statewide Arts Service Organization (SSO) is defined as an organization with a statewide membership and statewide board of directors. Its primary function is to provide member organizations and artists with programs and services more efficiently and cost-effectively than if those members had to acquire them individually.

Cultural Trust (aka Cultural & Aesthetic Projects or Coal Tax Funding) seeks to support a robust cultural environment with funding for programs, activities, and acquisitions. In 1975, the Montana Legislature set aside a percentage of the Coal Tax to restore murals in the Capitol and support other cultural and aesthetic projects. This unique funding source is a Cultural Trust, with grant money allocated every two years. Grant funds are derived from the interest earned on the Cultural Trust. In 1983, the Legislature established a Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Advisory Committee with 16 members, half appointed by the Montana Arts Council and half by the Montana Historical Society. The committee reviews all grant proposals and makes funding recommendations to the Legislature, which determines who will receive grant funds. The Montana Arts Council administers the program for the Legislature.

Timeline

These three programs had processes in FY 2025 to determine funding for FY 2026-2027. The Cultural Trust had a panel process in October 2024 (FY 2025) prior to the next legislative session beginning in January 2025 to determine funding for FY 2026-2027. PVP/SSO will be paneled, tentatively, in March/April 2027 (FY 2027) for FY 2028-2029.

Staff Contact

Kristin Burgoyne, kburgoyne@mt.gov, 406-444-6449

Website Links

<https://art.mt.gov/pvp>

<https://art.mt.gov/sso>

<https://art.mt.gov/ca>

Strategic Investment Grants

Program Description

Strategic Investment Grants (SIG) provide up to \$1000 for expenses related to opportunities for professional development, market expansion, and art events. SIG enables artists and teachers to advance their professional careers and supports nonprofit organizations in the advancement of arts-related programs. SIG payments are made on a reimbursement basis.

SIG supports a wide variety of arts-related activities and opportunities:

- Attendance at workshops, trainings, residencies, or conferences
- Exhibiting at trade shows, gallery showings conferences, festivals, or other art events
- Public outreach and marketing for events or publications
- Expansion of online presence or entry into new online marketplaces
- Performances, public art installations, demonstrations, or exhibitions
- Investments in technology or tools that represent a clear step forward professionally

Timeline

SIG has a deadline on the 15th of each month. When the 15th falls on a weekend, the deadline becomes the first business day following the weekend.

Staff Contact

Brian Moody, brian.moody2@mt.gov, 406-444-4700

Website Link

<https://art.mt.gov/sig>

Folk and Traditional Arts

Program Description

MAC's Folk and Traditional Arts programs promote the work of individual artists and advocate for the continuation of Montana's folk and traditional arts traditions. Reintroduced in 2022, the Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) celebrates exemplary artists for a lifetime of achievement, artistic excellence, and contributions to the State's folk and traditional arts lineage. Currently in development, and scheduled for a spring 2024 reintroduction, the Apprenticeship program matches exemplary practitioners with students dedicated to the work of carrying on folk and traditional arts traditions. Also in progress is the development of a roster of current Montana folk and traditional arts practitioners. Finally, MAC is partnering with the Montana History Portal to host the digitized archives of over four decades of folk arts materials currently housed in the Helena office.

Committee Responsibilities

- Participate in the panel process to review applications to the Montana Circle of American Masters. This panel will include committee members and outside folk arts experts.
- Participate in the panel process to review applications to the Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program. This panel will include committee members and outside folk arts experts.
- Contribute to the design of folk arts programs.
- Assist in outreach and recruitment of artists and organizations to participate in fieldwork and programs.
- Committee Chair will report on folk and traditional arts activities at the December and June Council meetings.

Timeline

Until all folk arts programs are reestablished and program timelines are finalized, the committee will meet on an as-needed basis. Review panels for both MCAM and the Apprenticeship program will tentatively meet in September or October of each year.

Staff Contacts

Brian Moody, brian.moody2@mt.gov, 406-444-4700

Taylor Burby, folkloristburby@gmail.com, 406-209-8839

Montana Arts Council Member Biographies

Angella Ahn

Violinist Angella Ahn has had an extensive career, performing not only in every state in the U.S., but in over 30 countries. As a member of the Ahn Trio, she has played in venues as diverse as the White House, the Jazz Dock in Prague, Buenos Aires' Teatro Colon, Vienna's Musikverein, New York's Lincoln Center, Leipzig's Gewandhaus, Beijing's Concert Hall, Istanbul's Aya Irini in Topkapi Palace, the iTunes Festival, and TEDWomen.

In addition to live performances, Angella has an impressive discography with her trio. The nine enthusiastically received albums include *Lullaby for My Favorite Insomniac*, released by Sony (No. 8 in the Billboard Charts for 26 weeks); *Dvorak, Suk and Shostakovich*, released by EMI (winner of Germany's prestigious ECHO Award); and their most recent, *Blue*, a musical diary. She has recently released two digital tracks with her trio, "Nuvole Bianche" and "Candybox." Wide-ranging collaborations have allowed the trio to work with modern dance companies (including a B-boy group), film directors, rock bands, and DJ Spooky. Because of their eclectic interests and innovative exploration in music, New York Newsday has called the trio "Classical revolutionaries."

Angella enjoys living in Bozeman, Montana, where she is currently Associate Professor of Violin and Viola at Montana State University. The depth of her experience and knowledge has made her perfectly suited to help the next generation of young musicians, and she is a devoted and sought-after teacher, being named by the university both a "Most Valuable Professor" and "Professor of the Month". Beyond her teaching, she serves on the Montana Arts Council and the Bozeman Symphony Board. She is the artistic director of the Big Sky Classical Music Festival, where she is heard performing with many guest artists such as Matt Haimovitz and Rachel Barton Pine. She is also the Artistic Director of Montana

Chamber Music Society. She has often taught at Mark O'Connor's Fiddle camps and has been featured with musicians as diverse as Phil Aaberg, Darol Anger, Emmylou Harris, and John Prine. She can be seen in "Angella Ahn and Friends," a program presented by Montana PBS' Emmy award-winning 11th & Grant with Eric Funk, as well as in *The Hive*, a film produced by Tippet Rise Art Center in collaboration with the acclaimed sculptor Stephen Talasnik and director Matthew McKee.

Angella has given masterclasses throughout North America, Asia, and Europe. A graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, she shares the widely regarded pedagogy of her mentors Dorothy DeLay and Hyo Kang. She plays a 2013 violin made for her by renowned luthier Sam Zygmuntowicz of Brooklyn, New York.

Sarah Calhoun

Sarah Calhoun is the owner of Red Ants Pants, the executive director of the Red Ants Pants Foundation and the producer of the Red Ants Pants Music Festival. The festival is in its tenth year and draws tens of thousands to a cow pasture in Meagher County. It was named the Event of the Year by the Montana Office of Tourism. From her home in the small town of White Sulphur Springs, she has become an inspiration to entrepreneurs nationwide and is known for her dedication to supporting rural communities, the arts, and women's leadership. In 2018 she was named to the Montana Business Hall of Fame. In 2012, named the National Women in Business Champion for the SBA. She has been invited to the White House twice, and honored when Governor Schweitzer named her the 2011 Entrepreneur of the Year for the State of Montana. She has given two TEDx talks, dozens of keynote addresses, and has gained national press such as CNBC, CNN, Bloomberg, *Sunset*, *Entrepreneur*, *National Geographic*, *The New York Times* and *The Huffington Post*.

Montana Arts Council Member Biographies

Sean Falcon Chandler

Sean, an enrolled member of the Aaniinen (Gros Ventre Nation), is the President of Aaniiih Nakoda College (ANC) located on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. Since 2002, Sean has been employed with ANC, serving mostly as Director of American Indian Studies until 2017 when he began to fill the role of Academic Dean and later as President in 2020. In addition to his administration duties, he also instructs the Aaniiih (Gros Ventre) Language to grade school aged children in ANC's White Clay Immersion School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Art and a Master of Arts in Native American Studies from Montana State University-Bozeman. In 2014, he attained a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from The University of Montana with his dissertation entitled, "The Identity of Upholding Indigenous Lifeways."

Corwin Clairmont

Corky is a celebrated contemporary artist, teacher, mentor, a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and has recently retired as the art director at Salish Kootenai College. He is a 2008 Governor's Arts Award recipient.

Troy Collins

As a nationally renowned western landscape impressionist, Troy Collins creates paintings with brilliant color, texture and insight from his studio nestled in the middle of the Bitterroot Mountain Range.

His paintings have graced the halls of the Montana and California State Capitols, the Pentagon, the U.S. Capital, and are included in many corporate and private collections throughout the United States and Europe. Troy's work has been featured in over 100 magazines and four books and he has also been chosen as one of the top 25 quick finish artists in the West. Troy is a proud member of the C.M. Russell Museum's Russell Skull Society of Artists.

Wylie Galt Gustafson

Wylie Gustafson is an American Original. The singer, songwriter, rancher, horseman, and world-famous Yahoo! yodeler leads the musical outfit known as Wylie and the Wild West. The group is internationally known for their vibrant presentation of the music—both original and traditional—of America and its colorful West. They delight audiences around the world with their one of a kind brand of music, including elements of cowboy, traditional country, western swing, folk, and, of course yodeling. Wylie is a real life cowboy born into a 4th generation ranching family on the empty sprawl of Northern Montana. He is a member of the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and the Montana Pro Rodeo Wall and Hall of Fame. He's the real deal and, as one music writer quipped, "All old school without being a tired period piece."

Julie Mac

Julie Mac is a TV Host and Content Producer who can paint a picture from start to finish. She has years of experience in the television and commercial industry. Julie has been blessed with production opportunities with the likes of Discovery, A&E, NBC, MTV, VH1, FOX, ESPN, HGTV, and others. She has covered star-studded events such as the Billboard Awards, Iheart Radio Music Festival, and Sundance. When Julie is not producing you may find her speaking at a youth event or emceeding a fashion show or introducing artist on a concert stage.

Julie has a love for discovering fun things to do. As a matter of fact, creating enjoyment for others is fun for her hence that's why she's a perfect match as our host for Montana's Best plus who perfect to have host the show from someone who is from Montana. She grew up skiing the slopes of the mountains, hiking the trails that lead to breath taking views, and working with local businesses. Dirt doesn't scare her, outdoor adventures thrill her, dressing to the nines excites her,

Montana Arts Council Member Biographies

and people fascinate her brain. Julie's eye for detail is detailed. Her mission is to "motivate, educate, and influence people for the better by using media.

Cat McIntyre

Cat is a visual artist working in multiple media, from traditional paint on canvas to paint on salvaged tin and wood, to large-scale murals. Living and working in Glasgow since 2010 after completing her MFA at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Cat has been a strong advocate in her community for the power of public art and the importance of the arts to her town's ongoing vitality.

John L. Moore

John L. Moore is a third-generation rancher, award-winning novelist and award-winning journalist from Miles City. His writing career began at age 17 with the *Miles City Star* and in the past 52 years he has authored seven novels, several non-fiction books, over 1500 articles, and has published literary short stories and poetry. He has also appeared in four documentaries as an authority on the history of horses on the Great Plains. He is a 2019 inductee into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and a 2021 inductee into the Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame.

Linda Netschert

Linda Netschert is the owner and publisher of Farcountry Press and Sweetgrass Books. Linda bought Farcountry Press, an award-winning regional book publishing company, in 2011 after a career spent selling their books

throughout the West and managing book sales and marketing for Lee Enterprises' national publishing program. A Montana native with a degree from Western Montana College, Linda has been a manager in retail, theatre, and the hospitality industry before joining Farcountry Press as a sales rep more than 25 years ago. Throughout her book publishing career, she has nurtured book professionals from across the country, especially Montana authors, photographers, and illustrators. Through Sweetgrass Books, the same staff helps others custom publish their own books. When she is not working, Linda can be found on the lake, in the mountains riding & driving her horses, and enjoying her ever-growing menagerie of farm animals.

Bridger Pierce

Bridger Pierce serves as Vice President of Operations for Warm Springs Productions, a full-service television production company based in Missoula and Manhattan.

Jay Pyette, Vice Chair

Jay was the Artistic Director of the Montana Actors' Theatre in Havre, Montana for 27 years before transitioning to the role of Executive Director. He also taught English and Theatre at Havre High School as well as Montana State University-Northern. Jay enjoys every aspect of theatrical production as well as playwrighting. His drama *The Dead of Winter* was selected for production at the Union Theatre in London, UK for July of 2003 and his comedy *Rugburns* toured parts of Montana in 2008 and again in 2018.

Montana Arts Council Member Biographies

Angela Russell

Angela Russell, a member of the Crow Tribe, has spent her life involved in health, social, and political issues for the Crow Nation and the State of Montana. She served four terms in the Montana House of Representatives, one term with the newly created Crow Tribal Legislature, and served as Chief Judge for the Crow Tribal Court. Ms. Russell actively participated in the National Council of Native American Legislators and served as an officer of the Native American Court Judges Association. She was a co-organizer of the Apsáalooke Committee for the Arts promoting and supporting local artists and craftsperson's. She published the Apsáalooke Calendar for thirty years, which featured early Crow photographs and history, poetry, and artwork. Public service has included serving as Chair for the Friends of Chief Plenty Coups, as a trustee of the Big Horn County Library Association, and as a member of the Montana Board of Crime Control. Ms. Russell received a bachelor's degree and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Montana and a Master's Degree from Tulane University.

Steve Zabel, Chair

Founder of Montana Trails Gallery in Bozeman, Steve Zabel grew up on a ranch in the Madison Valley and began his art career by publishing prints of work by his father Larry Zabel, the respected western wildlife painter. Montana Trails Gallery has operated from several locations on Bozeman's Main Street and has long been a mainstay of Montana's western art scene, earning a reputation for its strong historic collections which include work by Charles M. Russell, Frederic Remington, Joseph Henry Sharp, and others.

Council Terms

Term Expiration Date		Council Member	Member Since
February	2027	Troy Collins	March 2022
February	2027	Chuck Fulcher	October 2025
February	2027	Julie Mac	March 2022
February	2027	John Moore	March 2022
February	2027	Bridger Pierce	March 2022
February	2028	Angella Ahn	May 2018
February	2028	Corwin Clairmont	May 2008
February	2028	Cat McIntyre	June 2023
February	2028	Jay Pyette, Vice-Chair	April 2013
February	2028	Steve Zabel, Chairman	April 2021
February	2030	Sarah Calhoun	April 2021
February	2030	Sean Falcon Chandler	February 2016
February	2030	Todd Conner	October 2025
February	2030	Christopher 'Sean' Dudley	October 2025
February	2030	Wylie Gustafson	April 2021

The Boards and Appointments Advisor to the Governor's Office will notify all members whose terms are expiring. If you would like to continue to serve, you will need to update your application per the instructions provided.

Montana Arts Council Contact Information

Angella Ahn

1206 S 3rd Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715
(C) 917-882-3288
angella.ahn@montana.edu

Sarah Calhoun

PO Box 690
White Sulphur Springs, 59645
(C) (406)600-3986
Sarah@redantspants.com

Sean Falcon Chandler

Aaniih Nakoda College
PO Box 1114
Harlem, MT 59526
(C) (406) 580-0386
(H) (406) 353-2360
sean2cap@yahoo.com

**Corwin (Corky)
Clairmont**

33608 Emory Road
Ronan, MT 59864
(C) (406) 214-5444
(H) (406) 675-4088
corwin_clairmont@skc.edu

Troy Collins

PO Box 1023
Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 830-0657
troy@troycollinsfineart.com

Todd Connor

Fort Benton
toddconnor01@gmail.com

**Christopher "Sean"
Dudley**

Clancy, MT
csdudley2020@gmail.com

Chuck Fulcher

Great Falls, MT
chuck@charlesfulcher.com

Wylie Galt Gustafson

527 Furlough Rd
Conrad, MT 59425
(C) (509)595-3971
Yodelking59425@yahoo.com

Julie Mac

6479 US Highway 93 S #424
Whitefish, MT 59937
julie@jmacvideo.com
(702) 994-4889
(406) 499-6292
(406) 570-7111

Cat McIntyre

1315 3rd Ave S
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 671-0659
catscornerstudio@gmail.com

John Moore

494 Hwy 59 N
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 232-5949
sundaycreek@me.com

Bridger Pierce

3649 Rodeo Rd
Missoula, MT 59802
(406) 581-8971
bridgerp@gmail.com

**Jason (Jay) Pyette
Vice-Chair**

1645 Northern Heights Dr
Havre, MT 59501
(C) (406) 945-0272
pyettej@yahoo.com

**Steve Zabel
Chair**

Bozeman, MT
(406) 581-5366
steve@montanatrails.com

Montana Arts Council Committees

The Council Chair is an ex-officio member of all committees and makes Committee appointments. Committee appointments are reviewed annually at the June meeting.

Executive Committee

Staffed by Krys Holmes

The Executive Committee is set in MCA 22-2-104 and includes the Chair, the Vice-Chair (both named by the Governor), and three additional Council members. The Executive Committee provides oversight of finances and operations. The Committee meets four times per year, and as needed.

Members: Steve Zabel, *Chair*
Jay Pyette, *Vice-Chair*
Sarah Calhoun
Sean Chandler
Corky Clairmont

Strategic Investment Grant Committee

Staffed by Brian Moody

The Strategic Investment Grants Committee (SIG) provides oversight of the SIG grant program. Duties include reviewing applications submitted, developing funding decisions, and guiding program revisions. The Committee meets monthly by conference call to review fewer than ten applications, generally within an hour. Additional calls are scheduled as needed.

Members: Jay Pyette, *Chair*
Angella Ahn
Wylie Gustafson
Julie Mac
Cat McIntyre
Bridger Pierce

Arts Education Committee

Staffed by Monica Grable

The Arts Education Committee provides guidance in program development, participates in the review process, reaches out to educational entities, and represents MAC at education events. This Committee meets as needed, generally four times per year.

Members: Angella Ahn, *Chair*
Sean Chandler
Corky Clairmont
Linda Netschert
Bridger Pierce

** Indicates appointment term has ended. Members may continue to stay engaged with the committees work as needed.*

Governor's Arts Awards

Staffed by Kristin Han Burgoyne

The Governor's Arts Award (GAA) Committee provides oversight to selecting and recognizing GAA honorees. The Committee generally meets up to six times to advise on the process and develop the slate of recommendations presented to the Council. Honorees are announced in even-numbered years.

Members: Wylie Gustafson, *Chair*
Sarah Calhoun
Julie Mac
John Moore
Troy Collins

Poet Laureate

Staffed by Eric Heidle

The Poet Laureate Committee provides oversight in identifying recommendations to the Governor in compliance with MCA 2-15-242. The Committee generally meets up to six times to advise on the process and develop the slate of recommendations for the Council to authorize. The Governor announces the Poet Laureate in August of odd-numbered years.

Members: Sean Chandler, *Chair*
Sarah Calhoun
Bridger Pierce
Angela Russell
Linda Netschert

Folk and Traditional Arts Committee

Staffed by Brian Moody

The Folk and Traditional Arts committee promotes and advocates for Montana's folk and traditional arts traditions. The committee generally meets up to four times a year and currently oversees the Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) and Master-Apprenticeship program.

Members: Corky Clairmont, *Chair*
Sarah Calhoun
Sean Chandler
Julie Mac
Jay Pyette
Angela Russell

Funding Task Force

Staffed by Krys Holmes

The funding task force was created in December 2024 to identify and obtain private funding opportunities for Arts Council programs.

Members: Cat McIntyre
Bridger Pierce
Sarah Calhoun
Steve Zabel

Percent for Art Chair

Staffed by Kristin Han Burgoyne

MAC works in coordination with the Department of Administration to implement the Percent for Art Program, which places artwork in public buildings. The appointed committee chair for each project will run the public meetings, monitor the process, and present the selected artwork to the Council for approval. Meetings take place over a conference call and in person. The number of meetings varies by the project, and service can range from 6 months to over a year.

Strategic Planning Committee

Committee disbanded, FY 2024

MAC Staff

Jenifer Alger

Chief Financial Officer

(406) 444-6489

jeniferalger@mt.gov

Krys Holmes

Executive Director

(406) 444-6520

Krys.Holmes@mt.gov

Kristin Han Burgoyne

Deputy Director

(406) 444-6449

kburgoyne@mt.gov

Brian Moody

Program Officer

(406) 444-4700

brian.moody2@mt.gov

Monica Grable

Arts Education Director

(406) 444-6522

monica.grable@mt.gov

Elaina Tenter

Business Specialist

(406) 444-6354

Elaina.Tenter2@mt.gov

Eric Heidle

Communication Director

(406) 444-6133

eric.heidle@mt.gov

Linen fabric hand-woven by
MCAM honoree Joanne Hall
of Clancy, using one of her
traditional textile looms.



December 2025