

# THE MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL



DECEMBER 2024 MEETING

# Welcome! How to Use this Report

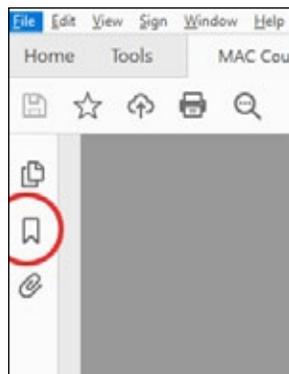
There's a lot of information contained in this document, and we greatly appreciate the time and effort each of you on the Council devote to reviewing it in preparation for our upcoming meeting. To help find your way we've added a few navigational tools:

The information in the book is organized by the order in which it appears in the meeting's **agenda**, located on the [following page](#).

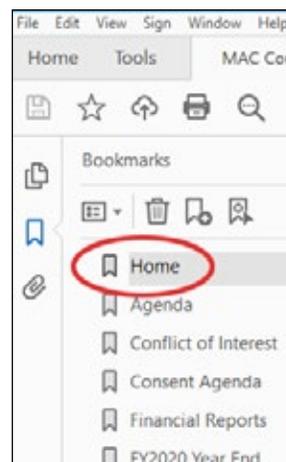


MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL		
<b>Council Meeting</b>		
June 5, 2021		
8:30 a.m. MST by Zoom Webinar		
<small>Other than the meeting starting time, the times listed are approximate, and agenda items may be rearranged. Action may be taken on any agenda item. Public comment is welcome on all items and may be submitted at mac@mtac.gov. Written comments received 24 hours before the meeting will be distributed to the members.</small>		
<b>Agenda</b>		
8:30 a.m.	Call to Order and Chairman's Welcome	Cyndy Andrus
8:35 a.m.	Council Roll Call <small>Introduction prompt: For the benefit of our new members, share what you enjoy most about serving on MAC.</small>	Cyndy Andrus
9:15 a.m.	Public Comment	Cyndy Andrus

To jump to a given memo or report, use the **bookmarks** embedded in the PDF file. They're available by clicking on the bookmark icon near the upper left-hand side of the document. The list of bookmarks will appear and each item can be reached with a second click.



Step 1



Step 2

Also, at the bottom of each page will be its page number and the **section of the document** it's in:

Page 33 | Montana Arts Council June 2021 Meeting | **Grant Reports**

Thank you again. We're looking forward to seeing everyone.

*ON THE COVER: A masterful example of the craft of saddle maker and Montana Circle of American Masters honoree Marc Brogger.*

# Schedule

---

## Thursday, December 5, 2024

2:00 p.m. Governor's Arts Awards Ceremony + Celebration  
Montana State Capitol  
Old Supreme Court Chamber, Room 303  
1301 E. 6th Avenue, Helena  
Reception to follow in Capitol Rotunda

After 3 p.m. Traveling Council members may check-in  
DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown  
22 N Last Chance Gulch  
406-443-2200

### Dinner Recommendations

- \***On Broadway** – 106 E. Broadway St – no reservations, long wait times, Italian. \$\$\$
- \***Mediterranean Grill** – 42 S Park Ave – Greek, Mediterranean. \$\$
- Silver Star Steak Company** – 833 Great Northern Blvd – Steak, bar menu. \$\$\$
- Brewhouse Pub & Grill** – 939 Getchell St. – pub food. \$\$
- \***Benny's Bistro** – 108 E. 6th Ave – farm to table, reservations recommended. \$\$
- \***Bella Roma** – Italian, in hotel just past registration desk. \$\$\$
- \***The Windbag** – 19 S. Last Chance Gulch – pub/bar food. \$\$
- \***The Hopper** – 40 N. Last Chance Gulch – American, local. \$\$
- \***Taco del Sol** – 21 N. Last Chance Gulch – tacos. \$
- \***Old Salt Outpost** – 406 N Last Chance Gulch – burgers. \$\$
- \***The Union** – 361 N Last Chance Gulch – wood fired grill \$\$\$
- \***Suki Café** – 15 W. 6th Ave – Japanese, Sushi, Thai. \$\$
- \***Brooklyn Pizza and Pasta** – 70 S Park Ave – pizza and pasta. \$

*\*Easy walk from hotel*

## Friday, December 6, 2024

Council Meeting



# MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

## Council Meeting

Friday, December 6, 2024  
Helena, Montana

---

*The Montana Arts Council makes reasonable accommodations for a person's ability to participate in state government. Requests beyond accessible facilities must be made 48 hours before the meeting date to the ADA Coordinator at [kburgoyne@mt.gov](mailto:kburgoyne@mt.gov) or 406-444-6449.*

*Other than the meeting starting time, any times listed are approximate, and agenda items may be rearranged. Action may be taken on any agenda item.*

*Public comment is welcome on all items and may be submitted at [mac@mt.gov](mailto:mac@mt.gov) or through this [webform](#). Written comments received 24 hours before the meeting will be distributed to the Council before the meeting.*



# Proposed Business Meeting Agenda

---

8:30 am

Call to Order Steve Zabel

Opening remarks & Tribal acknowledgement

Attendance: Council and members of the Public Ginny Newman

General Business Krys Holmes

Call for Public Comment

Approval of Proposed Agend

▶ *Action proposed: Motion to approve*

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes May 31, 2024

▶ Action proposed: Motion to approve

Conflicts of Interest

Next Meetings

Spring 2025 White Sulphur Springs, determine date

Winter 2025 determine location and date

(tentatively Great Falls, Friday, December 5, 2025)

▶ Action proposed: Motion to determine date for Spring 2025

▶ Action proposed: Motion to determine location and date for Winter 2025

9:00 am

Fiscal Year 2024 Year End Financial Report

Jenifer Alger

▶ Action proposed: Motion to approve

Fiscal Year 2025 Year to Date Report

Jenifer Alger

▶ Action proposed: Motion to approve

9:30 am

Committee Reports

Steve Zabel

Executive Committee

Steve Zabel

Strategic Investment Grant Committee

Jay Pyette

Arts Education Committee

Angella Ahn

Governor's Arts Awards Committee

Wylie Gustafson

Poet Laureate Committee

Sean Chandler

Folk Arts Committee

Corky Clairmont

▶ Action proposed: Motion to approve four nominees for induction into the Montana Circle of American Masters.

Percent for Art Projects

Kristin Burgoyne

10:15 am

Break

10:30 am	Report from the Executive Director (personal reminder to include goals/OGSM in ED report) Also MAP update	Krys Holmes
	Strategic Plan ▶ Action proposed: Motion to approve	Krys Holmes
	Orientation Refresher	Krys Holmes
12:15 pm	Lunch (working if needed) → Questionnaire for Council members: Of all the programs, grants, and activities that MAC does, what do you find most meaningful to you? Lunch provided for Council and Staff	
1:30 pm	Administrative Attachment Legislation Presentation	Dylan Klapmeier Education & Workforce Policy Advisor
	NASAA Update: Native Communities Initiative <a href="#">Link to report</a>	Sean Chandler
	Legislative Update	Drew Geiger
	Report from the Chair	Steve Zabel
	New Business	Steve Zabel

4:00 pm - Adjourn

Dinner on your Own

Friday Evening: Winter Lodge Rendezvous, 7:00pm Helena Avenue Theatre, 1319 Helena Ave  
Carpool from hotel @ 6:30 pm

# Minutes of the Montana Arts Council

In open session

Friday, May 31, 2024

Kwataqnuq Resort, Polson Montana

---

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 am.

## 1. Attendance:

**Council Members Present:** Angella Ahn, Sarah Calhoun, Corky Clairmont, Troy Collins, Wylie Gustafson, Julie Mac, Cat McIntyre, Chair Greg Murphy, Vice-Chair Jay Pyette, Angela Russell, Steve Zabel

**Council Members Present Online:** John Moore, Linda Netschert

**Council Members Absent:** Sean Chandler, Bridger Pierce

**Staff Present:** Jenifer Alger, Kristin Han Burgoyne, Monica Grable, Eric Heidle, Krys Holmes, Brian Moody, Ginny Newman

**Guests:** Roy Big Crane, Thomas Addison, Kelly Barsdate, and Drew Geiger

Chair Murphy welcomed Kelly Barsdate and provided opening remarks. Executive Director Krys Holmes welcomed everyone and presented ceremonial bundles to Corky Clairmont, Roy Big Crane, and Thomas Addison. She introduced Roy Big Crane who blessed the proceedings and the day.

**2. Public Comment:** Chair Murphy called for public comment. Ginny Newman announced that no written public comments had been filed and that no member of the public was present in-person or online.

**3. Proposed Agenda:** Wylie Gustafson moved, and Sarah Calhoun seconded to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

**4. Minutes of Open Session of December 2, 2023:** Wylie Gustafson moved, and Jay Pyette seconded approval, as submitted, of the minutes of the open meeting session on December 2, 2023. Motion carried on a voice vote with no dissents.

**5. Minutes of Open Session of January 10, 2024:** Wylie Gustafson moved, and Angella Ahn seconded approval, as submitted, of the minutes of the open meeting session on January 10, 2024. Motion carried on a voice vote with no dissents.

**6. Conflicts of Interest:** Conflicts of interest were noted for Vice-Chair Jay Pyette and Montana Actor's Theater (Artists in Schools and Communities). Chair Murphy declared a conflict with the Red Lodge Music Festival (no funding) where his daughter is a faculty member.

Krys Holmes introduced Thomas Addison, who performed.

**7. Acknowledgement of the passing of former MAC Chair, Jackie Parsons, Eck Skim Aue Kee – Woman of Iron:** Krys Holmes read the memorial resolution included in the council book. Corky shared that Jackie influenced him in many ways and had a big impact on so many people in the Blackfeet community and across the state of Montana. Wylie shared memories of Jackie and the Museum of the Plains Indian. Corky Clairmont moved, and Wylie Gustafson seconded adoption of the resolution. Motion carried on a voice vote with no dissents.

**8. Legislative Update:** Drew Geiger gave the Council an update of political and legislative issues as they relate to the arts in Montana. There were no questions from council members.

**9: Cultural Trust Committee Recommendations:** Kristin Burgoyne provided an overview of the memo included in the council book. Wylie Gustafson asked for an overview of the program. Wylie Gustafson moved, and Julie Mac seconded approval of the Cultural Trust Committee recommendation to reappoint Susan Miller. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

## **10. Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee:** Chair Murphy submitted a written report in the council book. The Executive Committee met on January 10, 2024, and again on May 24, 2024. The committee approved the written report submitted but the chair provided a slight clarification that the minutes of the committee are slightly different than the report.

**Strategic Investment Grant Committee:** Jay Pyette reviewed the information in the Strategic Investment Grant Committee memo provided in the Council book and answered questions from Council Members. There was discussion of removing the Emergency category of the Strategic Investment Grant program. Wylie Gustafson moved, and Julie Mac seconded removal of the Emergency Grant from the Strategic Investment Grant program. Motion carried on a voice vote with no dissents. Jay Pyette moved, and Sarah Calhoun seconded the motion to have the SIG committee study emergency grants and all aspects related to it. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

**Arts Education Committee:** Angella Ahn reviewed the information in the Arts Education Committee memo provided in the Council book and answered questions from Council Members. Angella Ahn moved, and Troy Collins seconded to approve AISC Residencies awards as presented in the council book. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents. Angella Ahn moved, and Wylie Gustafson seconded the motion to delegate to the Arts Education Committee the authority to approve AISC Residencies awards of up to \$10,000 each. Motion failed. AISC Residencies applicants need notification prior to the June council meeting date to provide ample budget planning time and allow school applicants notification prior to the end of the school year. In 2025, the chair will call a zoom council meeting to review and approve the recommendations earlier than the June meeting, tentatively in early April.

**Governor's Arts Awards Committee:** Wylie Gustafson presented the nominees and discussed the process with input from other members of the committee. The next Governor's Arts Awards presentation will be held December 5, 2024, in Helena. Wylie Gustafson moved, and Steve Zabel seconded approval to present the slate of nominees Jim Dolan, John Dunnigan, Jackie Larson Bread, John Lowell, and Gayle Shanahan to the Governor. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

**Folk Arts Committee:** Corky discussed this recently-formed committee. Brian discusses the status of the program. It is noted this program has a motion listed in the agenda, but the chair believes the program can follow the model provided by the Arts Education Committee Experiences program approval and may approve awards up to \$3,000.

**Poet Laureate Committee:** Sarah Calhoun asks about history or opportunity to provide funding for the Poet Laureate honor based on work and commitment. Krys notes it is an unpaid position as described in the statute, but expenses can be paid and a partnership with Humanities Montana provides a very modest stipend.

**Percent for Art Projects (no report):** Kristin Burgoyne provides information on the DNRC Eastern Montana project that may be upcoming and mentioned the committee chair will be a council member.

**11. Fiscal Year 2024 Year to Date Financial Report:** Chair talks extensively about the budget and provides overview. Krys Holmes references the memo provided in the council book. Chair notes the reports are very professional.

**12. Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget:** Krys Holmes refers to the memo provided in the council book. The chair talks about the current budget. Jay Pyette moved, and Corky Clairmont seconded approval, as submitted, the FY2025 proposed budget. Motion carried on a voice vote with no dissents.

**13. Committee Assignments:** The chair provided a handout of his committee appointments and discussed his thought process and increasing each committee to six members.

The Chair recommended replacing Executive Committee members Sarah Calhoun and Sean Chandler with Wylie Gustafson and John Moore.

Angella Ahn moved, and Corky Clairmont seconded the nomination of the Executive Committee as Greg Murphy, Jay Pyette, Sean Chandler, Corky Clairmont, and Sarah Calhoun for another year. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

Jay Pyette moved, and Angella Ahn seconded the nomination of the Strategic Investment Grant Committee as Jay Pyette, Angella Ahn, Cat McIntyre, Bridger Pierce, Julie Mac, and Wylie Gustafson. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

Jay Pyette moved, and Sarah Calhoun seconded the nomination of the Arts Education Committee as Angella Ahn, Sean Chandler, Corky Clairmont, Bridger Pierce, Linda Netschert, and Steve Zabel. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

Corky Clairmont moved, and Julie Mac seconded the nomination of the Governor's Arts Award Committee as Wylie Gustafson, Julie Mac, John Moore, Steve Zabel, Troy Collins, and Sara Calhoun. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

Sarah Calhoun moved, and Angella Ahn seconded the nomination of the Poet Laureate Committee as Sean Chandler, Bridger Pierce, Angela Russell, Linda Netschert, Troy Collins, and Sarah Calhoun. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

Angella Ahn moved, and Jay Pyette seconded the nomination of the Folk Arts Committee as Corky Clairmont, Wylie Gustafson, Sean Chandler, Julie Mac, Jay Pyette, and Angela Russell. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

**14. Review of Proposed Administrative Rules Revision:** The Chair reviewed the Proposed Administrative Rules revision. Wylie Gustafson moved, and Corky Clairmont seconded to accept rules as presented and move process forward with new proposed rules. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents.

**15. NASAA Update: Native Communities Initiative**

Sean Chandler, by Zoom, provided an update on the Native Communities Initiative. Sean is on the NASAA board of directors. This project provides a foundation for fostering stronger relationships between native communities and state arts agencies.

**16. Art Revives Program:** Wylie Gustafson moved, and Jay Pyette seconded a motion to suspend Robert's Rules of Order. Motion carried on voice vote with no dissents. Krys Holmes discusses national initiative for cross-sector partnerships to solve community problems and address community issues.

**17. Report from the Executive Director and Strategic Plan Update:** Krys Holmes discussed the Strategic Plan and presented a powerpoint of the survey result highlights.

**18. Report from the Chair:** Chair Murphy reported on his concerns and views for the Montana Arts Council. He recommended members access the board portal for the Robert's Rules of Order and Effective Board Governance trainings and he emphasized how valuable he found the resource.

**19. Next Meetings:** The dates for the December 2024 meeting are December 5 - Governor's Arts Awards, December 6 – Council Meeting in Helena. White Sulphur Springs was selected as the location for June 2025 at the December 2023 meeting.

**20. New Business:** The public is invited to consider the following two discussion questions, and email MAC staff with responses. What is exciting you most about the arts in Montana right now? Montana will change considerably in the next 10 years. What role can art play in making that change as positive as possible? The meeting was recessed until the Council dinner.

**21. Adjournment:** Vice-Chair Jay Pyette adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

# Conflict of Interest

---

## **Montana Arts Council Members | December 2024**

Review the following action items and be prepared to state any conflicts of interest at the meeting, along with the nature of the conflict. The Chair will determine if you abstain from the vote on that item.

Artists in Schools and Communities Experiences  
Strategic Investment Grants

Montana Arts Council members shall disclose any real or perceived conflicts. A conflict of interest occurs when:

- A council member has a personal interest in an applicant in a manner that is inconsistent or incompatible with the council member's ability to exercise an objective judgement.
- A council member has significant financial interests associated with an applicant.
- A council member has intellectual property interests associated with an applicant.
- A council member is an immediate family member of an applicant by marriage or household.

# FINANCE REPORTS



*2024 Montana Poetry  
Out Loud champion  
Molly Ogan competing  
at the National Finals.*

# Memorandum: FY2024 Budget Report

TO: Montana Arts Council Members

FROM: Jenifer Alger | Chief Financial Officer

RE: Fiscal Year End 2024 Budget Report

---

Below is an explanation of those budget line items you may have questions about.

## **Staff Salaries + Benefits**

MAC ended FY2024 with a surplus of \$29,969. This is due to the executive director position not being paid for 4 months and overestimating council member stipends.

## **Programs**

MAC had a net surplus of \$42,789 and is a result of the following:

- Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP) – Approved budget included funds for 2 cohorts, but we ended up having enough participants for one. MAC used accrued MAP income to pay all these expenses. The remaining income balance was carried forward to FY 2025.
- Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) – Approved budget included funds for a ceremony, but it was decided to postpone until the Spring of 2025. (Expenses = Income)
- State of the Arts (SOA) - The \$2,777 overspent is due to postage increases.
- Poetry out Loud (POL). The \$5,755 unspent is for a short-term POL coordinator position and is included in line 2 – staff salaries + benefits. The remaining \$5,000 unspent was for a poet in the schools initiative that did not happen.
- Creative Aging – There was \$4,740 from the FY 2023 NASAA grant that carried over to FY 2024. There was an additional \$11,725 awarded from Lifetime Arts to continue this program. (Expenses = Income)
- Folk Arts – The \$7,320 unspent is for a student intern archivist position and is included in line 2 – staff salaries + benefits.

## **Administration**

MAC had a net surplus of \$54,530 and is a result of the following:

- Contracted Services – underspent due to postponing some strategic planning and poet laureate anthology costs to FY 2025.
- Supplies – overspent due to not anticipating a new office chair for the ED and other office supplies.
- Communications - underspent due to fewer mailings than were anticipated.
- Travel + Other Expenses - underspent due to less staff professional development, strategic planning travel being postponed to FY 2025, and not all council members traveling to meetings.
- Rent - overspent due to not estimating enough for meeting room and space rentals.
- SITSD Fixed Costs – underspent by \$4,328 due to not being billed for 2 services that DOA suggested we include in our budget. This appropriation is restricted for SITSD services; therefore, we cannot spend on anything else. The remaining balance reverted to the general fund.

## Grants

MAC had a net surplus in grants of \$196,912 and is a result of the following:

- Artists in Schools & Communities (AISC) – \$2,260 overspent due to one FY 2023 Experiences grant being transferred to FY 2024.
- Public Value Partnerships (PVP) - \$92,500 exceeded the budget due to giving an additional \$1,500 to all eligible grantees and having more awards than projected.
- Statewide Service Organizations (SSO) - \$10,500 underspent due to reducing the amount of each award from previous years.
- Cultural & Aesthetics (C&A) - The total allocated is a biennial appropriation; therefore, the \$279,400 remaining carried over to FY 2025 and will be fully spent.

## Montana Community Foundation Endowment Fund Update

The FY 2024 budget used \$10,000 from the Arts Education Fund to fund AISC grant awards and \$10,305 from the Governor’s Awards for Artists to help fund some MCAM expenses.

Fiscal year end balances for both endowments are as follows:

- Arts Education Fund                      \$17,356
- Governor’s Award for Artists        \$62,899

## Remaining Balances/Carryforwards

The remaining balance of \$344,165 at FYE consisted of the following:

Unused DOA SITSD	\$ 4,328
FY 2025 C&A Grant Funds	\$279,437
Unused NEA	\$ 20,983
Unused MAP Income	\$ 39,416

The unused DOA SITSD funds reverted to the General Fund. However, MAC was allowed to carryforward 30% of the SITSD funds into FY 2025 and they will be used toward SIG grants to individuals.

The C&A grant funds, unused NEA, and MAP income all carried forward into FY 2025.

## FYE 2024 Montana Arts Council Approved Budget

Line #		FY24 Approved Budget	General Fund 23.97%	Cultural Trust 30.38%	NEA 41.84%	Other Income 3.81%	TOTAL	(Over)/ Under
<b>1</b>	<b>PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>							
2	Staff Salaries + Benefits	\$723,355	\$228,607	\$175,598	\$293,481	-	\$697,686	\$25,669
3	Honorariums/Stipends	\$13,200	\$3,171	\$68	\$5,661	-	\$8,900	\$4,300
4								
5	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$736,555</b>	<b>\$231,778</b>	<b>\$175,666</b>	<b>\$299,142</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$706,586</b>	<b>\$29,969</b>
6								
<b>7</b>	<b>PROGRAMS</b>							
8	Montana Artrepreneur Program	\$46,500	-	-	-	\$21,606	\$21,606	\$24,894
9	MCAM/GAA	\$29,355	-	-	-	\$10,305	\$10,305	\$19,050
10	State of the Arts	\$69,255	\$3,226	\$10,000	\$58,806	-	\$72,032	(\$2,777)
11	Poetry Out Loud	\$35,000	-	-	\$24,103	-	\$24,103	\$10,897
12	Creative Aging	\$20,000	\$20,127	-	-	\$16,465	\$36,592	(\$16,592)
13	Folk Arts	\$40,000	\$16,341	-	\$16,341	-	\$32,682	\$7,318
14								
15	<b>Programs: Total</b>	<b>\$240,110</b>	<b>\$39,694</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$99,251</b>	<b>\$48,377</b>	<b>\$197,321</b>	<b>\$42,789</b>
16								
<b>17</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>							
18	Contracted Services	\$93,082	\$38,357	\$3,285	\$17,024	-	\$58,666	\$34,416
19	Supplies & Materials	\$16,936	\$7,162	\$3,818	\$7,996	-	\$18,977	(\$2,041)
20	Communications	\$5,835	\$909	\$269	\$1,296	-	\$2,474	\$3,361
21	Travel	\$65,530	\$25,631	\$2,273	\$22,389	-	\$50,293	\$15,237
22	Rent	\$45,641	\$17,830	\$5,142	\$24,669	-	\$47,641	(\$2,000)
23	Other Expenses	\$59,345	\$11,989	\$8,281	\$37,846	-	\$58,116	\$1,229
24	Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)	\$72,301	\$32,546	\$12,652	\$22,775	-	\$67,973	\$4,328
26								
27	<b>Administration: Total</b>	<b>\$358,670</b>	<b>\$134,424</b>	<b>\$35,721</b>	<b>\$133,995</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$304,140</b>	<b>\$54,530</b>

## FYE 2024 Montana Arts Council Approved Budget

Line #		FY24 Approved Budget	General Fund 23.97%	Cultural Trust 30.38%	NEA 41.84%	Other Income 3.81%	TOTAL	(Over)/Under
28								
29	<b>GRANTS</b>							
30	Artists in Schools & Communities	\$250,000	\$69,000	-	\$173,260	\$10,000	\$252,260	(\$2,260)
31	Artists Innovation Awards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Public Value Partnerships	\$275,000	\$96,658	-	\$270,842	-	\$367,500	(\$92,500)
33	Statewide Service Organizations	\$96,000	-	-	\$85,500	-	\$85,500	\$10,500
34	Strategic Investment	\$55,000	\$53,265	-	-	-	\$53,265	\$1,735
35	Cultural Trust Grants	\$558,876	-	\$279,439	-	-	\$279,439	\$279,437
36	Relief Funds/Percent for Art	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37								
38	<b>Grants: Total</b>	<b>\$1,234,876</b>	<b>\$218,923</b>	<b>\$279,439</b>	<b>\$529,602</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$1,037,964</b>	<b>\$196,912</b>
39								
40	<b>TOTAL FY 2024 EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,570,211</b>	<b>\$624,819</b>	<b>\$500,826</b>	<b>\$1,061,990</b>	<b>\$58,377</b>	<b>\$2,246,011</b>	<b>\$324,200</b>
41								
42	<b>TOTAL FY 2024 REVENUES</b>	<b>\$2,568,023</b>	<b>\$615,567</b>	<b>\$780,263</b>	<b>\$1,074,400</b>	<b>\$97,793</b>	<b>\$2,568,023</b>	
43	<b>FYE 2023 Carryforwards</b>	<b>\$22,153</b>	<b>\$13,580</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$8,573</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$22,153</b>	
44								
45	<b>(OVER)/UNDER</b>	<b>\$19,965</b>	<b>\$4,328</b>	<b>\$279,437</b>	<b>\$20,983</b>	<b>\$39,416</b>	<b>\$344,165</b>	<b>\$344,165</b>

## Budget Comments

### Line 2: Personnel Services: Staff Salaries + Benefits

- Includes Folk Arts student intern archivist and POL Coordinator

### Line 3: Personnel Services: Honorariums/ Stipends

- Council member/C&A Panel payments

### Line 9: Programs: MCAM/GAA

- \$10,305 from Governors Awards for Artists Fund (MCF)

### Line 12: Programs: Creative Aging

- \$4,740 from FYE 2023 + \$11,725 awarded from Lifetime Arts

### Line 13: Programs: Folk Arts

- \$16,341 from GF and \$16,341 from NEA. Student intern archivist included in line 2

### Line 18: Administration: Contracted Services

- Printing, insurance, legal fees, consultants, strategic planning contract, non-council stipends

### Line 19: Administration: Supplies & Materials

- Software licenses, commodities

### Line 20: Administration: Communications

- Postage, interagency mailings, and advertising

### Line 21: Administration: Travel

- Council, staff, programs, and panels

### Line 22: Administration: Rent

- Facility and offsite meeting rooms

### Line 23: Administration: Other Expenses

- WESTAF dues (\$22,261), NASAA dues (\$10,360), staff training, subscriptions, registration, meetings

### Line 25: Administration: SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)

- Funds are restricted for SITSD services only. Unspent funds reverted to the GF.

### Line 30: Grants: Artists in Schools & Communities

- \$10,000 from Arts Education Fund (MCF)

### Line 32: Grants: Public Value Partnerships

- Additional \$1,500 for each grantee.

### Line 35: Grants: Cultural Trust Grants

- Budget includes biennial amount of \$558,876. Remaining balance carried forward into FY 2025.

### Line 43: FYE 2023 Carryforwards

- FYE 2022 \$5,231 GF spent by 06/30/2024. FYE 2023 \$8,349 GF spent by 06/30/2025. NEA was spent by 12/31/2023.

### Line 45: (OVER)/UNDER

- \$4,328 GF restricted for SITSD, \$279,437 C&A, \$20,983 NEA, and \$39,416 MAP.

# Memorandum: FY2025 YTD Budget Report

TO: Montana Arts Council Members  
FROM: Jenifer Alger | Chief Financial Officer  
RE: Fiscal YTD 2025 Budget Report

---

Below is an explanation of those budget line items you may have questions about.

## **Staff Salaries + Benefits**

MAC is projecting a deficit of \$25,292. This is due to staff salaries being more than what was included in the personal services snapshot taken in July 2022. We are also estimating higher council member stipends than budgeted.

## **Programs**

MAC is projecting a net surplus of \$20,906 and is a result of the following:

- Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP) –Original budget included funds for 2 cohorts, however there was only enough participation for one. The original budget has been shifted to include a professional development series to be held in the Spring of 2025. MAC will use accrued MAP income to pay all these expenses. Any remaining income balance will carry forward to FY 2026.
- State of the Arts (SOA) - The \$1,200 projected overspent is due to commissioning an artist to paint our SOA dispenser.
- Poetry out Loud (POL). The \$6,900 unspent is for a short-term POL coordinator position and is included in line 2 – staff salaries + benefits.
- Folk Arts – Overbudgeted due to a misunderstanding in our NEA partnership agreement. We do not need to match \$1:\$1 by program.

## **Administration**

MAC is projecting a net surplus of \$10,854 and is a result of the following:

- Contracted Services – underspent due to not needing as much for strategic planning and poet laureate anthology. Some of this budget should have been included in the travel line item.
- Supplies – overspent due to not anticipating staff laptops up for replacement.
- Travel – overspent due to budget being inadvertently placed in the contracted services line item.
- Rent – overbudgeted for some meeting space/room rentals.
- SITSD Fixed Costs – underspent by \$5,756 due to not being billed for 2 services that DOA suggested we include in our budget. This appropriation is restricted for SITSD services; therefore, we cannot spend on anything else. The remaining balance will revert to the general fund.

## Grants

MAC is projecting a net deficit in grants of \$1,000 and is a result of the following:

- Strategic Investment Grants (SIG) - \$1,000 overspent due to one FY 2024 grant being transferred to FY 2025.

## Montana Community Foundation Endowment Fund Update

The FY 2025 budget uses \$10,000 from the Arts Education Fund to fund AISC grant awards and \$44,400 from the Governor's Awards for Artists to fund the Governors Arts Awards (GAA) and Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) ceremonies. This fund will also pay for some Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program (TAAP) mentor stipends.

Current year end balances for both endowments are as follows:

- Arts Education Fund \$17,356
- Governor's Award for Artists \$62,899

## Remaining Balances/Carryforwards

The projected remaining balance of \$49,555 consists of the following:

Unused DOA SITSD	\$ 5,756
Unused NEA	\$ 43,799

The unused DOA SITSD funds will revert to the General Fund. However, MAC will be allowed to carryforward 30% of the SITSD funds into FY 2026 and will be used toward SIG grants to individuals.

Some possible uses for the unused NEA by FYE are as follows:

- AICS Experiences December deadline - Additional \$20,000 as we currently have approximately \$18,000 remaining to award. The other 2 deadlines received between \$37,000 and \$43,000 in requests.
- Archival supplies – use approximately \$1,000 to purchase document sleeves and containers to store photos and tapes.
- Poet laureate travel – we may need more added to the budget to reimburse the poet laureate's travel to and from the anthology book launch events.

Any unused NEA will be carried forward into FY 2026.

## FY 2025 YTD Montana Arts Council Approved Budget

Line #		FY25 Approved Budget	General Fund 27.00%	Cultural Trust 21.85%	NEA 46.50%	Other Income 4.64%	TOTAL	(Over)/ Under
<b>1</b>	<b>PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>							
2	Staff Salaries + Benefits	\$752,676	\$277,059	\$181,292	\$313,317	-	\$771,668	(\$18,992)
3	Honorariums/Stipends	\$9,000	\$7,400	\$1,600	\$6,300	-	\$15,300	(\$6,300)
4								
<b>5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$761,676</b>	<b>\$284,459</b>	<b>\$182,892</b>	<b>\$319,617</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$786,968</b>	<b>(\$25,292)</b>
<b>6</b>								
<b>7</b>	<b>PROGRAMS</b>							
8	Montana Artrepreneur Program	\$46,825	-	-	-	\$43,417	\$43,417	\$3,408
9	MCAM/TAP	\$33,885	-	-	-	\$33,820	\$33,820	\$65
10	GAA	\$10,580	-	-	-	\$10,580	\$10,580	-
11	AIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	State of the Arts	\$72,000	\$18,456	-	\$54,744	-	\$73,200	(\$1,200)
13	Poetry Out Loud	\$33,900	-	-	\$27,000	-	\$27,000	\$6,900
14	Creative Aging	\$13,500	\$13,500	-	-	-	\$13,500	-
15	Folk Arts	\$40,000	\$8,267	-	\$20,000	-	\$28,267	\$11,733
16	Percent for Art Excess	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17								
<b>18</b>	<b>Programs: Total</b>	<b>\$250,690</b>	<b>\$40,223</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$101,744</b>	<b>\$87,817</b>	<b>\$229,784</b>	<b>\$20,906</b>
<b>19</b>								
<b>20</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>							
21	Contracted Services	\$32,575	\$6,932	\$3,473	\$10,043	-	\$20,448	\$12,127
22	Supplies & Materials	\$18,717	\$9,304	\$1,996	\$9,283	-	\$20,582	(\$1,865)
23	Communications	\$2,775	\$1,169	\$296	\$1,615	-	\$3,080	(\$305)
24	Travel	\$59,287	\$24,174	\$6,321	\$38,508	-	\$69,003	(\$9,716)
25	Rent	\$50,841	\$24,174	\$6,321	\$38,508	-	\$69,003	\$4,136
26	Other Expenses	\$60,329	\$2,197	\$15,205	\$42,205	-	\$59,608	\$721
27	Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)	\$71,123	\$30,517	\$12,446	\$22,404	-	\$65,367	\$5,756
29								
<b>30</b>	<b>Administration: Total</b>	<b>\$295,647</b>	<b>\$91,061</b>	<b>\$44,868</b>	<b>\$148,864</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$284,793</b>	<b>\$10,584</b>

## FY 2025 YTD Montana Arts Council Approved Budget

Line #		FY25 Approved Budget	General Fund 27.00%	Cultural Trust 21.85%	NEA 46.50%	Other Income 4.64%	TOTAL	(Over)/ Under
31								
32	<b>GRANTS</b>							
33	Artists in Schools & Communities	\$275,000	\$75,000	-	\$190,000	\$10,000	\$275,000	-
34	Public Value Partnerships	\$294,000	\$75,641	-	\$218,359	-	\$294,000	-
35	Statewide Service Organizations	\$78,000	-	-	\$78,000	-	\$78,000	-
36	Strategic Investment	\$55,000	\$56,000	-	-	-	\$56,000	(\$1,000)
37	Cultural Trust Grants	\$279,438	-	\$279,437	-	-	\$279,437	\$1
38	Innovation Fund Pilot Project	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000	\$10,000	-
39								
40	<b>Grants: Total</b>	<b>\$991,438</b>	<b>\$206,641</b>	<b>\$279,437</b>	<b>\$486,359</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$992,437</b>	<b>(\$999)</b>
41								
42	<b>TOTAL FY 2025 EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,299,451</b>	<b>\$622,384</b>	<b>\$507,197</b>	<b>\$1,056,584</b>	<b>\$107,817</b>	<b>\$2,293,982</b>	<b>\$5,469</b>
43								
44	<b>TOTAL FY 2025 REVENUES</b>	<b>\$2,321,451</b>	<b>\$626,842</b>	<b>\$507,197</b>	<b>\$1,079,400</b>	<b>\$107,816</b>	<b>\$2,321,255</b>	
45	<b>FYE 2024 Carryforwards</b>	<b>\$22,281</b>	<b>\$1,298</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$20,983</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$22,281</b>	
46								
47	<b>(OVER)/UNDER</b>	<b>\$44,085</b>	<b>\$5,756</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$43,799</b>	<b>(\$1)</b>	<b>\$49,554</b>	<b>\$49,554</b>

## Budget Comments

### Line 2: Personnel Services: Staff Salaries + Benefits

- Includes POL Coordinator

### Line 3: Personnel Services: Honorariums/ Stipends

- Council member/C&A Panel payments

### Line 9: Programs: MCAM/TAAP

- \$33,820 from Governors Awards for Artists Fund (MCF)

### Line 10: Programs: GAA

- \$10,580 from Governors Awards for Artists Fund (MCF)

### Line 13: Programs: Poetry Out Loud

- \$20,000 from NEA, \$6,900 is for POL Coordinator and included in line 2.

### Line 21: Administration: Contracted Services

- Printing, insurance, legal fees, consultants, strategic planning contract, non-council stipends

### Line 22: Administration: Supplies & Materials

- Software licenses, commodities

### Line 23: Administration: Communications

- Postage, interagency mailings, and advertising

### Line 24: Administration: Travel

- Council, staff, programs, and panels

### Line 25: Administration: Rent

- Facility and offsite meeting rooms

### Line 26: Administration: Other Expenses

- Creative West (formerly WESTAF) dues (\$22,261), NASAA dues (\$10,360), staff training, subscriptions, registration, meetings

### Line 28: Administration: SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)

- Funds are restricted for SITSD services only. Unspent funds will revert to the GF.

### Line 33: Grants: Artists in Schools & Communities

- \$10,000 from Arts Education Fund (MCF)

### Line 38: Grants: Innovation Fund Pilot Project

- \$10,000 from the Creative West (formerly WESTAF) innovation funds.

### Line 45: FYE 2024 Carryforwards

- FYE 2024 \$1,298 GF spent by 06/30/2026. NEA will be spent by 12/31/2024.

### Line 45: (OVER)/UNDER

- \$5,756 GF restricted for SITSD and \$43,799 NEA.

Volumes of records  
house in the Butte-  
Silver Bow Public  
Archives.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

# Report of the Executive Committee

TO: Montana Arts Council Members  
FROM: Steve Zabel | Council Chair  
RE: Activities of the MAC Executive Committee

---

The Executive Committee met twice since the last meeting of the Council: Once on July 31, shortly after the new chair was appointed; and again on November 15th.

## **July 31: New chair, community meetings, and the OGSM**

In July 2024 the Governor appointed Steve Zabel chair of the Arts Council, following the resignation of the previous chair. Steve called a meeting of the Executive Committee on July 31 to introduce himself as chair, discuss current staff goals and activities, and learn about the Governor's OGSM plan.

As discussed elsewhere in these Council meeting notes, the OGSM is a one-sheet layout of the agency's Objectives, Goals, Strategies and Measures. This tool outlines and measures the goals and activities of the agency for each 6-month period. The Governor requests that every agency submit its OGSM every six months.

The committee reviewed the proposed OGSM and, after taking some time to consider tweaks, approved the final version by email. It was submitted to the Lieutenant Governor in August.

## **November 15: Review Strategic Plan and potential attachment to Dept of Administration**

The committee met again November 15th with two agenda items: to review a draft of the Strategic Plan and make comments and recommendations before its final version; and to become familiar with the Administration's proposal to administratively attach the three cultural agencies to the Dept of Administration.

The Strategic Plan will be discussed elsewhere in this Council meeting. The executive committee discussed its direction and focus and suggested some text changes. No further action was taken.

The committee reviewed the information sent by the Governor's Education & Workforce Policy Advisor about the potential to administratively attach MAC, the state library, and the historical society to the Department of Administration, moving Montana's three cultural agencies from their current administrative assignment under the State Board of Education.

The issue will be discussed elsewhere in this Council meeting. No action was taken.

# STRATEGIC GRANTS

## Strategic Investment Grants

Strategic Investment Grants (SIG) provide up to \$1,000 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.

- Monthly deadlines and a quick turnaround on funding decisions allow for artists and organizations to take advantage of opportunities when they arise.
- The straightforward and simple application makes SIG ideal for emerging artists and new arts organizations with little grant-writing capacity.

*The Bill and Rosemary Gallagher Youth Interactive Play Space at the Zootown Arts Community Center.*

# INVESTMENT



# Memorandum: Strategic Investment Grants

TO: Montana Arts Council Members

FROM: Jay Pyette | Chair, Strategic Investment Grants Committee

RE: Strategic Investment Grants

---

Strategic Investment Grants (SIG) provide up to \$1,000 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.

Guidelines are available on the MAC website. Applications are accepted on a monthly deadline via MAC's grant system. Funding recommendations are made by the SIG Committee based on the application meeting the grant criteria. Grant payments are made as a reimbursement for documented expenses.

The SIG Committee is currently comprised of Council members Angella Ahn, Julie Mac, Cat McIntyre, Wylie Gustafson, and Bridger Pierce. The committee meets monthly by conference call to review applications.

The attached list of applications is from May 2024 to October 2024. As of the October committee meeting, for FY2025 \$69,118 has been requested and \$51,428 awarded.

**SIG FY2025 (Project End Dates July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Award</b>
Izaak Opatz	BYNUM! (if you got 'em) Music Festivals	Missoula	\$1,000	\$1,000
Meghan Hanson	Cargo trailer for Meghan Hanson Arts	Stevensville	\$1,000	\$1,000
Maxim Loskutoff	Old King Montana Book Tour	Missoula	\$1,000	\$1,000
Amber Wilke	Summer Dance Institute for Teachers (SDIT), a Dance Educator Training	East Helena	\$1,000	\$1,000
Jessica Partridge	Dance Educator Training at the Summer Dance Institute for Teachers (SDIT)	Helena	\$1,000	\$1,000
Arts Council of Big Sky	Pedestrian Tunnel Mural Project	Big Sky	\$1,000	\$1,000
Baroque Music Montana	Vivaldi's Four Seasons in Big Timber with Baroque Music Montana	Bozeman	\$1,000	\$1,000
Western Masters Inc	Forever Glacier	Whitefish	\$990	\$0
Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts Non-Profit	Art4Polson at Sacajawea Murals	Polson	\$1,000	\$1,000
Emlyn Harris	Structural Woodworking Advancement Notes	Bozeman	\$1,000	\$0
Catharine Moser	Winner's Circle: How Montana Thoroughbreds Upset the Nineteenth Century's Racing Establishment	Lewistown	\$1,000	\$0
Anne Holub	Technology Upgrade for New Poetry Writing During Yellowstone Art Museum Residency 2024	Billings	\$841	\$841
Caroline Keys	Junior Tour with Margo Cilker	Missoula	\$1,000	\$1,000
Jules Schobel	13th Annual Arts on Fire Festival Artist	Helena	\$600	\$600
Alyssa Roggow	String Quartet Premier		\$1,000	\$1,000
Christine Martin	Equipment for Participation in Outdoor Festivals and Markets	Butte	\$1,000	\$1,000
Maura Wright	Camera for Documentation	Helena	\$1,000	\$1,000
Colby Charpentier	Test Kiln for Ceramic Materials Research	Helena	\$1,000	\$1,000
BT Livermore	Training and equipment for the process of glue-chipping glass for traditional gold leaf signage	Butte	\$1,000	\$1,000

**SIG FY2025 (Project End Dates July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Award</b>
Amber Scally	Booth/AD/Travel - The Great Western Art Show		\$1,000	\$1,000
Krista Pasini	The Post-It Note Project	Billings	\$1,000	\$1,000
Joni Freeser	Supporting DirtWork by Joni Freeser		\$1,000	\$1,000
Jessica Hays	Aurora Photocenter Solo Exhibition		\$1,000	\$1,000
Eureka Community Players	"That Makes Sense" Workshop	Eureka	\$1,000	\$0
David Spear	"Walk the Walk" Then & Now Photography Exhibition	Pablo	\$1,000	\$1,000
Roots in the Sky, NFP	The End of Rain	Bozeman	\$1,000	\$1,000
Joelle Tooke	Irish dance show (with live music)	Helena	\$1,000	\$0
Ravalli County Museum	The Bitterroot in Vietnam Documentary		\$1,000	\$1,000
Lewis & Clark Foundation	"Supaman" Presentation	Great Falls	\$1,000	\$1,000
Kaitlynn Parker	Support for Participation in Portland Zine Symposium	Missoula	\$1,000	\$1,000
Ryan Parker	Filter Photo, Portfolio Review 2024		\$987	\$987
Leslie Millar	We the People/II - Exhibition	Arlee	\$1,000	\$1,000
Jordan Lefler	Journey to the Sun - Documentary Film	Arlee	\$1,000	\$1,000
Muriel Condon	Paper Beater for Sculptural and 2D Work	Helena	\$1,000	\$1,000
Megan Karls	Concertmaster Coaching with New York Philharmonic's Audrey Wright	Great Falls	\$1,000	\$1,000
Sarah Weaver	2024 Flathead River Writers Conference	Polson	\$1,000	\$1,000
Zootown Arts Community Center	Support for Targeted Marketing and Outreach for the Zootown Arts Community Center	Missoula	\$1,000	\$0
Meghan Spielman	Joshua Tree Residency Travel Expenses	Bozeman	\$1,000	\$0
Authors of the Flathead	Authors of the Flathead Investment in new website	Kalispell	\$1,000	\$0
Kate Belton	Reduction Kiln	Bozeman	\$1,000	\$1,000

**SIG FY2025 (Project End Dates July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Award</b>
Kim Hogberg	The Story of Us, the Women Who Shaped Montana	Helena	\$1,000	\$1,000
Margie Judd	Frontier Mythology and Poverty	Butte	\$1,000	\$1,000
Morgan Irons	Conference Attendance - HATCH Creativity Summit & Art Showing/Artist Talk	Bozeman	\$1,000	\$1,000
Halladay Quist	Montana's Got Talent	Kalispell	\$1,000	\$1,000
Brooke Swaney	Troll Storm at Woodstock	Polson	\$1,000	
Sterling Drake	The Shape I'm In	Wolf Creek	\$1,000	\$1,000
Zootown Arts Community Center	Indigenizing the ZACC: Walk with Purpose	Missoula	\$1,000	\$1,000
Adrianna Reed	Brand Identity Design	Conrad	\$1,000	\$0
Dante Gambardella	Sustainable Forestry Management through Wood Fired Ceramics	Bozeman	\$750	\$0
Danielle O'Malley	Funding to support attendance at "AIA" at Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts in Newcastle, ME	Helena	\$1,000	\$0
William Kautz	And the light from which you came is now the [love] work we must do	Missoula	\$1,000	\$1,000
Kayla Noble	Outfit New Studio for Large Clay Studio	Missoula	\$1,000	\$1,000
Chris Alveshere	NCECA Conference Presenter Travel Assistance	Missoula	\$1,000	\$1,000
Bitterroot Valley Chorus	Bitterroot Valley Chorus Annual Holiday Concert	Hamilton	\$1,000	\$0
Laura Detrick	SATB Official Montana State Song at 2025 International Choral Festival	Bozeman	\$1,000	\$0
Lindsay Pankratz	Develop a Personal Artist Website	Helena	\$1,000	\$1,000
Kate Bryan	Singing Souls Senior Singalong	Bozeman	\$1,000	\$0

# ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

MAC's Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant program supports a wide range of arts education needs, serving learners of every age and ability across a multitude of disciplines and settings.

There are two AISC grant opportunities:

**AISC Experiences** supports arts learning in three categories: in person or virtual engagement with guest artists; purchases of tools, supplies and equipment to support experimentation with new arts media or methods, and transportation funds to provide learners with first-hand experience with art and artists. Often these activities serve as a launch point for deeper learning.

- Provides grants of between \$250 and \$2500, with no cash match required
- Funds categories not typically covered by the Residencies grant
- Applications accepted three times per year in April, August and December

**AISC Residencies** grants connect learners of all ages and abilities with professional teaching artists through a diversity of learning formats and settings. Whether a single-day or months-long engagement, these projects hold one thing in common: hands-on learning.

- Provides grants of between \$2500 and \$10,000 with 1:1 matching funds required. New grantees and Tribal or Class C or smaller schools receive 2:1 funding.
- Allows for in-depth experiential learning in conjunction with a guest or teaching artist.
- Enhances arts-specific learning as well as supports arts integration projects.

*Intermountain Opera performing and teaching for school groups in Helena.*



# Memorandum: Arts Education Committee

TO: Montana Arts Council Members  
FROM: Angella Ahn | Arts Education Committee Chair  
RE: Committee Report

---

The Arts Education Committee provides expertise, guidance and support for MAC’s arts learning initiatives and is charged with oversight of MAC’s Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant program, the umbrella under which two grant opportunities, AISC Experiences and AISC Residencies, are held. Together these grants fund a wide need range, serving arts learners of every age and ability across disciplines, settings, and teaching models.

On the 19th of September the committee met to review and discuss 16 of the 17 grants submitted to the August deadline; one grant submitted was withdrawn from consideration by the applicant organization due to a delay in their project. The committee initially recommended all 16 reviewed grants for funding, with one of those deemed ineligible for funding following the meeting. The total of grants awarded in October was \$37,129 and that list of grants appears on the following page for your reference. The committee will meet again in late January to review grants submitted to the remaining FY25 AISC Experiences December 12 deadline.

In the months ahead members of the committee, in addition to their reviews, will work to connect organizations with MAC’s education-focused opportunities and will discuss topics of importance such as advocacy efforts toward increasing access to arts learning in K-12 schools statewide and continuing MAC’s initiative on Creative Aging.

### **Arts Education Committee**

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

## 2024 AISC Experiences | August Grant Awards

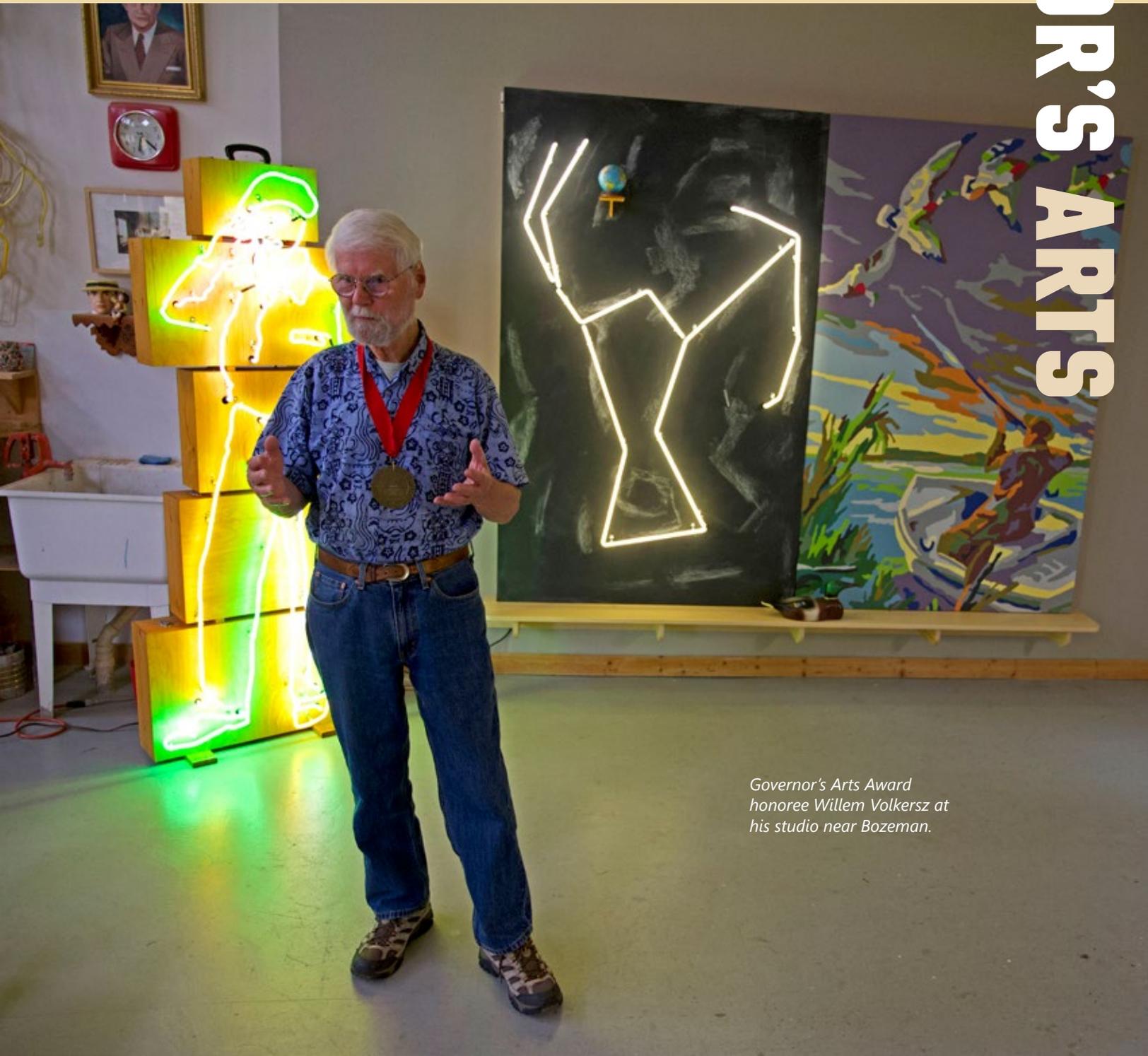
Organization Name	Community	Project Name	Awarded
Art Mobile of Montana	Dillon	Art Mobile of Montana Travel Money	\$2,500.00
Bigger Sky Kids, Inc.	Wolf Point	Teaching Digital Graphic Arts and Painting with Acrylics	\$2,500.00
Billings Symphony Society	Billings	Musical Storytime with the Billings Symphony	\$2,500.00
East Side School	Livingston	Expanded Art Exploration to Understand the Past	\$2,499.00
Free Verse	Missoula	Free Verse Project	\$2,500.00
Great Falls Public Schools Music and Art	Great Falls	Paris Gibson Square 3rd Grade Tour	\$2,500.00
Hockaday Museum of Art	Kalispell	Traveling Medicine Show	\$2,500.00
Instrument Shop*	Missoula	Teens Build a Pipe Organ	\$2,200.00
Lincoln Council for the Arts*	Lincoln	Supaman - School and Community Performances	\$2,500.00
Missoula Community Radio	Missoula	FreeSessions	\$2,500.00
Montana Chamber Music*	Bozeman	Noon Notes Program Expansion	\$2,500.00
Opera Montana	Bozeman	Wheels of Harmony 2025 Tour	\$2,500.00
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art	Great Falls	Be your Own Curator	\$2,430.00
Queen City Ballet Company	Helena	Queen City Ballet Company's School Outreach Performance of The Nutcracker	\$2,500.00
Missoula County Public Schools	Missoula	Virginia Vinal Women's Band Festival	\$2,500.00
* new to AISC		<b>Total Requests</b>	<b>\$37,129.00</b>

# GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

## Governor's Arts Awards

The Governor's Arts Awards honors individuals and institutions who have contributed a substantial legacy to the arts in Big Sky Country.

- Since 1981, 125 awards have been presented.
- The next ceremony will take place on December 5, 2024, in the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Capitol Building with a reception to follow in the rotunda.
- The medallion artwork was inspired and designed by artist Al Chandler Good Strike.



*Governor's Arts Award honoree Willem Volkersz at his studio near Bozeman.*

# POET LAUREATE

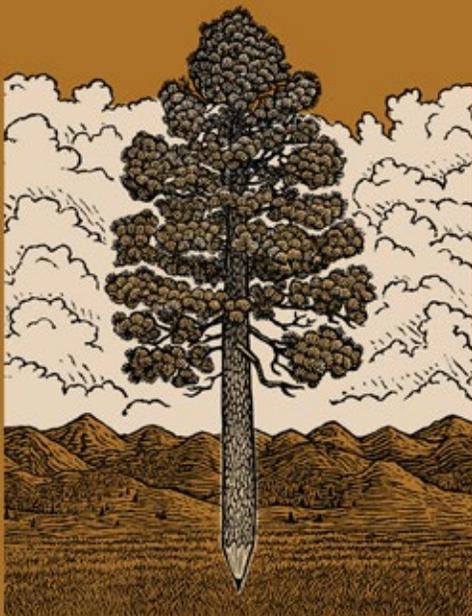
## Montana Poet Laureate

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

## THIS PLACE THE GODS TOUCHED EARTH

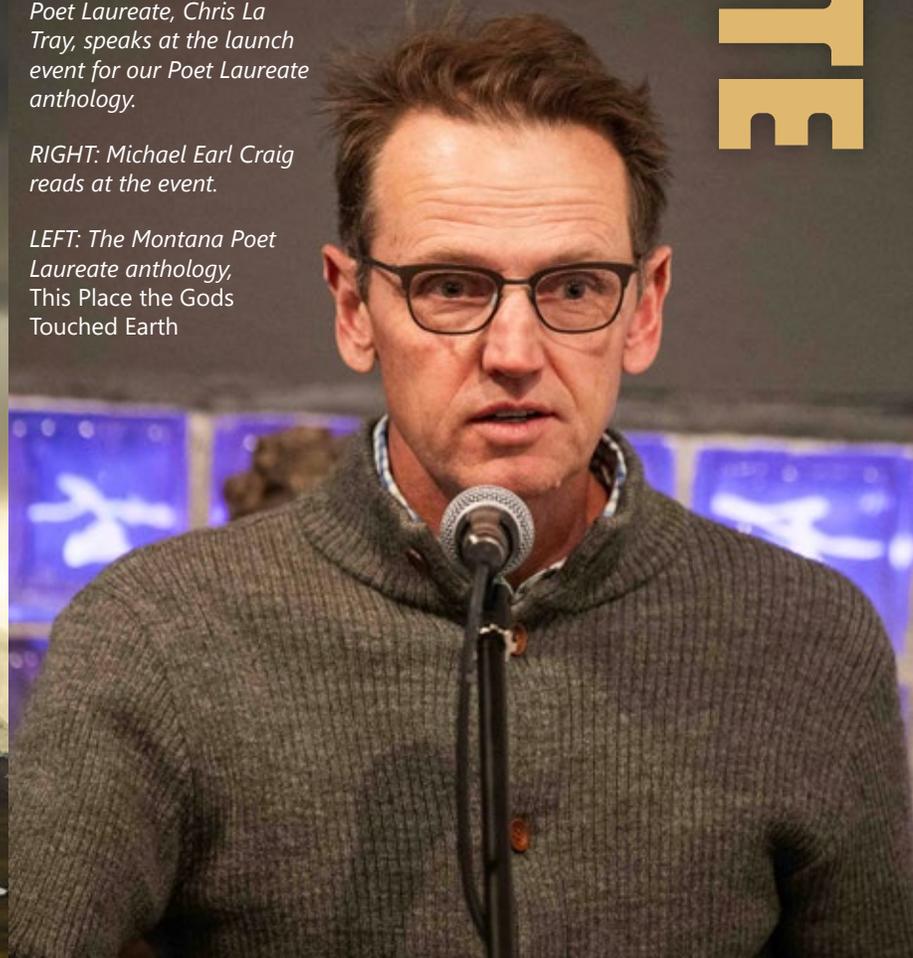


POETRY BY MONTANA'S  
POETS LAUREATE 2005-2025

ABOVE: Montana's current Poet Laureate, Chris La Tray, speaks at the launch event for our Poet Laureate anthology.

RIGHT: Michael Earl Craig reads at the event.

LEFT: The Montana Poet Laureate anthology, *This Place the Gods Touched Earth*



## Montana Circle of American Masters

The Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) celebrates the contributions of Montana's master artists in traditional and folk arts. A member of Montana's Circle of American Masters 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 distinctive to the State and is worthy of note on both a state and national level.

- Documents the unique cultural traditions of Montana by providing a platform for its foremost folk and traditional artists.
- Increases the visibility of artists and their communities.
- Provides a \$3000 award to new inductees.

## Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program

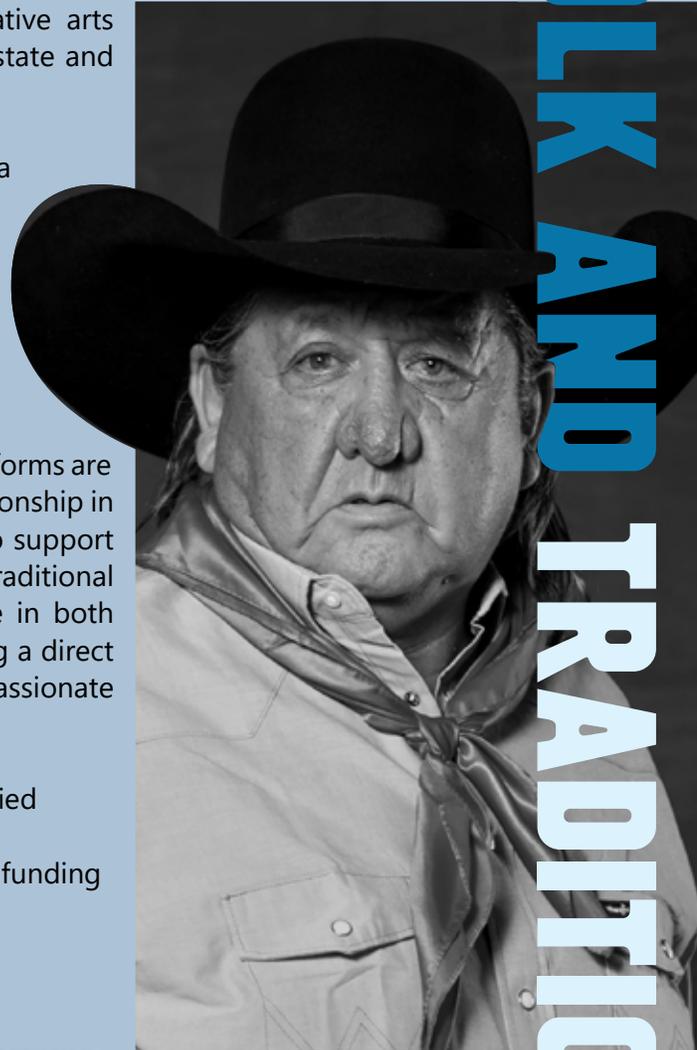
The skills, techniques, and stories of folk and traditional artforms are passed down person to person. A mentor/apprentice relationship in a community setting is among the most effective ways to support the vitality of Montana's traditional arts. MAC's Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program aims to play a crucial role in both preserving and evolving cherished traditions by facilitating a direct and immersive transfer of skills from mentor artists to passionate and committed learners.

- Gives mentor artists a \$3000 award to provide qualified apprentices with short-term, intensive learning.
- Supports rural Montana and its vibrant traditions by funding the passing on of foundational cultural knowledge.

*Montana Circle of American Masters recipients Tim Ryan, Jeffrey Funk, Joanne Hall, and Henry Real Bird*



FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTS



# Memorandum: Folk and Traditional Arts

TO: Montana Arts Council Members

FROM: Corky Clairmont | Chair, Folk Arts Committee

RE: Folk and Traditional Arts Committee

---

Since the reintroduction of the Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) in 2022, the Montana Arts Council's folk arts programs have steadily improved the agency's service to the field. New for 2024 is the return of the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program (TAAP). In October, a panel consisting of Bill Pratt of Helena, Debbie Desjarlais of Billings, and Josh Chrysler of Cheyenne, Wyoming, met to review applications to TAAP as well as MCAM. The panel unanimously recommended the 2 TAAP teams and the 4 MCAM nominees for funding.

On November 15, the Folk Arts Committee voted to approve the 2 TAAP applications. The approved projects will take place over the course of a year and will culminate in a public presentation. Olivia Rose Williamson will be teaching Rusty LaFrance Apsalooka-style beadwork and horse regalia and Carrie McCleary will be teaching Luella Brien about the creation of Apsalooka-style beaded martingales (horse collars). Uniquely, Luella will also be teaching Carrie the art of moccasin making in exchange. Both working pairs will present about their projects at either the Butte Folk Festival or Crow Fair in summer 2025.

In keeping with established council protocols, the 4 nominees for induction into the Montana Circle of American Masters are being presented to the full council for approval. The four nominees are Jeffrey Funk of Bigfork, Joanne Hall of Clancy, Henry Real Bird of Garryowen, and Tim Ryan of Pablo. Each of the artists was first nominated by a member (or members, in some cases) of their community. The nominees then submit a full application, which is then reviewed by a panel of local and regional artists and folk arts experts. A bio for each of the nominees is attached.

## MCAM Inductees 2024

### Jeffrey Funk, *Blacksmithing*

Jeffrey Funk was part of the blacksmithing revival in the United States. Historically, iron technology was the domain of blacksmiths, who made essential repairs and steel tools for woodworking, among other tasks, but industrialization rendered the village blacksmith obsolete by the mid-20th century. Interested in blacksmithing as it aligned with the back-to-the-land movement, Jeffrey attended a workshop in 1984, at a time when blacksmithing was on life support. Afterwards, Jeffrey began carrying the torch forward. His generation of blacksmiths eventually grew into the thousands practicing today. Jeffrey's 50 years of work is both the catalyst and product of this revival and era of rediscovering tradition.

Jeffrey's work is unusual among blacksmiths; from scythes to railings and sculpture, the broad spectrum of Jeffrey's work fall into three veins: practical necessity, architectural, and public sculpture. Creations of practical necessity include his crafting of—and reinterpreting in both function and form—traditional tools, such as the hammers, tongs, and anvils he uses in his own smithing and in teaching courses at his nonprofit, the New Agrarian School. His architectural work includes gates, fire screens and hardware, and door hinges of materials such as stainless steel, wrought iron, and bronze. In his public sculpture work, Jeffrey creates commissioned pieces for individuals, institutions, and cities, such as the Aeolian harp, a name given to a diverse group of musical instruments—originating with the ancient Greeks—that produce sound as the wind blows through their strings. Regardless of category, Jeffrey work emphasizes technical and aesthetic integrity.

For Jeffrey, producing these works is an iconic act; to create a tool is to craft a piece of art woven into the fabric of society. Through the process of smithing, a blacksmith engages with the physical environment in a deeply meaningful way—a creation that integrates spirit, mind, hand, surroundings, and utility. This work is both an act of joy and necessity, resulting in functional art that, in line with the aforementioned categories, encourages self-reliance in the most positive sense, such as the scythe he forged and uses to cut grain; hardware that enhances the function of homes, like structural hardware for trusses; and conversation pieces that serve as gathering points for communities across the country where his commissioned works are displayed.



In addition to teaching at Penland eight times since his first invitation in 1990, Jeffrey has also taught blacksmithing at several other schools and eventually opened his own eight years ago. These schools include Peters Valley School of Craft and the New England School of Metalwork, and it was his time at these institutions that motivated him to start The New Agrarian School, his most important endeavor and the only school of its nature in the West. Through studio assistantships, weekend classes, flexible residencies, and one- to three-week-long intensive workshops—such as “Blacksmith’s Tools” and “Carpenter’s Tools”—Jeffrey and guest teachers use an advanced curriculum that, while steeped in history and tradition, fosters a future-oriented approach to the craft.

Despite flying under the radar, Jeffrey has been recognized in publications featuring American craft and trade—including those local—such as Mountain Outlaw, Daily Inter Lake, and Great Falls Tribune, and notably, Bryce Andrew’s *Holding Fire: A Reckoning with the American West*. Further, in 2023 the popular television program, *Forged in Fire*, filmed an episode at the School as part of their “on the road” series visiting several schools across the nation. Another unusual milestone was the invitation he received to represent the U.S. as one of six to eight smiths from around the world working to create and erect a memorial for WWII veterans in Ypres, Belgium.



**Joanne Hall, *Weaving***

Weaver Joanne Hall is Swedish American. Three of her grandparents came from Sweden, and she grew up within a Minnesotan Swedish community. Raised in that environment, she was surrounded by a rich tapestry of tradition, including Swedish immigrant weaving. Eventually, she would also take inspiration from the weaving heritage in Sweden; as an adult, Joanne began traveling to the country to learn more about her cultural heritage, especially weaving traditions. While there, Joanne spent time with her cousins, learning about their weaving experiences, in addition to visiting and weaving alongside other weavers in central and southern Sweden. Further, she built relationships with the editors of VÄV, the only textile magazine in Scandinavia, and owners of major Swedish yarn manufacturers. Regarding forms of textual and visual resources, Joanne also utilized Swedish books, magazines, weaving exhibits, weaving conferences, and exhibits at Swedish museums.

In her vast repertoire, she has woven images of the people, landscape, animals, and the world around her. This includes tapestries inspired by Swedish techniques, including traditional weaves she describes as enriching to the homes and lives of those in the community. Some examples of Swedish weaves that she has continued to weave are called the Swedish Art Weaves, which derive from Skåna, a province in southern Sweden. These techniques are decorative weaves which originally made colorful coverlets, cushions, table runners, and wall decorations for special occasions. She has also woven Swedish weaving techniques for coverlets, pillows, and wall art from other parts of Sweden.

In addition to her personal studies and projects, Joanne has dedicated her life to passing on what she has learned—including those above listed techniques, to the broader weaving community. Joanne first began instructing after receiving her master's degree in textile design from the University of Minnesota when she relocated and taught weaving at the University of Montana in Missoula in 1971. After leaving the university, even while weaving tapestries full-time, Joanne taught workshops every year in various locations around the US and Canada. Today, however, Joanne is no longer weaving personal projects; 20 years ago, she retired and since has concentrated solely on teaching and inspiring her students through private lessons and workshops. To do so, she has acquired Swedish weaving equipment and yarns and generously shared them with students. Unlike the Minnesotan Swedish American community that raised her, Swedish Americans in Montana are spread out; Joanne makes the effort to connect with them as a way to share resources and maintain a weaver community in the state.

Beyond teaching, Joanne's accomplishments include awards and commissioned pieces, the latter which are featured in spaces across the US, from galleries to hospitals. In 1990, she was invited to weave a series of six tapestries for Montana Fish Wildlife and Park's Percent for the Arts initiative. In 1995, Joanne wove her largest tapestry for a hospital in Dallas; titled "Texas Wildflowers," it is 20-feet tall and over 8-feet wide. Similarly, she wove another 16-foot wide tapestry for a cancer treatment center. For these large tapestries, traditional tapestry techniques would require years to complete them, so she innovated; instead of traditional techniques, she leaned into her knowledge of Swedish techniques developed during the arts and crafts movement from over 100 years ago. Further, as an honor for her 50 years of teaching, she received the Montana Living Treasures award in 1996, primarily for her contributions to Montana weaving organizations and the many weaving workshops. Finally, in 2003, she was invited to exhibit her tapestries at the Montana Governor's mansion.

### **Henry Real Bird, *Cowboy Poetry***

Henry Real Bird's work is a communicative art; it is poetry that blends his Native heritage with the identity of an "assimilated Indian." Via his work, he brings ancient wisdom to life, transforming it into poetry, essays, plays, and performances. His writing offers a Apsáalooke perspective on the Western North American cattle culture, weaving his thoughts into soundscapes that create emotionally evocative imagery. Henry sees poetry as true freedom—a way to explore the deeper meanings of life.

Henry was raised on the Crow Reservation ranch lands by his grandparents, who taught him Crow, his first and primary language. This deeply influences his poetry, as his poems begin in Crow in his mind before being translated into English. This process gives his work a unique rhythm and depth, reflecting the dual experience of living as both a Native person and a cowboy. Through this lens, his poetry offers insight into a life of navigating both Western culture and the traditions and mysticism that anchor him in his Crow identity and perspective. The Native perspective in his poetry is deeply rooted in the past, in the traditions of his Crow ancestors, where thoughts were once expressed through cave drawings depicting events like buffalo jumps.

Moreover, his poetry reflects the rich history of cowboy poetry brought to the region by Irish and Hungarian cowboys who traveled up the trail through Dodge City and the trailhead of Miles City. These cowboys brought folk songs that explored the experiences and etiquette of cowboy life—stories that cowboy poets continue to retell. Henry adds a new dimension to this tradition by offering the perspective of a Native cowboy, blending classic cowboy songs with the wisdom of his heritage.

Henry has been deeply involved in the education and cultural preservation of Crow tradition throughout his career. He served as Curriculum Coordinator for Project Head Start, Language Arts Supervisor at St. Xavier Indian Mission, and Summer Program Planner for 4-H and Youth Programs on the Crow Reservation. His leadership extended to his role as president of Little Big Horn College and as a member of the Montana Advisory Committee on Children and Youth, as well as the Crow Central Education Commission. Real Bird also co-developed The Indian Reading Series, a language development program used on twelve Native American reservations in the Northwest. Passionate about keeping the Crow language alive, he wrote both in Crow and English. Finally, in the summer of 2010, a year after being appointed the third poet laureate of Montana by Governor Brian Schweitzer, Henry embarked on a 415-mile journey by horseback, during which he distributed books of poetry to communities along his path, aiming to bring literature to rural areas.



Henry is not short on accomplishments. In addition to his history as poet laureate, he has authored six anthologies, four collections of poetry, and twelve children’s books, which he illustrated. He is also an active and decades-long participant in the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, where he recites his work annually. Further, his poetry earned him the prestigious Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and has been documented by the Library of Congress, featured by entities such as Yellowstone Public Radio, Humanities Montana, and the Western Folklife Center. In 2012, Henry was named Cowboy Poet of the Year at the 16th annual Academy of Western Artists Will Roger Awards. In 2020, Henry’s poem “Thought” was documented and archived by the Library of Congress in their “Living Nations, Living Words” collection.

**Tim Ryan, *Native Lifeways and Tools***

Tim Ryan’s research of Salish seasonal rounds, lifeways and economy has moved him to resurrect, utilize, and promote the use of the traditional tools and materials goods used by his ancestors, and has led him to be an instructor of traditional skills. Such tools include grinding stones, stone hammers and axes, bison bladder canteens, beaded materials, digging sticks and stick games, fishing tools, parfleche and rawhide works, bows/ arrows, and bark baskets and containers.

As an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Tim’s work embodies the material culture and traditional, place-based ecological knowledge preserved by his ancestors over thousands of years. Each tool Tim creates represents those that his people used as they thrived on the land through their seasonal rounds. For example, digging sticks were passed down by women who used them to harvest bitterroot growing near camps. Bitterroot was a vital food source, especially when hunting parties returned empty-handed. The digging stick, akin to a Native crowbar, was designed with precision: the ground served as the fulcrum, the shaft as leverage, and the person applied force. The intentional curve of the stick acted as a lever, much like a foot in terms of physics, and it was sized to each individual to prevent strain on the user’s back. While this is just one of countless examples, by understanding both the historical significance and the science into such material culture and Indigenous technologies, those who view and utilize Tim’s work quickly understand that Native practices, developed over millennia, were far from primitive, remain applicable to everyday life, and represent his people’s deep connection to and knowledge of the land.



He has shared this knowledge through various means, including demonstrations, hands-on traditional skill teachings, and contributions to publications. His work has also been featured in interpretive centers and museums, as well as through collaborations with federal and state agencies, civic organizations, schools via OPI's Indian Education for All, summer youth camps, and in his role at Salish Kootenai College. He has worked with institutions such as school districts, Tribal Social Services, Butte Public Archives, Circle of Trust Suicide Prevention, Glacier National Park, the Montana State Office of Tourism, and Salish Kootenai College. Additionally, Tim has contributed material culture items to entities like Kootenai National Forest, Montana Historical Society, and the National Bison Range. Through camps and courses, such as the five-day "Salish Pend d'Orielle Culture Camp" and "Bridging the Divide Culture Camp," Tim teaches students about traditional ecological knowledge, cultural practices, history, and tool use.

In his current role as Department Head for Culture and Language in the Native American Studies Division, Tim facilitates experiential learning in Native American culture, incorporating STEM, Indigenous sciences, ethnobotany, natural history, and traditional lifeways, all of which are woven into the seasonal rounds of the Salish and Pend d'Oreille Tribes of Montana. When teaching his courses, Tim aligns the information taught with the seasonal rounds. Tim is also Project Supervisor for the summer youth program called Mission Mountain Youth Crew, teaching students of Flathead Reservation forest restoration, including through use of traditional ways and handtools, with career tract exposure in the natural resource fields, ensuring the Native perspective impacts those fields for generations to come. For the Butte High School History Club, he led activities such as bison butchering using traditional stone tools, stone tool making, hide processing, and willow fish trap construction. Overall, Tim has dedicated his life to preserving and sharing traditional knowledge—which has been documented through innumerable publications and videos—while teaching tool craftsmanship and use, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their cultural heritage.

# PERCENT FOR ART

## Percent for Art

In 1983, the 48th Montana Legislature "... in recognition of its responsibility to create a more humane environment of distinction, enjoyment, and pride for all its citizens and in recognition that public art is a resource that stimulates the vitality and economy of the state's communities and provides opportunity for artists to practice their crafts", enacted a law providing that, "capital project appropriations by the legislature shall include ... an amount not to exceed 1% of the amount appropriated for the use of the Montana Arts Council for the acquisition of art for new state buildings..."

- The Montana Arts Council has administered this program since its inception in 1985, already placing art in more than 18 state buildings.
- The most recent project is the DNRC Eastern Land Office in Miles City.

*The crew at Montana State University's historic Romney Hall installing work funded by Percent for Art.*



# Report from the Executive Director

TO: Montana Arts Council Members  
FROM: Krys Holmes, Executive Director

---

The first half of FY 2025 has been focused on

- Statewide outreach, community meetings, and conversations to gather data and feedback from artists, arts organizations, community leaders, and individual Montanans about the needs and challenges facing the creative field;
- Creating the Strategic Plan – (which we'll talk about next) to fulfill NEA requirements and to focus MAC activities and budget toward addressing current challenges and opportunities for the arts in Montana;
- Participating in the biennial budget process, in collaboration with the Governor's budget office (which you've already heard about);
- Continuing to improve and adjust our programs, guidelines, and internal operating systems to enhance efficiency and better respond to constituents and state requirements;
- Building collaborations with other agencies & organizations.

## **Poet Laureate Anthology**

In collaboration with Montana Historical Society Press (MSHP), we published the first-ever anthology of works by Montana poets laureate 2005-2025 – and the first volume of poetry published by MHSP. This compendium collects the works of all laureates named since the start of the program. The book was released on November 20th with a launch party and reading in Helena. Farcountry Press is distributing the book to bookstores and retailers throughout the region. Reading events in Missoula, Bozeman, Billings and Kalispell are planned for National Poetry Month in April 2025.

**The book was designed by Eric Heidle, and it was Kristin Burgoyne's idea. Kudos to them.**

## **NEA Partnership Application**

The team submitted our annual partnership application to the National Endowment for the Arts in October. Applications are in review; awards for FY2026 will be announced in the spring.

## **Goals/OGSM**

During his first term, Gov Gianforte began requiring every agency to submit a one-page OGSM sheet for every 6-month period. OGSM – Objectives, Goals, Strategies, and Measures – a tool to focus all agency work on achieving stated goals, outlining who is responsible for each step, and what the measurable outcome is of each. We submitted our first OGSM to the Governor in July, with approval by the Executive Committee. The next will be due in January 2025.

The OGSM is an agency-wide tool. From this we established a set of weekly goals for each staff member that aligns our activities with the OGSM, and helps us measure progress toward achieving the measurable goals.

The Strategic Plan outlines the overarching direction of focus for MAC for the next 5 years, through 2030. The OGSM outlines the 6-month goals within that overarching direction. The weekly staff goals provide the regular tool to keep us focused and moving forward. Each one of these frameworks feeds and informs the others. Together these three tools both guide and explain the work we do on behalf of Montanans in fulfilling our mission during this time period.

## MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL OGSM

**Objectives: Generate arts-based community vitality / Celebrate the Montana way of life / Improve service to Montanans**

Goals	Strategies	Who	Measures by 12/31/2024
Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Compatible w mission	Steps we will take / Should be flexible or adaptable		Checkpoints to determine if our strategies are working
<b>Strengthen artists &amp; arts industry statewide</b>	Create & pilot Arts in Health & Community Dev advisory group Conduct outreach in Glasgow area for MT Artrepreneur Program (MAP) Review & update grant program guidelines and internal policies for consistency & to incorporate previous ARMs Publish Poet Laureate Anthology Induct up to 3 new artists into MT Circle of American Masters Launch at least one Traditional Arts Apprenticeship	KH MG KB  EH BM BM	Draft program outline by 12/31/24 If appropriate, conduct Glasgow cohort by 11/23/24 New guidelines & policies drafted by 12/31/24  Anthology published by 11/30/24 By 12/31/24 By 12/31/24
<b>MAC becomes a hub of artists, events, &amp; arts opportunities statewide</b>	Collaborate with Commerce to expand online arts events calendar Create online database of artists& arts opportunities for MAC network Create biweekly e-blast of events, activities, calls for artists, etc. Revamp State of the Arts to reflect current needs Support arts field's professional development needs	EH EH KH EH KH	Challenges identified & plan in place by 12/31/24 Challenges identified & plan in place by 12/31/24 Eblasts launched by 11/30/24 Redesign/new style book created by 12/31/24 Create & present 3 workshops by 10/31/24
<b>Increase private investment in the arts in Montana</b>	Build relationships with national arts funders	KH	Potential partnerships identified / attend Grantmakers in the Arts in October
<b>Improve constituent services, responsiveness, accountability</b>	Create new 3-5 year Strategic Plan as required by NEA	KH	13 community meetings / Plan approved by Council Dec 6, 2024

## MAP update

We conducted a survey of MAP participants from recent years. Based on many thoughtful and extensive comments, we plan to update and revamp the MAP program to provide a) more resources for literary, performing, and non-visual artists; b) a more updated curriculum that reflects current practices; and c) more web-friendly and evergreen lessons and tools beyond the current book-oriented curriculum.

One goal of the Strategic Plan is to provide more professional development tools for artists of all kinds, and to arts organizations who struggle with common challenges. So in 2025 we will be updating MAP with these expansions and goals in mind.

We did cancel the spring 2025 MAP cohort in Glasgow due to lack of participants. MAP cohorts must have a minimum of eight participants to generate the sense of community, momentum, and cross-fertilization that makes MAP most meaningful, and despite several months of concentrated outreach across NE Montana, we did not get that number. (The Fall 2024 Central MT cohort, with nine participants, is just completing.)

We will put the MAP program on pause for 2025-26 while we update and reorganize the program. Concurrently, Brian Moody will be taking over managing MAP. **We believe MAP is unique among state arts agency offerings; has been extremely effective and popular in the past; and shows great potential as an incubator of small arts businesses in Montana.** It is worth the time and investment we are making to update and improve this program.

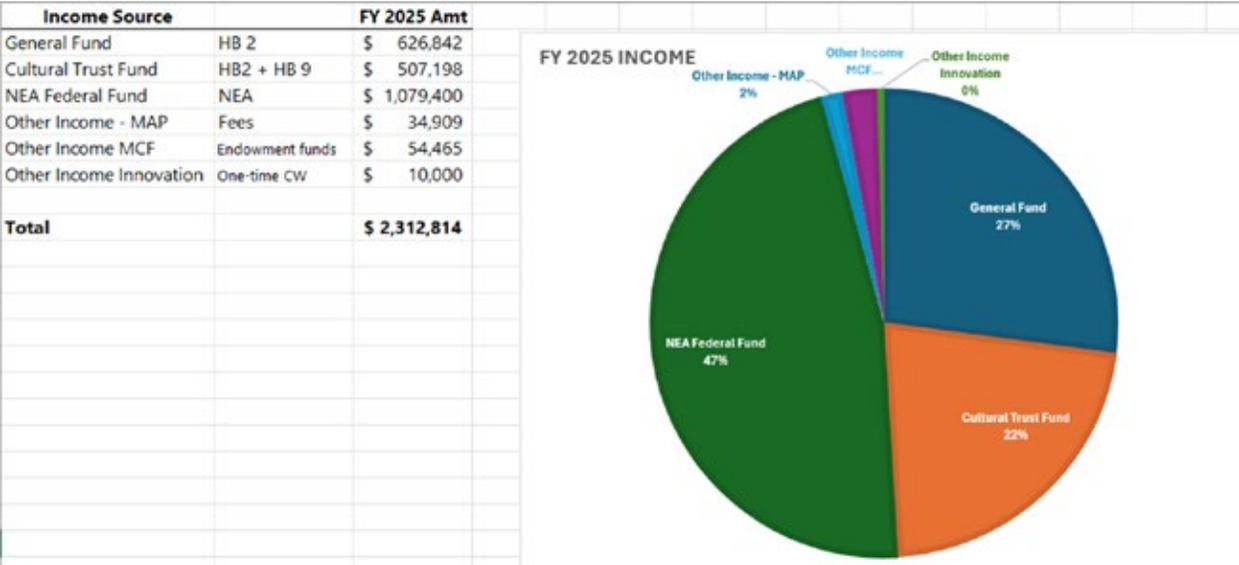
## Partnerships & collaborations

One of the themes we're working on this year is partnering with other sectors and organizations to bring art into all areas of community life. Partnerships we have formed include:

- **Cardiovascular Learning Lab** (a project of DPHHS) – looking at ways to engage artists in helping achieve better public health outcomes in cardiovascular and diabetes areas of concern
- **Montana Project to End Childhood Hunger** – collaborating in developing a project to enhance nutrition, celebrate Indigenous foodways, and promote cross-generational healthy eating habits through art, video, and online media
- **Revitalize Rural Montana** (a project of MSU Cooperative Extension) – bringing Montana's arts network into discussions of economic revitalization of rural communities
- **Grantmakers in the Arts** (a national nonprofit) – collaboration to make available to all Montana arts and culture organizations an intensive 3-hour training in nonprofit finance and sustainability. This workshop was held online Nov 14, and engaged 35 Montana organizations.
- **Co-Lab for Civic Imagination** (University of MT) – a fruitful partnership in developing future plans and programs to bring art into health and community well-being.

# MAC Budget 101: Orientation Refresher

**MAC is funded through a complex array of state, federal, and private funds:**



**STATE FUNDS** come from the General Fund (through HB2) and from the Cultural Trust Fund (through HB2 + HB9)

**OTHER STATE FUNDS** come from Percent for Art funds that are administratively appropriated to MAC from the Department of Administration (DOA) as state construction projects are legislatively approved. We receive 1% of whatever amount is allocated to each project.

**FEDERAL FUNDS** come from the National Endowment for the Arts, via a partnership agreement.

**NONBUDGETED INCOME** comes from several sources:

- Participant fees from MAP
- Two endowment funds at MCF (AISC, MCAM, GAA)
- Other sources as opportunities arise

Nonbudgeted funds are not legislatively appropriated, therefore cannot be used toward our NEA match requirement.

**Budget Timelines: Think biennium AND fiscal year**

2025 Biennium		2027 Biennium	
FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Budget period ended	Current fiscal year	Governor’s Biennium	budget just released

## 2027 Biennial budgeting process (HB 2 + HB 4 + HB 9)

- Starting budget = Current fiscal year HB 2 amounts.
- Personal services were increased based on the snapshot taken in July 2024.
- Spring/Summer 2024 – agency worked with State Information Technology Services Division to determine what services we will need in the upcoming biennium.
- Spring 2024 – agency developed and submitted requests above the FY 2025 budget to the Governor’s budget office. (Art Revives, Arts In Health, additional NEA match)
- Summer 2024 – Agency worked with the Governor’s budget office to finalize fixed-cost rates and additional requests
- September 2024 – agency submitted full budget request to the Governor’s budget office.
- November 15, 2024 – Governor published his final proposed budget. This is when we officially found out if any of our requests were approved by the Governor.
- January – April 2025 – legislature considers Governor’s budget throughout the session.

The 2027 Biennium budget takes effect July 1, 2025.

Happily, the Governor’s proposed budget, published November 15, 2024, **did include our \$55,000 request** for additional General Funds. This amount allows MAC to distribute up to \$55,000 in grants to individual artists, over and above our required NEA match – since NEA funds cannot be used for grants to individuals.

### FY 2026 MAC Budgeting Process

- Feb 2025: Staff begins drafting FY 2026 budget, based on the Governor’s 2027 biennium budget figures
- May 2025: Staff submits FY 2026 budget to Executive Committee and Full Council
- May/June 2025: Council adopts FY 2026 budget
- July 1, 2025: FY 2026 budget takes effect.

### Fiscal Year Reference

FY 2024 July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	}	2025 Biennium
FY 2025 July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025		
FY 2026 July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026	}	2027 Biennium
FY 2027 July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027		

**What questions do you have about our budgeting process, or about how MAC gets funded?**

# ABOUT THE MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

*Council member Corky  
Clairmont leading a  
print workshop at his  
home studio near Pablo.*



# Frequently-Used Acronyms

<b>ADA</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act
<b>AFTA</b>	Americans for the Arts
<b>AIA</b>	Artist's Innovation Awards
<b>AIE</b>	Arts in Education
<b>AISC</b>	Artists in the Schools and Communities
<b>ARPA</b>	American Rescue Plan Act
<b>CoP</b>	Communities of Practice
<b>C&amp;A</b>	Cultural and Aesthetic Grant Program also referred to as Cultural Trust
<b>CARES</b>	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020
<b>501-c-3</b>	Internal Revenue Service code for charitable organizations
<b>504</b>	504 Section for the '83 Rehab Act – <i>Access for People with Disabilities</i>
<b>GAA</b>	Governor's Arts Awards
<b>GIA</b>	Grantmakers in the Arts
<b>IMLS</b>	Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency
<b>MAC</b>	Montana Arts Council
<b>MACAEF</b>	Montana Arts Council Arts Education Fund
<b>MACGAAF</b>	Montana Arts Council Governor's Award for the Arts Fund
<b>MAGDA</b>	Montana Art Gallery Director's Association
<b>MAM</b>	Montana Association of Museums
<b>MAP</b>	Montana Artrepreneur Program
<b>MASO</b>	Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras
<b>MCAM</b>	Montana's Circle of American Masters
<b>MCF</b>	Montana Community Foundation
<b>MDAA</b>	Montana Dance Arts Association
<b>MPAC</b>	Montana Performing Arts Consortium
<b>MTLA</b>	Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts
<b>NASAA</b>	National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
<b>NEA</b>	National Endowment for the Arts
<b>NISP</b>	National Information Standards Project, a coding for arts funding
<b>NEH</b>	National Endowment for the Humanities
<b>OPI</b>	Office of Public Instruction
<b>PL</b>	Poet Laureate
<b>POL</b>	Poetry Out Loud
<b>PVP</b>	Public Value Partnership
<b>RFP</b>	Request for Proposal
<b>SAA</b>	State Arts Agency
<b>SABHRS</b>	Statewide Accounting Budgeting and Human Resources System
<b>SHPO</b>	State Historic Preservation Office
<b>SIG</b>	Strategic Investment Grants
<b>SITSD</b>	State Information Technology Service Division
<b>SSO</b>	Statewide Service Organization
<b>SWCAP</b>	Statewide Cost Allocation Plan
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TCG</b>	Theatre Communications Group
<b>WESTAF</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto: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 10-15 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 into the 2024 fiscal year with our inclusion in Lifetime Arts' Advancing Creative Aging in Western Region initiative, funded by the Smith Charitable Trust.

In the spring of 2023, a grant proposal was submitted to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) grant opportunity, States Leading Creative Aging that would provide funding to support professional development for teaching artists and MAC-initiated pilot projects that would pair trained teaching artists with arts and non-arts organizations looking to begin Creative Aging programs. MAC is planning a modest investment toward teaching artist training with or without being awarded the NASAA grant.

**Timeline:** TBD / Ongoing

**Staff Contact:** Monica Grable [Monica.Grable@mt.gov](mailto: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](mailto:brian.moody2@mt.gov), 406-444-4700

Taylor Burby, [folkloristburby@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Applications are accepted once or twice yearly, with the opportunity to join a cohort in identified changing locations around the state. The program is traditionally comprised of four in-person weekend workshops (once every 3-4 weeks) and interim meetings via Zoom. MAC partners with museums and galleries around the state to act as hosts. Participants in MAP are asked to pay a fee of \$500 to cover the purchase of the MAP text and supplies and a small portion of the venue rental cost. MAC invests approximately \$2000 per participant, covering the expenses of the coach/teaching artist and venue expenses.

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

**Staff Contact:** Monica Grable [Monica.Grable@mt.gov](mailto:Monica.Grable@mt.gov) | 406.444.6522

**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](mailto:brian.moody2@mt.gov), 406-444-4700  
Taylor Burby, [folkloristburby@gmail.com](mailto: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 for FY24-25 will be determined by MAC and DOA Architecture & Engineering based on HB5 eligible projects after the legislative session.

### Staff Contact

Kristin Burgoyne, [kburgoyne@mt.gov](mailto: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](mailto:eric.heidle@mt.gov), 406-444-6133

### Website Link

[https://art.mt.gov/poet\\_laureate](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-five 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 \$20K 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](http://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](mailto: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 panel processes in FY 2023 to determine funding for FY 2024-2025. The Cultural Trust will have 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 2025 (FY 2025) for FY 2026-2027.

### **Staff Contact**

Kristin Burgoyne, [kburgoyne@mt.gov](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. When the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend, the deadline becomes the first business day following the weekend.

### **Staff Contact**

Brian Moody, [brian.moody2@mt.gov](mailto: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](mailto:brian.moody2@mt.gov), 406-444-4700

Taylor Burby, [folkloristburby@gmail.com](mailto: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

<b>Term Expiration Date</b>		<b>Council Member</b>	<b>Member Since</b>
February	2025	Sean Falcon Chandler	February 2016
February	2025	Angela Russell	February 2020
February	2025	Sarah Calhoun	April 2021
February	2025	Wylie Gustafson	April 2021
February	2025	Linda Netschert	April 2021
February	2027	Troy Collins	February 2022
February	2027	Julie Mac	February 2022
February	2027	John L. Moore	February 2022
February	2027	Vacant	February 2022
February	2027	Bridger Pierce	February 2022
February	2028	Corwin Clairmont	May 2008
February	2028	Jay Pyette, Vice Chair	April 2013
February	2028	Angella Ahn	May 2018
February	2028	Steve Zabel, Chair	April 2021
February	2028	Cat McIntyre	June 2023

The Boards and Appointments Advisor to the Governor’s office, will be sending out notices to all council members whose terms are expiring by early December. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(C) 917-882-3288  
[angella.ahn@montana.edu](mailto:angella.ahn@montana.edu)

**Sarah Calhoun**

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

**Sean Falcon Chandler**

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

**Corwin (Corky)  
Clairmont**

33608 Emory Road  
Ronan, MT 59864  
(C) (406) 214-5444  
(H) (406) 675-4088  
[corwin\\_clairmont@skc.edu](mailto:corwin_clairmont@skc.edu)

**Troy Collins**

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

**Wylie Galt Gustafson**

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

**Julie Mac**

6479 US Highway 93 S #424  
Whitefish, MT 59937  
[julie@jmacvideo.com](mailto: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](mailto:catscornerstudio@gmail.com)

**John Moore**

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

**Linda Netschert**

300 E Loren Rd  
Helena, MT 59602  
(w) (406) 422-1263  
[linda@farcountrypress.com](mailto:linda@farcountrypress.com)

**Bridger Pierce**

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

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

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

**Angela Russell**

P.O. Box 333  
Lodge Grass, MT 59050  
(C) (406) 860-2974  
(W)(406) 639-2947  
[Russella687@gmail.com](mailto:Russella687@gmail.com)

**Steve Zabel  
Chair**

Bozeman, MT  
(406) 581-5366  
[steve@montanatrails.com](mailto: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, 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 Grants**

*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.*

# 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.*

## **Governor's Arts Awards 2022**

*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  
Julie Mac  
John Moore  
Sarah Calhoun

## **Poet Laureate 2023**

*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  
Bridger Pierce  
Angela Russell  
Linda Netschert  
Sarah Calhoun  
Troy Collins

## **Executive Director Search Committee Summer 2023**

Executive Committee

## **Folk and Traditional Arts Committee**

June 2023, authorization of a Folk and Traditional Arts Committee composed of five members plus the Chair (ex officio), committee duties will be developed.

Members: Corky Clairmont, Chair  
Sean Chandler  
Wylie Gustafson  
Julie Mac  
Jay Pyyette  
Angela Russell

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

## **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.

# MAC Staff

## **Jenifer Alger**

Chief Financial Officer

(406) 444-6489

[jeniferalger@mt.gov](mailto:jeniferalger@mt.gov)

## **Krys Holmes**

Executive Director

(406) 444-6520

[Krys.Holmes@mt.gov](mailto:Krys.Holmes@mt.gov)

## **Kristin Han Burgoyne**

Deputy Director

(406) 444-6449

[kburgoyne@mt.gov](mailto:kburgoyne@mt.gov)

## **Brian Moody**

Program Officer

(406) 444-4700

[brian.moody2@mt.gov](mailto:brian.moody2@mt.gov)

## **Monica Grable**

Arts Education Director

(406) 444-6522

[monica.grable@mt.gov](mailto:monica.grable@mt.gov)

## **Ginny Newman**

Business Specialist

(406) 444-6354

[Virginia.Newman@mt.gov](mailto:Virginia.Newman@mt.gov)

## **Eric Heidle**

Communication Director

(406) 444-6133

[eric.heidle@mt.gov](mailto:eric.heidle@mt.gov)

*Bleu Horses, by Governor's  
Arts Award honoree Jim Dolan,  
grace the foothills above the  
headwaters of the Missouri*



**MONTANA  
ARTS COUNCIL**