

THE MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

A photograph of a woman in profile, singing and playing an acoustic guitar. She is wearing a white t-shirt and a dark vest. In the background, another person is visible, also playing a guitar. The setting appears to be a room with large windows, possibly a rehearsal space or a recording studio. The lighting is warm and natural, coming from the windows.

DECEMBER 2025 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:

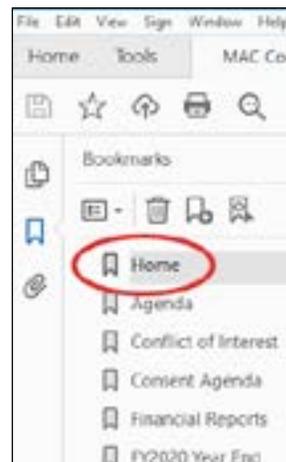
The information in the book is organized by the order in which it appears in the meeting's **agenda**, located on the [following page](#).



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 on the 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: Smith River Young plays at the June Council meeting at the Ringling Mansion in White Sulphur Springs.

Schedule

Thursday, December 4, 2025

After 3 pm Traveling Council members may check-in
Hotel Arvon
118 1st Ave S
Great Falls, MT 59401

4:30 pm Tour of CM Russell Museum
5:30-7:30pm Community Reception CMR Museum
400 13th St N

Dinner on your own

Friday, December 5, 2025

Council Meeting Great Falls
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art
1400 First Avenue North



MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

Council Meeting

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 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 or through [this webform](#). Written comments received 24 hours before the meeting will be distributed to the Council before the meeting.

Zoom: <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/87274799233?pwd=fAqHmd3z67zZ1uKSuy7e5dlTCXr9jv.1>

Meeting ID: 872 7479 9233

Password: 829056

Dial by Telephone +1 646 558 8656

Lunch will be provided for Arts Council members, presenters and staff.

Proposed Business Meeting Agenda

Friday, December 5, 2025

9:00am

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Room 35

1400 First Avenue North

Great Falls, Montana

9:00 am

Arrival

9:30 am

Call to Order

Steve Zabel

Opening remarks & Tribal acknowledgement

Attendance: Council and members of the Public

Elaina Tenter

Welcome to new members

Opening Icebreaker

Council Members: Book recommendations. 2 minutes each

What are you reading, and what's one point you'd like to share? (A thought, an author, an idea, what you benefited from, etc.)

General Business

Krys Holmes

Call for Public Comment

Approval of Proposed Agenda and Council Meeting Minutes June 5, 2025

► *Action proposed: Motion to approve*

Conflicts of Interest

Next Meetings

Determine Dates Fort Benton Spring 2026

December 6, 2026, Helena Winter 2026

Governor's Arts Awards + Heritage Center

Determine Location Spring 2027

Cost estimates for Havre-Harlem, Miles City, Dillon-Twin Bridges

Bylaws Review, if needed

10:30 am

Fiscal Year 2025 Year End Financial Report

Jenifer Alger

► *Action proposed: Motion to approve*

Fiscal Year 2026 Year To Date Report

Jenifer Alger

► *Action proposed: Motion to approve*

Report from the Chair

Steve Zabel

Report from the Executive Director

Krys Holmes

11:15 am Break

11:00 am Introduction of the 2025-2027 Poet Laureate Allen Morris Jones

11:30 am Panel Discussion: Literature and Publishing in Montana

12:15 pm Working Lunch, Panel Discussion continues

1:00 pm Tour of Paris Gibson Square

1:30 pm

Committee Reports + Recruitment

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: Ratification of TAAP Application*

Fundraising Committee

Steve Zabel

Percent for Art Projects

Kristin Burgoyne

2:15 pm NASAA Update: Native Communities Initiative

Sean Chandler

2:30 pm Legislative Update

Drew Geiger

3:15 pm Federal Funding Discussion

Krys Holmes

3:45 pm New Business

Steve Zabel

4:00 pm - Adjourn

Dinner on your Own

Dinner Suggestions

Annie's Taphouse 112 Central Ave

City Bar and Casino 709 Central Ave

Elevation 3330 410 Central Ave

Enbar 8 5th St S

5th & Wine 214 5th St S

Fire Artisan Pizza 107 5th St N

Halftime Sports Bar 1101 NW Bypass

Heidelberg Lounge 27 Division Rd

Kellergeist 111 Central Ave

Littles Lanes Bar & Casino 517 1st Ave N

Magpie 202 2nd Ave S

Mighty Mo 412 Central Ave

Rib and Chop House 21 3rd St N

SideQuest/The Block 2 5th St S

Sip 'n Dip Lounge 17 7th St S

Snits Bar & Casino 619 Central Ave

Stein Haus 711 1st Ave N

The Celtic Cowboy 116 1st Ave S (at Arvon Hotel)

The Newberry 420 Central Ave

The Press Club 421 Central Ave

The Station District 119 River Dr N

The Wild Hare 518 Central Ave

Tracy's Diner 127 Central Ave

Shopping

Pizazz 403 Central Ave

Hoglund's Western Wear 306 1st Ave S

The Farmer's Daughter Fibers 320 Central Ave

Additional Activities to Consider

Dec 4, 10:30am: Letters from Charlie: Insights from
Russell's Correspondence at CMR Museum

Dec 4, 7:30pm: John Morgan, The Newberry,
420 Central Ave

Dec 5, 5-8:30pm: Christmas Light Showdown,
Anaconda Hills Golf Course 2315 Smelter Ave

Minutes of the Montana Arts Council

Minutes of the Montana Arts Council

In open session

Friday, May 6, 2025

White Sulphur Springs Montana

The meeting was called to order at 8:52.

1. Attendance:

Council Members Present: Angella Ahn, Sarah Calhoun, Sean Chandler, Corky Clairmont, Troy Collins, Vice-Chair Jay Pyette, Angela Russell, Chair Steve Zabel

Council Members Present Online: Wylie Gustafson, Julie Mac, Cat McIntyre, Linda Netschert

Council Members Absent: John Moore, Bridger Pierce

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

Guests: Katie Hughes, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) Senior Development Manager, Paul Stahl, Montana Cultural Advocacy, Drew Geiger, CMS Communications.

Chair Zabel welcomed everyone. Corky Clairmont opened the meeting with the history of this area and the importance of this land. He thanked Sarah Calhoun for opening her home and inviting the community to the reception last night. Ginny Newman recorded attendance.

- 2. Public Comment:** Executive Director Holmes 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. Consent Agenda and Council Meeting Minutes April 28, 2025:** Jay Pyette moved, and Sarah Calhoun seconded approval the proposed agenda and minutes of the Full Council open session on April 28, 2025. Motion carried on a voice vote with no dissents.
- 4. Conflicts of Interest:** Jay Pyette noted a conflict of interest with Montana Actors Theatre, a Public Value Partnership applicant.
- 5. Next Meetings:** Krys Holmes reminded everyone the next meeting will be in Great Falls on Friday, December 5, 2025.

6. **Fiscal Year 2025 Year to Date Financial Report and Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget:**

Jenifer Alger presented the fiscal year 2025 year to date financial report and the fiscal year 2026 proposed budget available in the council book. Jenifer noted the agency usually knows the NEA funding amount prior to this meeting but delays at the federal level with review of general terms and conditions are impacting the timeline. The council discussed the report and proposed budget. Krys Holmes noted the particularly challenging spring for budget planning and commends Jenifer on her hard work and calm demeanor. Angella Ahn moved, and Corky Clairmont seconded approval, as submitted, the FY2025 Year to Date Fiscal Report. Motion carried on a voice vote with no dissents.

Jay Pyette moved, and Linda Netschert seconded approval, as submitted, the FY2026 Proposed Budget with acknowledgment that budget adjustments may be needed when NEA funding is finalized. Motion carried on a voice vote with no dissents.

7. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee: Chair Zabel noted the Executive Committee has not met since the last meeting.

Strategic Investment Grant Committee: Jay Pyette reviewed the information in the Strategic Investment Grant Committee memo provided in the Council book. The committee is accepting applications again following a hiatus while fiscal year 2025 funds were fully expended. The committee is trying a new scoring system for applications.

Arts Education Committee: Angella Ahn reviewed the information in the Arts Education Committee memo provided in the Council book. This spring, the committee reviewed the Artists in Schools and Communities experiences applications and approved the panel recommendations for the residency applications, presented to the Council at the April 28, 2025 zoom meeting. Monica Grable notes the workload is heavy and she appreciates the work of the committee.

Governor's Arts Awards Committee: Wylie Gustafson notes the program is in the off year and has not met since the December ceremony.

Poet Laureate Committee: Sean Chandler commended the work of the outgoing Poet Laureate, Chris La Tray. Eric Heidle discussed that Chris La Tray is a relentless advocate and provides some background and information about the nomination process. Nominations opened June 5 and will close on June 30. The review committee will present recommendations to the Council and the Council will present three nominees to the Governor's office.

Folk Arts Committee: Corky Clairmont discussed the ceremony and celebration in May. He provided a brief background on each honoree. The apprenticeship program is currently seeking applications to be reviewed in the fall of 2025.

Fundraising Task Force: Chair Zabel notes the fundraising task force is new and exploring possible ideas for more Montanans to get involved in the arts and inspire funders. The Council discussed possible options and ideas.

Percent for Art Projects: Kristin Burgoyne provided background and will keep the Council informed of any projects that emerge from the 2025 legislative session.

- 8. Committee Assignments:** Committee assignments were reviewed based on the email sent by Steve Zabel last week. Wylie Gustafson will be stepping away from the Strategic Investment Grant committee. If Council members wish to make changes, they will contact Steve Zabel or Krys Holmes.
- 9. NASAA Update Native Communities Initiative:** Sean Chandler 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. Sean discussed the professional development tribal relations training that will be available to state arts agencies this summer. Sean discussed how NASAA is funded and introduced Katie Hughes, the Senior Development Manager at NASAA. Katie discussed resources available from NASAA and how council members can support NASAA. Krys noted that NASAA provides excellent guidance.
- 10. Public Value Partnership + Statewide Service Organization Grant Recommendations:** Kristin Burgoyne provided a handout of recommended funding and emailed the list to council members online. There was a brief discussion of how these grants could be impacted by changes in federal funding availability. Sean Chandler moved, and Corky Clairmont seconded approval of the recommendations. Motion carried on a voice vote with no dissents and one abstention.
- 11. Report from the Executive Director:** Executive Director Krys Holmes reviewed recent events and uncertainties outlined in her memo.
- 12. Legislative Update:** Drew Geiger gave the Council an update of political and legislative issues as they relate to the arts in Montana and answered questions from council members.
- 13. Cultural Advocacy Update:** Paul Stahl from Montana Cultural Advocacy introduced himself and provided a history of the organization since 1979. Montana Cultural Advocacy was historically a robust organization, has gone through cycles and changes, and has recently built back up to an unpaid executive committee that hires a lobbyist to help navigate legislative issues, and also helps with advocacy on the federal level.
- 14. Orientation Refresher + Federal Funding Discussion:** Krys presented an orientation refresher that focused on advocacy and the arts council members' most appropriate role in advocacy. Discussion centered on the obligation to keep legislators and congressional delegates informed with reliable information about how public investment in the arts impacts Montana.
- 15. Report from the Chair:** Chair Steve Zabel provided a few remarks.
- 16. New Business:** There was no new business. A planned arts activity with Troy Collins will be rescheduled for another meeting as a collaboration during the community reception.
- 17. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:39pm.

Conflict of Interest

Montana Arts Council Members | December 2025

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
Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program

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.

*Helena boot maker
Mike Ryan in his shop,
with the first pair of
boots he ever made.*

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Memorandum: Fiscal YTD 2025 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 has a net deficit of \$12,400 (\$5,800 decrease from June) in this category. This is due to staff salaries being more than what was included in the personal services snapshot taken in July 2022. Part of the difference from June includes lower than expected council stipend payments.

Programs

MAC is projecting a net surplus of about \$57,000 (\$14,000 increase from June) 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 the accrued MAP income to pay all these expenses. Any remaining income balance will be carried forward to FY 2026.
- Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM), Traditional Artists Apprenticeship Program (TAAP), and Governor’s Arts Awards (GAA) – all underspent due to overestimating expenses.
- State of the Arts (SOA) - The \$4,600 projected overspent is due to commissioning an artist to paint our SOA dispenser and higher than projected postage costs.
- Poetry out Loud (POL). The \$10,600 unspent includes \$7,046 for a short-term POL coordinator position and is included in line 2 – staff salaries + benefits.
- Creative Aging – The \$11,000 unspent was due to timing. The seed projects that were anticipated will happen in FY 2026.
- Folk Arts – Overbudgeted due to a misunderstanding in our NEA partnership agreement. We do not need to match \$1:\$1 by program.

MAC still has the following payments to be made by December 31, 2025:

Rose Williams (TAAP)	\$ 1,000
Artist Commission (SOA)	\$ 650
Various Stipends (POL)	\$ 600
Taylor Burby (Folk Arts)	\$ 9,282
Total	\$11,532

Administration

MAC has a net surplus of \$47,800 (\$23,000 increase from June) and is a result of the following:

- Contracted Services – underspent due to not needing as much for strategic planning and poet laureate anthology as originally projected.
- Supplies – underspent due to delays in being able to order new laptops for Krys and Eric. This amount will carry over into FY 2026 and the laptops will be paid for at that time.
- Travel – underspent due to overestimating council meeting travel.
- Rent – underspent due to not needing some meeting space/room rentals.
- SITSD Fixed Costs – underspent by \$4,356 due to not being billed for 2 services that DOA suggested we include in our budget. This appropriation is restricted to SITSD services and can't be spent on anything else. The remaining balance will revert to the general fund.

Grants

MAC has a net deficit in grants of \$50,400 (\$25,000 decrease from June) and is a result of the following:

- Artists in Schools & Communities (AISC) - \$13,992 overspent due to more than anticipated Experiences grant applications.
- Public Value Partnerships (PVP) – \$49,000 overspent to use excess funds to provide an additional \$1,000 for each grantee.
- Statewide Service Organizations (SSO) - \$5,000 overspent to use excess funds to provide an additional \$1,000 for each grantee.
- Strategic Investment (SIG) - \$4,055 underspent due to some grantees not being able to complete their projects so had to revert their grant.
- Cultural & Aesthetics (C&A) - \$5,000 underspent due to one grantee not being able to complete their project so had to revert their final grant payment.
- Innovation Fund Pilot Project - \$8,500 underspent due to overestimating how many projects would be able to be completed by FYE.

MAC still has \$1,975 in C&A final grant (5 grantees) payments to pay by December 31, 2025.

Remaining Balances/Carryforwards

The remaining balance of \$69,882 (\$56,600 increase from June) consists of the following:

Unused DOA SITSD	\$ 4,356
Unused FY 2024 GF CF	\$ 1,299
Unused Cultural Trust	\$ 5,000
Unused NEA	\$ 44,609
Unused MAP Income	\$ 14,618

The unused DOA SITSD funds reverted to the General Fund. However, MAC will be allowed to carry forward 30% (\$1,307) of the SITSD funds into FY 2026. This carry-forward and the unused FY 2024 will be used toward SIG grants to individuals.

The unused Cultural Trust funds reverted to that fund's corpus.

The unused NEA and MAP funds carried forward into FY 2026.

FY 2025 YDT Montana Arts Council Approved Budget

Line #		FY25 Approved Budget	General Fund 27.22%	Cultural Trust 22.02%	NEA 46.87%	Other Income 3.89%	TOTAL	(Over)/ Under
1	PERSONNEL SERVICES							
2	Staff Salaries + Benefits	\$752,676	\$271,140	\$181,330	\$316,303	-	\$768,773	(\$16,097)
3	Honorariums/Stipends	\$9,000	\$2,050	-	\$3,250	-	\$5,300	\$3,700
4								
5	Total	\$761,676	\$273,190	\$181,330	\$319,553	-	\$779,933	(\$12,397)
6								
7	PROGRAMS							
8	Montana Artrepreneur Program	\$46,825	-	-	-	\$28,797	\$28,797	\$18,028
9	MCAM/TAP	\$33,885	-	-	-	\$28,348	\$28,348	\$5,537
10	GAA	\$10,580	-	-	-	\$6,245	\$6,245	\$4,335
11	AIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	State of the Arts	\$72,000	\$20,212	\$14,532	\$41,854	-	\$76,598	(\$4,598)
13	Poetry Out Loud	\$33,900	-	-	\$23,254	-	\$23,254	\$10,646
14	Creative Aging	\$13,500	\$2,500	-	-	-	\$2,500	\$11,000
15	Folk Arts	\$40,000	-	-	\$28,002	-	\$28,002	\$11,998
16	Percent for Art Excess	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17								
18	Programs: Total	\$250,690	\$22,712	\$14,532	\$93,110	\$63,391	\$193,745	\$56,945
19								
20	ADMINISTRATION							
21	Contracted Services	\$32,575	\$6,189	\$1,658	\$6,743	-	\$14,590	\$17,985
22	Supplies & Materials	\$18,717	\$4,388	\$3,145	\$4,904	-	\$12,437	\$6,280
23	Communications	\$2,775	\$1,545	\$182	\$1,468	-	\$3,194	(\$419)
24	Travel	\$59,287	\$26,341	\$902	\$18,787	-	\$46,030	\$13,257
25	Rent	\$50,841	\$17,182	\$5,131	\$23,642	-	\$45,955	\$4,886
26	Other Expenses	\$60,329	\$19,667	\$8,356	\$30,847	-	\$58,870	\$1,459

FY 2025 YDT Montana Arts Council Approved Budget

Line #		FY25 Approved Budget	General Fund 27.22%	Cultural Trust 22.02%	NEA 46.87%	Other Income 3.89%	TOTAL	(Over)/ Under
27	Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)	\$71,123	\$31,917	\$12,446	\$22,404	-	\$66,767	\$4,356
29								
30	Administration: Total	\$295,647	\$107,229	\$31,820	\$108,795	-	\$247,843	\$47,804
31								
32	GRANTS							
33	Artists in Schools & Communities	\$275,000	\$66,307	-	\$212,685	\$10,000	\$288,992	(\$13,992)
34	Public Value Partnerships	\$294,000	\$102,000	-	\$241,000	-	\$343,000	(\$49,000)
35	Statewide Service Organizations	\$78,000	-	-	\$83,000	-	\$83,000	(\$5,000)
36	Strategic Investment	\$55,000	\$50,945	-	-	-	\$50,945	\$4,055
37	Cultural Trust Grants	\$279,438	-	\$274,437	-	-	\$274,437	\$5,001
38	Innovation Fund Pilot Project	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$8,500
39								
40	Grants: Total	\$991,438	\$219,252	\$274,437	\$536,685	\$11,500	\$1,041,874	(\$50,436)
41								
42	TOTAL FY 2025 EXPENSES	\$2,299,451	\$622,383	\$502,119	\$1,058,143	\$74,891	\$2,257,535	\$41,916
43								
44	TOTAL FY 2025 REVENUES	\$2,302,634	\$626,739	\$507,119	\$1,079,267	\$85,509	\$2,302,634	
45	FYE 2024 Carryforwards	\$24,782	\$1,299	-	\$23,483	-	\$24,782	
46								
47	(OVER)/UNDER	\$27,965	\$5,655	\$5,000	\$44,607	\$14,618	\$69,881	\$69,881

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

- \$28,348 from Governors Awards for Artists Fund (MCF)

Line 10: Programs: GAA

- \$6,245 from Governors Awards for Artists Fund (MCF)

Line 13: Programs: Poetry Out Loud

- \$25,000 from NEA, \$7,046 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 (\$14,075), staff training, subscriptions, registration, meetings

Line 28: Administration: SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)

- Funds are restricted to 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

- \$1,500 from Creative West (formerly WESTAF) innovation funds.

Line 45: FYE 2024 Carryforwards

- FYE 2024 \$1,299 GF spent by 06/30/2026. NEA will be spent by 12/31/2024.

Line 47: (OVER)/UNDER

- \$4,356 GF restricted for SITSD; \$1,299 FY 24 GF CF; \$5,000 CT; \$44,607 NEA; and \$14,618 MAP.

Memorandum: FY2026 Proposed Budget Report

TO: Montana Arts Council Members
FROM: Jenifer Alger | Chief Financial Officer
RE: Fiscal YTD 2026 Budget Report

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

Staff Salaries + Benefits

MAC is projecting a net surplus of \$1,532 in this category.

Programs

MAC is projecting a net surplus of \$8,249 and is a result of the following:

- Poetry out Loud (POL) - The \$8,050 unspent is for a short-term POL coordinator position and is included in line 2 – staff salaries + benefits.

Administration

MAC is projecting a net surplus of \$20,257 and is a result of the following:

- Travel - \$9,600 unspent due to over-projecting staff, panel, and council travel.
- Other Expenses - \$10,500 unspent partially due to over-projecting the amount MAC would owe for SWCAP (Statewide Cost Allocation Program), and less staff conference registrations than originally planned.

Grants

MAC is projecting to spend 100% of the current grant budget.

Montana Community Foundation Endowment Fund Update

The FY 2026 budget uses \$10,000 from the Arts Education Fund to fund AISC grant awards and \$13,650 from the Governor’s Awards for Artists to fund some pre-expenses for the Governors Arts Awards (GAA) ceremony and for some Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program (TAAP) stipends and expenses.

Current balances for both endowments are as follows:

- Arts Education Fund \$13,045
- Governor’s Award for Artists \$42,389

Projected year-end balances are as follows:

- Arts Education Fund \$ 8,734
- Governor’s Award for Artists \$45,618

Remaining Balances/Carryforwards

The projected remaining balance of \$9,223 consists of the following:

Unused NEA \$9,223

Any unused NEA will be carried forward into FY 2027.

FY 2026 YTD Montana Arts Council Approved Budget

Line #		FY26 Approved Budget	General Fund 25.93%	Cultural Trust 26.88%	NEA 45.48%	Other Income 1.71%	TOTAL	(Over)/ Under
1	PERSONNEL SERVICES							
2	Staff Salaries + Benefits	\$785,115	\$263,551	\$185,588	\$331,844	-	\$780,983	\$4,135
3	Honorariums/Stipends	\$9,000	\$5,800	-	\$5,800	-	\$11,600	(\$2,600)
4								
5	Personnel Services: Total	\$794,115	\$269,351	\$185,588	\$337,644	-	\$792,583	\$1,532
6								
7	PROGRAMS							
8	Montana Artrepreneur Program	\$38,800	\$24,181	-	-	\$14,619	\$38,800	-
9	MCAM/TAAP	\$12,450	-	-	-	\$12,450	\$12,450	-
10	GAA	\$1,200	-	-	-	\$1,200	\$1,200	-
11	State of the Arts	\$77,000	\$21,416	\$12,832	\$42,752	-	\$77,000	-
12	Poetry Out Loud	\$33,375	-	-	\$25,325	-	\$25,325	\$8,050
13	Creative Aging	\$12,700	\$5,800	-	-	\$6,700	\$12,500	\$200
14	Arts in Healthcare	\$75,000	-	-	\$75,000	-	\$75,000	-
15	America 250	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000	-	\$25,000	-
16	Folk Arts	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000	-	\$20,000	-
17	Percent for Art Excess	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18								
19	Programs: Total	\$295,525	\$51,397	\$12,832	\$188,077	\$34,969	\$287,275	\$8,250
20								
21	ADMINISTRATION							
22	Contracted Services	\$23,000	\$7,412	\$2,178	\$13,534	-	\$23,124	(\$124)
23	Supplies & Materials	\$27,000	\$8,685	\$2,557	\$14,846	-	\$26,088	\$912
24	Communications	\$4,000	\$1,287	\$379	\$2,154	-	\$3,819	\$181
25	Travel	\$60,000	\$19,299	\$5,682	\$25,379	-	\$50,360	\$9,640
26	Rent	\$47,100	\$18,377	\$5,131	\$24,398	-	\$47,906	(\$806)
27	Other Expenses	\$69,000	\$22,194	\$6,534	\$29,817	-	\$58,545	\$10,455

FY 2026 YTD Montana Arts Council Approved Budget

Line #		FY26 Approved Budget	General Fund 25.93%	Cultural Trust 26.88%	NEA 45.48%	Other Income 1.71%	TOTAL	(Over)/ Under
28	Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)	\$43,250	\$22,058	\$7,569	\$13,623	-	\$43,250	-
30								
31	Administration: Total	\$273,350	\$99,311	\$30,031	\$123,750	-	\$253,092	\$20,258
32								
33	GRANTS							
34	Artists in Schools & Communities	\$299,000	\$110,949	-	\$178,051	\$10,000	\$299,000	-
35	Public Value Partnerships	\$404,000	\$87,000	-	\$317,000	-	\$404,000	-
36	Statewide Service Organizations	\$84,000	-	-	\$84,000	-	\$84,000	-
37	Strategic Investment	\$65,000	\$65,000	-	-	-	\$65,000	-
38	Cultural Trust Grants	\$476,750	-	\$476,750	-	-	\$476,750	-
39	Innovation Fund Pilot Project	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40								
41	Grants: Total	\$1,328,750	\$262,949	\$476,750	\$579,051	\$10,000	\$1,328,750	-
42								
43	TOTAL FY 2026 EXPENSES	\$2,691,740	\$683,008	\$705,201	\$1,228,522	\$44,969	\$2,661,700	\$30,040
44								
45	TOTAL FY 2026 REVENUES	\$2,623,710	\$680,402	\$705,201	\$1,193,138	\$44,969	\$2,623,710	
46	FYE 2025 Carryforwards	\$47,213	\$2,606	-	\$44,607	-	\$47,213	
47								
48	(OVER)/UNDER	(\$20,817)	-	-	\$9,223	-	\$9,223	\$9,223

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

- \$12,450 from Governors Awards for Artists Fund (MCF)

Line 10: Programs: GAA

- \$1,200 from Governors Awards for Artists Fund (MCF)

Line 12: Programs: Poetry Out Loud

- \$25,000 from NEA, \$8,050 is for POL Coordinator and included in line 2.

Line 13: Programs: Creative Aging

- \$6,700 private grant from Lifetime Arts

Line 22: Administration: Contracted Services

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

Line 23: Administration: Supplies & Materials

- Software licenses, commodities

Line 24: Administration: Communications

- Postage, interagency mailings, and advertising

Line 25: Administration: Travel

- Council, staff, programs, and panels

Line 26: Administration: Rent

- Facility and offsite meeting rooms

Line 27: Administration: Other Expenses

- Creative West (formerly WESTAF) dues (\$22,261), NASAA dues (\$14,075), staff training, subscriptions, registration, meetings

Line 29: Administration: SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)

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

Line 34: Grants: Artists in Schools & Communities

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

Line 46: FYE 2025 Carryforwards

- FYE 2024 \$1,299 GF spent by 06/30/2026; \$1,307 FYE 2025 GF spent by 06/30/2027. NEA will be spent by 12/31/2025.

Line 48: (OVER)/UNDER

- \$9,223 NEA

*Fiddler Jamie Fox
performs with her father
at this year's Métis
gathering in Choteau.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 includes FY2026 applications from June through the November SIG committee meeting.

SIG FY2025 (December 2025)

Applicant	Community	Project Name	Request	Award
Sarah Mosquera	Missoula	Wild Miles: Biking for the Prairie	\$1,000	\$0
Charles Finn	Havre	Finn Book Tour 2025	\$1,000	\$1,000
Catharine Moser	Lewistown	When Montana Outraced the East...	\$1,000	\$1,000
Ironhorse Consortium	Helena	Ironhorse Marketing Plans 2025	\$1,000	\$1,000
Wendy Marquis	Belgrade	Processing Trauma from a Creative Perspective	\$1,000	\$1,000
Anne Ross	Billings	Participating as an artist vendor at the Corvallis Fall Festival in Corvallis, OR	\$1,000	\$1,000
Lauren Grabelle	Kalispell	MAM Solo Exhibition for Deer Diary	\$300	\$300
Arc: A Montana Dance Collective	Billings	Arc attends westFEST: New Works Festival and Intensive	\$1,000	\$1,000
Halladay Quist	Kalispell	Starlight Academy	\$1,000	\$0
Linda Roberts	Helena	Partipation in Art Santa Fe...	\$1,000	\$0
"Danforth Museum of Art (Park Country Friends of the Arts)"	Livingston	Cynthia Handel - Torso/Vessel and other Objects	\$1,000	\$0
Makayla Camel	Pablo	Maine Media Workshop	\$1,000	\$0
Naomi Siegel	Missoula	Naomi Moon Siegel Quartet at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles	\$1,000	\$1,000
Samuel Enemy-Hunter	Lodge Grass	Crow-Style Beaded Dance Regalia	\$1,000	\$1,000
Dante Gambardella	Bozeman	Ball Mill Purchase	\$1,000	\$1,000
Jessica Hays	Helena	Marketing and Design for the Sun Sets Midafternoon Monograph	\$1,000	\$0
Danielle O'Malley	Helena	Hiring a professional photographer to document solo exhibition at the Holter	\$1,000	\$1,000

SIG FY2025 (December 2025)

Applicant	Community	Project Name	Request	Award
Schyler Allyn	Red Lodge	Big Sky Bonus Tracks	\$1,000	\$0
Bruna Massadas	Bozeman	Wall for Pop-Up Gallery	\$1,000	\$1,000
Cristina Marian	Helena	Exhibition and Reception in Chicago	\$1,000	\$1,000
Mission Valley Live	Polson	Presentation of Callaway Chamber Players	\$1,000	\$1,000
Kennan Krause	Bozeman	Lost Canyons Album Recording	\$1,000	\$0
Stephen Gay	Bozeman	Roots and Revival Juried Exhibition	\$1,000	\$1,000
Sarah Walt Weaver	Billings	2025 Flathead River Writers Conference Attendance	\$960	\$0
Bear Grass Performing Arts	Kalispell	Flathead Valley Youth Chorus	\$1,000	\$1,000
Eleanor Connolly	Missoula	Scaling Up: Expanding a Small Ceramics Business in Missoula	\$1,000	\$1,000
David Spear	Pablo	Hero's--Reservation Made & Grown	\$1,000	\$0
Tell Us Something	Missoula	Tell Us Something: Live Storytelling on the theme "Walk on the Wild Side"	\$1,000	\$1,000
Elizabeth Tritthart	Butte	Hats Off to Butte Fashion Show - workshop support	\$878	\$878
Sheri Jarvis	Virginia City	Pottery Classes in Virginia City Montana	\$1,000	\$1,000
Befrienders	Bozeman	The Arts of a Life Well Lived	\$1,000	\$0
Azure Larkwood	Missoula	If Comes the Flood	\$975	\$975
Eliza Weber	Helena	Red Lodge Clay Center AIA Residency	\$1,000	\$1,000
Jack Schwarze	Bozeman	Lifting Equipment	\$1,000	\$0
Danielle Boston	Belgrade	Advanced Equipment for Professional Growth	\$1,000	\$0

SIG FY2025 (December 2025)

Applicant	Community	Project Name	Request	Award
"Montana International Choral Festival"	Missoula	Montana International Choral Festival Board Development Workshop	\$1,000	\$1,000
Lauren Grabelle	Big Fork	Blue Sky/Oregon Center for the Photographic Arts Solo Exhibition	\$676	\$0
Elke Govertsen	Missoula	Elke Govertsen attending Haven Writing Retreat	\$1,000	\$1,000
Anne Holub	Billings	Travel and attendance in Association of Writers and Writing Programs 2026 Conferenc	\$1,000	\$1,000
Beth Aimee	Bozeman	Class Expansion	\$1,000	\$1,000
Befrienders	Bozeman	The Arts of a Life Well Lived	\$1,000	\$1,000
Maria Falbo	Butte	Home-based photography set-up	\$1,000	\$0
Laurel Sears	Missoula	Original Performance Work: RECEIVE, a dance for the Wild	\$1,000	\$1,000
Daniel Lombardi	West Glacier	Memory of Birds	\$811	\$0
"Anaconda Ensemble Theatre"	Anaconda	The Community Reading Series at Anaconda Ensemble Theatre	\$1,000	\$1,000
Carrie Kohles	Great Falls	The Great Western Show	\$1,000	\$0
Summit Independent Living	Missoula	BASE Film Extravaganza Staff Learns Documentary Film Making	\$1,000	\$1,000

Memorandum: Arts Education Committee

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

MAC’s Arts Education Committee provides expertise, guidance and support for arts learning initiatives and is charged with oversight of our agency’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 serve arts learners of every age and ability across disciplines, settings, and teaching models.

To date in fiscal year 2026, sixty-two education-focused projects have been awarded AISC funding, totaling \$264,321. Of those, 28 projects are being supported through the AISC Residencies program, prioritizing hands-on learning led by professional artists, and another 34 projects have been awarded funding through the April and August rounds of the AISC Experiences grant process; these small yet impactful awards fund a diverse array of transformational arts learning experiences. A third round of applications to the AISC Experiences process will be accepted through December 11 and awarded funding in late January, rounding out the FY2026 year.



Students in David Spears’ A Voice program making photos with medium-format film.

The Arts Education Committee is comprised of Angella Ahn serving as chair and members Sean Chandler, Corky Clairmont and Bridger Pierce; a vacancy currently exists on the committee due to the recent exit of committee member Linda Netschert. Three members of the Arts Education Committee, Bridger Pierce, Corky Clairmont and Sean Chandler, reviewed the 11 applications submitted to the August deadline and subsequently met in a public meeting on September 25 to discuss the applications and approve the awarded grants. Projects that were awarded funding during that meeting are listed on the following page.

Along with the ongoing work of reviewing submitted grant applications, members of the committee will work in the coming months to connect organizations with MAC’s education-focused opportunities and offer guidance and expertise toward development of the FY27 AISC grant processes, scheduled to open in January.

AISC Experiences FY26, Round 2 | Grants Awarded

Organization	Project Name	Community	Awarded
Billings Public Library (City of Billings)	Billings Public Library's Senior and Adult Art Instruction with Bonny Beth Luhman	Billings	\$2,500
Billings Symphony Society	Musical Storytime with the Billings Symphony	Billings	\$2,500
Bitterroot Community Band	Virginia Vinal Womens Band Festival	Hamilton	\$2,500
Bitterroot Early Learning Network	Little Rhythms: A Music and Movement Residency for Young Children and Families	Hamilton	\$2,500
Hellgate Elementary District	The 5 Valleys Honor Band	Missoula	\$2,250
Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT)	Artful Wellness: Painting for Mind & Body	Billings	\$2,500
North Valley Music School	NVMS Artists in Schools	Whitefish	\$2,500
Opera Montana	Opera Montana's Wheels of Harmony	Bozeman	\$2,500
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art	Museum Outreach for Middle School: Be Your Own Curator	Great Falls	\$2,500
Queen City Ballet Company	Queen City Ballet Company's School Outreach Performance of The Nutcracker	Helena	\$2,500
Ulm Elementary School	Charles Russell Museum Field Trip	Ulm	\$250
			\$25,000

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Corky Clairmont | Chair, Folk Arts Committee
RE: Folks Arts Committee

On October 29th, the Folk Arts Committee convened via Zoom and approved the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program application submitted by Jamie Fox of Harlem, MT to mentor Sapphire Jetty of Bozeman. The proposal now needs to be approved by the full council. If approved, Jamie Fox will receive an award of \$3000—paid in 3 installments—to support the apprenticeship. A description of the proposal is below.

Action Needed: Vote to approve the TAAP application of Jamie Fox.

Jamie Fox is a Métis fiddler of the Aaniih and Nakoda tribes. She grew up on the Fort Belknap Reservation of Northern Montana where she was immersed in a lively fiddle and dance tradition in the community. She started playing the fiddle when she was 12 and learned from fellow elder fiddlers on the Fort Belknap Reservation, learning through oral/ear tradition of just sitting down with the fiddlers and trying her best to pick up the tunes. Jamie has practiced this tradition for 24 years and is now one of the most well-known and renown Métis fiddlers performing today.

Jamie plans to work with fiddler Sapphire Jetty. Sapphire already is aligned with her Métis heritage through her family history and is an active fiddle player - she wants to learn the Métis style into her fiddling and bowing techniques along with more of the traditional Métis tunes that I can pass along to her. Throughout the meetings, the pair will also discuss what it is to be Métis today. They will also get together to cook traditional foods.

Sapphire has been playing a variety of musical styles on the fiddle for over 13 years, from Celtic to Old-Time to French-Canadian. She grew up listening to Métis fiddle, and has learned a variety of Métis tunes by ear. However, she hasn't had many opportunities to learn, firsthand, the intricacies of this particular style and learn the stories and history behind Métis fiddling. After the apprenticeship is finished, Sapphire plans to continue exchanging fiddle tunes with different musicians across Montana.



Sapphire Jetty performing.

Over the course of the winter and spring, Jamie and Sapphire plan to meet monthly between Bozeman and Harlem, with a special trip to Choteau as well. In Choteau, the pair will visit Métis Elder Al Wiseman to learn Métis history and listen to his extensive collection of archival Métis recordings. For their culminating public performance, the pair plans to perform at the Montana Folk Festival in July 2026 in Butte.

Additional Folk and Traditional Arts Activities

Led by folklorist Taylor Burby the Montana Arts Council made a return to the Montana Folk Festival in Butte, July 11 – 13. As coordinator of the Montana Folklife Area at the festival, Taylor recruited MCAM honorees and acclaimed folk and traditional arts practitioners from around the state to be presenters. At their booths, artists demonstrated their artforms for thousands of festival goers. At the area stage, the artists gave talks and performed throughout Saturday and Sunday.

This was the second year in a row MAC had an active presence at the festival, and considerable growth occurred in year two. There was far more foot traffic through the area and returning artists reported interactions with many more members of the public. The addition of renowned performing artists and poets at the area stage was also a draw pulling many people in.

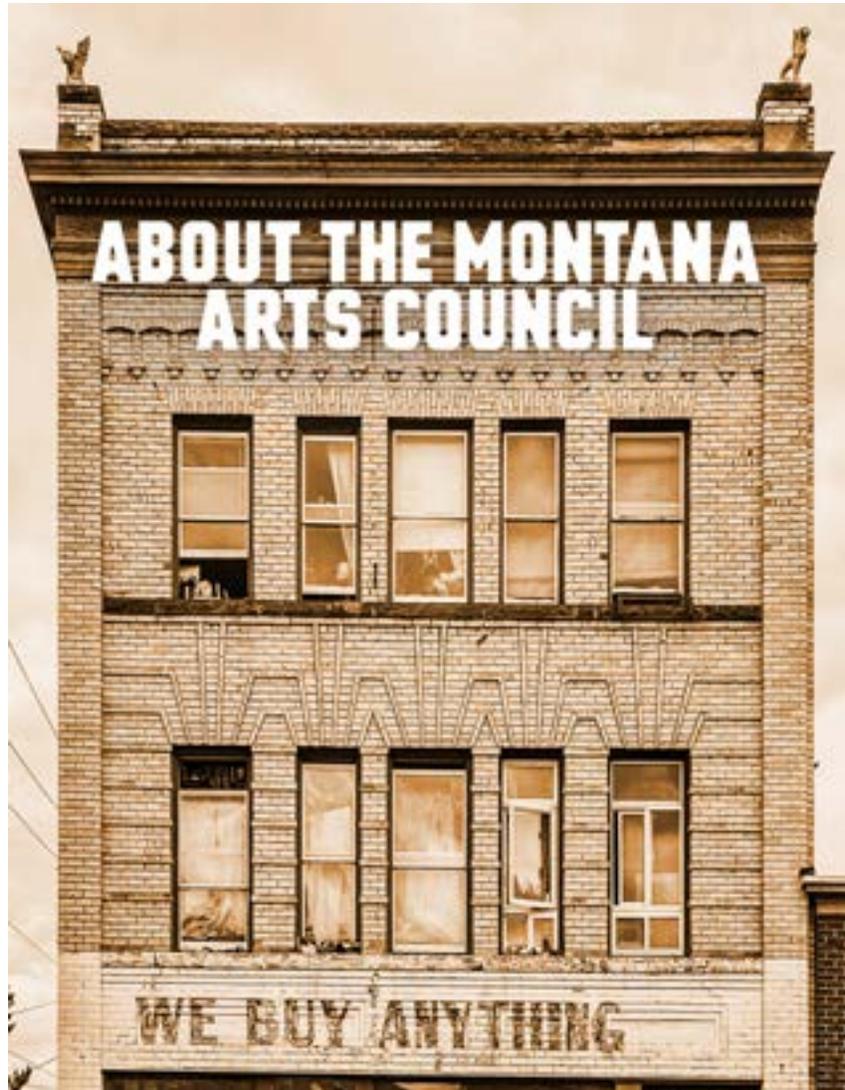
In addition to coordinating the Montana Folklife Area, Taylor conducted extensive fieldwork with folk artists during the summer season. Focusing on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations as well as far eastern Montana, Taylor interviewed more than 20 practitioners.



Jamie Fox, fiddler.

About The Montana Arts Council

In an effort to shorten this document and save a few trees, we've turned the About the Montana Arts Council section of the Council book into its own document. To view this section, containing our list of frequently-used acronyms, Council member bios and contact info, and staff info, please [click here](#).



Students at the Holter Museum of Art make redactive poems as part of this year's Poetry Out Loud finals.



MAC MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL