



Montana
Arts Council

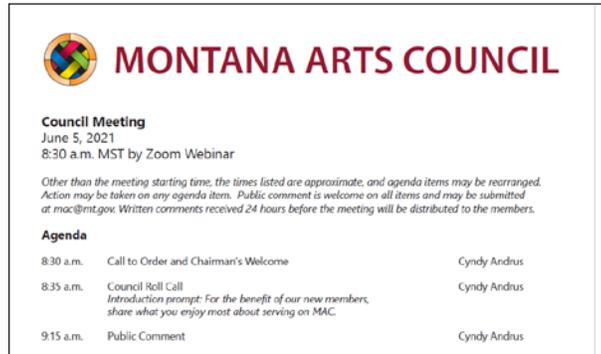
June 2021 Online Meeting

Ceramic lighting: Breena Buettner

Welcome!

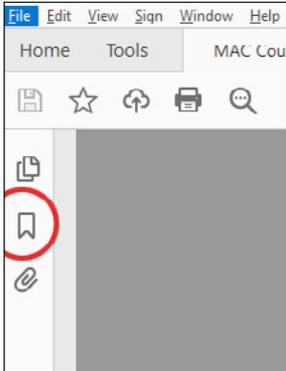
There's a lot of information contained in this document, and we greatly appreciate the time and effort each of you on the Council devote to reviewing it in preparation for our upcoming meeting. To help find your way we've added a few navigational tools:

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



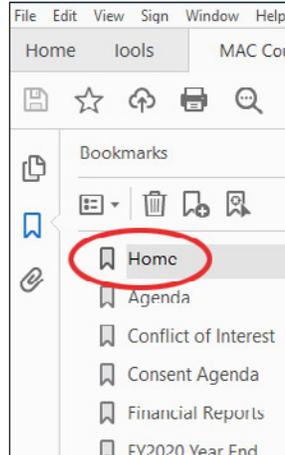
MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL		
Council Meeting		
June 5, 2021		
8:30 a.m. MST by Zoom Webinar		
<small>Other than the meeting starting time, the times listed are approximate, and agenda items may be rearranged. Action may be taken on any agenda item. Public comment is welcome on all items and may be submitted at mac@mt.gov. Written comments received 24 hours before the meeting will be distributed to the members.</small>		
Agenda		
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

Click on the Bookmarks icon to show the document's list of bookmarks.



Step 2

Scroll through the list of bookmarks and click on the report you wish to view. The document will jump to that page.

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

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Thank you again. We're looking forward to our meeting in June.



MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

Council Meeting

June 5, 2021

8:30 a.m. MDT by Zoom Webinar

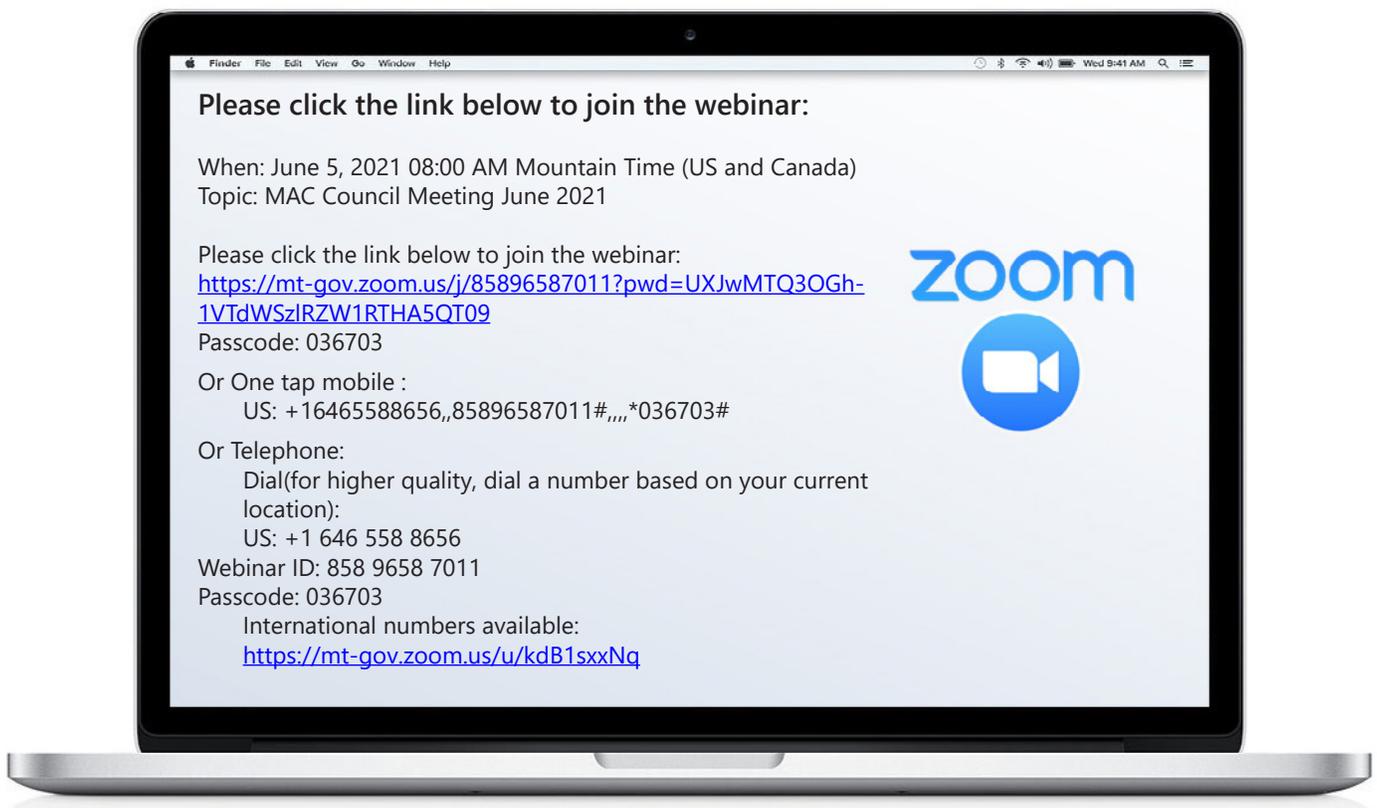
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Agenda

8:30 a.m.	Call to Order and Chairman's Welcome	Cyndy Andrus
8:35 a.m.	Council Roll Call <i>Introduction prompt: For the benefit of our new members, share what you enjoy most about serving on MAC.</i>	Cyndy Andrus
9:15 a.m.	Public Comment	Cyndy Andrus
9:20 a.m.	Conflicts of Interest <i>Identify and declare conflicts for any business on this agenda.</i>	Kristin Burgoyne
9:25 a.m.	Consent Agenda December 2020 Minutes June 2021 Agenda ▶ Action needed: Motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted	Cyndy Andrus
9:30 a.m.	Fiscal Year 2020 Year-End Financial Report ▶ Action needed: Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2020 Year-End Report	Jenifer Alger
9:35 a.m.	Fiscal Year 2021 Year-to-Date Financial Report ▶ Action needed: Motion to approve the FY 2021 Year-to-Date report	Jenifer Alger
9:45 a.m.	Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget ▶ Action needed: Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2022 Budget	Jenifer Alger
10:00 a.m.	Artists in Schools and Communities Grants ▶ Action needed: Motion to approve the review panel recommendations	Corky Clairmont
10:05 a.m.	Statewide Service Organizations ▶ Action needed: Ratify grants as approved by Executive Committee	Tom Cordingley
10:10 a.m.	CARES Act Awards ▶ Action needed: Ratify grants as approved by Executive Committee	Brian Moody

10:15 a.m.	Strategic Investment Grants ▶ Action needed: Ratify grants as approved by the SIG committee	Tracy Linder
10:20 a.m.	Poet Laureate Recommendation ▶ Action needed: Motion to approve the recommendations of the Poet Laureate Committee	Cyndy Andrus
10:25 a.m.	Percent for Art Project: MSU-Bozeman ▶ Action needed: Motion to approve the selections of the committee	Tracy Linder
10:30 a.m.	Committee Assignments ▶ Action needed: Chair to appoint committee assignments	Cyndy Andrus
10:40 a.m.	Strategic Planning Update	Renée Westlake
10:50 a.m.	Legislative Update	Drew Geiger
11:10 a.m.	Clarification on Staff Reports	Cyndy Andrus
11:30 a.m.	Report from the Chair	Cyndy Andrus
11:40 a.m.	Report from the Executive Director	Tatiana Gant
11:50 a.m.	New Business	Cyndy Andrus
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn	Cyndy Andrus

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.



Conflict Of Interest

Montana Arts Council Members: June 2021

Verbal Verification of Conflict of Interest will be required at the council meeting. Please review the following sections of the council book and report any conflicts at the meeting.

- Governor's Arts Award Nominees
- Artists in Schools and Communities Grant Applicants
- Strategic Investment Grant Applicants
- Artists in Schools and Communities Grant Applicants
- Statewide Service Organization Applicants
- Poet Laureate Nominees
- CARES Applicants
- Percent for Art MSU-Bozeman and Butte Veterans Home

Montana Arts Council members shall disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest occurs. 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 as a reviewer.
- 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.

Please verbally note any potential conflicts with the organizations and individuals in the council book and note the reason why you feel you have a conflict.

Please also note any other organizations you are affiliated with that would be a conflict of interest.

Consent Agenda

Saturday, December 5, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Council Present: Cyndy Andrus, Chair; Tom Cordingley, Vice-Chair; Angella Ahn; Liz Albers; G.B. Carson; Sean Chandler; Corky Clairmont; JP Gabriel; Mark Kuipers; Tracy Linder; Jay Pyette; Angela Russell; Corby Skinner; Jean Steele; Renée Westlake

Council Absent: None

Staff Present: Jenifer Alger, Kristin Han Burgoyne, Tatiana Gant, Monica Grable, Eric Heidle, Brian Moody

Guest: Drew Geiger

Call to Order and Chairman's Welcome

Chair Cyndy Andrus called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Introductions

Cyndy opened the meeting with a land acknowledgment and a review of technical house-keeping for the online meeting. The Council responded to the introductory prompt, "Share one thing that you have done during the pandemic that supports creativity."

Public Comment

Cyndy Andrus called for public comment, and there was none.

Conflicts of Interest

The Conflict of Interest policy was reviewed and the Council was directed to the list of actions for the meeting. All conflicts had been previously noted within the program review process.

Consent Agenda and Minutes

Call to ratify the December 2020 Agenda and the June 2020 minutes, as approved by the Executive Committee.

Jay Pyette moved and Tom Cordingley seconded the motion to approve the June 2020 minutes and December 2020 Agenda

In Favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Passed

Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Year-End Report

This report was reviewed by the Executive Committee, and a few clarifications were made for today's report based on minor changes since the June 2020 report. There were no questions.

Renée Westlake moved, and Jean Steele seconded the motion to approve the FY 2020 Year-to-Date Budget Report.

In Favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Passed

Fiscal Year 2021 Year-to-Date Report

Jenifer Alger presented updates on the FY 2021 budget as approved by the Executive Committee. There were no questions.

The Council voted to ratify the approval of the Executive Committee.

In Favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Passed

Artists in Schools and Communities Grants

Committee chair Jean Steele presented the recommendations and discussed the process revisions to include a spring and fall cycle. Corby Skinner noted that the Silk Road Ensemble projects are absolutely incredible, and it is very exciting to see that caliber of artists working in the Lame Deer Schools.

Tracy Linder moved, and Renée Westlake seconded the motion to approve the recommendation of the FY 2021 Artists in Schools and Communities Grants review panel.

In Favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Passed

CARES Act Awards

Brian Moody presented an overview of the program and noted that, to date, there have been over 500 requests, ten executive committee meetings and 339 applications have been approved. Corby Skinner asked about the next round of awards and how it will be promoted. Tatiana Gant responded that a press release will go out about awards made to date and to promote additional CARES deadlines.

The Council voted to ratify the recommendations of the Executive Committee.

In Favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Passed

Cyndy Andrus read into the record the staff present and welcomed Eric Heidle. Eric introduced himself. Cyndy expressed appreciation for all the work Brian Moody has done with CARES and how pivotal he has been in managing this program in an organized manner.

Strategic Investment Grants

Committee Chair Tracy Linder noted there have been fewer applications due to COVID and CARES. No ratification of Strategic Investment Grants was included in the June meeting so this ratification includes those awards. The committee is currently seeking an additional member.

The Council voted to ratify the actions of the SIG Committee.

In Favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Passed

Legislative Update

Drew Geiger presented his thoughts on the upcoming legislative session and answered questions.

Clarification on Staff Reports

Cyndy Andrus called for clarifying questions on the staff memos presented. Staff clarified any questions or concerns.

Committee Assignments

Several committees need additional membership. The Education Committee would prefer 2-3 additional members. Jean Steele and Monica Grable discussed the work of the committee. Sean Chandler, Corky Clairmont, Renée Westlake and Angella Ahn would like to be on the committee. Tracy Linder discussed the Strategic Investment Grant committee and the grant review process. Corby Skinner and Jay Pyette would like to be on the committee. The Poet Laureate Committee needs three members to assess nominations from the public. Renée Westlake, Sean Chandler and Cyndy Andrus would like to be on this committee. Renée talked about the Strategic Planning Committee. Liz Albers is interested in being on this committee. Cyndy Andrus made committee appointments.

Report from the Chair

Cyndy Andrus discussed the Executive Committee review of evaluations for CARES. The city of Bozeman recently passed a Percent for Art ordinance. Tom Cordingley asked if MAC could lead a movement to have other cities do what Bozeman is doing, followed by discussion.

Report from the Executive Director

Tatiana Gant highlighted the outcome of the recent Legislative Fiscal Division audit. She recently completed her second term as chair of the NASAA Nominating Committee and noted the revisions that were made to increase racial and geographic diversity. Tatiana shared that she was recently nominated to serve on the WESTAF Board of Trustees and that her work continues on the GIA Support for Individual Artists Committee. There was discussion on ways that the GAA ceremony could be adapted in lieu of an in-person ceremony.

New Business

Corby Skinner would like to discuss making reporting less onerous for the Cultural Trust. Cyndy Andrus would like a tutorial about online meeting materials.

Executive Session called to Order

11:10 a.m. Executive Session called to order. This is a closed session and minutes are not taken.

Adjournment of Executive Session

11:38 a.m. Executive Session adjourned

Executive Director Performance Review

Motion to approve Executive Director Performance Review by Mark Kuipers, seconded by Tom Cordingley

In Favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Passed

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tatiana Gant
Executive Director

A top-down view of a spiral of logs arranged in a circular pattern, with a single light-colored rock in the center. The logs are arranged in a dense, concentric spiral, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors of the logs range from light, weathered grey to dark, charred brown. The central rock is a smooth, light-colored stone, possibly a river stone, resting on a bed of dry pine needles or straw. The overall composition is symmetrical and visually striking.

Financial Reports

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Jenifer Alger | Chief Financial Officer
Re: Fiscal Year End 2020 Financial Report

MAC ended the fiscal year with \$362,023 remaining, a \$3,835 increase from the December 2020 report, due to unused allocated personnel funds, State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD) restricted funds, Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP) income carried forward, FY 2019 General Funds carried forward, and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funds carried forward. These items, to a great extent, are directly and indirectly related to COVID-19.

Below is an explanation of some budget line items.

Staff Salaries + Benefits

MAC lapsed \$154,336 as a result of the redefining of job positions and canceled meetings. Additional explanations are as follows:

- All positions are fully funded for the entire fiscal year whether they are vacant or filled.
- Business Specialist position was reclassified in March 2019 and an offer was made in August of 2019. It was vacant for the first 2.5 months of the fiscal year.
- Program Officer position was reclassified in March with an offer made in May. It was vacant for 11 months.
- The Media Specialist position became vacant on January 6, 2020. It was reclassified in May into the Communication Director with an offer made in August. It was vacant for 6 months.
- Unused allocated funds for stipends are the result of the June Council meeting being held online.
- Personnel Services savings and SITSD restricted funds lapsed in the General Fund per state law. MAC requested the 30% carryforward, calculated at \$49,592, and we will have until June 30, 2022 to spend.

Programs + Administration

MAC had a net surplus of \$110,399, a \$154 decrease from the December report, and is a result of the following:

- Unused allocated funds in MAP. The approved budget included an allocation for regional meeting expenses that program staff later deemed unessential.
- Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) field work is postponed into FY 2021.
- Unused allocated funds in Poetry Out Loud (POL) assigned for travel to national finals were canceled due to COVID-19.
- Unused allocated funds in contracted services due to the strategic plan Request for Proposal (RFP) has been moved to FY 2021.
- Unused allocated funds in supplies due to grants management system RFP being moved to FY 2021 and the Council meeting in June being moved to online.
- Overspent in communications related to cleaning information in our databases. These activities were not budgeted.
- Unused allocated funds in travel. Conferences and trainings canceled due to COVID-19 in March, April, May, and June. The June Council meeting being moved to online is also a factor.

- Reassigned copier lease from Rent to Supplies to meet new accounting standards.
- Overestimated need for SITSD services partially due to unplanned vacancies and a drop in the need for IT admin assistance.
- Overbudgeted in Statewide Cost Allocation Plan (SWCAP). The FY20 invoice came in at around 30% of the FY19 payment.
- The \$35,561 FY19 NEA funds carried forward was used to cover some of these expenses incurred between July-December 2019.
- The \$32,824 FY19 General Funds (GF) carried forward will be used to offset expenses associated with our upcoming strategic planning contract. This carryforward represents 30% of lapsed FY 2019 GF. We have until June 30, 2021, to spend these funds.

Grants

MAC had a net surplus of \$1,948, a \$3,991 increase from December 2020 report, in grants.

- Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) –in December the council approved additional grants of \$11,819 in this program. One of these grant awardees who was approved for \$1,000 has turned down the award. The remaining \$2,990 were granted extensions and moved into FY 2021.
- Public Value Partnerships (PVP) – \$5,000 more was spent due to an incorrect budget amount in the original proposed budget.
- Statewide Service Organizations (SSO) – The proposed budget included an additional \$19,000 that was not committed through the program.
- Strategic Investment Grants (SIG) - \$22,068 under spent due to COVID-19 and a drop in requests.
- Cultural & Aesthetics Grants (C&A) - \$26,292 was spent over the FY20 budgeted amount. The original budget was 50% of the biennial appropriation. The revenue has been increased by the same amount so there was no net effect on remaining balance.

MAP Funds Carried Forward

MAC carried forward \$46,593, a \$154 decrease from the December 2020 report, in MAP income to support the program in FY 2021.

NEA Funds Carried Forward

MAC will carryforward \$83,300, a \$3,991 increase from December 2020 report of the NEA funds. Of this amount \$12,500 is earmarked for the upcoming Folk Arts contract. MAC has until December 31, 2020 to commit these funds.

Montana Community Foundation Endowment Fund Update

Our FY 2020 budget anticipated using \$7,000 of the Governor's Award for Artists Fund for the MCAM contract and \$5,000 from the Arts Education Fund to fund AISC grant awards. The MCAM ceremony did not happen this fiscal year, therefore the MCF year-end balance will increase by \$7,000.

FY 2020 Montana Arts Council FYE

Line		FY20 Approved Budget	General Fund 27.4%	Cultural Trust 24.35%	NEA 42.17%	Other Income 6.08%	TOTAL	(Over) / Under
1	PERSONNEL SERVICES							
2	Staff Salaries + Benefits	\$684,283	\$87,944	\$191,585	\$253,868	-	\$533,397	\$150,886
3	Honorariums/Stipends	\$5,100	\$575	-	\$1,075	-	\$1,650	\$3,450
4								
5	Personnel Services: Total	\$689,383	\$88,519	\$191,585	\$254,943	-	\$535,047	\$154,336
6								
7	PROGRAMS							
8	Montana Artrepreneur Program	\$49,450	-	-	-	\$28,085	\$28,085	\$21,365
9	MCAM/GAA	\$7,000	\$100	-	-	-	\$100	\$6,900
10	State of the Arts	\$50,000	\$40,117	-	\$10,002	-	\$50,119	(\$119)
11	Poetry Out Loud	\$17,500	-	-	\$12,124	-	\$12,124	\$5,376
12								
13	Programs: Total	\$123,950	\$40,217	-	\$22,126	\$28,085	\$90,428	\$33,522
14								
15	ADMINISTRATION							
16	Contracted Services	\$52,561	\$7,077	\$17,230	\$8,544	-	\$32,851	\$19,710
17	Supplies + Materials	\$24,000	\$5,185	\$9,488	\$5,068	-	\$19,740	\$4,260
18	Communications	\$4,000	\$1,508	\$6,622	\$31	-	\$8,162	(\$4,162)
19	Travel	\$56,000	\$13,562	\$2,171	\$17,858	-	\$33,591	\$22,409
20	Rent	\$48,700	\$25,837	\$5,688	\$14,940	-	\$46,465	\$2,235
21	Other Expenses	\$45,000	\$19,242	\$1,457	\$19,564	-	\$40,263	\$4,737
22	Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

FY 2020 Montana Arts Council FYE

Line		FY20 Approved Budget	General Fund 27.4%	Cultural Trust 24.35%	NEA 42.17%	Other Income 6.08%	TOTAL	(Over) / Under
23	SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)	\$30,059	\$2,759	\$5,260	\$9,469	-	\$17,888	\$12,571
24	Indirect Costs (SWCAP)	\$19,169	\$749	\$3,303	-	-	\$4,052	\$15,117
25								
26	Administration: Total	\$279,489	\$75,919	\$51,218	\$75,475	-	\$202,612	\$76,877
27								
28	GRANTS							
29	Artists in Schools and Communities	\$155,000	\$43,589	-	\$114,240	\$5,000	\$162,829	(\$7,829)
30	Artists Innovation Awards	\$30,000	\$27,000	-	-	\$3,000	\$30,000	-
31	Public Value Partnerships	\$250,000	\$56,822	-	\$198,178	-	\$255,000	(\$5,000)
32	Statewide Service Organizations	\$115,000	-	-	\$96,000	-	\$96,000	\$19,000
33	Strategic Investment	\$50,000	\$27,932	-	-	-	\$27,932	\$22,068
34	Cultural Trust Grants	\$197,941	-	\$224,232	-	-	\$224,232	(\$26,292)
35								
36	Grants: Total	\$797,941	\$155,343	\$224,232	\$408,418	\$8,000	\$795,993	\$1,948
37								
38	TOTAL FY 2020 EXPENSES	\$1,890,763	\$359,998	\$467,035	\$760,962	\$36,085	\$1,624,081	\$266,682
39								
40	TOTAL FY 2020 REVENUES	\$1,917,718	\$525,305	\$467,035	\$808,700	\$116,678	\$1,917,718	-
41	FYE 2019 Carryforward	\$68,385	\$32,824	-	\$35,561	-	\$68,385	-
42								
43	(OVER)/UNDER	\$95,341	\$198,131	-	\$83,299	\$80,593	\$362,022	\$362,022

Budget Comments

Line 2: Personnel Services: Staff Salaries + Benefits

- Business Specialist start 09/10/2019. Program Officer start 06/01/2020. Communication Director vacant as of 01/06/2020.

Line 3: Personnel Services: Honorariums/Stipends

- Council member payments

Line 8: Programs: MAP

- Regional meetings did not happen. Cohorts moved to online.

Line 9: Programs: MCAM/GAA

- MCAM will not happen this year

Line 11: Programs: Poetry Out Loud

- POL finals canceled due to COVID-19

Line 16: Administration: Contracted Services

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

Line 17: Administration: Supplies & Materials

- Software licenses, commodities

Line 18: Administration: Communications

- Postage, interagency mailings and conference calls

Line 19: Administration: Travel

- Council, staff, programs, and panels

Line 20: Administration: Rent

- Facility, equipment and offsite meeting rooms

Line 21: Administration: Other Expenses

- WESTAF dues (\$22,261), NASAA dues (\$9,380), staff training, subscriptions, registration, meetings

Line 23: Administration: SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)

- Will have a surplus that will lapse in the GF.

Line 29: Grants: Artists in Schools & Communities

- \$5,000 from Arts Education Fund (MCF). \$1,000 reverted and \$2,990 moved to FY21

Line 30: Grants: Artists Innovation Awards

- \$3,000 from Sigerson Fund

Line 33: Grants: Strategic Investment

- \$10K of budget from MAP funds

Line 34: Grants: Cultural Trust Grants

- Actual first year payments = \$224,232

Line 40: TOTAL FY 2020 REVENUES

- C&A grant payments actual FY20 = \$224,232

Line 41: FYE 2019 Carryforward

- GF spent by 06/30/2021. NEA was spent by 12/31/2019.

Line 43: (OVER)/UNDER

- \$152,736 restricted for Personnel Services, \$12,571 restricted for SITSD, \$32,824 FY19 GF CF, \$83,300 NEA, \$34,000 MCF and \$46,593 MAP Income.

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Jenifer Alger | Chief Financial Officer
Re: Fiscal Year 2021 Year-to-Date Financial Report

MAC is projected to end the fiscal year with \$316,988 remaining due to unused personnel funds, Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP) income carried forward, FY 2020 General Funds carried forward, and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funds carried forward. These items, to a great extent, are directly and indirectly related to the present economy due to COVID-19. Below is an explanation of some budget line items.

Staff Salaries + Benefits

Projected lapse of \$32,373 is a result of the redefining of positions for effectiveness and efficiency. Additional explanations are as follows:

- All positions are fully funded for the entire fiscal year whether they are vacant or filled.
- Business Specialist position being filled February 1, 2021. This position was vacant for 3 months.
- Communication Director position being filled September 21, 2020. This position was vacant for 2.5 months.
- Temporary accounting technician position being hired January 11, 2021.
- Personnel Services savings will lapse in the General Fund per state law.

Programs + Administration

MAC is projecting a net surplus of \$163,592 and is a result of the following:

- Unused allocated funds for MAP. Approved budget included money for 2 cohorts. Due to lower application responses, there will only be 1 cohort for 2021.
- Unused allocated funds for MCAM and GAA. The MCAM ceremony will not happen by FYE. GAA was not an in-person ceremony so costs were reduced.
- Unused allocated funds in the *State of the Arts*. The vendors for the Statewide Calendar and the Newspaper selected in the Request for Proposal (RFP) processes bid less than budgeted.
- Additional income received for Poetry Out Loud (POL). The Poetry Foundation provided a \$3,000 grant to help support the transition to online contests.
- Unused allocated funds in supplies. Due to a new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standard, our copier lease was switched from a supply to equipment. The new grants management system contract, we switched the payments from bi-annual to annual.
- Unused allocated funds in travel. Conferences and trainings canceled due to COVID-19. The December and June Council meetings being moved to online is also a factor.
- Unused allocated funds in rent. This was budgeted for any in-person Council meeting room rent.
- Unused allocated funds in other expenses. Conferences and trainings canceled due to COVID-19.
- Underbudgeted in equipment. Due to a new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standard, our copier lease was switched from a supply to equipment.

- Unused restricted funds for State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD). Most of the excess funds is due to overestimating how many expert time hours the agency would need. This amount will lapse in the General Fund per state law.
- Overbudgeted in Statewide Cost Allocation Plan (SWCAP). The FY 2020 actuals were used to budget this line item, but the actual FY 2021 invoice came in at around 62% of the FY 2020 payment.
- Additional income received from NASAA for Creative Aging –in the amount of \$23,000. 80% of the award, or \$18,400, was sent upon execution of the agreement. MAC anticipates spending \$3,500 on consulting fees and \$6,000 on training expenses by FYE. The remaining \$8,900 will carry forward into FY 2022.
- Unused allocated funds for Folk Arts. This project will not happen by FYE. Of these funds \$12,500 was allocated from the NEA and will have to be returned.
- The \$32,824 FY 2019 General Fund (GF) carried forward will be reverted to the GF due to changes in the strategic planning process. This carryforward represents 30% of lapsed FY 2019 GF.
- The \$49,045 FY 2020 GF carry forward represents 30% of the lapsed FY 2020 GF. We have until June 30, 2022 to spend these funds.
- The \$11,851 FY 2021 GF carry forward represents 30% of the estimated lapse in FY 2021 GF. We have until June 30, 2023 to spend these funds.

Grants

MAC is projecting a net surplus of \$6,173 in grants.

- Artists in Schools & Communities (AISC) - \$2,990 will be spent over the FY 2021 budgeted amount. Two of the remaining grants from FY 2020 were moved to this budget to give the grantees more time to complete their approved projects.
- Public Value Partnership (PVP) - \$2,000 under spent due to one grantee not being able to accept their award.
- Strategic Investment Grants (SIG) - \$15,000 under spent due to a drop in funded projects.
- Cultural & Aesthetics Grants (C&A) - \$18,525 was spent over the FY 2021 budgeted amount. This is a biennial appropriation. Any unpaid grants from FY 2020 can be carried forward to FY 2021. The cash/earnings from FY 2020 carry over to FY 2021 to cover the payments.
- CARES Act - \$10,688 under spent due to overestimating how much GF we would need to cover all the approved awards.

MAP Funds Carried Forward

We are projecting to carryforward \$48,493 in MAP income to support the program in FY 2022.

NEA Funds Carried Forward

Due to our grant period ending on December 31, 2021, we will carryforward approximately \$102,176 (\$114,676 remaining less \$12,500 reversion) of the NEA funds.

Montana Community Foundation Endowment Fund Update

The FY 2021 budget anticipated using \$4,000 of the Governor's Award for Artists Fund for the MCAM contract, and \$14,000 for the Governor's Arts Awards ceremony. MAC also anticipated using \$5,000 from the Arts Education Fund to fund AISC grant awards. MCAM will not happen this fiscal year as planned. The GAA expenses and AISC grant will be paid out of the General Fund.

Current balances for both endowments are as follows:

- Arts Education Fund \$20,216
- Governor's Award for Artists \$63,998

Sigerson Fund Update

The Sigerson Fund was setup with private funds to help pay one Artist Innovation Award (AIA) for a clay artist. The corpus (un-spendable amount) of the fund totals \$66,000 and is located with the Department of Commerce/Board of Investments. We are only allowed to spend the earnings on the corpus. As of this report the Sigerson Fund has a balance of \$3,218 in spendable earnings with a projected FYE balance of \$3,245.

The projected rate of return for these funds is currently about 0.252%.

FY 2021 Montana Arts Council Budget YTD

Line #		FY21 Approved Budget	General Fund 27.59%	Cultural Trust 22.99%	NEA 44.57%	Other Income 4.85%	TOTAL	(Over) / Under
1	PERSONNEL SERVICES							
2	Staff Salaries + Benefits	\$691,978	\$209,859	\$193,943	\$255,978	-	\$659,780	\$32,198
3	Honorariums/Stipends	\$3,500	\$1,200	\$750	\$1,375	-	\$3,325	\$175
4								
5	Total	\$695,478	\$211,059	\$194,693	\$257,353	-	\$663,105	\$32,373
6								
7	PROGRAMS							
8	Montana Artrepreneur Program	\$34,450	\$11,817	-	-	-	\$11,817	\$22,633
9	MCAM/GAA	\$18,000	\$5,173	-	-	-	\$5,173	\$12,287
10	State of the Arts	\$84,000	\$25,672	-	\$41,128	-	\$66,800	\$17,200
11	Poetry Out Loud	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000	\$3,000	\$23,000	(\$3,000)
12								
13	Programs: Total	\$156,450	\$43,202	-	\$61,128	\$3,000	\$107,330	\$49,120
14								
15	ADMINISTRATION							
16	Contracted Services	\$45,000	\$33,664	\$9,154	\$2,183	-	\$45,000	-
17	Supplies & Materials	\$34,000	\$5,661	\$8,186	\$3,787	-	\$17,364	\$16,366
18	Communications	\$8,000	\$2,908	\$1,963	\$3,129	-	\$8,000	-
19	Travel	\$65,000	\$536	-	-	-	\$536	\$64,464
20	Rent	\$46,500	\$20,206	\$11,411	\$14,383	-	\$46,000	\$500
21	Other Expenses	\$50,000	\$7,239	\$12,270	\$16,108	-	\$35,617	\$14,383
22	Equipment	-	\$516	\$158	\$727	-	\$1,401	(\$1,401)
23	SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)	\$30,059	\$8,200	\$5,260	\$9,469	-	\$22,929	\$7,130
24	Indirect Costs (SWCAP)	\$4,052	-	\$1,824	\$699	-	\$2,522	\$1,530

FY 2021 Montana Arts Council Budget YTD

Line #		FY21 Approved Budget	General Fund 27.59%	Cultural Trust 22.99%	NEA 44.57%	Other Income 4.85%	TOTAL	(Over) / Under
25	Creative Aging	-	-	-	-	\$9,500	\$9,500	(\$9,500)
26	Folk Arts	\$21,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$21,000
27								
28	Administration: Total	\$303,611	\$78,929	\$50,226	\$50,484	\$9,500	\$189,139	\$114,472
29								
30	GRANTS							
31	Artists in Schools & Communities	\$160,000	\$38,168	-	\$124,822	-	\$162,990	(\$2,990)
32	Artists Innovation Awards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	Public Value Partnerships	\$251,700	\$17,683	-	\$231,837	-	\$249,700	\$2,000
34	Statewide Service Organizations	\$96,000	-	-	\$96,000	-	\$96,000	-
35	Strategic Investment	\$55,000	\$40,000	-	-	-	\$40,000	\$15,000
36	Cultural Trust Grants	\$176,624	-	\$195,149	-	-	\$195,149	(\$18,525)
37	CARES Act	\$70,000	\$59,312	-	-	-	\$59,312	\$10,688
38								
39	Grants: Total	\$809,324	\$155,343	\$195,149	\$452,659	-	\$803,151	\$6,173
40								
41	TOTAL FY 2021 EXPENSES	\$1,964,863	\$488,533	\$440,068	\$821,624	\$12,500	\$1,762,725	\$202,138
42								
43	TOTAL FY 2021 REVENUES	\$1,913,997	\$528,036	\$440,068	\$853,000	\$92,893	\$1,913,997	-
44	FYE 2019/FYE 2020 Carryforwards	\$165,716	\$82,416	-	\$83,300	-	\$165,716	-
45								
46	(OVER)/UNDER	\$114,850	\$121,919	-	\$114,676	\$80,393	\$316,988	\$316,988

Budget Comments

Line 2: Personnel Services: Staff Salaries + Benefits

- Communication Director hired 09/21/2020, Business Specialist hired 01/01/2021 and Temp Accounting Tech hired 01/11/2021.

Line 3: Personnel Services: Honorariums/Stipends

- Council member/C&A Panel payments

Line 10: Programs: State of the Arts

- RFP bids came in lower than projected.

Line 16: Administration: Contracted Services

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

Line 17: Administration: Supplies & Materials

- Software licenses and commodities

Line 18: Administration: Communications

- Postage, interagency mailings and conference calls

Line 19: Administration: Travel

- Council, staff, programs, and panels

Line 20: Administration: Rent

- Facility and offsite meeting rooms

Line 21: Administration: Other Expenses

- WESTAF dues (\$22,261), NASAA dues (\$9,955), staff training, subscriptions, registration, meetings

Line 22: Administration: Equipment

- Copier Lease

Line 24: Administration: Indirect Costs (SWCAP)

- FY21 invoice was less than FY20

Line 25: Administration: Creative Aging

- NASAA Creative Aging for FY21 spend \$3,500 consulting fees + \$6,000 training fees.

Line 26: Administration: Folk Arts

- \$12,500 from the NEA for consulting services. Remaining \$8,500 was pulled from Contracted Services (\$2,500) + Supplies (\$1,000) + Travel (\$5,000). Full amount will revert due to project not being completed by FYE.

Line 31: Grants: Artists in Schools & Communities

- Two FY20 grants were moved to FY21.

Line 33: Grants: Public Value Partnerships

- One \$2,000 grant will revert.

Line 37: Grants: CARES Act

- Overestimated amount of CARES Act grant requests.

Line 44: FYE 2019/FYE 2020 Carryforwards

- FYE19 \$32,824 GF will revert, FYE20 \$49,045 GF spend by 06/30/2022. \$83,300 NEA spent by 12/31/2021.

Line 46: (OVER)/UNDER

- \$32,373 GF restricted for personnel, \$7,130 GF restricted for SITSD, GF FYE19 CF \$32,824, GF FYE20 CF \$49,592, NEA \$114,676, Creative Aging \$8,900, MCF \$23,000 and MAP \$48,493.

Memorandum

TO: Montana Arts Council Members
FROM: Jenifer Alger | Chief Financial Officer
RE: Fiscal Year 2022 Report

MAC's FY 2022 income increased \$89,292 from FY 2021 due to the following:

- Increase in Cultural Trust due to using the full 2023 biennial appropriation for grants in FY 2022. Any unspent funds will carry forward to FY 2023.
- We received an additional \$26,900 from the NEA.

MAC has projected a FYE 2021 NEA carryforward of \$102,176 to spend by December 31, 2021. We intend to use this carryforward for Folk Arts and other general administration costs.

MAC is budgeted to have a \$86,202 surplus by fiscal year end, as follows:

- The estimated FYE 2021 General Fund carry forward of \$11,851 that will carry over to FY 2023. These funds need to be spent by June 30, 2023.
- NEA funds in the amount of \$74,353 that are authorized to carryforward for the grant period ending December 31, 2022 (FY 2023).

Although we do not intend to use any accumulated MAP funds in FY 2022, we are projecting a balance at FYE of \$55,493 that can be used for future expenses.

Projected FYE balances in the Montana Community Foundation Endowment Funds are as follows:

- Arts Education Fund \$19,216
- Governor's Award for Artists \$48,998

FY 2022 Montana Arts Council Proposed Budget

Line #		FY22 Proposed Budget	General Fund 26.34%	Cultural Trust 27.31%	NEA 43.92%	Other Income 2.43%	TOTAL
1	PERSONNEL SERVICES						
2	Staff Salaries + Benefits	\$684,598	\$239,609	\$191,687	\$253,301	-	\$684,598
3	Honorariums/Stipends	\$3,500	\$1,750	-	\$1,750	-	\$3,500
4							
5	Total	\$688,098	\$243,432	\$191,687	\$255,051	-	\$688,098
6							
7	PROGRAMS						
8	Montana Artrepreneur Program	\$32,325	\$32,325	-	-	-	\$32,325
9	MCAM/GAA	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	State of the Arts	\$56,200	\$27,293	-	\$28,907	-	\$56,200
11	Poetry Out Loud	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000	-	\$20,000
12							
13	Programs: Total	\$108,525	\$59,618	-	\$48,907	-	\$108,525
14							
15	ADMINISTRATION						
16	Contracted Services	\$45,000	\$13,657	\$5,478	\$25,866	-	\$45,000
17	Supplies & Materials	\$34,000	\$13,341	\$4,139	\$16,521	-	\$34,000
18	Communications	\$8,000	\$3,139	\$974	\$3,887	-	\$8,000
19	Travel	\$65,000	\$25,504	\$7,308	\$32,188	-	\$65,000
20	Rent	\$46,491	\$18,242	\$5,659	\$22,590	-	\$46,491

FY 2022 Montana Arts Council Proposed Budget

Line #		FY22 Proposed Budget	General Fund 26.34%	Cultural Trust 27.31%	NEA 43.92%	Other Income 2.43%	TOTAL
21	Other Expenses	\$50,000	\$19,619	\$6,086	\$24,295	-	\$50,000
22	Equipment	\$1,401	\$516	\$158	\$727	-	\$1,401
23	SITSD Fixed Costs (Restricted)	\$28,438	\$14,503	\$4,977	\$8,958	-	\$28,438
24	Indirect Costs (SWCAP)	\$11,753	-	\$5,876	\$5,877	-	\$11,753
25	Creative Aging	\$13,500	-	-	-	\$13,500	\$13,500
26	Folk Arts	\$25,000	\$12,500	-	12,500	-	\$21,000
27							
28	Administration: Total	\$328,583	\$121,020	\$40,654	\$153,408	\$13,500	\$328,583
29							
30	GRANTS						
31	Artists in Schools & Communities	\$208,000	\$55,172	-	\$147,828	\$5,000	\$208,000
32	Artists Innovation Awards	\$30,000	-	-	-	\$30,000	\$30,000
33	Public Value Partnerships	\$251,700	\$45,171	-	\$206,529	-	\$251,700
34	Statewide Service Organizations	\$96,000	-	-	\$96,000	-	\$96,000
35	Strategic Investment	\$55,000	\$55,000	-	-	-	\$55,000
36	Cultural Trust Grants	\$314,800	-	\$314,800	-	-	\$314,800
37	Relief Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
38							
39	Grants: Total	\$955,500	\$155,343	\$314,800	\$450,357	\$35,000	\$955,500
40							
41	TOTAL FY 2022 EXPENSES	\$2,080,706	\$577,341	\$547,142	\$907,723	\$48,500	\$2,080,706
42							
43	TOTAL FY 2022 REVENUES	\$2,003,289	\$527,748	\$547,142	\$879,900	\$48,500	\$2,003,289

FY 2022 Montana Arts Council Proposed Budget

Line #		FY22 Proposed Budget	General Fund 26.34%	Cultural Trust 27.31%	NEA 43.92%	Other Income 2.43%	TOTAL
44	FYE 2021 Carryforwards	\$163,619	\$61,443	-	\$102,176	-	\$163,619
45							
46	(OVER)/UNDER	\$86,202	\$11,850	-	\$74,343	-	\$86,202

Budget Comments

Line 3: Personnel Services: Honorariums/Stipends

- Council member/C&A Panel payments

Line 16: Administration: Contracted Services

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

Line 17: Administration: Supplies & Materials

- Software licenses, commodities

Line 18: Administration: Communications

- Postage, interagency mailings and conference calls

Line 19: Administration: Travel

- Council, staff, programs, and panels

Line 20: Administration: Rent

- Facility and offsite meeting rooms

Line 21: Administration: Other Expenses

- WESTAF dues (\$22,261), NASAA dues (\$9,380), staff training, subscriptions, registration, meetings

Line 22: Administration: Equipment

- Copier lease and maintenance.

Line 25: Administration: Creative Aging

- Includes \$8,900 unspent from FY 2021 + the remaining \$4,600 NASAA awarded MAC

Line 26: Administration: Folk Arts

- Includes \$12,500 from the NEA, \$12,500 from the GF.

Line 31: Grants: Artists in Schools & Communities

- \$5,000 from Arts Education Fund (MCF)

Line 32: Grants: Artists Innovation Awards

- \$27,000 from MACGA (MCF) + \$3,000 from Sigerson Fund

Line 36: Grants: Cultural Trust Grants

- \$314,800 is the 2023 biennial appropriation. Any unspent funds will carry forward to FY 2023.

Line 44: FYE 2021 Carryforwards

- FYE 2020 \$49,045 GF spent by 06/30/2022. FYE 2021 Estimated \$11,851 GF spent by 06/30/2023. NEA must be spent by 12/31/2021.

Line 46: (OVER)/UNDER

- \$11,851 FYE 2021 GF CF and NEA \$71,085

Grant Reports



Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Corky Clairmont
RE: FY22 Artists in Schools and Communities Grants

The Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant program opened its new cycle for the upcoming fiscal year in February, with a subsequent due date of March 24 for the AISC Residencies process. Panel review meetings were held via Zoom on April 29 and 30. On average, four applicants at any given time were logged in to listen to the panelists' review.

I served as chair and non-voting member of this year's AISC review panel, with four accomplished panelists, comprised of professionals from a diversity of arts disciplines and educational perspectives, serving as reviewers: Mary Callahan Baumstark, Wes Hines, Andrew Loftus, and Anna Paige. Their regard for one another's viewpoints made for rich conversations as well as meaningful feedback for applicants. Ginny participated in the meeting as tech support and notetaker, allowing her the opportunity to witness the review panel process and the good work MAC accomplishes through AISC granting. Of the twenty-seven applications reviewed, seven were new applicants to Artists in Schools and Communities and those are indicated on the list that follows.



AISC review panelist Anna Paige. PHOTO: PETER TOLTON

Despite ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, with some grant projects from last fiscal year still underway, it was notable that such a large number of applications were received. Among the highlights are requests to fund: a writing program for incarcerated youth, a rock-centered high school music program, two collaborative mural projects, a modern experience with the old medium of blacksmithing, two brand new youth theatre initiatives and a new arts experience designed for persons with disabilities.

Also included in this round were requests from all nine past grant recipients under the now phased-out Arts Learning Partners category.

FY22 AISC GRANT REVIEW PANELISTS

April 29 -30, 2021

Mary Callahan Baumstark

Mary Callahan Baumstark is an artist, writer, and art-ministrator with her MA in Contemporary Art, Design, and New Media Art Histories from OCAD University. She is the Executive Director of the Lewistown Art Center, the former Resident Historian for the Socially Engaged Craft Collective, and an independent writer, critic, and curator. She is currently serving as the Chair of the Lewistown Downtown Association.

Born and raised in the mountains of Montana, Baumstark received her BFA degree with an emphasis in Ceramics in 2013 from the University of Montana. Before continuing to graduate school, she spent a year as an intern and assistant at the Clay Studio of Missoula. Mary's master thesis, "Ceramic Craftivism: Activism and Resistance in Contemporary Clay, (2014)" was the first piece of writing to redefine craftivism to include multiple craft media.

In 2016, after completing her master's degree, Mary moved back to Montana. Since then, she has served as an adjunct faculty member in Art History at the University of Montana Western. In addition to monthly exhibitions and special collaborations, Mary's projects include the first book dedicated to Socially Engaged Craft, "Social Objects," essays for Studio Magazine and Ostrakon Journal, and chapters in Makers, Crafters, Educators (2019) and Critical Digital Making (2020). You can follow her work @maryminimally.

Wes Hines

A visual arts educator for 38 years in the Kalispell school district, Wes Hines retired from full time teaching in 2016 and since has continued to work part-time for the Kalispell School District as Webmaster and iPad Management Coordinator, while making himself available to educators across the state as a media arts and arts integration resource.

A graduate of the University of Oregon with a degree in Art and Art Education, Wes received a M.Ed degree in Computers in Education from Lesley College. The epitome of a lifelong learner, Wes has regularly attended visual art and media arts workshops and classes at National Art Education conferences, the Chicago Institute for the Arts, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and the University of Montana.

Wes has served on both the National and State of Montana Media Arts Standards review committees and has worked with the Montana Arts Council and Office of Public Instruction during the Teacher Leader in the Arts Summer Institute and with OPI's online Learning Hub.

Andrew Loftus

Andrew W. Loftus is in his fifth school year as Director of Fine Arts for the Bozeman School District. He moved to Bozeman from Northern Virginia in the summer of 2015 following 14 years as a K-6 Music Educator and four years as a School Based Administrator with Fairfax County Public Schools. He has a B.S. in Music Education from The Pennsylvania State University, an M.A. in Teaching from George Mason University, and an Ed.S. from The University of Virginia.

Anna Paige

Anna Paige is a Montana-based arts journalist and co-founder of Young Poets, winner of the 2021 Library of Congress Award for Literacy. Anna co-hosts "Resounds: Arts and Culture on the High Plains" on Yellowstone Public Radio, organizes and performs at poetry events, and is currently working to address food insecurity in her community with the nonprofit Eat. Share. Give.

FY22 AISC Residencies | Submitted Applications

Organization Name	Project Title	City	Award
A VOICE	<i>Our Community Record</i>	Pablo	\$ 10,000.00
<u>Anaconda Local Development Corporation</u>	<i>Anaconda Artway</i>	Anaconda	\$ 10,000.00
Art Mobile of Montana	<i>Art Mobile of Montana Artist in Residence</i>	Statewide	\$ 10,000.00
<u>Belgrade School District #44</u>	<i>Belgrade Rocks</i>	Belgrade	\$ 10,000.00
Bozeman Art Museum	<i>Learning the Language of Drawing</i>	Bozeman	\$ 5,000.00
<u>Choteau Community Art Studio (Choteau Arts)</u>	<i>Choteau Arts</i>	Choteau	\$ 5,615.00
<u>City of Glasgow</u>	<i>Glasgow High School Mural Residency</i>	Glasgow	\$ 10,000.00
Creative Writing Center, Montana State University Billings	<i>MSUB Creative Writing Center Residency</i>	Billings	\$ 4,500.00
Free Verse	<i>I Am Montana</i>	Missoula	\$ 10,000.00
Holter Museum of Art	<i>Art Feeds the Artist Within</i>	Helena	\$ 7,795.00
<u>KALICO Art Center</u>	<i>KALICO Art Center Ceramics Program</i>	Kalispell	\$ 10,000.00
Kalispell Public Schools - District No. 5	<i>Russell Elementary School</i>	Kalispell	\$ 3,595.00
Liberty Place, INC.	<i>Learning Weaving with Teaching Artist Diane Gerot</i>	Whitehall	\$ 2,775.00
MAPS Media Institute	<i>MAPS Media Institute</i>	Hamilton	\$ 10,000.00
Missoula Art Museum	<i>Teen Artist Project (TAP)</i>	Missoula	\$ 10,000.00
Missoula Community Radio	<i>Blacksmith Encounters</i>	Missoula	\$ 3,500.00
Missoula County Public Schools	<i>Bare Bait Dance Model Dance Education Program</i>	Missoula	\$ 2,900.00
Missoula Writing Collaborative	<i>River City Young Poets: Creative Writing Residencies</i>	Missoula	\$ 10,000.00
<u>Montana Actors' Theatre</u>	<i>MAT Youth</i>	Havre	\$ 10,000.00
Montana Repertory Theatre	<i>Montana Rep's 2021 Educational Outreach Tour</i>	Statewide	\$ 10,000.00
Montana Shakespeare in the Parks	<i>Montana Shakespeare in the Schools</i>	Statewide	\$ 10,000.00
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art	<i>Curative Art Collective</i>	Great Falls	\$ 5,000.00
SPARK! Arts Ignite Learning	<i>Arts Integration Residency Project</i>	Missoula	\$ 10,000.00
<u>The Root & The Bloom Collective</u>	<i>Clark Chateau Youth Vaudeville Residency</i>	Butte	\$ 2,500.00
The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts	<i>Shane Center Education Programs</i>	Livingston	\$ 10,000.00
WaterWorks Art Museum	<i>WaterWorks Educational Outreach</i>	Miles City	\$ 10,000.00
White Sulphur Springs School District	<i>White Sulphur Springs Theatre Camps</i>	White Sulphur Springs	\$ 4,303.00

TOTALS \$ 207,483.00

underlined/highlighted organizations denotes new AISC applicant

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Kristin Han Burgoyne | Deputy Director
RE: Statewide Service Organization Grants

Statewide Service Organization (SSO) grants provide operating support for Montana non-profit arts organizations with statewide service impact. The program recognizes strong operations, stable management, ongoing engagement, and high-quality services. Successful applicants will expand opportunities for all Montanans to create, participate in, and appreciate Montana's wide range of cultural resources. Applicants may be prioritized to equalize awards across geographic area and disciplines.

This is the second cycle in which MAC has revised the eligibility requirements to be more accessible to small, rural, and volunteer-run organizations. The staff have developed a list of organizations that meet the intent of the program and would be able to expand services with support from MAC. I contacted them, encouraging an application, and learned that the pandemic has put significant stress on these types of organizations, that they lack the capacity to apply, and operate under a cloud of uncertainty. We hope things will turn around by the next cycle and we will see more guilds and artists associations apply.

I reached out to an unusual group of panelists with an interesting set of skills and experiences. Part of the review process will include time to critique the guidelines and offer suggestions on how to further refine the program and market it to organizations that are qualified.

Each application is scored against the following criteria:
Appropriate and sufficient governance, management, and staffing.
Mission and focus strengthen the artistic community statewide.
Programs and services advance the artistic and administrative functions of targeted membership.

Grants will range from \$2,000 to \$24,000 annually.

Applications will be reviewed by panel meeting on May 25th. The panel will be chaired by Tom Cordingley and panelists are:

Michelle Kendziorski, Big Sky Community Organization
Ashleigh Heimbach, West Mont
China Reeves, Arts Council of Big Sky

Applications for review:

Montana Art Gallery Directors Association (MAGDA)
Montana Dance Arts Association (MDAA)
Holter Museum of Art
Montana Performing Arts Consortium (MPAC)
Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras (MASO)

A verbal update of the outcome of the review will be provided at the council meeting.

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Brian Moody | Program Officer
RE: CARES Act Awards

In June 2020, MAC launched three programs to support the creative sector through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. With additional funds from the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP), \$1,426,396 was directed to 425 artists and 56 organizations. The grant list at the end of this memo captures awards to be ratified since December 5, 2020.

There were three distinct categories of Montana CARES grants: Montana CARES Partners, Montana CARES Individuals and Montana CARES Recovery.

Montana CARES Partners directed relief to recent Public Value Partnership (PVP) grantees. Out of 47 eligible organizations, 40 organizations applied and received \$3,000. The review was conducted by staff and then approved by the Executive Committee. Based on additional resources through the OBPP, MAC allowed grantees to submit revisions to increase their award for up to \$6,000. These modifications are included in the ratification list.

Montana CARES Individuals provided up to \$2,500 to allow artists to engage in their artistic practice. Artistic practice is broadly defined and includes artists, teaching artists, arts administrators, and other arts and culture workers. Funds made available through OBPP, combined with the NEA award, allowed for six deadlines.

Montana CARES Recovery provided resources for artists and non-profit organizations with public arts programming. Awards offset realized costs related to postponed and canceled arts opportunities. Award amounts up to \$1,000. The program accepted applications through September 21, 2020.

Through the review process, we have engaged 23 reviewers. Members of the public who served as reviewers include:

Teresa Amsbaugh, Helena
Melanie Drown, Whitefish
Luke Walrath, Whitefish
Russell Rowland, Billings
Tom Bensen, Missoula
Hillary Shepherd, Great Falls
Deidre Corson, Whitefish
Alyssa Cordova, Kalispell
Susan Joy, Helena
Michael Hale, Missoula
Lynda Moss, Billings
Kate Morris, Billings
Molly Severtson, Helena
Krys Holmes, Helena
Kia Liszak, Missoula

CARES grants have provided support for performing, visual, and literary artists during a time when cultural events have been severely scaled back.

PHOTO: ERIC HEIDLE



Current and former members of the Montana Arts Council who served as reviewers include:

Corby Skinner
Tracy Linder
G.B. Carson
Jean Steele
Corky Clairmont
Liz Albers
Sean Chandler
Angela Russell

We have learned a great deal as an agency through the Montana CARES grants. Perhaps the most important takeaway is how challenged many artists are by grant applications and grant reporting. Some of these challenges come down to technology and unreliable internet, some of them are issues with our own grant design, and some of them are related to artist professional development. Fortunately, these are all challenges MAC can respond to and adapt to, and we'll function better as a granting agency having done so.

The CARES grants would not have been possible without a massive investment of time from members of the Executive Committee, who met 13 times to review and approve applications and spent dozens of hours reading materials. Lana Mullaney who was hired in November on a temporary basis, and jumped immediately into the payment process, has been indispensable to MAC. Her perseverance and good attitude through the process is commendable.

Montana CARES Individuals June 2021 Ratification

Applicant Name	City	Award
Shane Abbott	Harlem	\$2,500.00
Annette Allen Clark	Lincoln	\$2,500.00
Joshua Arellano	Box Elder	\$0.00
Earl Arkinson	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Chris Autio	Missoula	\$0.00
Andrew Avakian	Missoula	\$1,845.00
Brian Azure	Great Falls	\$2,500.00
Pete Azure	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Kathy Baker	Harlem	\$2,120.00
Annabella Barks	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Lawrence Bauer	Havre	\$0.00
Angela Belcourt	Box Elder	\$0.00
Luanne Belcourt	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Alex Belgarde	Box Elder	\$0.00
Katharine Bell	Greenough	\$0.00
Dana Berardinis	Big Arm	\$2,500.00
Connor Berkompas	Bozeman	\$0.00
Albert Bernard	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Brenda Bernard	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Melody Bernard	Box Elder	\$0.00
Melody Bernard	Havre	\$0.00
Brian Big Bow	Box Elder	\$0.00
Mitchell Billis	White Sulphur Springs	\$2,500.00
Joyce Black Wolf	Hays	\$2,500.00
Ben Blackwood	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Lori Blaylock	Billings	\$2,500.00
Kelly Bouma	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Kelsey Bowen	Billings	\$2,500.00
Shakinah Brzezinski	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Latisha Buck Elk Thunder	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Victoria Burchill	Bozeman	\$1,900.00
Sheri Burden	Swan Lake	\$2,100.00
Sean Burress	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Andrew Butler	Havre	\$2,500.00
Robert Caplette	Havre	\$0.00
Eric Carlson	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Jayce Carlson	Browning	\$2,500.00
John Carter	Missoula	\$1,884.00

Applicant Name	City	Award
Andrea Castillo	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Esai Cervantez	Gallatin Gateway	\$0.00
Cora Chandler	Billings	\$2,500.00
Flint Chiefsick	Box Elder	\$0.00
Chip Clawson	Helena	\$2,500.00
Travis Coleman	Missoula	\$0.00
Sneed Collard	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Michele Corriel	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Catherine Courtenaye	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Lester Crazy Boy	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Andi Daniel	Havre	\$2,500.00
Kirsten Daniels	Bozeman	\$700.00
Nicholas Danielson	Helena	\$2,500.00
Sotirios Dasios	Missoula	\$1,200.00
Tavin Davis-Kapor	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Cliff DeManty	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Margaret Denny	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Larissa Denny	Box Elder	\$0.00
Misty Denny	Havre	\$2,500.00
Misty Denny	Havre	\$0.00
Jamie Dobiesz	Kalispell	\$2,500.00
Andy Dunnigan	Whitefish	\$2,499.00
Andriana Eastwood	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Tammy Eigeman Thompson	Kalispell	\$2,500.00
Edd Enders	Livingston	\$2,500.00
Julie Engler	Columbia Falls	\$2,500.00
Kyler Ernst	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Megan Eubank	Livingston	\$2,500.00
Heidi Faessel	Whitefish	\$2,400.00
Paul Fernandez Gomez	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Jill Ferris	Columbus	\$2,500.00
Frank Finley	Pablo	\$2,500.00
Vicki Fish	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Rocky Fitzgerald	Browning	\$2,500.00
Donna Flanery	Missoula	\$1,991.00
Matt Forbes	Helena	\$2,500.00
Leticia Fortune	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Shannon Fox	Hays	\$2,500.00

Applicant Name	City	Award
Joy French	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Carrie French	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Simone Friede	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Angelina Froke	Livingston	\$2,500.00
Dante Gambardella	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Alonzo Gardipee	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Tashia Gates	Anaconda	\$0.00
Tyson Gerhardt Hirsch	Missoula	\$2,100.00
Ron Gibson	Lincoln	\$2,500.00
Lisa Gibson	Lincoln	\$2,500.00
Michael Gillan	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Monica Gilles-BringsYellow	Missoula	\$2,000.00
Patti Gregerson	Marion	\$2,500.00
Michelle Guzman	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Nicolle Hamm	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Hermina Harold	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Andrea Harsell	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Scott Hayes	Fairfield	\$2,500.00
Betty Henderson	Box Elder	\$0.00
Jackson Holte	Lincoln	\$2,500.00
Robert Holter	Helena	\$2,500.00
leon hoskins	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Gen Huitt	Polson	\$2,500.00
Amber Ikeman	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Ronald Ingraham	Browning	\$2,500.00
Keith Jackson	Helena	\$2,500.00
Rebekah Jarvey	Havre	\$2,500.00
Anna Jesaitis	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Tamara Jordan	Lincoln	\$2,500.00
John Joyce	Hardin	\$2,500.00
KJ Kahnle	Hamilton	\$2,500.00
Chris Kamman	Big Sky	\$0.00
Anjuli Keller-King	Eureka	\$2,497.00
Madeline Keller-King	Eureka	\$2,500.00
Crystal Kingston	Big Arm	\$2,500.00
Kathy Kinzfogl	Bigfork	\$0.00
Edis Kittrell	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Gloria Klind	Hinsdale	\$2,500.00
John Knight	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Maranda Knopfle	Heart Butte	\$2,500.00
Daniel Kosel	Roberts	\$2,500.00
Daniel LaFranier	Columbia Falls	\$2,500.00
Sharon Lamar	Condon	\$1,500.00

Applicant Name	City	Award
Peter Landeen	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Michael Larson	Billings	\$0.00
Gabrielle Lewis	Bozeman	\$0.00
Sable Little Sun	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
L. Lohmuller	Lewistown	\$2,500.00
Kristina Lucero	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Susan Luinstra	Choteau	\$2,500.00
Michelle Luke	Kalispell	\$2,500.00
Jayne Maginot	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Megan Makeever	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Carly Mann	Billings	\$2,500.00
Bruna Massadas	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Judy Matt	Lolo	\$2,500.00
George McCauley	Helena	\$1,904.00
Kayla McCormick	Missoula	\$0.00
Bernice McGuire	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Deirdre McNamer	Missoula	\$1,050.00
Pamela Mencher	Clancy	\$0.00
John Mercer	Condon	\$2,500.00
Amy Messenger	Kalispell	\$2,490.00
Miantae Metcalf McConnell	Columbia Falls	\$2,500.00
Madeline Mikolon	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Chontay Mitchell	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Yvonne Molina	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Elise Molina	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Lauren Monroe	Browning	\$2,500.00
Shawna Moore	Whitefish	\$2,500.00
Amanda Morrison	Helena	\$2,500.00
Amanda Morsette	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Kyle Nay	Helena	\$2,500.00
Nathan Norby	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Jo Ogden	Seeley Lake	\$2,070.00
Myron OldBull	Havre	\$2,500.00
Brandy Olsen	Billings	\$2,500.00
Terrisa Olson	Missoula	\$750.00
Barbara Olson	Billings	\$2,500.00
Brady Ophus	Box Elder	\$0.00
Michelle Osman	Bozeman	\$2,220.00
Anna Paige	Billings	\$2,500.00
Kurt Palmquist	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Nida Parker	Box Elder	\$0.00
Krista Pasini	Billings	\$2,500.00
Catherine Patten	Missoula	\$2,500.00

Applicant Name	City	Award
Gabrielle Patterson	Missoula	\$0.00
Doug Peacock	Emigrant	\$2,500.00
Andrea Peacock	Livingston	\$2,500.00
Tammie Peterson	Browning	\$2,500.00
Bruce Pierce	Manhattan	\$2,500.00
Adam Pitman	Whitefish	\$2,500.00
Martha Powers Swanson	Ovando	\$1,400.00
Scot Ray	Philipsburg	\$2,500.00
Eric Reese	Whitefish	\$2,500.00
Reid Reimers	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Alison Reintjes	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Brandon Reintjes	Missoula	\$0.00
Dione Roberts	Billings	\$2,500.00
Gerry Robinson	East Helena	\$2,500.00
Jeffery Rodriquez	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Ernestine Rosette	Box Elder	\$0.00
Charles Rosette	Box Elder	\$0.00
Karen Savory	Hamilton	\$2,500.00
Patricia Shirk	Libby	\$2,500.00
Siesa Shuman	Billings	\$2,500.00
Lauren Small Rodriguez	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Shana Smith	Kalispell	\$2,500.00
Richard Smith	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Paula Smith	Seeley Lake	\$2,500.00
Kyle Sorenson	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Sandra Sorrell	Arlee	\$2,500.00
Pennell Spencer	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Joyce Spoonhunter	Browning	\$2,500.00
Alden Spoonhunter	Browning	\$2,500.00
Justin St.Marks	Box Elder	\$0.00
Seraya Standing Rock	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Duane Standing Rock	Box Elder	\$0.00

Applicant Name	City	Award
Duncan Standing Rock	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Youpa Stein	Arlee	\$2,100.00
Tianta Stevens	Great Falls	\$2,500.00
Gwen Strachan	Livingston	\$0.00
Jerry Suko	Missoula	\$0.00
Darrell Sun Child	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Saraya Sun Child	Missoula	\$2,500.00
Misty Tatsey	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Bobbi Thomas	Pablo	\$2,500.00
Judd Thompson	Billings	\$2,500.00
Gail Torres	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Jacob Tyner	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Hannah Uhde	Helena	\$2,500.00
Gregory Vallor	Bozeman	\$800.00
Jeffrey Van Tine	Clancy	\$2,500.00
Willem Volkersz	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Roger Watson	Condon	\$2,500.00
Sarah Weaver	Polson	\$2,500.00
John Weitzel	Butte	\$2,500.00
Brianna West	Billings	\$1,500.00
JP Westbrook	Red Lodge	\$2,500.00
Bobbie Weston	Missoula	\$0.00
Diane Whitehead	Ovando	\$2,500.00
Harry Whitford	Box Elder	\$2,500.00
Harold Whitford	Box Elder	\$0.00
Richard Wiegel	Bozeman	\$2,427.00
Scott Williams	East Helena	\$2,500.00
Alvin Windy Boy	Box Elder	\$0.00
Betsy Wise	Bozeman	\$2,500.00
Hayden Woods	Belgrade	\$2,500.00
Maura Wright	Helena	\$2,500.00
Tanya Yarrow	Missoula	\$1,500.00
Casey Zablocki	Missoula	\$2,500.00

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Tracy Linder | Chair, Strategic Investment Grants Committee
RE: Strategic Investment Grants

The Strategic Investment Grant (SIG) program provides up to \$1,000 in matching funds to professional artists, nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations, and Preschool to Grade 12 teachers for:

- Professional Development
- Market Expansion
- Public Outreach Arts Activities
- Challenges and Emergencies

Guidelines are available on the [MAC website](http://www.art.mt.gov/sig). (www.art.mt.gov/sig) Applications are accepted with a monthly deadline. Recommendations are made based on the application meeting the stated criteria. Applications do not compete with each other for funding.

The SIG committee is comprised of council members Angella Ahn, Liz Albers, Tom Cordingley, and Jay Pyette. Corby Skinner served on the Committee from December 2020 to March 2021. The committee meets monthly at 10:00 a.m. on the second Wednesday by conference call to review applications.

The attached list of applications for ratification is from December 2020 to April 2021. To date, for FY 2021, 36 applications for \$61,650 have been received, and 19 have been approved for a total of \$18,144 awarded.

Strategic Investment Grant Ratification

FY2021 (Project End Dates Between July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)

Individual/Organization	Project Title	City	Request	Award
Candice Methe	Lathe-Combing wood and Clay	Red Lodge	\$1,000	\$1,000
Rocky Fitzgerald*	Indigenous Goddess Creations by Rocky	Browning	\$2,500	\$0
Orphan Girl Children's Theatre	Digital Workshop Series	Butte	\$1,000	\$1,000
Heather Carnahan*	Homegrown Local Artists	Billings	\$1,500	\$0
Joy French	Bare Bait Presents "CXQ Redux". A dance concert featuring 3 choreographers across the U.S.	Missoula	\$1,000	\$1,000
Eric Carlson*	Entanglements	Missoula	\$1,000	\$0
Kevin League*	Photography Gallery Capital Improvement	Helena	\$1,000	\$1,000
Anna Paige*	Eat. Share. Give. Community Fridge Initiative.	Billings	\$1,000	\$0
Michelle Luke	Saving Michelle's Bacon	Kalispell	\$1,000	\$0

FY2022 (Project End Dates Between July 1, 2021-June 30, 2021)

Individual/Organization	Project Title	City	Request	Award
Philipsburg Art Fund	Philipsburg 2.0: Be Careful What You Wish For	Philipsburg	\$1,000	\$1,000
Leon Hoskins*	De Leon 56 Productions Expansion	Missoula	\$5,000	\$0
Leon Hoskins*	De Leon 56 Productions Expansion	Missoula	\$5,000	\$0
Leon Hoskins*	"Our Father's Son"	Missoula	\$5,000	\$0
Leon Hoskins*	De Leon 56 Productions	Missoula	\$5,000	\$0
Carol Hartman*	Developing Homestead Contacts for Custom Paintings	Red Lodge	\$1,000	\$1,000
Sahra Beaupre	Artist Critique Workshops	Bozeman	\$1,000	\$0
Pam Dolan*	Art Festival - Launching Art Business	Belgrade	\$1,000	\$1,000
Leon Hoskins	2021 Writers Conferences	Billings	\$5,000	\$0

*denotes first time applicant

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Cyndy Andrus | Committee Chair
Re: Poet Laureate Recommendation

Work of the Committee

The Poet Laureate Committee includes Sean Chandler and Renée Westlake, and I serve as Committee Chair with staff duties shared by Tatiana Gant, Eric Heidle, and Ginny Newman. The Committee met in March to review the proposed process and timeline. The nomination process continued unchanged from 2018, using an open public survey.

The 2018 Committee had begun work on a job description that staff refined, and the Committee approved for 2020. Following legal advice received in 2018, the Committee adopted a \$5,000 budget line to reimburse travel expenses for the Poet Laureate over their two-year term. This expense is in the FY 2022 Proposed Budget for the June 2021 meeting. The job description, including the conditions of the stipend, is near the end of this memo.



Incumbent Poets Laureate M.L. Smoker and Melissa Kwasny

This Committee elected to allow the public to be the primary voice in assessing the poets and did not comment or vote in the Review Panel meeting. The bios of the review panelists are included in this memo.

Promotion efforts included social media, a notice to eNews subscribers, inclusion in the Spring *State of the Arts*, and emails to past Poets Laureate, higher education contacts, and libraries. The nomination process closed with 34 submissions for 24 poets. Sixteen poets accepted their nomination, up slightly from the 2018 process.

The review panel met on 5/14 to assess each poet's materials against the criteria. The Committee then reviewed their scores and comments and has developed the following recommendation for presentation to the Governor:

Chris Dombrowski
Mark Gibbons
Chris LaTray

Chris Dombrowski

Sustenance

I tracked it through the one mind of the woods.
Its hoofprints pressed in snow were smallish hearts.
Buck fawn: he let me come so near, take aim.
Crouched against a fir, I was anything.
Bush, stump, doe in estrus he could rut.
Not his maimer, though, not his final thought.
He stared me down until I shot him: low.
Then the forest forgot he'd ever been.
Nascent, there were signs: bonechip, spoor, frail hair.
But no memory, wounded, wants to die.
He hid in the dark timber, twice crossed the creek.
Finally he lay heaving out last breaths.
Dusk-cast shadow, he died where he was made.
A bite of heart sustains but is not him.

Weekly Apocalyptic, Or Poem Written On The Wall In

An Ascending Space Capsule
We had to stop what we were doing
to see what we had done. Thing was,
we wouldn't. How devoted we were
to despising one another, to erecting
our own private islands made of water
bottles and various other plastic
disposables. "Will you forgive me?"
was a phrase stricken from our language —
theirs, too, "they" ballooning to include
nearly everyone but that arcane term
"us." Upon discovering that gulls
feasting on our unearthed dead bodies
died of our toxicity, we sobered up
but couldn't stand to look at ourselves
in what was left of the light. Despite
what so many movies had taught us, "just
in time" was a tick too late. There was
this bird we used to call a whippoorwill.

Bird in My Boot

I have a bird in my muck boot, a leak
that collects water and squeaks with each
step. I thought to patch it but prefer

the company of an invisible warbler
who's quiet until I walk and goes with me
until I pause, perhaps a lark, can't tell,

its call muffled under footfalls, refugee
of the seraphim to be sure. In a dark time,
a poet born near my birthplace wrote,

the eye begins to see. He also knew how
to spell Tittabawassee and that it flowed
via the Saginaw into a desecrated bay

like the shining eyes of a drinker
dulling as a bottle drains. I'm not
refuting, only saying that the ear

begins to hear as well, mine did, slight
wings and their settling. I lived on a bay
I wished to enter permanently despite

a beloved's touch and the predawn
whisperings of our children in the room
adjacent, and took heart in the poet's

wondering if madness wasn't nobility of soul
at odds with circumstance until a young man
several states away, a child himself, entered

a school and shot twenty children. I untacked
the quoted syllables from the wall. Madness
was madness, that's all. The wind that day

blew very hard and a kestrel hover-hunting
coastline snatched a woodcock from the air,
turning the late migrant into a formless

swirl of feathers, then stood in the yard
picking plumage from its prey's upturned
breast. Slick meat hanging from its beak,

it stared me down, masked eyes looking past
my human to the one that aches to survive—
it lit ultimately in a blur of grey-orange,

leaving its mark to billow as it disappeared
into that country owned by the winged,
upon whose constant intercession I depend.

Christopher D Dombrowski

1212 Dickinson Street
Missoula, MT 59802
chris_dombrowski@hotmail.com
christopher.dombrowski@mso.umt.edu
406/546-2041

Education

MFA Creative Writing, The University of Montana, 2001
BA English, Hope College, 1998

Book Publications

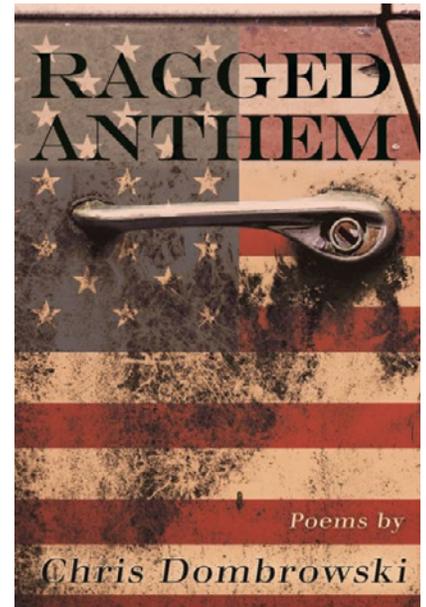
The Nature of Wonder (nonfiction), Milkweed Editions (forthcoming)
Ragged Anthem (poetry), Wayne State University Press (2019)
Body of Water (nonfiction), Milkweed Editions (2016)
Earth Again (poetry collection), Wayne State University Press (2013)
By Cold Water (poetry collection), Wayne State University Press (2009)

Notable Reviews of *Body of Water*

Wall Street Journal
Bloomberg News (Best Book of 2016)
Forbes
Publishers Weekly (starred)
Booklist
Kirkus
Outside
Minneapolis Star-Tribune
Los Angeles Review of Books
Los Angeles Review
Orion
Powell's .com
Shelf-Awareness
Gray's Sporting Journal
Big Sky Journal
High Desert Journal
The Missoulian
The Drake
Missoula Independent
and others

Representative Prose Publications

"Christmas Eve," (essay), *Gray's Sporting Journal*, Fall 2019
"Memorial Dinner," (essay), *Outside*, Spring 2018
"River-Hewn," (essay), *Anglers Journal*, Summer 2018
"Some Headwaters: on David James Duncan," (essay), *The Drake*, Summer 2018
"Three," (essay), *The Sun*, Summer 2014
"Chance Baptisms," (essay), *Orion*, Summer 2012
"Should 'I Quit Making This Poem': on The Eco-Poetry Anthology) *Spoon River*, Fall 2014
"The Gospel According To Jim Harrison," (essay), *Anglers Journal*, Fall 2015



"My Anti-Zen Zen" (essay), *The Sun*, Spring 2011
"The Oar," (essay), *The Sun*, Winter 2011
"The River of Real Time," (essay), *Gray's Sporting Journal*, Spring 2015
"Kansas," (essay), *Gray's Sporting Journal*, Fall 2015
"Stone Upon Stone," (review of Mysliwski) *Orion*, Spring 2011
"Bolts," (essay), *Portland Magazine*, Winter 2013
"Kana," (essay), *Orion*, Spring 2008
"Huns," (essay), *Gray's Sporting Journal*, Fall 2007
"Birthright," (essay), *Big Sky Journal*, Spring 2006
"The First Composer" (review of Merwin), *Cutbank*, Spring 2006
"My Whitefishing Woes Continue," (essay), *Big Sky Journal*, Fall 2004
"In a Life Properly Lived," (review of Harrison), *Big Sky Journal*, Spring 2003
(many other reviews published in *Orion* and *Missoula Independent*)

Representative Poetry Publications

"Bird in My Boot" and "Phrases" *Poetry Northwest* (Winter 2019)
"Three Poems," *Descant* (Winter 2019)
"Going Home," *The Southern Review*, (Winter 2017)
"Cooking Christmas Dinner," *Poetry East*, (Winter 2016)
"Coda," *Big Sky Journal*, (Winter 2016)
"Boy with Tree Frog," *Orion*, (Summer 2015)
"Three Poems," *Hampden-Sydney Review*, (Fall 2015)
"Saying Moon in Dusk," *Southern Humanities Review*, (Fall 2015)
"Five Poems," *Terrain*, Spring 2015
"Four Poems," *Talking River*, (Winter 2015)
"Three Poems," *Basalt*, (Spring 2013)
"Tablet," *Poetry Daily*, (April 2013)
"Comes to Worse," *Gulf Coast*, (Fall 2012)
"Naïve Melody," *Michigan Quarterly Review*, (Fall 2012)
"Weekly Apocalyptic," *The Sun*, (November 2012)
"Inscription," *Strange Machine*, (Spring 2012)
"Partial Eclipse" and "February Sidereal," *CAB*, (Winter 2011)
"Wintering," *The Dunes Review*, (Winter 2011)
"Tablet," and "A Toast," *Beloit Poetry Journal* (Fall 2011)
"Poem with Several Unforgivable Keatsian References," *Guernica*, (Spring 2011)
"Small Fire in Snow," *Carolina Quarterly*, (Fall 2010)
"Landscape with Scavengers and Bonelight," *Poetry Daily*, (October 2009)
"Sustenance," "Get Up, John," and "Landscape...," *Poetry*, (Spring 2008)
"Midst," *Denver Quarterly*, (Winter 2008)
"Vespers" and "Tarnation," *New Orleans Review*, (Fall 2008)
"Possible Psalm," *Orion*, (Spring 2009)
(and over 50 other poems published in magazines and journals)

Anthologies

Dear America: Letters of Hope, Habitat, Defiance and Democracy (Trinity U Press, 2020)
Environmental and Nature Writing: a Writer's Guide and Anthology, (Bloomsbury, 2016)
Poetry in Michigan/Michigan in Poetry (New Issues, 2013)
Wonder and Other Survival Skills, (Orion Magazine Press, 2012)
Astream: American Writers on Fly Fishing (Skyhorse, 2012)
A Face to Meet the Faces (U of Akron Press, 2012)
Making Poems: 40 Poems with Commentary by the Poets (SUNY Press, 2010):
Joyful Noise: an Anthology of American Spiritual Poetry (Autumn House, 2007)

Scholarships and Awards

2019 Best American Essays Notable Essay, "Christmas Eve"
Bloomberg News Best Book of 2016 (*Body of Water*)
Top Ten Indie Next Pick, (*Body of Water*), American Booksellers Association
Notable Book, Sigurd F. Nelson Nature Writing Award, 2016 (*Body of Water*)
Big Sky Journal Best Book of 2016 (*Body of Water*)
Silver Medal, Foreword Magazine's Poetry Book of the Year, 2013
2014 *Best American Essays* Notable Essay, "Three"
2013 *Best American Essays* Notable Essay, "Chance Baptisms"
National Magazine Award Nomination, "The Gospel of Jim"
Finalist, ForeWord Magazine's Poetry Book of the Year, 2009
Special Mention, Pushcart Prize, 2009
Nominee, Pushcart Prize (by Jack Driscoll, contributing ed.), 2009-18
Recipient, Writing Fellowship, UCROSS Foundation, 2008
Matthew Hansen Endowment, University of Montana, 2008
Winner, *Alligator Juniper* National Poetry Contest, 2004
The Associated Writing Programs Intro Journals Award, 2001
Poetry Fellowship, University of Montana, 2001

Recent Readings and Lectures

Yosemite National Park Poet-in-Residence, Summer 2019
Book Lovers Ball Headliner, Minneapolis, Fall 2016
Winter Institute, Winter 2017
Juniper Institute, Summer 2016
Michigan State University, Fall 2016
Pacific Northwest Booksellers Nightcapper Event, Fall 2016
Montana Festival of the Book, numerous appearances
AWP Reader, numerous appearances
AWP Panelist, numerous appearances for (*Milkweed*, *Orion*, and *The Sun*)
Yosemite National Park Poet-in-Residence, Summer 2014
Linfield College, Spring 2014
Eliot Bay Books (Seattle), Fall 2013
Wenatchee Valley College, Fall 2016
Prairie Lights Books (Iowa City), 2013
Alma College, 2013
Ferris State University, 2013
Kalamazoo College, 2013
Skagit River Poetry Festival, May 2012
Associated Writing Programs Panelist (*Orion*), 2012
Penn State University-Altoona, September 2011
Case Western Reserve University, September 2011
Hope College, Jack Ridl Visiting Writers Series, September 2011 and 2016
Second Wind Reading Series, Missoula
(and many others at independent bookstores across the country)

Teaching Experience

Spring 2020 Distinguished Kittredge Writer (nonfiction)
University of Montana MFA Program

Spring 2019 Visiting Assistant Professor (nonfiction),
University of Montana MFA Program

Spring 2018 Kittredge Visiting Writer-in-Residence,
University of Montana EVST Program

Summer 2015 Founding Director, Beargrass Writing Workshops

Spring 2014 Director and Instructor, Beargrass Writing Workshops

Fall 2014 Instructor of Creative Writing, University of Montana (Storytelling)

2011-2013 Instructor of CW, Interlochen Center for the Arts (Poetry Workshops, Hybrid
Genres, Writing of Non-Fiction, and Digital Literary Publishing)

Spring 2011 Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Montana
Instructor, Creative Writing, Intro to Poetry

Fall 2008-10 Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Montana

Spring 2008 Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Montana
Instructor, Creative Writing: Cross-Genre Works

Spring 2007 Visiting Writer-in-Residence, Interlochen Arts Academy
Instructor, Special Topics: Hybrid Genres, and Workshop

Fall 2005 Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Montana
Instructor, English and Basic Composition

Winter 2005 Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Montana
Instructor, Intro to Creative Writing: Poetry

Fall 2004 Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Montana
Instructor, Montana Writers: Live!

2001-Present Poet-in-Residence, Missoula Writing Collaborative
Workshop Instructor, Missoula Area Schools

Spring 2001 Poetry Fellow, University of Montana
Introduction to Creative Writing

References and Contact Information

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daniel_slager@milkweed.org
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Debra Magpie Earling
Professor
University of Montana
debra.earling@mso.umt.edu

H. Emerson "Chip" Blake
former CEO and Publisher, *Orion* Magazine and
Foundation
chipblake@gmail.com
413.429.1700

Judy Blunt
Director, Creative Writing Program
University of Montana
judy.blunt@mso.umt.edu

Mark Gibbons

In the Weeds

I am comfortable lying
in the weeds
looking at the sky
be it warm summer or musty fall.
I like watching the bugs
crawl, the flight patterns
of butterflies and bees, chewing
stems and smelling the grass-
earthy scent around me, contrails
etching across turbulent clouds
unfolding images locked
in my head. I listen
for any sounds: trains, voices,
planes, the occasional car
driving by, barking dogs,
chain saws, the thumping of
my heart, the wind in the trees
and in my chest.
No one can see me there
buried flat as a fawn.
Sometimes I'm with a friend,
but it's best by myself
because the silence is all mine.
Those who jump to disagree
with my proclamation of loving it
"in the weeds" probably haven't
been there face down
with the beetles and ants,
eye-level to voles, then rolling
over to watch hawks hover
in thermals against the blue.
I guess to those figurative souls
"in the weeds" is to be lost—
"at sea" or at least "in a funk"—
certainly it has to be an inability
to act decisively. Of course, for me
that's the most interesting place
to be, literally in the here and now
of this constantly transforming
magical trip, that wonderland
we paid more attention to as kids—
uncertainty—call me Peter Pan
if you will, but I love it
deep in the weeds.

Pissed at Potter's Funeral

That frosty November day,
Tom stood at the edge of the grave
we'd dug the night before.
The preacher, stern, Bible in hand,
prayed God have mercy on Potter's soul.
Guilty as Potter of too much fun, the rest of us
bowed our heads, bit our tongues,
but Tom never played by the rules.

He whistled, barked out a staccato laugh,
then poured Budweiser on the casket.
His cackle yanked and lashed
every sorry neck erect.
B.W. and Rastus both sprung for him,
grabbed his arms and shook him hard,
hissed he'd better knock it off
or they were going to kick his ass,
but Tom was drunk, beyond, and crazy-strong.
He threatened to piss in the grave.

Only Potter could handle him well,
speaking those low, gentle tones
he'd used to calm horses and dogs.
I watched the pine box in the bottom
of the hole, knew easy was over
for good. Tom struggled to open his zipper.
The three of them almost went down.
Potter's mother let go of the minister's
arm, crossed to Tom and sheltered
his hands with her hands.

She smiled. Her thumbs rubbed
the ridges of his knuckles,
and he melted, bent forward and cried.
She whispered in his ear, slipped her arm
through his arm. The two of them
shuffled away. The wind swayed tall pines
that banked the plot. I looked west,
and two ravens hovered motionless
in currents above the river, then peeled off
and disappeared downstream. There was snow
up Whiskey Gulch. I didn't know what to do,

so I scooped the first shovel of dirt in the grave.
It covered the inlaid cross on the coffin lid
and interred the gifts Tom left
for Potter's journey: a pipe
and beaded medicine pouch—
beside the empty beer can.

The Colony

All you can do
Is pass it on

Whatever you do
You pass it on

Forget karma
Your sorry ass
There are no excuses
For what you pass

And what you do
Always influences the colony

If you cut someone's throat
Or cut them some slack
That vibe is the Jack
You pass on

Whether you love
Or attack
You pass it on

A clown-juggler
On a unicycle
Pedaling into the spotlight

One of six billion
Frantic ants milling
Under the big top
Tossing swords or fire wands
Small dogs or beach balls
All knees and elbows
You pass it on

Whatever you let fly

Dramatic truths and lies
About hearts forsaken
And blood taken
Or shelter given
In the face of death
Familiar harbors
To the lost

You pass it on
What you're juggling
What you pedal
What you ride

And you choose
What you juggle

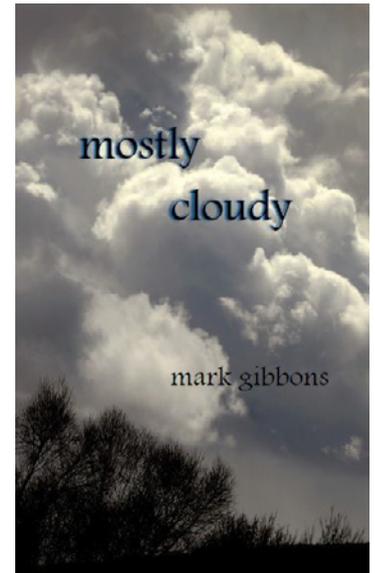
You even choose
How you feel
About the colony
About clowns
And ants

So take off your makeup
And smile
You're only here
For awhile

Roll up your sleeves

Mark Gibbons

1620 Helen Ave
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 721-4166 / (406) 214-8876
marcogibbo@yahoo.com



Poetry Books

In the Weeds (poetry) Drumlummon Institute, 2021
mostly cloudy (poetry) FootHills Publishing, 2020
The Imitation Blues (poetry) FootHills Publishing, 2017
Shadowboxing (poetry) FootHills Publishing, 2014
Forgotten Dreams (poetry) FootHills Publishing, 2012
Mauvaises Herbes / Weeds (French/English translation) Propos2Editions, 2009
War, Madness, & Love (a collection of poems with Michael Revere) R & R Publishing, 2008
blue horizon (poetry, out of print) Two Dogs Press, 2007
Connemara Moonshine (poetry) Camphorweed Press, 2002
Circling Home (poetry, out of print) Scattered Cairns Press, 2000
Something Inside Us (poetry, out of print) Wright Impressions, 1995

Books Edited

erosion by Clark Chatlain (poetry) FootHills Publishing, 2021
After Mating for Life by Melissa Stephenson (poetry) FootHills Publishing, 2021
Descended from a Travel-Worn Satchel by Chris La Tray (poetry) FootHills Publishing, 2021
Ash in the Tree by Gillian Kessler (poetry) FootHills Publishing, 2021
Blood is Not the Water by Mara Panich (poetry) FootHills Publishing, 2021
Homespun by Kurt Sobolik (poetry) FootHills Publishing, 2021
Summer Lightning by Marylor Wilson (poetry) Drumlummon Institute, 2019
Moving On by Ed Lahey (poetry) Drumlummon Institute, 2018
Cedilla V: a Montana Trip (editor of literary journal, out of print) Blind Horses Press 2011

Anthologies

Poetry in the Time of Coronavirus (poetry) Cuddy, 2020
Poems Across the Big Sky II (poetry) Many Voices Press, 2017
A Fact & Fiction Reader, Bangtail Press, 2013
40 Years of CutBank, CutBank Magazine, 2013
New Poets of the American West, Many Voices Press 2010
All Our Stories Are Here: Critical Perspectives on Montana Literature, Brady Harrison, ed.,
U Nebraska Press, 2009
Poems Across the Big Sky (poetry) Many Voices Press, 2007
Great Plains Poetry (poetry) Pittsburg State University, 1999
Where Icarus Falls (poetry) Santa Barbara Review, 1995

Journals

Bellowing Ark, Big Sky Stories, Blind Horses Press, Blue Collar Review, Camphorweed, Cedilla, Comstock Review, CutBank, Front Range, Great Midwestern Quarterly, Gumball Poetry, Hubbub, Idaho Connections, The Midday Moon, The Midwest Quarterly, MO: Writings from the River, Montana Crossroads, Montana Living, Naked Knuckle, Northern Journeys, Over The Transom, Pematican, phati'tude, Poetry Motel, Rattle, San Pedro River Review, Stones Throw Magazine, Talking River Review, Thin Air, Trestle Creek Review, Triggering, Whitefish Review

Awards

Artist Innovation Award (2013) Montana Arts Council
Nominated for a Pushcart Prize (2009, 2010) Front Range
Scattered Cairns Press Chapbook Prize 2000

Readings

Montana Senior News; Words Out West: The Poetry Moment; High Plains Book Festival, Billings, MT; Holt's Quarry, Helena, MT; Clark Chateau, Butte, MT; Elk River Books, Livingston, MT; Ojai Valley School, Ojai, CA; Bedrock Books, Helena, MT; Poetry Out Loud, Myrna Loy Theater, Helena, MT; Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Missoula, MT; Cedilla V, Crystal Theater, Missoula; Northern Arizona Book Festival, Flagstaff, AZ; Fact & Fiction, Missoula; University of Montana, Missoula; Montana Public Radio, KUFM, Missoula; Poets 4 Peace @ Wilma Theater, Missoula; Montana Festival of the Book, Missoula; Shakespeare & Co., Missoula; Quarter Moon Books Poetry Festivals, Missoula; Missoula Art Museum, Missoula; The Book Exchange, Missoula; Garden City Reading Series, Missoula; Second Wind Reading Series, Missoula; The Writer's Voice, Billings, MT; Hastings Books, Bozeman, MT; Montana Heritage Foundation, Butte, MT; Western Montana College, Dillon, MT; Very Special Arts, Warm Springs, MT; Holter Museum, Helena, MT; Lewis & Clark Library, Helena, MT; Naked Words, Helena, MT; Great Falls Festival of the Book, Great Falls, MT; Performing Arts League, Choteau, MT; Hockaday Museum, Kalispell, MT; Masumola Club, Flathead Lake, MT; Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, MT; The Old Mill, Polson, MT; Dreamcatcher, Polson; Ronan High School, Ronan, MT; I Love to Read Bookstore, Stevensville, MT; Chapter One Bookstore, Hamilton, MT; Railroad Day, Alberton, MT

Teaching Poetry

Missoula Writing Collaborative Residencies; Franklin, Hawthorne, Russell, Rattlesnake, and Paxson Elementaries, and C.S. Porter Middle School, Missoula County Public Schools; DeSmet School; Missoula; Alberton Schools, Alberton, MT; Missoula Youth Homes, Missoula; Sandpoint, ID; Missoula Writing Collaborative Summer Camp, Missoula (1996-2019)

Very Special Arts Montana Residencies, Head Injury & Developmentally Disabled Workshops, Missoula; Warm Springs State Hospital, Warm Springs, MT

Montana Arts Council Residencies: Helena, Kalispell, Missoula, Butte; Twin Bridges High School; Shelby Middle School; Lewistown Elementary; Sheridan Schools; Simms High School; Drummond Elementary; Corvallis Middle School; Thompson Falls Elementary; Ovando School; Lincoln Elementary; Choteau Schools; Conrad High School; Brady-Dutton Schools; Wolf Creek School; Two Eagle River, Pablo; Augusta Schools; Arlee High School; New Rockport Hutterite Colony; Helena High School, Helena, MT (1996-2015)

Poetry Out Loud Performance Consultant; (2005-2019)

406 Writer Workshops Instructor (2013-2014) Missoula

University of Montana MOLLI Poetry Classes (2014-2015)

Education

Alberton Schools: 1-12, graduated 1972

University of Montana:

1979, B.A. in Psychology (Education, Drama)

1985, B.A. English

1998, M.F.A. Creative Writing

Chris La Tray

Comet

Blaze through your meager time on earth like a gigantic rock firing through space at an unimaginable distance from where you slide behind the wheel of an iron-plated old Chevrolet, gravel tail arcing behind you as your tires, attached to rims, attached to axle, attached to drive train, attached to a few decades of classic Detroit engineering blast you away from all of your pain and frustration like a rocket into an entirely different universe of troubles, the kinetic energy of all those horses under the hood vibrating the flesh of your legs and your belly and you can't help but grin in spite of every little thing you perceive as wrong with your world, not sure where you're headed but you'll know when you get there, even if it's a crash of impact and a whomp! of fireball that sends your final prayers into the sky as tiny little fortunes scrawled on pieces of smoldering ash.

Superbloom

Leave it to the flowers
to show us how the world
celebrates the arrival of spring.

Like the desert,
who surges in technicolor
at the return of the sun,

alluvial hues
flooding the thirsty plain
of a fever's dream.

Do you greet the arriving season,
each and every season,
as you would this long lost friend?

Or even as the lover
you return to, again and again,
knowing that for all the blush

they are destined to become
the one you most look forward
to moving on from?

You part, the wheel turns,
the moons rise and fall,
and then, here they are again,

renewed at your doorstep,
aglow with fresh light,
and oh, how you've missed each other.

828,000 Square Miles

Did you happen to notice
in the midst of all your
best efforts at surviving
that the other day
marked the anniversary
of the Louisiana Purchase?
I'm not talking about
the time you marveled
that you could buy a daiquiri
from a drive-through window
complete with a straw
with all but the very
business end of the paper
already torn off and
pressed into the beverage.
I'm not talking about
the fake voodoo charms
purchased from a comically
witchy-looking proprietress
in a plasticity shop
on Bourbon Street either.
No, I mean the epic
land grab where
Thomas Jefferson
doubled the land base
of the United States of America
with one spirited purchase,
acquired territory
from a fading colonial empire
who never owned it
in the first place.
We all know this
but how does it even matter?
If you'd picked up
someone else's daiquiri,
or retrieved the wrong
package of fake voodoo charms,
on having it pointed out
you would have
given it right back,
wouldn't you?
Or would you have
lied, denied,
even gotten away
with murder?

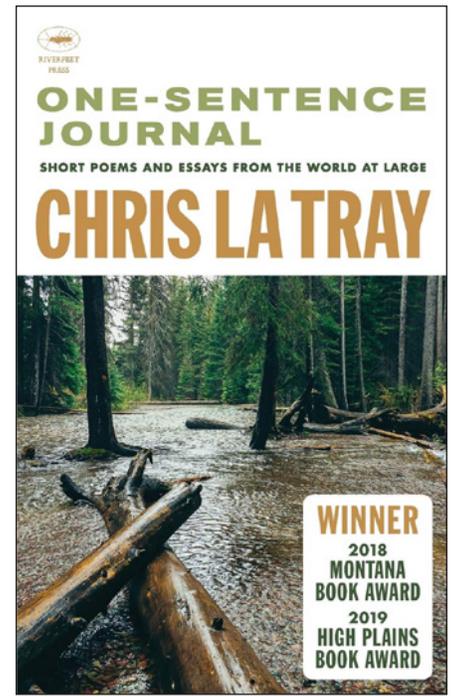
Chris La Tray Biography

Chris La Tray is a Métis writer and storyteller. He is a regular contributor to *Montana Quarterly*, and a former contributor to the *Missoulian* and the *Missoula Independent*. His work has been recently featured in *Camas Magazine*, *Cutbank Online*, *High Desert Journal*, and *Talking River*. His first book, *One-Sentence Journal: Short Poems and Essays From the World At Large* (2018, Riverfeet Press) won the 2018 Montana Book Award and a 2019 High Plains Book Award.

His next book, *Becoming Little Shell*, will be published by Milkweed Editions in 2022. This book is the story of La Tray's mixed-race, Métis heritage, a father who denied that heritage, and the community he was denied as a result. It is also a history of the state's Métis people, their largely-unrecognized cultural presence on the High Plains of the U.S., and finally of the Little Shell tribe and their struggle for federal recognition.

La Tray is an enrolled member of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He is a director on the board of the Big Sky Country National Heritage Area, serving as the official representative of the Little Shell Tribe. He also serves on the board of the Freeflow Foundation and serves as an advisor to the board of Swan Valley Connections.

Born and raised in Montana, La Tray grew up near Frenchtown, and lives now just outside of Missoula, where he will most likely be found writing in various dive bars and coffee shops, prowling the many trails and riverbanks of the Missoula valley, or holding down a shift as a part-time bookseller at downtown Missoula's storied bookstore, Fact & Fiction Books.



Review Committee

Tami Haaland

Tami Haaland is the author of three poetry collections, most recently *What Does Not Return*. Her poems have appeared in many periodicals and anthologies, including, *Consequence*, *The American Journal of Poetry*, *Ascent*, *The Ecopoetry Anthology*, and *Healing the Divide*. Her work has also been featured on *The Slowdown*, *The Writer's Almanac*, and *American Life in Poetry*. She was one of many poets who collaborated with UK filmmaker Anna Cady on her *Elemental Dialogue* series which was shown at festivals in England and Scotland. A former Montana Poet Laureate, Haaland is a professor of creative writing and has recently been appointed interim dean of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Montana State University Billings.

Rick Newby

Rick is a poet, editor, and arts writer, having authored four collections of poems and edited or co-edited several anthologies. He writes regularly about modern and contemporary art, and his essays on ceramic artists, painters, sculptors, and photographers have appeared in national and international journals and numerous exhibition catalogs. Rick is a past member of the Montana Arts Council, a 2009 recipient of the Montana Governor's Award for the Humanities, and a 2016 recipient of the Governor's Award for the Arts.

Barbara Theroux

As the former owner of Fact & Fiction in Missoula, Barbara is an avid reader with an impressive collection of personalized copies of many books gifted to her by her author friends. She began her career in Missoula at the Bookstore on the University of Montana campus and spent 31 years sharing her love of books with her Missoula community. She is one of the best-known independent book-sellers in the US. In her retirement, she will continue helping with the annual Montana Book Festival and with the design and development of the new Missoula Public Library.

Poets considered by the Review Panel

<i>Poet</i>	<i>Town</i>
Marc Beaudin	Livingston
Pete Critelli	Red Lodge
Dominic Farrenkopf	Hamilton
Tyler Gregson	Helena
Sid Gustafson	Bozeman
Neal Lewing	Polson
Brooke Mason	Kalispell
Mike Murray	Kalispell
Rick Newby	Helena
Ron Stottlemeyer	Helena
Christian Takes the Gun	Crow Agency
David E "Dave" Thomas	Missoula
Alan Weltzien	Dillon

Poet Laureate Job Description

The Montana Poet Laureate is an honorary position with no official duties and no compensation from the state.

As part of the selection process, the Montana Arts Council (MAC) prioritizes poets that have demonstrated ongoing contributions to the cultural community. This metric's emphasis identifies poets that will voluntarily leverage their Governor appointment to promote poetry appreciation.

Following their appointment, MAC will ask the Poet Laureate to provide an overview of their priorities, target audiences, and engagement ideas. The Montana Poet Laureate is encouraged to connect with the public through any means that seems most appropriate: in print, in person, over social media, and using technology. The MAC staff will be available to direct to resources as needed.

The appointed Poet Laureate will have access to the following opportunities:

- Contributions to the MAC *State of the Arts* newspaper published quarterly
- Featured as a Montana Conversation leader with Humanities Montana
- Engagement with the Montana Poetry Out Loud program

Within the limitations set in law, MAC can reimburse expenses related to in-person engagements that advance MAC's mission and priorities. Reimbursements are limited to those allowed to state officials as laid out in the Montana Operations Manual. MAC has allocated \$5,000 for reimbursements for expenses related to public presentations that serve the following:

- Federally recognized tribes
- Tribal colleges
- Community colleges
- Public broadcast programs
- Organizations and entities outside of traditional arts and literature audiences
- Service organization such as Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis
- Communities where students attend a Class C high school

The Poet Laureate is encouraged to determine the appropriateness of reimbursement before the event. Reimbursement requests must be submitted before May 30 of each calendar year and within 30 days of the end of the appointment.

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Kristin Han Burgoyne | Deputy Director
RE: Percent for Art Project: MSU-Bozeman Romney Hall

The 48th Montana State Legislature established the Percent for Art program in 1983, "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 and other skilled workers to practice their crafts, declares that a portion of the funds for the construction or renovation of appropriate state buildings be allocated for the acquisition of works of art for such buildings."

The Montana Arts Council was designated to oversee the selection, procurement and installation of the artwork. MCA 22-2-406 dictates the voting members, the use of funds, and the role of MAC.

MSU-Bozeman Romney Hall Renovation

Romney Hall was constructed in 1922 and served MSU as the physical education and athletics venue for campus. The iconic architecture contributes to MSU's historic heritage and has endured as a favorite building of Bobcats. The Romney Hall repurposing project respects the historic integrity of the building while preparing it for the next 100 years of serving MSU students. Romney Hall will primarily host classrooms, along with the Travis W. Atkins Veterans Support Center, the Office of Disability Service, and space for the Math Learning Center, and the Writing Center.

The project architecture has some unique opportunities for public art in what will be highly visible public areas with approximately 1,000 classroom seats in the building. The building will have a ground level corridor running north-south and connecting a new Grant Street entrance to the main, historic Romney Oval entrance. This corridor will be complemented with a two-story opening to the garden-level classroom access below. A new south stair tower will be constructed with a design that focuses on transparency so as not to obscure the historic brick façade along Grant Street. A variety of circulation spaces throughout will also offer art opportunities.

Committee

There are three voting members on the committee including the architect, a representative of the building and an artist from the community. MAC selects a chair from its members who (ideally) represents the region where the project takes place. MAC administers the process and assists the committee with guideline design, press, artwork review process, contracting, procurement, accessibility, signage, communications and other aspects of the project.

The committee for this project is:

Jim Beal, Architect, Design Director, Principal, Cushing Terrell

Willem Volkersz, Artist

Courtney Johnson, Architect, MSU-Bozeman, Campus Planning, Design & Construction

Tracy Linder, MAC Chair (non-voting)

Artwork Recommendations

The following recommendations total a \$106,379 artwork budget. This is slightly over the \$100,000 artwork budget originally projected. Based on the available administrative budget and the current actual costs of this project including the use of a MAC staff person (versus a contractor) and all meetings to date using online technology, there is adequate budget for the artwork. The commission marked tentative is seeking Council approval and will only be contracted if the committee is satisfied with clarification from the artist. Two pieces are noted as "alternates" in this list. The committee was enthusiastic about these pieces but marked them as alternates in the event there is not adequate budget, or another artwork selected is not available. The Council's role is to review the artwork and accept or reject the recommendations of the committee. If recommendations are rejected, the committee will be required to revise the recommendations and resubmit them to the Council.

Dana Boussard, Mixed Media on Paper Tryptic Commission, 40" x 55" (x3) \$15,000

Zuzana Drobnik, Juniper Study, 36" x 36" \$3,900

Zuzana Drobnik, North Facing WhiteBark Pine, 24" x 24" \$2,900

Zuzana Drobnik, On the Divide, 36" x 48" \$5,200

Zuzana Drobnik, North Fork Shosone, 30" x 30" \$3,500

Marsha Karle, Mosquito Pond Sandhill Cranes, 15" x 30" \$3,375

Marsha Karle, Wilsall Grain Elevator, 24" x 18" \$3,240

Brian Langeliers, Topography Image Commission, 48" x 72" \$8,640

Sigrid Mabel, Sculptural Bicycle Seat Installation Commission, 10' \$5,084

Kathryn Schmidt, We Would Not Ask For Language, 44" x 62" \$3,800

Barb Schwarz Karst, Copper King Throne, 85" x 56" (seven 20" x 20") \$7,700

Barb Schwarz Karst, Trojan Horse Made of Iron, 44" x 62" \$4,640

Hannah Uhde, Multi-Work Commission Proposal, \$29,400 (tentative based on further proposal materials to be submitted and collaboration with the Travis Atkins family, Veteran's Services and the Office of the President)

Alan McNeil, Main Street, 38" x 44" \$5,000 (alternate)

Alan McNeil, Downtown, 40" x 52" \$5,000 (alternate)



Dana Bousard
 Mixed Media on Paper
 Tryptic Commission Example
 40" x 55" (x3)
 \$15,000



Zuzana Drobnik
 Juniper Study
 36" x 36" x 2"
 \$3,900



Marsha Karle
 Mosquito Pond
 Sandhill Cranes
 15"h x 30" w
 \$600



Zuzana Drobnik
 North Facing
 WhiteBark Pine
 24" x 24" x 2"
 \$2,900



Marsha Karle
 Wilsall Grain Elevator
 24"h x 18"w
 \$3,240



Zuzana Drobnik
 On the Divide
 36" x 48" x 2"
 \$5,200



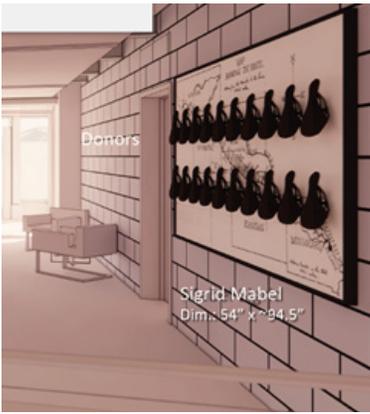
Brian Langeliers
 Commission Example
 Billings to the
 Beartooths
 48" x 72"
 \$8,640



Zuzana Drobnik
 North Fork
 Shoshone
 30" x 30" x 2"
 \$3,500



Brian Langeliers
 Commission Example
 Red Lodge Mountain
 20" x 30"
 \$2,350



Sigrid Mabel
Sculptural Bicycle Seat
Installation Commission
10'
\$5,084



Barb Schwarz Karst
Copper King's
Throne: Stewart Mine
85" x 56"
\$7700



Alan McNiell
(alternate)
Downtown
40" x 52"
\$5,000



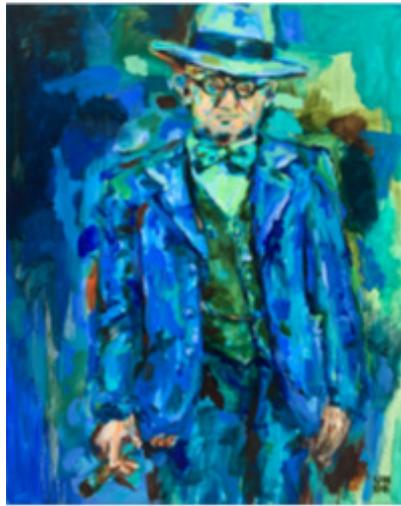
Barb Schwarz Karst
Trojan Horse Made of
Iron
44" x 62"
\$4,640



Alan McNiell
(alternate)
Downtown
40x52"
\$5,000



Kathryn Schmidt
We Would Not Ask For
Language
44"h x 34w x 1.25d
\$3,800

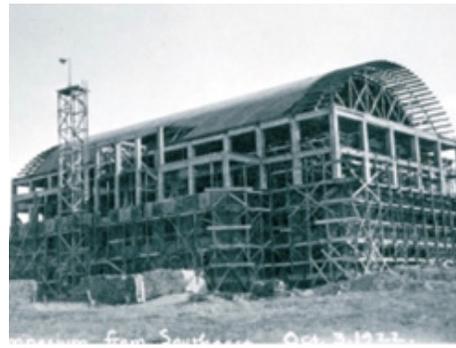


Hannah Uhde

Multi-Work Commission Proposal

\$29,400

Examples of work and vintage inspiration source photos from the MSU archive.



Hannah Uhde

Multi-Work Commission Proposal

\$29,400

Examples of work and vintage inspiration source photos from the MSU archive.

Memorandum

TO: Cyndy Andrus | Chair
FROM: Tatiana Gant | Executive Director
RE: Council Committee Appointments

The Council's service on committees, both standing and ad-hoc, is beneficial to staff and the on-going development of programs. In the June 2021 meeting, I ask that we make time to review committee assignments and present the opportunity for members to engage in committee service.

Below are committee assignments as approved at the December 2020 meeting, with vacancies noted for Council members whose terms expired.

Executive Committee

Cyndy Andrus, Chair
Tom Cordingley, Vice Chair
*Mark Kuipers (term ended March 2020)
Jay Pyette
Renee Westlake
Staffed by Tatiana Gant

Strategic Investment Grants

Tracy Linder, Chair
Angella Ahn
Liz Albers
Tom Cordingley
Jay Pyette
*Corby Skinner (term ended March 2020)
Staffed by Brian Moody

Arts Education Committee

*Jean Steele, Chair (term ended 2020)
Angella Ahn
Sean Chandler
Corky Clairmont
Renée Westlake
Staffed by Monica Grable

Governor's Arts Awards 2020

2022 Process will launch in Fall 2021
*G.B. Carson, Chair (term ended 2020)
Angella Ahn
JP Gabriel
*Staffed by Kristin Han Burgoyne
and Tatiana Gant*

Poet Laureate 2021

Cyndy Andrus, Chair
Sean Chandler
Renée Westlake
Staffed by Tatiana Gant

Strategic Planning Committee

Renée Westlake, Chair
Liz Albers
Jay Pyette
Staffed by Tatiana Gant

Percent for Art Chair

Tracy Linder, MSU-Bozeman
Romney Hall Renovation
Tom Cordingley, Southwest Montana
Veterans Home
Jay Pyette, MSU-Billings Life Sciences
Building Renovation
Staffed by Kristin Han Burgoyne

*Term on Council has ended, position is vacant

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Renée Westlake | Committee Chair
Re: Strategic Planning Update

The Strategic Planning Committee was formed in June 2018. I was appointed as chair and Jay Pyette continues to serve. Liz Albers joined the committee in December 2020, filling the vacancy left by Arlene Parisot. The Committee will meet on May 27, 2021 and I will provide a verbal update on the actions at the June 2021 meeting. Below is background that will provide context for that report.

MAC's current strategic plan was developed by MAC staff member Cinda Holt, who retired in December 2018. The plan has been well received and was designed to guide the agency through the end of 2019. Anticipating Cinda's retirement, in the fall of 2018 MAC issued a request for proposal (RFP) for a contractor to administer the process. MAC planned to commit \$40,000 across two fiscal years toward the development of the plan.

The RFP process was not successful in developing a contract, and in June 2019 the Council voted to extend the plan until the end of 2021. Throughout 2020 and into 2021, Tatiana Gant has kept me updated on her research into ways that MAC could increase participation, and reduce the financial resources directed to the process. The Committee will also be considering the need to adapt the planning process, and the changes in the needs of cultural sector in response to the pandemic.

Maizy Parrett performing

HENSE
E.G. HARRINGTON
MAKERS
NEW YORK

Staff Reports

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Jenifer Alger | Chief Financial Officer
Re: June 2021 Staff Report

Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) Legislative Audit

At the beginning of October 2020, we were allocated \$1M of the \$1.25B received in the Governor's Office to award individuals and organizations for shortfalls related to COVID-19. We were given until December 31, 2020 to expend the funds. We were able to spend \$819,184 of the funds by the deadline. The remaining \$180,816 was returned.

Both the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) and the legislative audit division (LAD) initiated an audit of these funds in March.

CARES Act (COVID-19)

The NEA amended our FY 2020 grant award to increase our funding by \$424,400, and there is no state match requirement. We can use the funds for salaries, administration costs, and related subgranting to the arts sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council approved the plan to distribute these funds at the June 2020 meeting. To date, we have issued 100% of the funds in subgrants to individuals and organizations.

2023 Biennium Legislative Session

The legislative session ended April 29, 2021. We were kept very busy with information requests and various bill hearings. The only change to our requested 2023 budget was an amendment made to HB 9 – Cultural and Aesthetics (C&A) grants. The House Appropriations Subcommittee voted to award \$5,000 to the Montana State Firefighters Memorial. This memorial was originally recommended for an award by the C&A Committee. The grant request in HB 9 went from \$309,800 to \$314,800. Unfortunately, the Cultural Trust earnings projections for the 2023 biennium came in so low that our request to reduce our administration by \$25,000 was barely noticed. In comparison the grant budget for the 2021 biennium was \$423,381 while the 2023 budget is \$314,800 – a \$108,581 or 25.6% reduction. Overall reduction in total coal trust earnings has been declining every year. Since the 2019 biennium earnings have declined by 11.9%.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The Legislature created House Bill 632 to allocate these Federal funds. At the time of the creation of the bill, MAC still had not received official notice from the NEA on the amount we would receive or what the guidelines for distribution would be. We were still tasked with coming up with an estimated amount to place in the bill. I used the same percentage that was applied to the CARES Act funds to come up with an estimated amount of \$764,000 that we could receive. The actual amount allocated to MAC is \$754,500. This amount was amended into our current FY 2021 NEA Partnership award and we have until December 31, 2022 to spend the funds.



Procurement

The request for proposal (RFP) for the grants management system (GMS) was posted in November and closed in December. After a grueling review of the RFP responses by the evaluation committee, Foundant was awarded the contract. The contract was fully executed in April and MAC can renew the contract for 9 more years before another procurement process will need to happen. MAC started working with Foundant in February 2007 and was awarded the contract under a limited solicitation procurement. This method was allowable because the total cost to use Foundant over a 10 year period was \$50,000 or less. This contract ended February 2020 and due to the fact that the new 10 year contract was going to cost more than \$50,000, we had to move forward with the RFP process. We were granted a one year extension to work on the RFP to have it in place by February 2021.

Business Specialist Position

On February 1st Ginny Newman started as MAC's new business specialist. We are happy to have her on board and she has been doing a great job. She handles every little request/task we throw at her. I will let you read her memo to find out more about her.

Temporary Accounting Tech Position

After Shawna Korth submitted her resignation in October 2020, we were able to work with WeStaff in Helena to hire a temporary accounting technician to help keep our internal controls intact. Lana Mullaney started on November 2nd and has been an asset to our agency. Her previous SABHRS (state accounting system) experience was invaluable in assisting us make as many CARES act payments as we could between November and December.

Due to the state policy that a temp worker can only work a total of 480 hours per fiscal year and job duty, we decided to use some of our excess personal services budget to create a temporary part-time position so that we could keep Lana on staff through fiscal year end. She has truly helped Brian with all aspects of the CARES grant awards, from making payments, reviewing applications, reviewing final reports, and contacting grantees when there is missing information.

NASAA Audit Committee Service

After being nominated by Tatiana, I was asked if I would be interested in sitting on the NASAA audit committee. I was happy to accept the request. We had a total of 2 virtual meetings in February and March. In between the 2 meetings we were provided the audited financial statements to review. During the 2nd meeting we listened to the auditors explain their processed and documentation. After the presentation we were asked to accept or reject the financials and the auditor reports. They were accepted unanimously. Although it was not that time consuming or hard work, I am grateful for the experience. It gave me an idea of what the Legislative Audit Committee goes through when our audits are presented to them, in a much smaller capacity of course.

Training

In April I attended the virtual NEA Audit Convening training. I was scheduled to fly to Washington DC to attend in person back in March 2020. The training was canceled due to COVID.

Memorandum

TO: Montana Arts Council Members
FROM: Eric Heidle | Communication Director
RE: June 2021 Staff Report

Getting Into The Field

Exciting news—Montana Arts Council staff have actually ventured out of doors this spring, getting on the road and interacting with the public. After a year of coronavirus lockdowns have made most of our work a remote effort, it's been energizing to bump elbows with fellow human beings and speak to them in person about what's happening with the arts in Montana.

Specifically, I've been getting out to create video content for a few projects we're working on. Foremost, Council member JP Gabriel and I recently got some windshield time traveling to Great Falls and Lincoln to conduct interviews with Governor's Arts Award winners Gordon McConnell, Patty Bergquist, and Becky Garland of Sculpture in the Wild. Because the pandemic took our usual in-person awards ceremony off the table, creating a video honoring our winners has become the closest option available.

And the interviews have been amazing. Hearing our honorees' passion and commitment to art—both their own and others—has reinforced for me just how vital creative culture is in the Last Best Place. To hear Becky Garland describe the tangible economic benefit of Sculpture in the Wild to her hometown of Lincoln, after its historical industries of timber and mining waned, was a revelation. And the art itself is a continuation of the traditions of those industries—made locally from the same timber and steel which fueled Lincoln's earlier prosperity. Every one of the interviews contained these types of insights, and the value of extended conversations only made the comments richer.



Aaron Parrett interviewing Governor's Arts Award honoree Patty Bergquist at Paris Gibson Square, with Council member JP Gabriel behind the lens.

And that's an added benefit to creating this video; by preserving a record of our honorees' stories, accomplishments, and vision for the arts, we'll grant future Montanans the opportunity to learn from and be inspired by them. Too much of our cultural history is lost simply by virtue of never being recorded. We're working on the second half of our interviews, where we'll speak with Willem Volkersz and former MAC director Arlynn Fishbaugh, and then we'll begin editing to build a presentation which we'll be able to share not only with those who'd be in attendance at our traditional award ceremony, but with every Montanan. Stay tuned!

Two other video projects we're currently wrapping up include an extended interview between Rickie van Berkum and Julie Chapman for the Montana Artrepreneur Program, in which Julie details her approach to promoting her art through social media. Julie gives specifics on what works for her, how to get started, and where best to put your efforts as a working artist. The video was shot at Julie's studio; I edited the resulting footage and added insert shots of her social media platforms at work. [View it here.](#)

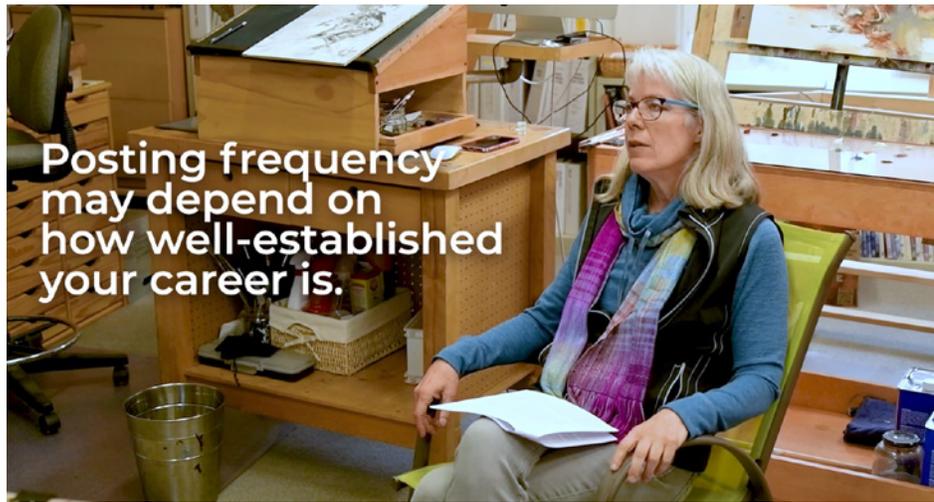
The second project is a short interview and profile of Helena ceramicist Breana Buettner, focusing on how the pandemic affected her practice, how applying for and receiving a CARES grant helped her keep going, and what she's working on now. I filmed and interviewed Breana in her home studio and edited the results into a four-minute video which will let us point future grant applicants toward resources to help them submit focused, successful applications, as well as network among colleagues for opportunities and mutual support. [You can see the results here.](#)

Video continues to be a vital storytelling tool, and where it's the right tool for the job we'll keep looking for opportunities to capture and share art and artists working and thriving in Montana. [images of behind-the-scenes from shoots]

Art.mt.gov

MAC's current website is at the end of its useful lifespan, as the state is migrating to a new content management system called Cascade. We're now in the process of building a new site using Cascade, which will allow us to provide a better user experience for visitors and a more contemporary layout which better reflects our mission. A major part of the new site's organization will involve simplifying the presentation of content. We have a large volume of information explaining our grants, programs, and resources, and finding what you're looking for can be a challenge in the current site's layout. To make things easier our new site's structure will be streamlined to provide the most frequently requested information in positions of prominence, with in-depth supporting information at a second organizational level that's a click away.

The new site will also strive to be more visually focused, so that navigating to each bit of content doesn't involve reading lengthy lists of links. We want our website to be productive and useful for each visit from artists, colleagues, legislators, the public, and you, and our new site will be designed with that goal in mind.



**Posting frequency
may depend on
how well-established
your career is.**

Julie Chapman in conversation with Rickie van Berkum about using social media effectively to promote one's own art. COURTESY PHOTO



Breana Buettner describes applying for and using a CARES grant to keep her ceramics practice thriving and alive during the 2020 pandemic. PHOTO: MAC

Working With Others

One role I've been filling is to support other MAC staff members as they implement their programs. One example of this is 2021's Poetry Out Loud (POL) competition. Much as with the Governor's Arts Awards, this year's POL has had to be reinvented around COVID-19. We created a short introductory video to encourage participation and to provide an initial call to action for what would become an online competition. I filmed POL judge Aaron Parrett and his daughter (and Poetry Out Loud good-luck charm) Maizy as they performed a short instrumental rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" in place of the live musical performances which usually accompany the in-person competitions.

[You can view it here.](#)



Aaron and Maizy Parrett performing for MAC's 2021 Poetry Out Loud introductory video. PHOTO: MAC

To capture students' performances, MAC Arts Education Director Monica Grable contracted with videographers in the communities with participating schools. Since Belt is close to my home base in Great Falls, I accompanied Monica to its competition and filmed the students' efforts there myself. I then edited all of the competitors' footage into a pair of videos which the competition's judges used to select finalists, with Monica providing a welcome message in voiceover. The videos, viewable here, were separated into [Northwest/Northcentral](#) and [Southwest/Southcentral](#) divisions.



Brady Drummond, from her Montana 2021 Poetry Out Loud championship-winning performance. PHOTO: MAC

After judging the initial round, finalists statewide competed for Montana's POL championship. The results were again edited into a video along with comments and readings by judges Anna Paige and Dave Caserio, filmed and edited by one of our videography partners. [Here's the final video.](#)

I've also been working with fellow MAC staffers to promote other programs and grants they oversee, such as Deputy Director Kristin Burgoyne's Percent For Art program, for which I created press releases and social media campaigns to spread the word around opportunities for artists to contribute work. MSU-Bozeman's Romney Hall renovation and Butte's Southwest Montana Veterans Home both featured Percent for Art grants available for which artists could create public works. I also field requests from fellow staffers for social media efforts around their programs and related arts news and opportunities.

State Of The Arts

A few housekeeping notes on *State of the Arts* (SOA): We're seeking bids for a new print vendor to produce and distribute the paper. An RFP is currently being drafted and once it's released we'll begin the process of selecting a vendor to print future issues. We've also decided to discontinue our online and printed calendar of events; it's a function better provided by existing online arts media which can provide timely and responsive updates on arts events, and frees up the calendar's space in our print edition for more in-depth content.

We've produced a few issues of *State of the Arts* featuring its new design at this point, and we've begun to stretch our wings a bit with the range of content we're bringing to our readers. One goal has been to broaden our view of what the arts can be, in order to broaden the appeal and understanding of the arts in Montana. In our spring issue, for example, our feature on Montana's roadside art includes massive civic arts projects such as Butte's Our Lady of the Rockies and Lincoln's Sculpture in the Wild, as well as humble and quirky landmarks like the Clearwater Cow and Browning's concrete tipi. It's art that's there for all to see and enjoy, and reflects our state's culture in a vibrant way, even for those who'd seldom visit an art gallery.

We've found that some of this content that we're creating in-house for SOA has proven popular on our social media channels, which I'll talk about a bit more below, but it's also helped us step in to strengthen the bond between Montana's arts and tourism promotion efforts. Whether we're speaking to out-of-state visitors discovering Montana for the first time or to long-time residents exploring new corners of their home state, informing our readers about arts and culture worth making a trip for helps provide new audiences for the arts and strengthens their economic and cultural impact.

Another way we're focusing and shaping SOA is by determining a theme for each issue. Spring 2021's theme was "road trip," which made the roadside attractions article a perfect fit. Looking for a common thread to tie each issue's content together helps us look ahead for upcoming events and issues which will be valuable to address. The road trip theme, for example, was the result of anticipating Montanans' desire to get out and about after the long, tiring time-out of the 2020 pandemic. Knowing the world wouldn't be fully back to normal by press time but betting we'd be partway there, we looked for content which talked about arts opportunities in-state but a decent drive away. Building on the notion that Montana's a small town with long streets, we sought out stories about cultural discoveries available just down the road—including film locations in the state, road trip tunes, and adventures from the road submitted by our readers.

Another aim of mine for SOA has been to bring top-notch contributors to the table in an effort to make the publication even more informative and entertaining. In addition to covering arts news in Montana, we're looking for points of view—stories which not only report on the arts in Montana, but explain: why these arts, and why Montana? We want to provide the unexpected and thought-provoking as well as the informative. And we have a lot of great writers, artists, and performers with stories to tell. Our summer issue, for example, will feature Anna Paige's interview with Birdie Real Bird, and Russell Rowland will take us behind the scenes of his process for writing his book *56 Counties*, about what makes each nook and cranny of Montana unique.



One opportunity to share the words of some of Montana's best writers in our last issue was bittersweet—the passing of William Kittredge. Upon hearing of his death, we thought it would be appropriate to hear from those who knew him best. As fate would have it *Orion*, a literary journal with a focus on environmental issues and art, published just such a collection of thoughts from writers about their great friend on its website within days of his passing. Rather than duplicate *Orion's* efforts, I sought and obtained permission to reprint the piece in full as a four-page special section within our spring issue, and in doing so we helped get the eloquent words of Bill's friends, family, students, and colleagues to a wider audience.

Our winter 2020 issue also made use of a four-page special section, focusing on our Governor's Arts Award honorees. It's another small way we've worked to recognize them in the absence of our traditional ceremony, and it allowed us more real estate to describe their accomplishments and contributions to the arts in Montana.

These special sections also factor in to our planning for SOA in another way—thinking strategically about content which can be repurposed for social media to extend our reach even further. Collaborating with Buffalo Jump, our design partners, we've worked to make articles from each issue easy to pull from the full layout to make them readily shareable as standalone PDFs for use on Facebook and other social media venues. We've done so with the Kittredge and Governor's Arts Awards special sections, and will continue to provide select content from each issue in this format. We're also working to make articles available as standalone web pages in a format that's similar to online news sites. It's another way we're working to maximize the value and reach of all our content for *State of the Arts*.



Paying tribute to William Kittredge

Social Media

A prime example of creating content for *State of the Arts* that works well in social media is [our recent piece describing Montanans' love for waving to each other on the road](#). Another story inspired by the “road trip” theme from our spring issue, the article made the point that not only is waving from the road a cherished Montana tradition, it’s an art form all its own. Once the spring issue was in print, we posted the article to our Facebook page. But we didn’t stop there.

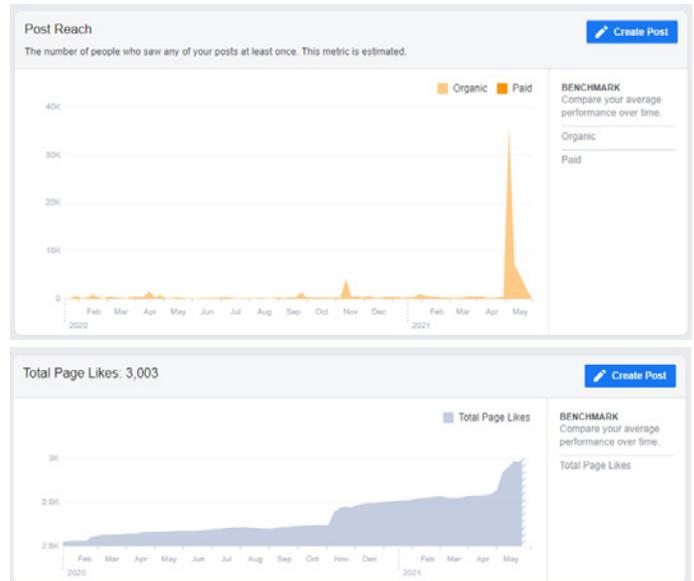
We also shared the post to a popular Facebook group, “Montana-tude.” A public group centered around all things Montana, its 32,000 followers magnified the reach of our own page in a very big way. A typical post on our Facebook page will reach 200-600 people on average, with somewhere between 5-30 likes and a handful of shares. The “wave” post has reached, at present count, 132,000 people, almost all of them people who don’t follow our page. It’s been liked 172 times on our page alone, and shared more than a thousand times.

The post was something of a perfect storm: an article created with social media in mind, on a topic Montanans really care about, and shared to the right venue. The “wave” article also benefited from good timing: it appeared just as a steady influx of new Montana residents began arriving, and long-time Montanans were eager to let them know “how it’s done.” We don’t expect to replicate those results every time, but by creating content that stretches the boundaries of what art is to embrace Montana-centric culture, and then sharing it with the right subset of social media viewers, it’s possible to go well beyond preaching to the choir. It’s a strategy we’ll continue to pursue and build on.

And this strategy is part of our larger communications vision: to share and create content which is effective, informative, and compelling across different media. In addition to the functions we rely on social media for—sharing funding, employment, and commission opportunities, reporting major arts news, noting cultural milestones—our social media presence should be a platform for exploring, documenting, and communicating the culture of the arts in Montana and at large. Social media gives us the opportunity to comment on popular culture, fine arts, social interaction, trends in the directions arts are taking, and other topics—often one after another, and in real time. Social media also lets us address another primary goal: connecting to and highlighting the arts and culture of rural and under-represented populations in Montana. Our urban areas make it easy to find arts and culture, but there’s so much going on in Montana’s smaller communities, Indigenous nations, and public lands that we’ll all benefit from knowing more about. Social media lets us find and pass on so many more stories from grass-roots Montana than we’d ever find through traditional media alone.

A Last Word

It’s been encouraging to see Montana as it begins to open up, and I’m hopeful that we’ll all emerge from the long winter of COVID-19 stronger and even more eager to engage, communicate, and create in the coming year. It’s exciting to see and share what Montanans are making and making possible every day, and I consider myself extremely fortunate that doing so is my job.



MAC post reach and page likes, January 2020-present, with the “wave” article spike at far right.

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Kristin Han Burgoyne | Deputy Director
RE: June 2021 Staff Report

Public Value Partnerships FY 2020 – FY 2023

Public Value Partnerships (PVP) operate on a four-year grant cycle. Annual reporting for the first year, FY 2020, is complete and annual reports for the second year, FY 2021, are currently available to grantees with a September 2021 due date. We anticipate the continued impacts of the pandemic will be evident in the reporting for FY 2021.

Statewide Service Organizations FY 2020 – FY 2021

Statewide Service Organizations (SSO) provide funding over a two-year period. Annual reporting for the first year, FY 2020, is complete and annual reports for the second year, FY 2021, are currently available to grantees with a September 2021 due date. Funding determinations for the upcoming FY 2022 - 2023 grant cycle are included in the June 2021 Council agenda.

Cultural Trust

The Cultural Trust provides resources for the Cultural & Aesthetic Projects grant program. This is a legislatively established program in 22.2.3 of the Montana Code. Eighty-four applications were submitted for the FY 2022 - FY 2023 biennium. The Advisory Committee met in a series of Zoom meetings in October to review applications. This was the first time these meetings were conducted online.

Recommendations from the Advisory Committee were presented to the [Long-Range Planning Committee](#) during the legislative session. Funding comes from predicted interest earnings from the Cultural Trust. A portion of these funds are allocated for MAC agency budget in HB2 and a portion are allocated for grant funding in HB9. \$309,800 was recommended in grant funding. These recommendations were in HB9 and as a part of the [Governor's Budget](#) in [Volume 7](#). Amendments during the session added \$5,000 in awards bringing the total grant funding for FY 2022-FY 2023 to \$314,800. Applicants have been notified of funding by email.

Percent for Art

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 total budget includes administration (19%), maintenance (1%), and artwork (80%).

Projects for FY 2022 and FY 2023 are not yet determined. Staff from Architecture & Engineering will provide MAC staff with an update of tentative projects. The addition of ARPA funding to some state building projects may result in projects.

Three projects are currently in progress:

Southwest Montana Veterans Home, Butte 34 artists submitted multiple works for this project. The artwork budget is \$40,000. Tom Cordingley is the representative from MAC. We were able to visit the site in-person on May 4 and meet with the committee to prioritize artwork sites. The committee will meet again by Zoom to make artwork selections and determine the installation schedule.

Life Sciences Bldg. Renovation & Expansion, MSU-Billings The art submission date for this project has not been determined due to delays in the building process but will tentatively be late June. The artwork budget is \$20,000. Jay Pyette will represent MAC. More details will be available after the call for artists is developed.

Romney Hall Renovation, MSU-Bozeman Tracy Linder is the MAC representative. The artwork budget is \$100,000. This project is nearing the artist contract phase and final installation is anticipated in October 2021. The slate of selected artists is included in this council book for approval.



Each MAC committee chair has provided important input about the public art process. In recent years, MAC has made use of contractors to manage project implementation. MAC members that had chaired processes raised concerns that the use of contractors may not be of benefit to the projects. This is the first year to initiate projects since the MSU-Northern Diesel Ag project in Havre was completed in 2018, and MAC received three projects, more than have ever been implemented in any year. This, coupled with some needed program redesign, COVID delays and restrictions, and additional agency programming from CARES funding resulted in a challenging experience.

Some topics identified in the analysis of the program include participation by international artists and student artists, increased national promotion, accessibility, maintenance and the maintenance fund, including the voices and opinions of all stakeholders while only having three voting members (by statute), incorporating public art planning earlier in the design process, appropriate contingency funding, revisions of the contracting process and the overall streamlining of the program. Outside of the specific projects in MAC's Percent for Art Program, it will be important to consider documentation of existing public art, discussions of the appropriate end-of-life for public art, site visits, temporary art installations and documentation specific to MAC-overseen projects. I am sure other topics will be identified as I learn the contracting and installation process.

Technology

The biggest technology news is the completion of the Grant Management Software Request for Proposals (GMS RFP). Foundant Technologies was the winning bidder. We have a contract in place that can be renewed annually for up to ten years.

Legislature

I think we are all still processing the legislative session right now but there are a few things of note. I am tracking the potential for new Percent for Art projects. These usually emerge from [HB5](#). ARPA funding may produce additional projects but the nature of most of the ARPA projects would not result in a Percent for Art component. We will be implementing [HB277](#) relating to strategic planning and annual performance reports and [HB447](#) relating to rules revisions and rulemaking authority. And, of course, our main bills [HB2](#) and [HB9](#). For the 2021 session, a lot of information is available on the legislative website including recordings of hearings and a [summary of our information](#).

Network Building + Professional Development

The power of Zoom results in staff opportunities to attend trainings and conferences without the barrier of travel. Below is a sampling of trainings from the last few months.

[Humanities Montana Why It Matters](#), Online. I attended the Our Rural Urban Political Divide session. There are several session recordings available.

[Deputy Directors and Grants Manager Peer Sessions](#), Online, Every two months we meet online to discuss topics of interest.

[National Endowment for the Arts & USDA Rural Placemaking Gathering](#), Online.

[NASAA 2021 Learning Series](#), Online, NASAA. Convened virtually from March through October, the NASAA 2021 Learning Series is tailored to the current needs of state arts agencies. Together we'll explore topics relevant to advocacy, economic recovery, equity, resilience and more. Sessions offer state arts agencies a valuable opportunity to learn with and from one another, sharing an abundance of ideas to inform, inspire and energize our work.

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Brian Moody | Program Officer
RE: June 2021 Staff Report

Programs

Montana CARES

The CARES grants have dominated my time on staff with the Montana Arts Council. The first application deadline fell a few weeks after my start date in June 2020 and the last batch of applications were approved for funding in early April. Supporting grantees through the payment and final reporting process will continue through the summer of 2021. MAC is fortunate to employ Lana Mullaney to lead the payment processing; the efficient turnaround of grant funds would have been impossible without her.

The sheer volume of applications and the daily interactions with applicants gave me an expansive overview of art and arts organizations across Montana. It provided a crash course in the finer points of grants administration, ranging from application design, to record-keeping, to reporting. More importantly, it has provided me with insights into ways we can improve all our grant processes and outreach to better serve artists.

Strategic Investment Grants

In December, the SIG committee welcomed two new members from the Council, Jay Pyette and Corby Skinner, bringing the committee briefly up to 6 members. In March, Corby Skinner's term on the Council ended, as did his service on the committee. The expansion of the SIG committee, and the expertise of new members has been valuable as we look at revising the guidelines. I appreciate the consistency and insights of the SIG committee—particularly committee chair Tracy Linder—in their review of submissions.

I have continued assuming more of the responsibilities of the SIG program from Kristin. Currently, the committee is actively working through the process of rewriting the SIG program guidelines and updating the application process with a goal of rolling them out in the summer or fall of 2021. A few of the planned changes include increasing the award amount, eliminating the match requirement, and opening the grant up to all 501c3s with arts programming. Additionally, we are looking at simplifying the application and final report in response to feedback from applicants, the committee, and staff.



Brian building a tutorial to help CARES applicants navigate the process.

Education + Applicant Resources

In response to common issues in applications to CARES and SIG, I have begun collaborating with staff—particularly Monica and Eric—on creating web-based resources for applicants. These include FAQ sheets and tip sheets for writing resumes and building grant-specific budgets. The plan is to continue the development of these resources on the MAC website and expand into webinars.

State of the Arts

I contributed a profile of CARES grantees for the Spring SOA. The intent of the article was to share some of the stories of resiliency and creativity we've heard through the final reports and in our interactions with artists. This was a great opportunity for me to step out of the grants manager role and focus more on learning about and sharing the stories of Montana artists.

Professional Development + Trainings

- USDA Rural Development + NEA Rural Placemaking at the Intersection of Arts, Agriculture, and Economic Development Webinar. This intriguing webinar provided interesting insights into how to use collaboration with government agencies and organizations to better serve rural communities.
- Foundant Technologies (grant management system) "Listen, Learn, and Rebuild with Resilience" Webinar. This webinar offered both practical tips to improve grant applicants and more philosophical discussions about how to enhance accessibility and better serve applicants.
- State of Montana Professional Development Center Know Be 4 Security Training (Annual Security Training). A required security training for state employees.
- Monthly calls with NASAA (National Association of State Arts Agencies) Community Development Network. These are great opportunities to learn about how other state arts agencies operate, to get suggestions and ideas, and to develop networks.



Stories of resilience in State of the Arts

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Monica Grable | Arts Education Director
RE: June 2021 Staff Report

Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC)

The resiliency of school and community organizations leading AISC-funded projects continues to be remarkable. While the pandemic shutdown in the spring of 2020 certainly affected completion of many of our FY20 AISC grantees' projects, the ongoing conditions of the pandemic continued to significantly impact projects over the course of the current year. Most FY21 applications were submitted in March of 2020 when much remained unknown and grantees have had to work to adapt or reimagine projects while overlapping in many cases with remaining projects from the FY20 year. The greatest impact, most certainly, has been felt by the teaching artists paired with these projects.

Throughout the fall and into early winter, based on ongoing needs assessment work, AISC grant processes underwent a reconfiguration and redesign to better accommodate our grantees and address gaps in support as well as to phase out the Arts Learning Partner (ALP) category. The latter was long recognized as being unsustainable over the long-term due to the eligibility for this higher funding level being just three years of AISC funding.

While ALP was removed from the FY 2022 cycle, the primary panel reviewed AISC category (previously AISC Grants \$1500-5000) was renamed AISC Residencies, which accepted requests between \$2500 and \$10,000. All 9 of the ALPs submitted requests in this category, along with 18 others—including 7 applicants new to AISC. Applications received cover a wide range of K-12 and community-based requests, including a first: an application to support arts learning experiences led by a blacksmith on a bike whose "shop" will be an anvil and forge mounted on a custom sculptural tricycle built especially for this purpose by the teaching artist himself. Council members will be asked to approve grants recommended for funding during the June 5 meeting.

Two additional AISC processes are in the design phase. AISC Experiences will provide funds under three subcategories: specialized art supplies, small tools or equipment; transportation needs for first-hand experience with art or artists; and funds to support guest artists' engagement with learners through either remote or in-person formats. AISC Leadership in Arts Learning is a third grant opportunity for organizations with the capacity to lead professional development workshops for adult learners which will in turn increase access to arts education statewide.



Liberty Arts Project installation in Whitehall, funded through AISC. PHOTO: DAVID A. PARKER



Missoula's Tricycle Forge Blacksmith School, funded through AISC. COURTESY PHOTO

Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging

In late December, with Tatiana's support and assistance, I submitted a grant proposal to NASAA which had invited state arts agency applications under their grant opportunity, Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging (LSICA), designed in partnership with Aroha Philanthropies to support new or existing Creative Aging initiatives. The \$23,000 award MAC is set to receive, announced in February, will assist our agency in launching a year of planning toward the creation of a statewide framework for robust arts learning programming designed for those 65 and older. The primary intent of the grant project is to engage a diverse array of participants statewide in learning about the Creative Aging field, to create partnerships around this work and to bring together a group of advisors to inform the development of a framework that will ultimately serve as guidance for the advancement of Creative Aging programming in our state. Beginning in late June with multi-day foundational learning sessions, our LSICA project will continue through June of 2022.

Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP)

MAP has continued via a remote learning model throughout this pandemic year. Last spring's cohorts completed their learning in the fall and a new smaller than usual cohort of 5 participants began its MAP experience in January, under the excellent guidance of coach Rickie van Berkum. This current cohort will conclude its work in late summer when, positively thinking, they may have the opportunity to wrap up its work in person. Meanwhile, plans are underway to open a limited solicitation process in June, to contract coaches and subsequently invite applications for our 2021-22 cohorts—tentatively planned as one in fall and another in spring—by early August.

In order to address our current circumstance of too few certified coaches available to MAP, options for coaches training are currently being explored with Cindy Kittredge. Cindy has recently continued the MAP work she began initially with MAC as a current coach working on behalf of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. This more recent work has informed needed updates to the MAP text authored by Cindy, *Artrepreneurship: Sustaining the Creative Life*, which was printed as a third edition in 2020.

Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts (MTLA)

Our program of professional development for educators, a collaborative program with our partner, the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has continued to press forward, albeit slowly. Following our virtually-held capstone sessions this past fall, the replacement of what would have been a weekend culminating Cohort 4's completion of the program, there has been little activity other than my regular planning meetings with colleagues at OPI, including Stephanie Swigart who stepped into her role as ELA Literary Specialist following the departure from that position by Christy Mock-Stutz. Fortunately for all of us, Christy has continued to be involved with MTLA planning. As we await travel permission, we are working toward a multi-day gathering at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo that would serve to unite all four MTLA cohorts and, given that all MTLAs began their experience on the SKC campus, would serve as a homecoming. Due to delayed recent activities on the two-year cycle, and a request to extend the current grant with the NEA, the OPI has determined that it will wait until winter to apply for a next round of NEA funds to support MTLA Cohort 5.

NASAA Arts Education Working Group

My work with the Arts Education Working Group (AEWG), a NASAA committee tasked with planning professional development for State Arts Agency Arts Education Managers, has been ongoing throughout the year. Topics of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access remain a central focus of the group and an inspirational component of my own professional growth. Plans are currently underway for the annual PDI, again taking place virtually, set for four days in late September and early October.

Poetry Out Loud

Following the NEA's decision to conduct this year's National Poetry Out Loud Competition through virtual events only, Montana's Poetry Out Loud (POL) program followed suit with plans to conduct the program virtually as well, presenting new challenges as well as potential opportunities for new engagement. While the shift to conducting the program virtually posed numerous technical and logistical hurdles—not the least of which was the fact that students in many cases were not physically present at their schools—the primary and most evident hurdle was one of teacher bandwidth under the conditions of the current school year.

Though a remote participation opportunity might have resulted in greater participation across our state, the opposite was true in the end, consistent with programs in most other states. From my perspective however, the experience of conducting the program virtually will have long-lasting benefits going forward as I work to engage students statewide in what is planned as a "school district at large". This model in the making will allow for equitable student participation whether the student's teacher is engaged in the program or not and without the barrier of travel time.

To accomplish the current year's program, two regional-level events were held on February 26: one that included high school competitors from Belt, Flathead and Polson high schools, and another in which students from Red Lodge and Thompson Falls high schools and Missoula's Hellgate High School competed. In all, 19 students participated. To help achieve these events and ensure equity in the process, \$3000 awarded from the Poetry Foundation supported contracted professional videographers being sent to record recitations by each of the participants. Eric's participation in the execution of these events was instrumental and provided a solid visual template from which to conduct our state level virtual event. Five students from each regional advanced to participate in the Montana Poetry Out Loud State Finals, held virtually on March 12th.

From that competition Brady Drummond, a junior from Belt High School emerged the Montana State Champion, earning the opportunity to compete at the National (Virtual) Poetry Out Loud Semifinals, held Sunday, May 2nd. Brady represented our state beautifully with her two recitations, including a new entry into the Poetry Out Loud anthology: Heart Butte, Montana written by current Poet Laureate M.L. Smoker. While Brady did not advance to the finals, she was awarded first place in the National Poetry Out Loud adjacent competition, Poetry Ourselves, for her original poem "Wheatgrass." [Read the poem here.](#)

Our Montana events may still be accessed by going to our event page: art.mt.gov/pol21 and the National Finals will be webcast the evening of Thursday, May 27 on the National Endowment for the Arts' [Poetry Out Loud](#) page.



Brady Drummond competes in Montana's 2021 Poetry Out Loud. PHOTO: PETER TOLTON

Professional Development

One positive element of this remote learning year has been the plentiful opportunities for my own learning through participation in conferences, townhall discussions, remote workshops and professional cohort meetings. In that mix are my participation in Montana Nonprofit Association, Arts Education Partnership and National Guild for Arts Education webinars and a recent thought-provoking webinar hosted by Grantmakers in the Arts on a personal topic of interest, "Advancing Art & Advocacy: Abolition Opportunities in Juvenile Detention." Lastly, service to the field—its own form of professional development—led me to participate for a third year on Idaho's Entry Track grant review panel and for the first time as a reviewer for Alabama's Fellowship for Arts Educators program.

State of the Arts (SOA)

As one means of making arts learning visible in our state, I have continued to write an article or two for our *State of the Arts* (SOA) publication. With each installment it is my goal to lift up the work of our grantees, advance arts education across the state, make educators in every realm aware of opportunities and highlight collective impact work by partnering organizations. Looking ahead, I plan to bring continued attention to the Creative Aging work underway and build support for arts-based juvenile justice programs, among other worthy topics.



Arts Learning

deeply engage Montana's innovative thinkers and artists in a design process that ultimately yielded a new kind of accessibility.

This year's virtual exhibition, *The Current Condition: Visions of the Contemporary West*, features work that would not have physically traveled statewide. Works such as Jay Laber's metal sculpture *Finds His Spot* or Mayannh Bojorn's found-object installation *Road Warrior* are included, together with two-dimensional works that can be viewed in a simulated gallery space. To accompany the virtual museum, tutorial videos, artist interviews and lesson plans may be accessed, along with art-supply kits to help drive the concepts home. As well, participating schools and organizations are able to schedule a live virtual visit this spring with AMM's current teaching artist, Renee Taaffe.

The best road trips, most of us know, are personally transformative in one way or another. In the case of the AMM experience, students are regularly exposed to art unlike any they've seen before and are encouraged to carefully observe and discuss those works assisted by AMM's teaching artist. This process transports these learners to a whole new world of ideas.

Years prior, this was an experience Jo LaPorte saw first-hand as a traveling teaching artist for Art Mobile of Montana. That opportunity offered her the chance to see Montana in its entirety—the landscape and the people. Reflecting on that time, LaPorte remembers the experience as equally eye-opening for her as it was for her students, a mutually beneficial cultural exchange between communities as diverse as the landscape itself.

For many schools, particularly those without an art specialist or ongoing art program, Art Mobile of Montana represents a significant component of the curriculum. Along with engagement with the traveling exhibit, students receive hands-on instruction creating their own works, often a response to the work they have seen.

Once it's safe for the organization to hit the road again, AMM will retain the and for ease of engagement by a broad spectrum of Montana's arts learners. What began two decades ago as a nine-school pilot project led by Sara Calburn, Art Mobile of Montana's founder, and grew to an organization serving 50 locations a year, has transitioned itself to a virtually accessible contemporary museum that continues to transport learners—even without the use of the transport van.

To experience the virtual museum and access Art Mobile of Montana resources, visit artmobilemontana.org.

State of the Arts • Spring 2021 25

Memorandum

To: Montana Arts Council Members
From: Ginny Newman | Business Specialist
Re: June 2021 Staff Report

Background

Raised in the Southeastern US, my husband and I moved around several times before coming to Montana in August 2016. We met while students at Auburn University in Alabama, where I earned a BS in Business Administration – Management. We have two children, a grown son and teenage daughter. Moving to Montana was quite an adventure for us. We live here like tourists, trying to get out and see as much of Big Sky Country as we can.

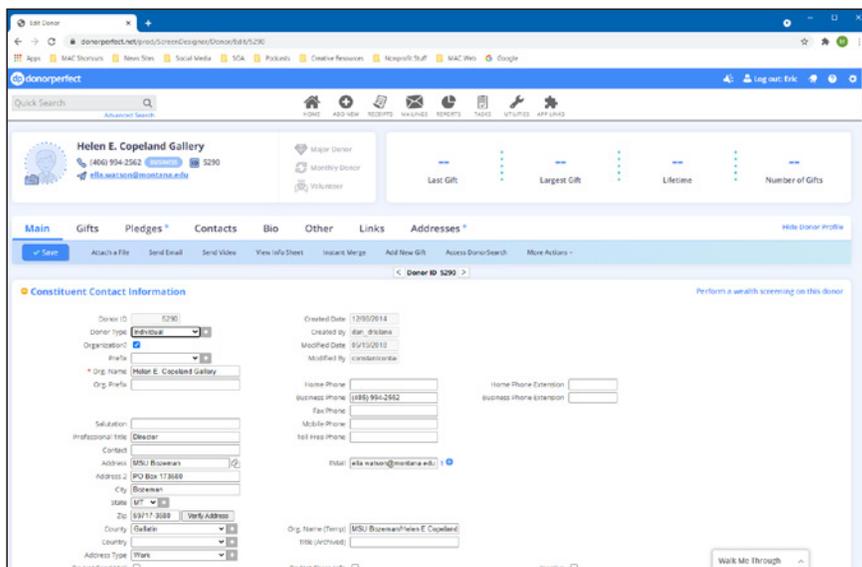
Professional

My professional background is quite diverse: from elementary school teacher in Texas to pre-school teacher and Children’s Ministry Director in Georgia. In 2007, my husband and I opened a property damage mitigation business where I worked in direct marketing and office management. Upon our relocation to Montana, I took a job with a national accounting firm as their Administrative Services Coordinator for the Helena office.

I am excited to be part of the Montana Arts Council staff. I believe in the mission of the Council and enjoy the part I play in helping achieve that mission.

Database Cleanup

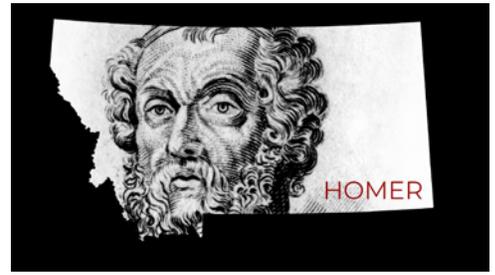
Both of my predecessors began the daunting task of cleaning up our database, Donor Perfect. I have taken up that mantle and am committed to finally finishing what was started. Previously, emails and postcards were sent to contacts for updated contact information. The data that was received has been loaded in the database. From that information, I am able to determine which contacts can be removed from the system. I am also working with Kristin to reformat the information stored to make it more useful for staff.



Making Donor Perfect a little closer to perfect

Program Support

I have worked with Tatiana on the Poet Laureate process, providing administrative support. Monica asked me to join her recent AISC grant review meeting for the purpose of notetaking. I have reviewed follow up reports for CARES individual grants and C&A grants. By helping with each of these processes, I have learned more about how MAC is equipped to truly help promote the arts and support artists in Montana. Additionally, my taking care of administrative duties, frees up time for other staff to focus on assisting grantees, process improvement, and program management.



Poet Laureate honors are open to some of the best poets on earth (but you have to live in Montana).

Memorandum

TO: Montana Arts Council Members
FROM: Tatiana Gant | Executive Director
RE: June 2021 Staff Report

Operations

The end of CARES process is in sight, and we have the task of designing for distributing the APRA funds on the horizon. The way we spend these funds will be instrumental in the recovery of the cultural economy, and those who drive it. We have heard from the artists and organizations that benefited from MAC's CARES response, and those messages have helped to keep me grounded in our mission. I hope that we can have as great of an impact with ARPA.

My concerns as we move into ARPA are with the capacity of MAC staff. In the past 10 months, more than 20% of MAC time has been directly linked to just the CARES processes. In past years, we average closer to 15% for time spent on all grant programs combined. The fact that we have been able to accommodate that shift, while keeping everything else rolling, has taken a toll. Reporting on my own accomplishments makes evident the struggle of balancing the immediate and investing in the long-term. One of the priorities from my annual review was to increase my communication to the board, and I have not made progress on that.

The work of the Strategic Planning Committee will be crucial to identifying the agency's path forward. Research and economic forecasting predict that nonprofit organizations, our key partners in connecting the public with the arts, will struggle to survive the pandemic. Similarly, artist-run business that contribute to local economies will need to rethink their income models to adapt for connecting with consumers in different ways. Government investments are generally anchored in fiscal caution and dependent on an outcome of community engagement. The pandemic has seen a reduction in public programming that also limits the opportunities for creators. It may be necessary to reconsider the expectations of MAC grant support.

When I plan a proposed budget, I like to go in with a near-certainty on spending and aim to stay within a small margin by year end. There is so much uncertainty with travel and programming as we head into the next year, that I know that I may end the year with as much variation as there is in FY 2021. I hear from my nonprofit counterparts that many are getting budget approvals for periods as small as two months, and programming decisions are limited to about the same window. It is not feasible for MAC to operate that way. As we move through FY 2022, I will continue to work with the Executive Committee to manage the budget in a way that protects resources and serves the field well.

Programs

With the significant demands of the three Percent for Arts projects, oversight of Governor's Arts Awards (GAA) transferred from Kristin to me, with substantial help from Eric Heidle. It was reported at the December 2020 Council meeting that MAC had received approval of the honorees by Governor Bullock. The GAA Committee met in January 2021 and was updated that the Governor's Office did not act on the public announcement information that MAC had provided. MAC issued a press release before the end of Governor Bullocks term, and the Winter 2021 *State of the Arts* captured the honors that he bestowed. Much of the January GAA Committee meeting was spent brainstorming and problem-solving ways that the honorees could receive the level of recognition they deserved.

The GAA Committee placed a priority on replicating the chance for the honorees to hear from their nominators and to speak to what the award means to them. Staying true to the Committee's intent, Eric is meeting with the nominators over Zoom, and recording short interviews. Eric is working with JP Gabriel to film each honoree as they watch the nominators video, respond, and receive their GAA medallion. It has been an evolving process to balance COVID precautions and schedules, and it has taken longer than anticipated. To date three honorees' videos have been shot and the remaining two should be completed in the next month. It is the GAA Committee's intention to present the videos in a virtual ceremony. The GAA Committee will meet to reassess as we near having the videos completed.



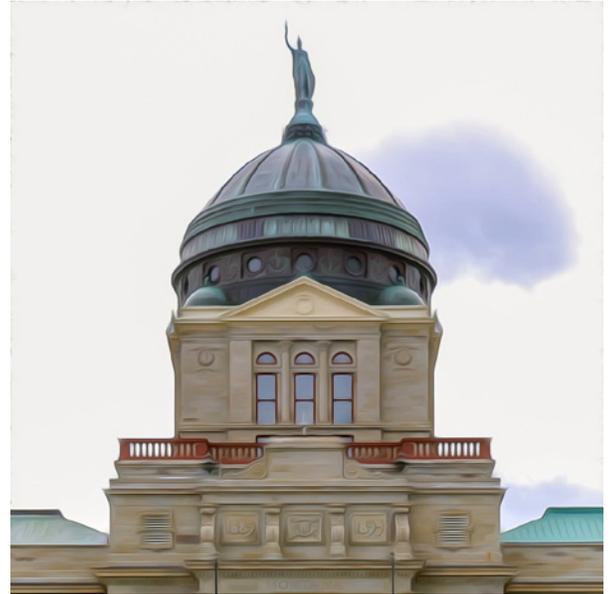
Governor's Arts Award medallions

The Montana Poet Laureate is another programmatic duty that I have picked up to help balance workloads. Included in the business of this meeting is the review of recommendations that will proceed to the Governor. The Poet Laureate Committee has benefited from the continued service of Sean Chandler and Renée Westlake, and with Cyndy Andrus' input, has moved many ideas from the last cycle forward. These additions will support the Poet Laureate in connecting people with poetry. I was inspired by Lowell Jager, the 2017 appointee, and his 100+ public events. Despite the limits the pandemic put on the 2019 appointees, Melissa Kwasny and M.L. Smoker ushered in a fresh view of the position. MAC staff is ready to work with Governor Gianforte's appointee to implement their ideas to raise the profile of poetry and Montana poets. I have had some valuable conversations with past Poets Laureate and have received the feedback that MAC can do more to archive their service while in the position. I agree and hope to make time to plan for what that would look like.

Legislative Session

This session was demanding, thought it ended well.

Early in the process for HB2, Representative Windy Boy indicated his intent submit a budget proposal to add funds to the MAC budget for Indian language learning, specifically to install multi-lingual street signs on Tribal land. Input from Sean Chandler, Corky Clairmont, and Angela Russell helped me to understand the status on each reservation. As I researched MAC's ability to deliver on Rep. Windy Boy's vision, I learned there is significant restrictions of regulatory signage, even on Tribal roadways. At this point, multi-lingual signs go against federal regulations and could place Tribal governments at legal risk. Legislative staff was instrumental in helping me communicate the challenges of the funding and it did not move forward. With the session closed, I will follow up with Rep. Windy Boy to see if MAC could be supportive of Native language initiatives in other ways. Otherwise, HB2 passed with no difficulty.



HB9 ended up fine, but it was a bumpy road. I have been anxious to reduce MAC's administrative reliance on the Cultural Trust for administrative costs. As interest earnings have continued to drop, MAC was taking too large of a percentage and reduced the administrative amount by 10% for this biennium, about \$25,000. Unfortunately, the projections on returns are significantly down, and MAC's portion still attracted the attention we were hoping to avoid, and it is too late in the process to make any other adjustments. Required crediting language for grantees became an issue. At the Committee's request, and in a matter of days, Kristin pulled together evidence that the crediting language from the last biennium was being implemented, although it was not required as the condition of the grant contract until the fall. MAC provided suggestions for simplified crediting language, and the bill passed with the crediting language from the 2019 session. In the next session, we will work with the sponsor to have that language introduced in the bill.

Senate confirmation of Council appointments is a relatively new process and had more steps in this session. In total the Senate considered three resolutions to confirm six members. I am pleased with the increased geographic representation that the new appointees bring to the Council, and their unique perspectives. In the confirmation hearings, the contributions of outgoing members were noted. MAC distributes a certificate of appreciation for their service, and I have made personal contact.

HB 632 was introduced in March to authorize ARPA funds across state agencies. The actual award from the NEA was lower than the estimated amount in the bill, and we will work Governor's Office to get spending authority on the correct amount. The session ended before MAC received notification from the NEA, so HB 632 does not include specifics on the focus of that funding.

Throughout the session Kristin and I met with representatives of the Montana Cultural Advocacy, specifically Paul Stahl and Drew Geiger, bi-weekly to stay abreast of legislative action and by phone as needed. I find these meetings to be valuable as I continue to develop an understanding of the unique nature of the Montana Legislative process.

Field Service & Professional Development

The Montana Performing Arts Consortium (MPAC) held their annual showcase as an online event in February. I was impressed by how well it transitioned to technology, and by the attendance. I gave an update on MAC and our pandemic response. From the questions and conversation following it was clear that MPAC members need assistance realizing the potential of online programming, and alternatives to serve communities in which technology use is not an option.

NASAA has increased the opportunity for Executive Directors to connect with quarterly meetings. It had been valuable to share strategies and comforting to commiserate. Every state arts agency is different, and the variations have helped me to focus on MAC's strengths and challenges, and to know the colleagues to reach out to who share our circumstances. As an outcome of these conversations, NASAA is convening an 8-state roundtable to focus on working with marginalized communities, and I have been invited to participate. Montana presents a unique situation with not only our geographic spread, but the inequities in access to reliable communication with phone and internet.

I continue to serve on the Grantmakers in the Arts Support for Individual Artist Committee with monthly calls and email discussions in response to what we have witnessed during the pandemic. As we plan toward a conference pre-session, we are learning around the topics of building wealth for artists, shifting from project to operating support, and racial justice. I find the mix of private and public funders valuable, even when methods are not directly applicable to MAC. The technical assistance that MAC needed to give to artists during the CARES funding process was significant. Some private funders engage consultants for that work and frame it as accessibility assistance. I have had some discussions with staff on how we could modify that model to engage regional support for potential applicants. We have developed some online tools, and 1:1 guidance may be a next step.

My service as a WESTAF trustee has been positive, and before we meet in June, I will have participated in my second meeting. WESTAF is unique as a regional arts organization because of its revenue generating side. The process to track progress against their strategic plan, and the measures used, may inform MAC's work plan. These meetings have only been held by video conference, which limits the discussion and learning. I'll be happy when we can meet in person.

I accepted an invitation from the Tennessee Arts Commission to adjudicate their Major Cultural Institutions applicants. Tennessee is a national model in their success in working with their state legislature on license plate revenue. The Commission receives a percentage of every specialty license plate, and an even larger percentage from the arts specialty license plate. It is a huge source of income for the Commission. The review format was intriguing, with the applicants getting an hour appointment with the panel for a response, critique, and advice on their organization. It was a lot more work than I realized, and much of it happened outside of my MAC workload. I am still considering the potential for MAC to borrow from the process and think it may be of most benefit to new applicants and emerging organizations.

I have been invited to join a monthly call with the directors of Humanities Montana, the Montana Historical Society, and the Montana State Library. With two of the directors being newer than I, it has been a great way to become familiar with them, and to share about MAC. Beyond the relationship building, I am gaining a clearer understanding of where our work is complementary, and where there are gaps. Humanities Montana is the only one in the group that is not a state agency, though they function with a federal funding partner much like MAC does with the NEA. Humanities Montana has taken the lead in polling around the needs of the field to determine their approach for ARPA distribution, and we will all benefit from the poll results.

I'm taking advantage of the warmer weather to recharge, and to make sure every staff does the same. I do not anticipate that things will slow down. In fact, so much has been delayed, that I know it will be as hectic as the last year. I'm proud of what we have accomplished and want us to be well positioned to continue to serve well.

I look forward to our meeting, and the chance to share more.



830 N. WARREN

About the Montana Arts Council

Frequently-Used Acronyms

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

Montana Arts Council Biographies

Angella Ahn

Angella Ahn is a professor of violin and viola at Montana State University. She is also the violinist of the Ahn Trio, an acclaimed performing trio. Angella is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music.

Liz Albers

Liz is a Staff Attorney with the SAFE Harbor Legal Program in Polson, Montana. Liz has a Bachelors of Arts in Business Management with a minor in Arts Administration from Simmons College in addition to a Juris Doctorate from the University of Maine School of Law.

Cyndy Andrus, Chairman

Cyndy is a member of the Bozeman City Council currently serving in her second term as mayor. She has served on the city council since 2000. She is one of only four women to serve as mayor and is the recipient of the 2018 Bozeman Business and Professional Women, Woman of Achievement Award.

Cyndy is an active community member, an active art supporter, and has worked in the tourism industry for over 25 years. She is the governor-appointed chair of the Montana Arts Council and serves on the board of directors of the National League of Cities and the board of trustees for the Western States Arts Federation. She is the past chair of the Montana Tourism Advisory Council, where she served ten years.

Cyndy is married to Brady Wiseman (former Montana legislator) and has a lifelong passion for travel, culture, and the culinary arts.

Sarah Calhoun

Sarah Calhoun is the owner of Red Ants Pants, the executive director of the Red Ants Pants Foundation and the producer 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*.

Sean Falcon Chandler

Sean is an enrolled member of the Aaniinen (Gros Ventre Tribe), is the Director of American Indian Studies at Aaniiih Nakoda College (ANC) located on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. He also teaches the Aaniiih (Gros Ventre) Language to grade school-aged children at the White Clay Language School at ANC.

Montana Arts Council Member Biographies

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.

Tom Cordingley, Vice Chair

Tom recently retired after 18 years as the Managing Director of Grandstreet Theatre in Helena, where he oversaw the growth of Grandstreet's Theatre School into a nationally recognized template for after-school and summer programs.

JP Gabriel

JP founded Filmlites Montana in 1989. A veteran lighting designer/director who has worked throughout the country, JP has worked on the majority of commercials or film productions that have come through Montana for the last twenty-five years.

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."

Tracy Linder

Tracy Linder is a sculptor who has shown her artwork nationally with numerous solo museum exhibits. Linder has given a TEDx talk, been commissioned by GSA Art in Architecture, and taught at MSU-Billings. Her MFA is from the University of Colorado-Boulder.

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.

Jay Pyette

Jay teaches theatre at Havre High School and Montana State University-Northern. A playwright and director, Jay has been the Artistic Director of Montana Actors Theatre, with branches in Havre, Great Falls, and Missoula.

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 craftspersons. 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.

Renée Westlake

A lifetime arts educator, Dr. Renée Westlake ended her four decade career in public school music teaching and supervision of arts programs by developing a consulting and mentoring business to serve educators and student leaders. The upcoming release of her new teaching methodology, *Growing Leadership:*

Mentoring Students in Schools, specifically addresses the creative and artistic components of developing leadership. Renée has held leadership roles on various non-profit arts boards, including the Montana Ballet Company, Bozeman Symphony, Arts Without Boundaries, and the Montana Chamber Music Society. Dr. Westlake is an active clinician at state music education conferences in Montana, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Wyoming, and serves as an adjudicator at district and state music festivals. She has been nationally honored for lifetime achievement in arts education by the National Association for Music Education, National Public Radio, and the Interscholastic Music Association. Renée is married to a fourth generation grain farmer, and has two daughters who are professional dancers, two beloved sons-in-law, a granddaughter and a grandson.

Steve Zabel

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

Council Terms

Term Expiration Date		Council Member	Member Since
February	2022	Liz Albers	February 2017
February	2022	Cyndy Andrus, Chair	November 2004
February	2022	JP Gabriel	February 2012
February	2022	Tracy Linder	2008-2012, Dec. '13
February	2022	Renée Westlake	September 2016
February	2023	Angella Ahn	May 2018
February	2023	Corwin Clairmont	May 2008
February	2023	Tom Cordingley, Vice Chair	April 2013
February	2023	Jay Pyette	April 2013
February	2023	Steve Zabel	April 2021
February	2025	Sarah Calhoun	April 2021
February	2025	Sean Falcon Chandler	February 2016
February	2025	Wylie Gustafson	April 2021
February	2025	Linda Netschert	April 2021
February	2025	Angela Russell	February 2020

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

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Montana Arts Council Committees

The Chair is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Standing Committees

Executive Committee

Cyndy Andrus, Chair
Tom Cordingley, Vice Chair
Mark Kuipers
Jay Pyette
Renee Westlake
Staffed by Tatiana Gant

Strategic Investment Grants

Tracy Linder, Chair
Angella Ahn
Liz Albers
Tom Cordingley
Jay Pyette
Corby Skinner
Staffed by Brian Moody

Arts Education Committee

Jean Steele, Chair
Angella Ahn
Sean Chandler
Corky Clairmont
Renée Westlake
Staffed by Monica Grable

Ad Hoc Committees

Governor's Arts Awards 2020

G.B. Carson, Chair
Angella Ahn
JP Gabriel
Staffed by Kristin Han Burgoyne and Tatiana Gant

Poet Laureate 2021

Cyndy Andrus, Chair
Sean Chandler
Renée Westlake
Staffed by Tatiana Gant

Strategic Planning Committee

Renée Westlake, Chair
Liz Albers
Jay Pyette
Staffed by Tatiana Gant

Percent for Art Chair

MSU-Bozeman Romney Hall Renovation, Tracy Linder
Southwest Montana Veterans Home, Tom Cordingley
MSU-Billings Life Sciences
Building Renovation, Jay Pyette
Staffed by Kristin Han Burgoyne

Future Meeting Dates

December 2021

Friday-Sunday | December 3-5, 2021 | TBD

June 2022

Friday-Sunday | June 3-5, 2022 | TBD

December 2022

Friday-Sunday | December 2-4, 2022 | TBD

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We'll see you down the road.



Main Street, Lincoln.