

STATE OF THE ARTS

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL



Chris La Tray's poetry workshop at Boulder's Elkhorn Treatment Center helps women in recovery find healing through expression. (Photo by Eric Heidle)

ARTS IN HEALTH AND OTHER INNOVATIONS

by Krys Holmes

In this issue we look at ways to think differently about how and where art does its work in communities: we consider theater for neurodivergent actors and audiences at the Missoula Children's Theatre, see how risk invites failure—and success—at Bozeman's Tinworks Art, and look at innovative ways the Holter Museum of Art in Helena is fostering connection and courage.

But one of the things we're most excited to report on is the launch of the Montana Arts in Health Lab this fall. To say that art has healing and restorative powers is obvious to anyone who's ever spent a calming hour looking

at Impressionist landscapes, burst out of a theater energized by the thrilling ending of a Marvel blockbuster, or heard exactly the song they needed to hear at exactly the time they needed to hear it. Whether we're creating or experiencing art, the ways it rewires our brains and hearts add exponentially to the other tools we use to help us feel and be better. Lifesaving medications, healthy diet, and exercise all contribute to our continued well-being. But the healing powers of art magnify those benefits, through social connection, through improved neuroplasticity, through development of motor skills and the enhanced use of our senses.

But: don't take just the word of passionate English teachers and enthusiastic community theater fans for it. Science has weighed in as well, and the results are clear: participation in the arts provides tangible, measurable benefits for our physical and mental health. Does singing help speed recovery from surgery? Can dancing improve cardiovascular health? Will painting reduce anxiety? **The data have spoken, and the answer is a resounding yes.**

For the full story, turn to page 4.



Photo by Eric Heidle

The extraordinary scale of Gabriel Challe's ceramic work is part of Tinworks Art's vision for thinking in new ways about art.



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Fall 2025 Arts Calendar

With Nothing and *Everything* in Common



Krys Holmes
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A few weeks ago the Helena Symphony performed the fiery Percussion Symphony by American composer Joseph Schwanter (if you haven't heard it, run don't walk!), featuring New Zealand percussionist Fabian Ziegler.

As the blistering percussion unfolded in alternating delicacy and grandeur, the heartbeats of more than fourteen hundred people in the concert hall rose and settled in and ascended again. Fourteen hundred parasympathetic nervous systems joined together—I mean everyone, from the oboe section mid-stage to the families up in the cheap seats—as the music enticed and gathered and swept us up. This is a biological fact: our nervous systems synched up. And when the symphony exploded in a tsunami of percussive passion, all our hearts pounded, all our ganglia stood up and then we, this sea of souls, stood up together in a triumphant ovation. I looked out over the audience and the orchestra: white-hairs and middle-schoolers, churchgoers and atheists, meat-eaters and vegans, Hemi drivers and mountain bikers, people who believe Die Hard is a Christmas movie and people who don't, Oxford comma disciples and... well, let's not go there.

In all the ways we differ, disagree, and are pulled apart by our beliefs about things, this is who we really are: a community of relatives longing to have our souls nourished. This is the work of art: to gather us together and transport us beyond ourselves into an experience both private and communal.

This issue of State of the Arts looks at how some Montanans are doing art differently: in unique spaces, using a fresh approach—even revising an art form to include neurodivergent audiences. Art always invites the

new and surprising; that's one of its superpowers. The artist works with a series of opposites, with light and dark or with tension and release, in search of that one surprising thing that transforms everything.

A symphony may roil and strain, building to impossible tension, until something extraordinary emerges—the cellos suggest a melody, the trumpets answer—and the suspense resolves into a grand, ascending chord of unbelievable beauty. When fourteen hundred people in the same room feel that delight—not victory, not power, not the flush of righteousness but that humble, joyous sense of collective delight—this fraying world stitches itself together.

I believe in this work, and in the thousand ways each of you brings the power of art into the world. You gather people together, recruit strangers from the fields and offices, tell important stories, exhibit compelling art, ask unexpected questions. You make us laugh and weep and move over for each other. This work takes time and discipline, and is often misunderstood, but this is what our world is asking for. I believe the work all of you are doing—the plays and concerts and art exhibits and ceramic works and dance performances and poetry readings—is what the world most needs right now.

As our civic arguments strain and intensify, it's easy to feel like our divisions define us. But they don't, not truly. We are bass drums and piccolos with nothing and everything in common.

BE BRAVE. CARRY ON.

from the director



Submissions Welcome!

State of the Arts welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases, and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.
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WE'D LIKE
TO HEAR
FROM YOU



Research says: in many settings and forms, art can powerfully enhance healthcare for people of all ages, in many settings, addressing a host of physical and mental health challenges. A quick Google dive into “arts in health” yields hundreds of examples:

- Music** programs for mental health
- Dance** workshops for chronic pain
- Art** therapy in hospitals
- Creative** approaches to suicide prevention

This fall the Montana Arts Council (MAC), in collaboration with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), is launching an exciting new initiative, the MT Arts in Health Lab, to explore how art can help address local healthcare issues.

This new initiative, funded this year by the National Endowment for the Arts, expands work already being done across Montana: The Holter Museum’s “Creative Forces” project (pg. 8) for one. Arts practitioners are bringing creative experiences into libraries, prisons, bars, and main streets to give more people in more places access to the power of art to heal, to inspire, and to create community. The Arts in Health Lab ushers the healing power of art into the healthcare setting.



The Lab will bring together artists, healthcare professionals, and community members to design arts-based health solutions. The journey kicks off October 27th in Helena, with a local cross-sector working group who will explore the concept, discuss possible project ideas, and begin forging a partnership to build a project. The goal is to identify a local health issue, and build a partnership among healthcare providers and arts practitioners to design an arts-based pilot project that addresses that issue. These sessions will be led by Michael Rohd, the creative force behind State of Mind, a community-focused touring project that’s made waves across Montana.

The day ends with a larger community info meeting, open to all who are interested in the concept but may not be able to devote time and resources to a project right now.

Then, in early 2026, the Lab will hit the road, hosting similar workgroups in five or six rural Montana communities. MAC and DPHHS are currently scouting towns that are ready to take on a local health issue with the help of creative partnerships. Rohd, with his deep experience in arts and health projects nationwide, will mentor and support each local team along the way.

By spring 2026, MAC will roll out a special grant opportunity—just for these community coalitions. The goal is to help fund Arts in Health pilot projects—custom-built by each community to target a specific health need.

Hundreds of studies across many countries and cultures have demonstrated that art therapies—and arts participation in non-therapeutic settings—can have measurable effects on brain chemistry, the nervous and limbic systems, cardiovascular health, behavioral health, and overall well-being. Rather than looking at the arts as decoration and entertainment, MAC and the National Endowment for the believe it’s time to begin to understand the healing power of the arts as a partner in health and well-being.

Is your town ready be part of something bold and imaginative? Do you have creative minds and healthcare pros who want to team up to tackle an important healthcare challenge?

If you’re curious or want to get involved, reach out to Krys Holmes at MAC: krys.holmes@mt.gov.

In Clackamas County, OR, the county behavioral health program teamed up with local artists to create a project called “Ask The Question,” to address a disturbing rise in the suicide rate of the county. The project resulted in a photography collection and exhibition—and stronger community relationships. “Talking about suicide is a conversation that we, as a community, can have.” Photo by Julie Keefe



In Indiana, artists are leading a “Recovery Starts with Us” awareness campaign to help decrease opioid addiction. (Photo by The Basement)



At Royal Brisbane Women’s Hospital (New Zealand), doctors found that listening to calming music for 20 minutes decreased cardio patients’ heart and respiratory rate, lowered their oxygen demand, and reduced anxiety after heart surgery. (Photo courtesy of Royal Brisbane Women’s Hospital)



Trial and Success AT TINWORKS

Marguerite Wildenhain's vaselike shapes encompass both human features and forms and contemporary takes on classic forms.

Story and Photos by Eric Heidle

Tinworks Art has been doing things a bit differently since its inception as a pop-up venue in 2019. Located on a two-acre patch of Bozeman's northeast side, the venue occupies a series of repurposed warehouses in the city's historic industrial neighborhood a stone's throw from the old railroad depot. Every summer, (by design, since its interior spaces aren't heated), Tinworks presents a program of thematically linked exhibitions which explore aspects of artistic creation within and beyond Montana. And though the buildings' unique nature influences the experience, it's the artwork shown inside and out that gives Tinworks its particular character.

2025's program, *A Kin to Clay*, continues this approach by presenting a small sliver of Montana's immense tradition in the clay arts, and the works themselves run to all sizes—from Frances Senska's diminutive partridges and Marguerite Wildenhain's cookie-jar sized forms to Gabriel Chaile's monumental vessels looming over Tinworks' outdoor plaza. The season's work also continues the conversation between art created here and elsewhere, echoing the long-distance correspondence of decades past: think of Charlie Russell and Fra Dana nicking color theory from the French

impressionists or Hemingway dropping the spent shells of sharp stories in the Beartooths, for Harrisons and McGuanes to snap up later on. *A Kin to Clay* does this too, bridging divides of place and time to spin the globe till the Big Sky sits, for a summer, at the center.

The conversation starts at once as Tinworks' director Jenny Moore leads us into the light gray space of the main gallery's foyer, where a pair of plain, plump vessels made thirty years apart and more than a century ago provide welcome. Attributed to David Drake, an enslaved South Carolina man, they were made in the 1820s and 1850s, respectively; their stoneware shapes are humble and utilitarian, yet emanate the dignity of purposeful craft. Though Drake would make both pieces long before Montana became the name of this place, their presence sets the table for discussions about the importance of clay in art: should it be useful and practical, or are form and function up for grabs?

Entering the large open space at the center of Tinworks, Frances Senska's work would seem to answer that question with a resounding, confounding yes. Famously efficient, the former Montana

State University instructor's love for both practical function and whimsical form is on display in energetic variety. The exhibit's center is anchored by a wide, spare white plinth bearing a collection of Senska's table service sets, each comprising a small set of cups and twin-spouted pitchers. The pitchers' minor miracle of being able to serve from either spout reflects Frances Senska's thoughtful solution to the problem of having two vessels where only one is needed. Thanks to Tinworks' careful staging, these sets drawn from the homes of Senska's friends and fans hover reverently in the whiteness of space, suggesting a dinner party more akin to Leonardo than Judy Chicago.

The table is flanked by two more evidentiary bits of Senska's work ethic. The opposite wall holds a grid of pages from her meticulous notebooks, in which she documented every piece she ever made, recording a small doodle of each pot or vessel along with notes regarding the clay and glazes used. And the far corner of the room is lined with dozens of Senska's famous partridges, three-inch-tall figures pinched and posed with excess clay from larger pieces and shaped to fill in the empty spaces between them in the kiln. The little birds exhibit stylistic quirks which change



Pages from Frances Senska's notebooks detailing her work.

over time, becoming more or less abstract, but always retaining the small heads cocked at attention, as if they too are considering the art around them.

Deeper into the space, the contemporary work of Chicago artist Theaster Gates immediately tweaks Senska's approach to clay. His work pursues form to the point of abstraction, while still respecting the medium's utility. His wall-mounted *Brick Reliquary* pieces use the rough forms of clay brick, encrusted with glaze and texture, serving no function other than their own existence while honoring the simple act of making that David Drake would recognize. Gates' *Voulkos Ghost*, a tall freestanding vessel graced with unholdable holds, commits the sin of denying the clay's true colors by washing its entire surface in bright, white glaze. Nevertheless, it's a respectful homage to the onetime Senska student and Montana ceramic giant: Peter Voulkos' name is even scrawled briskly in that whitest of whites.

Gates' thinking is given further context in *A Clay Sermon*, the short film which accompanies the work. A loosely-structured tone poem, the film opens with footage of bricks being hand-made in a rural village before granting glimpses into Gates' own process and progressing to performances by The Black Monks, his musical ensemble. In one scene, Gates sings into a microphone while seated at the wheel, throwing a pot as the band jams behind him. In another Benjamin LaMar Gay plays trumpet, seemingly blowing sound directly into the clay around him, as the unfinished *Voulkos Ghost* rocks in time on a sheet of plywood nearby.

Outside, Gabriel Chaile's enormous *Ella vendrá a pagarle todo* (*She will come to pay him for everything*) looms above Tinworks' courtyard, another vessel of sorts but one liftable only by crane. The piece's raw

texture and scale are offset by the delicate swoop of its neck and tracteries of line around the shape's perimeter. Its suggestion of human form lets viewers make up their own minds, even as they wonder at the effort it must have taken to work at this scale.

And accidents, happy and otherwise, are a part of art too. Beyond Chaile's work in the far corner of the campus lies a field that's empty but for a few sunflowers. It wasn't what was intended for the space this summer; following up last year's wonderful *Wheatfield* by Agnes Denes, this season's program intended to include a new work by her: a field of vibrant and rare pink sunflowers. But for some reason the crop didn't take, and its anticipated punch of color failed to materialize. Having just seen dozens of gorgeous yet fragile works in clay, I mention that the field seems, despite all the craft and effort that went into its making, like a pot that cracked in the kiln. Jenny replies that risk is a part of art, and I have to admit that even the crop's absence is evocative, the few blooming plants hinting at what might have been. Like the fragments of Sappho's poems, they suggest much richer worlds that we simply don't get to read.

Art is always a process of trial and error, or perhaps of trial and success: of thinking differently to create something different. The risk of moving giant pottery across a whole country, the risk that the flowers won't grow, the risk that viewers simply won't get it. Throughout its young history Tinworks has shown a willingness to share that risk, mounting shows that challenge our perceptions of art's validity while threading together themes which link wildly different work. And the wheel keeps turning—a third collaboration with Agnes Denes is in the works for next summer, and no matter how small the seeds we're eager to watch it grow.



Frances Senska's uniquely functional pitchers match their tea sets.



Tinworks director Jenny Moore and the Arts Council's Monica Grable discuss Theaster Gates' *Voulkos Ghost*.



Gabriel Chaile's monumental *Ella vendrá a pagarle todo* (*She will come to pay him for everything*) looms large over Tinworks' campus.



Senska's partridges in formation, displaying her exploration of variety within conformity.



Holter Museum COURAGE TO CREATE

Story by Christina Barbachano

Christina and Mac Clay – Holter ED and Teaching Artist,
Christina Barbachano and Galen “Mac” McAllister
(retired Army)

HOLTER MUSEUM OF ART'S NEWEST HOLTER HEALING ARTS PROGRAM

Every Tuesday morning from ten to noon, a remarkable circle of veterans, caregivers, Recreational Therapist Mike Bassett, and two teaching artists gathers to create art, and community, together at Helena’s Holter Museum of Art. Thanks to a pair of generous grants, one from the National Endowment for the Arts and Mid-America Arts Alliance’s Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant, and another from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana, the Holter has built **Courage to Create**. It’s a year-long program which harnesses the transformative power of the arts to spark expression, foster resilience, build social connectedness, and support life transitions for veterans, active-duty military, caregivers, and families.

The Holter has been working closely with the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center since the summer of 2024; the partnership began with the introduction of the Holter Healing Arts Cart in the Fort’s Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services department for in-patient residents. With support from Pureview Clinic and the Helena Chapter of Rotary International, the Art Cart has become a source of joy and healing. To build on that success the Holter sought new ways to serve veterans through the Creative Forces grant, while Blue Cross Blue Shield of MT funding helped strengthen and

expand programming. Today, the program allows veterans to connect with the arts in three dynamic ways:

- 1. The In-Patient Healing Arts Cart** – adaptive materials and equipment guided by a teaching artist for veterans with the highest needs.
- 2. Group Classes at Fort Harrison** – weekly Saturday sessions for long-term in-patient residents, offering higher-level skill building and exploration of new mediums.
- 3. Courage to Create** – museum-based, non-clinical weekly classes led by professional teaching artists, with rotating month-long themes designed to inspire discovery and growth.

In September 2025, the Holter was honored to host the **Creative Forces Annual Montana Art Competition**, featuring more than 25 veteran artists across a wide range of disciplines. For two days this fall the museum came alive with artwork, performance, and connection. Over 100 visitors attended the competition’s pop-up exhibition, and the Saturday night program celebrated the talent and stories of Montana veterans. Winners from Montana’s state competition will move forward to the national stage later this year.

Looking ahead, veterans, caregivers, and active-duty military are invited to drop in for upcoming classes in clay,



Week 3 C2C Mugs – Chris Manos, retired Army, works on his mask in clay



Week 3 C2C Mugs – a Montana US Army veteran glazes a mug to use during coffee time at Courage to Create

pottery, printmaking, drawing, painting, sculpture, textiles, and more—taught by master teaching artists. Regular participants become honorary museum members, receiving special benefits and access to museum activities. And while registration is appreciated, it is never required. Every class comes with coffee, snacks, and—most importantly—a welcoming space to create, connect, and heal.

Participants are already singing the program’s praises:

“This is fantastic—it’s like therapy without the therapy!”

said one veteran. Another added,

“I’m not artsy. I’ve never touched clay before, but this is way cool. And thanks to whoever makes the good coffee.”

The first month of Courage to Create has been led by Holter Executive Director and experienced teaching artist Christina Barbachano, alongside Recreational Therapist and Marine Corps veteran Mike Bassett, and Holter Healing Arts Coordinator Meghan Durant-Patton. Both Christina and Meghan come from veteran families and bring deep compassion and dedication to this work.

The Holter will provide a capstone for this journey with a powerful **Veterans’ Art Showcase in August 2026**, featuring artwork from all three of the museum’s veteran-centered programs—a celebration of creativity, courage, and community.



Week 3 C2C masks and mugs – Chris Manos (Army), Mary (Air Force), and MJ (Army), work in clay together at the Holter

THINKING AND ACTING DIFFERENTLY, *for the Benefit of all*

By Eric Heidle

When Sarah Thornton, Patron Services Manager at the Missoula Children’s Theatre, hops onto our Zoom call to talk about sensory-friendly theatrical productions the subject is fresh in her mind. That’s because she’s come directly in from a hot September day, loading kids onto buses following two performances at the long-time Garden City institution, and she’s energized to talk about how it’s making theater productions accessible and enjoyable for every person in the crowd—and the cast.

Naomi Lichtenberg, the Theatre’s Foundations and Corporations Director, joins us on the call and the conversation really gets rolling. “We always say ‘theater is for everyone,’” she stresses, and what Naomi tells me next shows they mean it. “It all started in 2012 when a mom wrote then-executive director Michael McGill and said, is it possible for you to do a sensory-friendly version? Because my daughter is sensitive and she wouldn’t do well going to a “regular” performance. And Michael McGill said yes.”

That simple “yes” began a new tradition: adding performances with specific changes to make them a better experience for audience members on the autism spectrum. What changes, exactly? The Theatre’s house lights remain up and its doors stay open throughout each show, letting audience members move around freely or leave as needed. During these shows, making noise not only isn’t frowned upon, it’s expressly embraced. This lets audience members respond in their own way without risk of being discouraged by the usual expectation of quiet from the crowd.

The shows themselves get some vital tweaks as well. Sometimes content is edited to address difficult topics and performances may be shortened for a more comfortable running time. Loud sound effects and bright lights may be minimized, and a unique system helps audiences know when anything “big” is about to happen: a Children’s Theatre staffer armed with a glow stick stands to one side of the stage, and uses it to make signals which alert guests that major action, lighting effects, music, or noise are about to occur. This gives audience members time to be ready in a way that won’t be disrupting. Also, to help guests be comfortable with costumed performers, cast members will often appear before the show begins. “When we did Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” Naomi explains, **“we had the Abominable Snowman come out ahead of time and take off his head and show everyone it’s an actor. When he showed up in the play, no one was caught off guard.”**

Even these accommodations might not be enough for every visitor, so the Children’s Theatre has one more feature designed especially for those who find the crowd or



TOP CENTER: Eamon Graham as Christopher Boone and Jesse Ballard as Siobhan

LOWER LEFT: Molly Williams with Clover St. John (Rudolph in Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer)



LOWER RIGHT: The cozy corner provides a quiet spot away from the action.

Photos courtesy Missoula Children’s Theatre.

action too much. The cozy corner, located in the Theatre’s lobby, provides stuffed animals, books, blankets, a rocking chair, and a really cool fish pillow to give visitors a touch of home and safety. Naomi explains: “A dad and his kid came, and they didn’t even go in to the show. They played in the cozy corner the whole time. And afterwards, the dad came up and said, ‘This was *something*.’ He was comfortable in the theatre. He played, and the fact that it didn’t matter that he didn’t go in to the show...it was a victory.”

And audience members aren’t the only ones who benefit from these innovations. The Missoula Children’s Theatre facilitates casting for actors with disabilities as much as possible, with measures such as adapting choreography for those who use wheelchairs. More than that, the Theatre’s programming reflects this approach.

Sarah, who’s a professional actor herself, directed the Theatre’s recent production of “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time”, based on Mark Haddon’s novel of a teen boy attempting to solve a crime. “He’s never officially given a diagnosis,” Sarah says, “but quite clearly is someone who is on the spectrum, telling the story of how he’s going to solve the mystery of who killed the neighbor’s dog. So the story itself, I think, is quite important to tell. But we also had several of our cast members who are autistic or on the spectrum, or were parents or family members of someone on the spectrum. So it was a subject matter that was really, really important to everybody involved.” The production also asked Missoula occupational therapist Laura Olsonoski to work with the cast to strengthen their understanding of neurodivergence. “She was very generous with her time,” Sarah remarks, “having a conversation about the many, many, many variations that people can experience of this, and how to be respectful and truthful in our storytelling.”

Finally, the lead role of Christopher was played by two actors, each who never left the stage during their performances. From Sarah: “It’s a huge load for an adult actor. To have two 14- and 15-year-olds playing this role... they were just endlessly impressive. But one of them was on the spectrum himself. So it was an interesting thing to see the two performances and how they interpreted it. As Laura said, and as we kind of adopted as the cast mantra, if you’ve met one person on the spectrum, you’ve met one person on the spectrum.”

Doing all this takes additional effort, and money. One sensory-friendly performance at the Theatre costs approximately \$8,000 to stage, and that number becomes a bit bigger when you learn that the Theatre decided two years ago to make admission to sensory-friendly performances free to all. Funding through a Cultural and Aesthetic grant from the Montana Arts Council helps offset the cost, as do generous donations from supporters in the community. All of this work has helped expand access for and inclusion of neurodiverse children and adults in its programs for more than a decade, and it’s proven that we seldom break new ground without breaking down barriers. Thinking creatively means thinking differently. And for this capable theatre tucked into the edge of the Garden City’s downtown, and the work of its talented staff, cast and crew, thinking differently has firmly taken center stage.

The Theatre’s next sensory-friendly performance will be Annie, on December 17. For tickets and to learn more about the Missoula Children’s Theatre and its programs, visit <https://www.mctinc.org>

Are you working to expand access to your programs? Tell us about it! Send your story to mac@mt.gov

MEET MONTANA’S NEW POET LAUREATE



Allen Morris Jones, poet, editor, novelist and book publisher in Bozeman, is Montana’s 12th Poet Laureate.

With a 30-year career in writing and publishing, Jones has published more than 100 poems, essays, profiles, short stories and incidental pieces. He was an acquiring editor for Globe Pequot Press/The Lyons Press, editor of *Big Sky Journal* and Books and Writers editor at *New West*. His first two novels (*Last Year’s River*

and *A Bloom of Bones*) earned high acclaim, and his first children’s book, *Montana for Kids*, won a Spur Award from the Western Writers of America.

Jones’s most recent book of poetry, *Mumblecusser* (Drumlummon Institute, 2023) won the *High Plains Book Award*, and was his second book to earn a Montana Book Award Honor Book Award. Jones is the owner/publisher of Bangtail Press, which has published Montana writers like Paul Zarzyski, Rick DeMarinis, Aaron Parrett, and Russell Rowland.

In nominating Jones to the poet laureate position, Rowland wrote, “Allen is a student of the literature of our region, and [he] articulates better than most how that literature contributes to who we are, and how we have become who we are.”

Jones said he is thrilled to be carrying on the work of previous poets laureate like Mark Gibbons, Mandy Broaddus, Melissa Kwasny, and Chris La Tray. “Over the years, I’ve watched from the cheap seats as some of the finest writers in the country have sat in this laureate chair and advocated for poetry and literature even while shaping the public dialogue.

I’m just gobsmacked and grateful that I now have the opportunity to continue their work.”

Jones steps into a position that traditionally takes poets all across the state in service to poetry. From Henry Real Bird, who rode 450 miles on horseback giving away poetry books, to Chris La Tray, who clocked more than 50,000 miles on Montana’s back roads, our poets laureate speak in neighborhoods, classrooms, tipis, meeting halls, churches, bars, and living rooms igniting everywhere the love of poetry as a force of culture and identity.

As part of his outreach, Jones says, he wants to focus on the regional narrative, and how we each fit into it. **“The Poet Laureate position is an excellent opportunity to ask students and community members to consider how their life stories fit into our shared history,”** he said. “Particularly if we allow poetry a broader definition, we can find a measure of poetry in how we accept and reject the definitions that have been handed to us.”

Like several laureates before him, Jones plans to prioritize small towns and communities, and to invite other writers and poets to join him in discussion around the notion of a Montana voice and a regional identity. He also plans to bring his experience in podcasting to his work, making it more widely available.

Montana, Allen said, has one of the richest poetry traditions in America. **“Going back at least to Richard Hugo, our writers have taught us how to see the landscape and our history, and helped us understand our place in both.”**



“Thank you for visiting with me,” say the thousands of Montanans who have heard, learned from, and visited with Chris La Tray for the past two years. Or, In Anishinaabemdaa, the language of the Turtle Mountain Anishinaabe, Miigwech giibinb waachiweyin.

When La Tray was named Montana Poet Laureate for 2023-25, two years ago, he was awaiting publication of his memoir, *Becoming Little Shell*, (Milkweed Editions, 2024) and probably putting finishing touches on contributions to three other books at the same time. He had already published “the book that started it all,” *One-Sentence Journal*, winner of the 2018 Montana Book Award, and *Descended From a Travel-worn Satchel* (2021). He was featured in other collections, like *Water Bodies: Love Letters to the Most Abundant Substance on Earth*, and other cool volumes like *Off the Record* and *Blood and Tacos*. He also wrote the foreword and contributed works to the Montana Arts Council’s anthology of poets laureate, *This Place the Gods Touched Earth* (Montana Historical Society Press, 2024).

After a year of road trips as poet laureate, and on Humanities Montana’s Speakers Bureau, *Becoming Little Shell* hit bookshelves and his traveling calendar exploded into an extravaganza of speaking engagements, book festivals, cultural teachings, readings, and awards. He spoke at some of the biggest bookstores and book festivals across the Northern Tier, and visited classrooms in tiny towns and reservations across

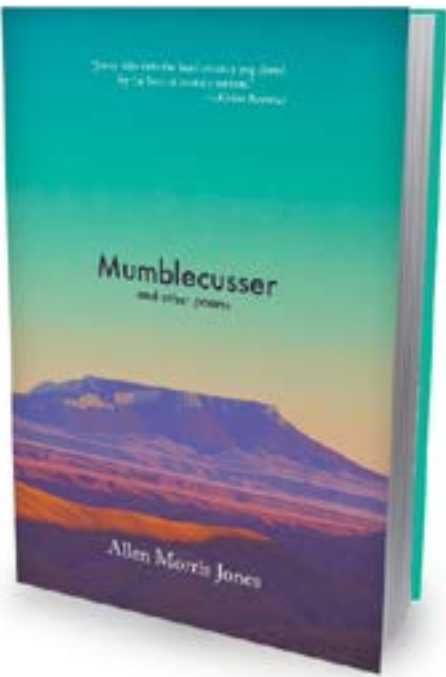


Montana. One favorite: a February 2025 visit to River Arts and Books in Roscoe, Montana, population 24, which attracted a crowd of 25.

He won the Pacific Northwest Book Award, the “Reading the West” Book Award, People Magazine’s Best Memoir of the Year, Book Riot Best Book of the Year, and was selected as Kirkus Review’s Best Nonfiction of the Year. Last spring the Montana Historical Society gave him the Montana Heritage Keeper Award.

Across thousands of miles and hundreds of stories, La Tray tells one story: the Little Shell Tribe of the Chippewa people, the 400-year Indigenous heritage of this land from the Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes. He reminds us that the Little Shell Métis knowledge, wisdom, language, music, and art have pollinated all of Montana history, whether we recognize it or not. Just as his own life gained direction and purpose when he dug into his Little Shell heritage, we all are nourished by the stories embedded in this landscape we call home. As poet laureate, Chris La Tray has enriched our understanding of what it means to be Montanan.

The Anishinaabe language doesn’t have a word for goodbye. The people are taught that once you meet someone, they are always in your circle, so there’s no need to say goodbye. So I will say to Chris La Tray, from my heart: Miigwech, and wiingezin Thank you, and take it easy.
-Krys Holmes



MUMBLECUSSER: GET TO KNOW OUR NEW POET LAUREATE

It’s all about the poetry, and *Mumblecusser* is a good place to start. Jones has been called “a master of the subtle” (Marc Beaudin, reviewing *Mumblecusser* in Big Sky Journal) and his work compared to past pillars of Western poetry like Jim Harrison and Richard Hugo. Former Montana Poet Laureate Michael Earl Craig said Jones’s poems are “carefully built and a joy to read.” Another former Laureate, Mark Gibbons, said, “From his family to the stars, from the cacophony of humanity to the quietude of water, [Jones] looks keenly, feels deeply, and renders his observations in smart, humorous, and heartfelt poems that celebrate this life in this place at this time.”

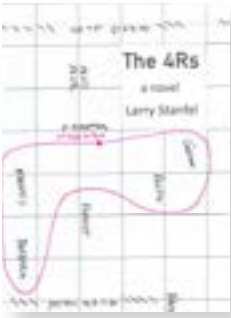
Available from Bangtail Press or any Montana bookstore

Great companion book:
This Place the Gods
Touched Earth

A true celebration of Montana poetry, this collection of works by all eleven of Montana’s poets laureate from 2000-2025 is a must-have for any self-respecting bookshelf. These poems are best read aloud by the fire, by a stream, or by a group of friends at a potluck. Read, and feast deeply of a great Montana tradition.

Available from Montana Historical Society Press or any Montana bookstore

Corrections : *Two book reviews, for books by Larry Stanfel and Chris Enss, appeared incorrectly in our Summer issue due to a layout error. Our apologies to the authors and publishers; revised reviews for each appear below.*



The 4 Rs By Larry Stanfel

On a day when summer vacation seemed already to have emptied itself of entertainments, a ten-year-old girl is seized by an adventuresome whim. Borrowing a shovel and dragooning her three best companions, she leads them to prospect for buried treasure, but no inkling has she of the power waiting to be unearthed. By the forces of their discovery the quartet are bound together for life to performing good works that brush them against crimes and dangers both accidental and contrived. Follow these 4 charmed children through their loves, triumphs, heartaches and -breaks, and twists of personal fortune. They will make you laugh, weep, tremble with fear, and, if you own even an ember of imagination, convince you of the magic entrusted to and enjoined upon them.



The Sharpshooter and the Showman: May Lillie, Pawnee Bill, and their Wild West Show By Chris Enss

Step into the exhilarating world of Wild West entertainment with *The Sharpshooter and the Showman*, a riveting new book that explores the remarkable lives of May Manning Lillie and Gordon “Pawnee Bill” Lillie. As trailblazers in the world of Wild West shows, the Lillies built a spectacle that rivaled even Buffalo Bill Cody’s legendary performances, captivating

audiences across the United States and Europe.

From May’s transformation from a Philadelphia Quaker to a fearless sharpshooter to Gordon’s deep connection with the Pawnee people, their story is one of ambition, resilience, and innovation. *The Sharpshooter and the Showman* reveals the struggles and triumphs of their show business empire, their commitment to fair treatment of performers, and their lasting impact on Western heritage.

Perfect for history lovers and Wild West enthusiasts, this book offers an unforgettable look at the golden age of live Western entertainment.



Borrowed Time By Steve Lamar

In *Borrowed Time*, Steve Lamar shares over five decades of exploration in Montana’s Swan and Mission Mountains. He recalls nearly drowning as a child, escaping a forest fire, confronting apex predators, dangling from mountain cliffs, and enduring hypothermia in remote terrain.

These essays and photographs, drawn from years of journaling while hiking, bushwhacking, climbing, skiing, hunting, and firefighting, reflect a life immersed in the wild. Lamar worked for the Forest Service in Illinois and Montana, served as a counselor at the Wilderness Treatment Center, and assisted with forest ecology research.



Growing Season by Suzanne Mundell Waring

Ben Reynolds thinks his future is firmly in place. He has one college semester left before he and his girlfriend move from

Montana to a big city to land high-paying jobs. Instead, Ben finds himself in charge of his family’s debt-ridden wheat farm that he is not prepared to manage. To make matters worse, his girlfriend refuses to accept the change of plans. While trying to overcome these problems, Ben knows that it’s time to start making decisions about the farm. Crops don’t wait; it’s growing season.



The Jingle Dress By Mary Beth Gajda

In *The Jingle Dress*, first-time children’s book author and illustrator Mary Beth Gajda tells the story of Christina, a sensitive and artistic pre-teen girl living with her grandparents on the Crow Reservation. When plans fall apart, Christina learns that choosing to see the positive in unforeseen circumstances can shape her future.

The 30-page book, written for ages 10 to 13, includes 12 of Gajda’s graphite drawings. Though fictional, the story reflects modern-day reservation life and celebrates Crow Fair, which has been held annually for over 100 years. It honors culture, spirituality, resilience, horses, and jingle dresses.

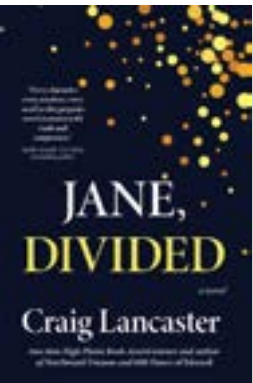


Western Reflections By Peter Herzog

Starkness is often how we see the American West, and in *Western Reflections*, photographer Peter Herzog uses that lens with care. His black-and-white images offer a quiet counterpoint to the saturated scenes of calendars, tourism ads, and social media.

Herzog surveys this many-countried landscape with a roving eye, giving equal attention to Seattle’s skyline and a rotted-out ranch truck. Often deeply contrasted and

sometimes as textured as a mezzotint, his photos reveal the weathering of old homesteads, the faces of homesteaders, and the gleam of vintage cars and planes reflecting a once hopeful and fast-moving future.



Jane, Divided
By Craig Lancaster

Just before Christmas, Jane Sperling leaves Montana for Texas in a questionable car, chasing the only lead she has on a better life for herself and her eleven-year-old daughter, Claire.

She takes a teaching job at the middle school she once attended and struggles to reconnect with her widower father. As Claire longs to return to Montana, Jane wrestles with memory, regret, and the fragile hope of starting over.

Through new friendships and old wounds, Jane learns what it might mean to go home, forgive, let go, and possibly believe in love for the first time.



The Science of Coincidence
By Sheryl Noethe

In *The Science of Coincidence*, Montana Poet Laureate emeritus Sheryl Noethe charts a periodic table of the human spirit—equal parts mystery, memory, and meaning. Her poems explore our instinct to find patterns in randomness and beauty in the unexplained.

With luminous lines and quiet wit, Noethe reveals the contradictions that define us. This is a collection to return to often, one that holds both heart and intellect in balance.

A co-founder of the Missoula Writing Collaborative, Noethe is a recipient of the Academy of American Poets Award and a Cultural Achievement Award from the Missoula Cultural Council.

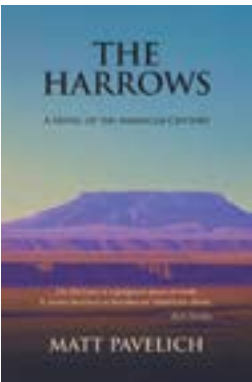


But Tell It Slant: Fierce Fictions
By Matt Pavelich

Matt Pavelich’s stories wait quietly to be discovered, and once they are—whether through a mesmerizing opening line or a sudden new way of seeing something familiar—they hold the reader fast. You keep turning pages until the room grows dark and you finally have to stand up to turn on a lamp so you can keep going.

Since his 1989 debut *Beasts of the Forest*, *Beasts of the Field*, which won the Montana Book Award, Pavelich has earned his place as a master of the short story form. His writing gleams like embers in a woodstove—honest, unhurried, and steeped in the scents of larch smoke and oranges. There is no glow of algorithm here, only the clarity that comes from walking alone across a ridge or chopping cordwood on a cold morning.

If you want to remember what well-crafted writing truly feels like, read *But Tell It Slant*. Actually, buy two copies. You’ll want to share it.



The Harrows
By Matt Pavelich

The Harrows opens at the start of the twentieth century, with Charlie Harrow—erstwhile freighter—and his beloved Dove, a schoolmarm and homesteader in her own right, establishing a family farm on

Montana’s Square Butte Bench, a place of “taunting, receding horizons.”

The novel closes in the same spot, as a great-granddaughter returns, unaccountably compelled to continue the family operation. While one Harrow in each generation remains to make the land thrive, others scatter—to the killing fields of World War Two, to drug-running along the coast of Morocco, to jazz clubs in Great Falls and Los Angeles, to Okinawa during the Vietnam War, and to the bookish neighborhoods of Portland.

The intertwined lives of Charlie and Dove, George and Verity, Tel and Jeet, Carrie and Elizabeth trace a long arc of struggle, beauty, and kinship. The Harrows explores what it means to be family—in our imperfections, our departures, and our returns.



Acts of Betrayal and Salvation
-on Where Blackbirds Fly
a novel by Shann Ray, review and interview by Rachel Griffis

Set in the Pacific Northwest following the COVID pandemic, Shann Ray’s new novel, *Where Blackbirds Fly*, alternates between five stories that explore romantic love and the human experiences that complicate it, such as trauma, suffering, lust, and greed. John Sender, whose story anchors the book, is a 33-year-old former rodeo champion from Montana who becomes a loan officer in Seattle. His job is the impetus for his interactions with the other characters—couples who purchase homes in Seattle—and each of the men who borrow money hail from Great Falls, Montana. There are significant differences in the socio-economic backgrounds of these characters. One couple is a pair of addicts who purchase a trailer whereas another selects a waterfront property. From the vantage point of a blackbird, “they slept in modern castles and under tarp. Cloaked by trees. Encumbered by blocks of industry.”

These disparate characters nevertheless meet in bars and on the street, bringing out the best and worst of each other. They meet in acts of betrayal as well as salvation. For example, Phil McBane pulls John’s wife and baby from the street just as they might have been obliterated by a van running a red light. In a single night, enacting one of his many infidelities against his wife, Gabriel Kennedy Reed propositions both Aurora American Horse and Juan Carlos de la Cruz—characters whose stories are told more fully in other parts of the book.

Though each character is deeply flawed, they create a stark contrast when considered alongside the villain, a psychopath named Roark Freeman, whose ideology is a contemporary version of Ayn Rand’s. Like the other men of the novel, Roark is from Montana, a compelling detail reminding readers that the villain once stood in the same place as the hero or everyman. Roark is John’s boss, president of the National American Bank, and he dreams of ruling over Seattle by way of skyscrapers and violence. His actions and beliefs haunt the other characters and move the plot forward, particularly as he becomes obsessed with enacting revenge upon a woman who humiliates him.

Underlying each of the five stories are complicated questions about human existence and survival, ranging from tension between the wilderness and city to leaving home to the connection between freedom and private property. The way that the financial industry touches each life is especially provocative, given that all the characters have a loan officer (as well as a place) in common. Though this novel frankly takes stock of the challenges of the world in which we live—relational, social, economic—it conveys hope through human connection. As Ray writes, human movement is “almost birdlike...like birds in sevenfold synchronization the human world is interconnected by flight...not into sky but loneliness, and self-sabotage, and the darker mysteries of life and love.”

Extra: Read Rachel Griffis’ discussion of Where Blackbirds Fly with Shann Ray at soa.mt.gov

HIDDEN TREASURE IN MONTANA

Holter Museum of Art

Story by Jeffrey Conger

The Holter is an independent contemporary art museum with a mission statement that art is for all. This maverick-spirited nonprofit organization in the capital city is largely funded by the community. Each year, it serves 30,000 patrons, offering 35+ exhibits across six galleries and housing a permanent collection of 1,700 pieces.

Originally founded by a local community group called the Helena Arts Council, through true grit and tenacity, they spent years renovating the space and opened with the inaugural exhibition in the front gallery on December 10, 1987. Over the years, successful capital campaigns have expanded the space to an impressive 17,000 sq. ft. footprint, adding the Baucus Gallery, renovating the Education Department, and transforming the Sherman Gallery into a new event space called the E. L. Weigand Creativity Center.

The Holter Museum Education Department serves the entire community and all age groups, sharing ideas, helping people ask questions, answering them, and fostering a natural connection between the community and the local school district through multiple annual eight-week residency programs. Additionally, the Holter summer camp program offers 32 different sessions, serving 700 students ages 4 to 18, along with providing traditional artist workshops and guest speaker talks throughout the year.

Several popular annual shows include *Youth Electrum*, an art exhibition showcasing artwork by students from the Helena School District. Also, the semi-annual exhibit *Across the Divide*, in which the Holter partners with colleges across Montana to celebrate the arts in education. Upcoming shows for 2025 include *Western Iconography* by Stephen Nobel, *Cross X Roads* by Danielle O'Malley, and *On the Edge of Kitsch* from the Holter Vault. In addition, the popular holiday artist sale called *Ho-Ho Holter* runs during November and December.

So, take time to visit the Holter Museum of Art at 12 East Lawrence Street, located in Helena near the historic Last Chance Gulch.

The Holter is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:30 pm, and Sunday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, offering free general admission to all Holter members, veterans, children under 17, and seniors over 70, with a \$10 fee for all adults ages 18 to 69 who are not members or veterans. All Fridays and exhibition openings are free admission.

To learn more, please visit holtermuseum.org.



Helena is an incredible city for the arts, with a long legacy of supporting the arts through cultural institutions.

The Holter Museum of Art is named after Anton and Joan Holter, who made significant contributions to the early development of Montana.





**IN MEMORY OF
PATRICIA “PATTY”
JEAN BERGQUIST
1935 -2025**

Montana’s arts community lost a steadfast advocate on July 2, 2025. For more than thirty years, Patricia Jean (Zepp) Bergquist, better known as Patty, served part time as Executive Director for the Montana Art Gallery Directors Association, a statewide nonprofit that links galleries, curators, and artists across the state. Through MAGDA she helped exhibitions reach communities that might otherwise have gone without. In 2020 she received the Montana Governor’s Arts Award for this service to the state arts community. She will be greatly missed by the Montana arts community she nurtured.

Patty lived in Great Falls and was cared for in her final days by family, friends, and the team at Benefis Peace Hospice. She met her illness with strength, will, bravery, and a feisty spirit. The world will miss her humor, kindness, and generous heart.

She was born in Billings on June 18, 1953, to Robert Ignatius Zepp and Elsie Jean (Stripp) Zepp. She was the third of four Zepp children and a Montanan to the core. She liked to note that she shared her birthday with her favorite Beatle, Paul, and she held her Montana roots in good humor over her Oregon born family as an adult.

She is survived by her spouse of nearly fifty years, Stacey Allen Bergquist; her children, Allanah, Michael, and Katy; and three grandchildren she adored, Dylan, Drew, and Svea. Her brothers William, Robert, and James survive her as well, along with her children’s partners and many friends.

Her working life included service as office manager for the Great Falls Junior League and later for Montana Claims Service. Her passion project remained the Montana Art Gallery Directors Association and the statewide visual arts community she served for more than three decades.

Patty volunteered with the Roosevelt Elementary PTA, the Giant Springs Elementary reading programs, and Great Falls High School’s Project Graduation. She loved to show up for students and for families. She was proudest of being a mom and a grandmother. She attended concerts, plays, sports, and school events in person when possible and later through Zoom.

She loved to travel. Her adventures included the Grand Canyon, the Oregon Coast, Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands, Broadway and Coney Island in New York, the National Mall in Washington DC, and New Orleans with dear friends. She also cherished visits to Taiwan and Istanbul.

She was the heartbeat of the Bergquist family. Her holiday decorations and celebrations were legendary. Her chocolate chip cookies were world class.

A celebration of life will be held on Friday, September 26, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the Black Eagle Community Center. Please call for details. In lieu of flowers or gifts, donations in her memory may be made to Montana Special Olympics, to the music programs through the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation, or to a charity close to your heart.

Patty’s legacy is service to art, to community, and to family. Montana will remember her as a connector who brought exhibitions and people together. Her loved ones will remember her as home.

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

- | | |
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Patty Bergquist is joined by a surprise guest—then-U.S. Senator at the 2019 MAGDA conference at Chico Hot Springs. Patty is on Sen. Tester’s right.

coustsey of livelytimes.com

FALL CALENDAR

BELGRADE

Willow Spring Ranch montanachambermusic.org/concert-page	 Kenji Bunch with Monica Ohuchi & Angella Ahn	October 9 6:30 PM	\$45
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BELT

Belt Rodeo Grounds at Castner Park beltperformingartscenter.com	 Trevor Panczak	October 4 3:00 & 7:00 PM	\$25
	 Broadway in Love 2025	November 8 3:00 & 7:00 PM	\$25
	 The Steve Olson Orchestra Christmas Concert	December 14 2:00 & 4:00 PM	\$10

BILLINGS

Alberta Bair Theater albertabairtheater.org/shows	 The Rat Pack in Concert Starring Brian Duprey	October 4 7:30 PM	\$40+
	 Collision of Rhythm	October 7 7:30 PM	\$17+
	 MANIA The ABBA Tribute	October 9 7:30 PM	\$24.50+
	 Big Sky Comedy Festival 2025	October 11 7:30 PM	\$19+
	 Take3: Where Rock Meets Bach	October 17 7:30 PM	\$17+
	 Billings Symphony Presents 75 Years of Music in One Night	October 25 7:30 PM	\$20+
	 The Fab Four: Tribute to The Beatles' "Help!" and the Hits	October 26 7:00 PM	\$22+
	 Genius of the Gentle Giant: The Music of Don Williams	November 1 7:30 PM	\$17+
	 The Black Jet Symphony Presents AC/DC's "Back in Black"	November 6 7:30 PM	\$27+
	 World Ballet Company: The Great Gatsby Ballet	November 8 7:00 PM	\$45+
	 Stayin' Alive One Night of The Bee Gees	November 22 7:30 PM	\$24.50+
	 Billings Symphony Presents The Nutcracker Ballet	November 29 & 30 2:00 & 7:00 PM	\$20+
	 Forbidden Broadway - Merrily We Stole a Song	December 6 7:30 PM	\$52+
	 Mark O'Connor's An Appalachian Christmas	December 12 7:30 PM	\$17+

	 Billings Symphony Presents A Christmas Carol	December 20 7:30 PM	\$20+
	 Billings Community Band - Winter 2025	December 12 3:00 pm	%5+
First Interstate Arena at MetraPark metrapark.com/events	 Ian Munsick	October 9 8:00 PM	\$49+
	 Zach Top	October 31 7:00 PM	\$67+
	 MercyMe	November 1 7:00 PM	\$38+
	 Jeff Dunham Artificial Intelligence Tour	November 5 7:00 PM	\$75
	 Kevin Gates	November 13 8:00 PM	\$45+
Kirks Grocery kirksgrocery.com	 Open Mic Poetry Night	Oct 2, 16, Nov 6, 20, Dec 4 & 18 7:00 PM	\$5
	 Scott Yoder, Sasha Bell & Alttar	October 2 10:00 PM	\$12+
	 Transgression Transaction	October 3 5:00 PM	Free
	 Kitchen Party with Chef Ash & DJ Dixon Moonstomper	Oct 10, Nov 14 & Dec 12 6:00 PM	Donation
	 Kirks' Small Works	December 5 5:00 PM	Free
Yellowstone Art Museum artmuseum.org/project	 Of Neon & Bones	May 2025 - Jan 2026 Daily	\$6+
	 The Language of the Land	Jun - Oct 2025 Daily	\$6+
	 Jon Lodge: Carbon Strata	Sept 2025 - Jan 2026 Daily	\$6+
	 Threads	Nov 2025 - Jan 2026 Daily	\$6+
NOVA Center for the Performing Arts novabillings.org/performances	 The Filthy Habit/Trouble in Tahiti	Oct 10-19 7:00 & 2:00 PM	\$12+
	 Cabaret Club	Oct 19, Nov 16 , Dec 21 5:30 PM	Free
	 9 to 5!	November 7-16 7:00 & 2:00 PM	\$12+
	 A Sussified Christmas Carol	December 4-14 7:00 & 2:00 PM	\$12+
Downtown Billings artwalkbillings.com	 Art Walk Downtown Billings	Oct 3 & Dec 5 5:00 PM	Free
The Pub Station Taproom https://thepubstation.com/events/	 Nile	October 1 6:45 PM	\$35.65
	 Allen Stone	October 2 8:00 PM	\$38+

Crooked Line Studio crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar		Blasts from the Past: Repeat Offenders and Hair Train Awesome	October 3 8:00 PM	\$22.65+
		Xzibit with Special Guest Coyote	October 9 8:00 PM	\$44.15+
		Counting Coup	October 10 8:00 PM	\$22.65
		Old Crow Medicine Show: Circle the Wagons Tour	October 11 8:00 PM	\$67+
		The Motet	October 12 8:00 PM	\$35.65
		A Tribute to Daft Punk	October 18 8:00 PM	\$28.65
		Kameron Marlowe with Special Guest Dalton Davis	October 19 8:00 PM	\$33.65
		Skizzy Mars	October 21 8:00 PM	\$33.65+
		Archers the Temporary High Tour Part 2	October 27 7:00 PM	\$30.65
		Zakk Sabbath: American Winter Tour	November 5 8:00 PM	\$48.65+
		The Brothers Comatose	November 12 8:00 PM	\$33.65
		Pinky and The Floyd	November 13 8:00 PM	\$33.65+
		Kenny Feidler with Special Guest Kellen Smith	November 14 8:00 PM	\$19.15
		Not.Greeneday	November 15 8:00 PM	\$22.65
		Tanner Laws	December 5 8:00 PM	\$22.65
		The Waiting: Celebrating the Music of Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers	December 13 8:00 PM	\$22.65
	After School Art Witches & Wizards!	October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 2:30 PM	\$128+	
	Painting 102 w. Carolyn Thayer	October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 6:00 PM	\$225	
	Mixed Media Meet Up	October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 6:00 PM	\$8	
	Open Art!	October 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27 & 31 11:00 AM	\$8	
	Friday Painters w/ Carolyn Thayer	October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 1:00 PM	\$225	
	Monday Night Painters w. Carolyn Thayer	October 6, 13, 20 & 27 6:00 PM	\$225	
	Hand Building Pretty Platters w/ Stacie Hermes	October 9 6:00 PM	\$65	
	Wheel Throwing Mug and Handle w/Stacie Hermes	October 11 & 25 6:00 PM	\$65	
	Wheel Throwing Bowls w. Stacie Hermes	October 16, 17 & 31 6:00 PM	\$75	

BIG SKY

Art Council Studio at BASE bigskyarts.org/calendar		Middle School Pottery - 10 weeks	Wednesdays 4:00 PM	\$430
		All Levels Pottery - 10 weeks	Wednesdays 6:00 PM	\$580
		Open Pottery Studio Thursdays	Thursdays 6:00 PM	\$20
		All Levels Pottery - 10 weeks	Thursdays 10:00 AM	\$580
		Elementary School Thursdays Fall Session ARTventure	Thursdays 4:00 PM	\$40
		All Levels Pottery - 5 weeks	Fridays 6:00 PM	\$290
		Open Pottery Studio Fridays	Fridays 12:00 PM	\$20
		Stained Glass Open Studio Saturdays	Saturdays 12:00 PM	Donation
		Level Up Stained Glass Design - 5 weeks	Saturdays 10:00 AM	\$290
		All Levels Pottery - 10 weeks	Sundays 6:00 PM	\$580
		Open Pottery Studio Sundays	Sundays 12:00 PM	\$30
		Beginner Stained Glass Design - 5 weeks	Mondays 6:00 PM	\$290
		Pottery Hand-Building Basics	Mondays 1:00 PM	\$290
		All Levels Pottery - 5 weeks	Mondays 6:00 PM	\$290
		Open Pottery Studio Tuesdays	Tuesdays 12:00 PM	Donation
		Intermediate Pottery - 10 weeks	Tuesdays 6:00 PM	\$580

BOZEMAN

Bozeman Public Library bozemansymphony.org/event-calendar		Symphony Storytime	October 8 10:15 AM	Free
		Toddler & Preschool Storytime	Wednesdays & Fridays 10:15 AM	Free
Bozeman Public Library bozemansymphony.org/event-calendar		Nonfiction Writers Group	Tuesdays 5:30 PM	Free
		Sewing Circle	Tuesdays 5:30 PM	Free
Willson Auditorium bozemansymphony.org		Nature's Wonders: Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony	October 11 & 12 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM	\$27+

	 Bozeman Symphony Holiday Spectacular	December 12-14 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM	\$28+
Hope Lutheran Church bozemansymphony.org/music-of-lauridsen-and-shaw	 Night & Light: The Music of Lauridsen & Shaw	November 13-15 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM	\$22+
The Emerson theemerson.org/tis-the-season	 Tis The Season	December 7 11:00 AM	\$35+
The Ellen Theatre theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com	 Todd Barry	October 4 8:00 PM	TBD
	 Wild, from Pole to Pole	October 16 7:30 PM	\$11.25
	 Warren Miller's SNO-CIETY	October 28 4:30 PM	\$20.00
	 Pecha Kucha 48	November 5 & 6 6:40 PM	\$5.50+
	 Reverie Road	November 14 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM	\$32
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse handmademontana.com/pages/bozeman-made-fair	 Bozeman Fall Made Fair	October 17-18 Daily	\$5+
Downtown Bozeman downtownbozeman.org/event/winter-art-walk-2025	 Winter Art Walk	December 12 6:00 PM	Free
Reynolds Recital Hall, MSU montanachambermusic.org/concert-page	 Kenji Bunch with Monica Ohuchi & Angella Ahn	October 10 7:30 PM	\$10+
Aspevig Studio montanachambermusic.org/concert-page	 Angella Ahn, Albert Cano Smit & Amer Hasan	November 6 6:30 PM	\$45
Reynolds Recital Hall, MSU montanachambermusic.org/concert-page	 Angella Ahn, Albert Cano Smit & Amer Hasan	November 7 7:30 PM	\$10+
Bozeman Art Museum bozemanartmuseum.org/exhibits	 New Frontiers: Contemporary, Abstract, & Digital Art	Sept 12-Dec 13 Daily	Free
The Baxter Hotel bozemanartmuseum.org/exhibits	 Miniature Art Auction	November 14 5:30 PM	Free'
The Elm logjampresents.com/event	 Trevor Hall	October 4 8:00 PM	\$52.40+
	 Old Crow Medicine Show: Circle the Wagons Tour	October 10 8:00 PM	\$64.50+
	 The Motet	October 11 8:00 PM	\$40.45+
	 Molly Tuttle	October 14 8:00 PM	\$46.10+
	 Yung Gravy	October 17 8:00 PM	\$46.10+
	 Charles Wesley Godwin	October 21 8:00 PM	\$53.15+
	 Between the Buried and Me & Hail the Sun	October 24 7:00 PM	\$36.10+
	 Kip Moore	October 24 & 25 8:00 PM	\$65.95+
	 The Tallest Man on Earth	October 26 8:00 PM	\$42.50+
	 Margo Price	October 31 8:00 PM	\$43+

 Durand Jones & The Indications	November 1 8:00 PM	\$33.50+
 Waylon Wyatt	November 4 8:00 PM	\$32.45+
 The Brothers Comatose	November 13 8:00 PM	\$28.25+
 Todd Snider Band	November 16 8:00 PM	\$46.10+
 Funksgiving	November 21 8:00 PM	\$36.60+
 The Last Revel	November 22 8:00 PM	\$32.45+
 Pinky and the Floyd	November 29 8:00 PM	\$40.45+
 The Mountain Goats	November 30 8:00 PM	\$46.10+
 Josh Wolf	December 6 8:00 PM	\$46.10+

Tinworks Art
tinworksart.org

 A Kin to Clay - Frances Senska	Jun 21-Oct 18 Daily	Free
 A Kin to Clay - Marguerite Wildenhain	Jun 21-Oct 18 Daily	Free
 A Kin to Clay - Gabriel Chaile	Jun 21-Oct 18 Daily	Free
 A Kin to Clay - David Drake	Jun 21-Oct 18 Daily	Free
 A Kin to Clay - Theaster Gates	Jun 21-Oct 18 Daily	Free

Live from the Divide
livefromthedivide.com/events

 Darden Smith	October 1 8:00 PM	\$35+
 Liam St. John	October 22 8:00 PM	\$45+
 Lena Rich	October 24 8:00 PM	\$30+

BUTTE

The Mother Lode Theatre
buttearts.org

 The Hit Men	October 12 7:00 PM	\$45+
 Gaelic Storm	October 21 7:00 PM	\$34.45
 Elmo & Friends Say Hello	October 22 6:00 PM	\$28+
 Butte Symphony Series: Rococo & Romance	October 25 7:00 PM	\$45+
 Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet	November 14 7:00 PM	\$41+
 Stayin' Alive One Night of The Bee Gees	November 21 7:30 PM	\$33.50+
 Butte Symphony Series: Our Butte Holiday	December 13 7:00 PM	\$45+

The Covellite Theatre covellitepresents.org	 Rehab	October 5 7:00 PM	\$28+
	 Uptown Comedy at the Covellite Theatre	Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 13 & 20 8:00 PM	Free
	 Finding Lucinda	October 18 7:30 PM	\$17.84+
	 2nd Annual Rocky Horror Picture Show	October 24 & 25 8:00 PM, 7:00 PM & 11:00 PM	\$12.68+
	 Rave from the Grave III	October 31 7:00 PM	\$14.23+

CONDON

Swan Valley Community Hall alpineartisans.org	 2 Valleys Stage presents the Pipeline Vocal Project	October 19 3:00 PM	Free
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DILLON

UM-Western Beier Auditorium easternprogress.com	 Jaca	October 29 7:30 PM	\$10+
	 Nate Hance	November 18 7:30 PM	\$10+

EUREKA

Lincoln County High School sunburstarts.org/events	 The Lucky Valentines	October 25 7:00 PM	TBA
	 Red Riding Hood	November 10 3:45 PM	\$10

GREAT FALLS

The Historic Mansfield Theater greatfallsmt.net/mansfieldcenter	 Great Falls Symphony Presents: Ryan Tanj	October 4 7:30 PM	\$21+
	 The Rat Pack in Concert	October 7 7:30 PM	\$35+
	 Trevor Panczak - Great Falls Community Concert	October 9 7:30 PM	\$21+
	 2025 MHSA All State Music Festival	October 17 7:00 PM	\$21
	 Broadway in Love 2025	November 6 7:30 PM	\$21+
	 Great Falls Symphony Presents: Fernanda Lastra	November 8 7:30 PM	\$21+
	 World Ballet Company: The Great Gatsby Ballet	November 9 6:00 PM	\$44.25+
	 Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet	November 13 7:00 PM	\$34+
	 Great Falls Community Jazz Band Christmas	November 20 7:30 PM	\$21+
	 World Ballet Company: Nutcracker	November 30 6:00 PM	\$44.25+
	 Great Falls Symphony Presents: Brandon Horrocks	December 7 7:30 PM	\$15+

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art the-square.org/events	 Art of Christmas Open House & Artist Market	December 12 & 13 Daily	Donation
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Harvest Howl harvesthowl.com	 Harvest Howl	November 7 5:30 PM	\$450+
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Great Falls History Museum greatfallshistorymuseum.org/events	 The Davis 4-H Clothing Collection with Leslie Davis Burns	October 11 1:00 PM	Free
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 Postwar Architecture in Great Falls with Samantha Long	November 8 1:00 PM	Free
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 Hidden History of Great Falls with Ken Robison	December 13 1:00 PM	Free
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Great Falls Public Library greatfallslibrary.org/community-programs	 Silent Book Club	Oct 18, Nov 15 & Dec 20 10:00 AM	Free
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 City Employee Book Club	Oct 13, Nov 10 & Dec 8 12:00 PM	Free
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 Open Books with Penny	Oct 2, Nov 6 & Dec 4 7:00 PM	Free
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	 The Very Arbitrary Book Club	Oct 16, Nov 20 & Dec 18 2:00 PM	Free
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 Page Forward Thursday	Oct 25, Nov 20 & Dec 18 7:00 PM	Free
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 Book Sleuths with Kalena	Oct 14, Nov 18 & Dec 9 4:30 PM	Free
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The Newberry thenewberrymt.com/event	 Citizen Soldier - Secret Songs Tour	October 1 6:45 PM	\$42.10+
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 Todd Barry	October 3 9:00 PM	\$44+
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	 Allen Stone	October 5 7:30 PM	\$47.60+
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 One More Time: At Tribute to Draft Punk	October 17 8:30 PM	\$32.22+
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	 Chase Wright-Find Myself Tour	October 22 7:30 PM	\$31.22+
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 Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show	Oct 31 & Nov 1 9:00 & 12:00 AM	\$32+
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	 Not.Greeneday	November 14 7:30 PM	\$23.30+
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 The Last Revel	November 20 7:30 PM	\$31.22+
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	 Brian Posehn	November 21 9:00 PM	\$34.20+
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 Brent Cobb & The Fixin's	November 23 7:30 PM	\$32.22+
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	 Pinky and the Floyd	November 28 7:30 PM	\$33.20+
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 John Morgan-Friends like that tour	December 4 7:30 PM	\$31.22+
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	 Beth Stelling	December 5 9:30 PM	\$34.20+
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HAMILTON

Ravalli County Museum and Historical Society ravallimuseum.org/museum-blog	 McIntosh Apple Day Festival	October 4 9:00 AM	Free
	 Liquid Apple Night	October 4 5:00 PM	\$35
	 Victorian Christmas	December 11 6:30 PM	Free
Hamilton Performing Arts Center bitterrootperformingarts.org/events	 Duende Libre	October 18 7:30 PM	\$24+
	 Mark O'Connor's An Appalachian Christmas	November 15 7:30 PM	\$24+

HAVRE

MSUN/MAT Theatre mtactors.com/shows-events	 The Harvest	Oct 23- Nov 22 7:30, 7:00 & 3:00 PM	\$20
	 The Rocky Horror Picture Show	Oct 31 & Nov 1 7:30 PM	\$22
Havre Llibrary havrehilllibrary.org	 Books & Babies	Wednesdays 10:15 AM	Free
	 Crafternoon	Wednesdays 3:30 PM	Free
	 Storytime	Wednesdays 10:30 AM	Free
	 Yarn Circle	Fridays 4:00 PM	Free

HELENA

Archie Bray Foundation archiebray.org/events	 Speaking of Pots	Oct 26 & Nov 23 2:00 PM	Free
	 The Bray Holiday Opening Sale	November 13 6:00 PM	Free
	 Ceramics Form and Space	Sept 15-Nov 17 6:00 PM	\$385
	 Surface Seconds	Sept 16-Nov 18 6:00 PM	\$385
	 Give it a spin: Beginner Wheel	Sept 17-Nov 19 6:00 PM	\$385
	 The Rhythm of Form	Sept 20-Nov 22 10:00 AM	\$415
	 Embracing Clay	November 19 9:30 AM	\$385
	 Fall Art Walk	November 7 4:00 PM	Free
The Myrna Loy themymaloy.com/whats-happening	 Opera Montana's Cinderella	October 2 6:00 PM	\$12+
	 My Best Friends Wedding	October 9 7:00 PM	\$10
	 American Psycho	October 16 8:00 PM	\$12+

		Jacob Jolliff Band	October 23 7:30 PM	\$24
		Warren Miller's SNO-CIETY	October 29 & 30 7:00 PM	TBA
		Rachael Sumner & Traveling Light	November 6 7:30 PM	\$20
		Found it! 2025	Nov 7-Dec 31 Daily	Free
		Invoke	November 13 7:30 PM	\$30
		Wind in the Willows	November 20 7:30 PM	\$10+
		Tom Arnold Stand-up	December 2 8:00 PM	\$26
		Christmas Vacation	December 10 & 11 8:00 PM	\$12+
		White Christmas	December 16 7:00 PM	\$10
		A Phil Aaberg Christmas	December 18 7:30 PM	\$35
Omerta Arts omertaarts.org/the-classes		Friday Night Clay for Beginners	Oct 3 & Nov 11 6:00 PM	\$50
		Pottery I: Wheel Basics	Sep 17-Oct 29 6:00 PM	\$500
		Clay Handbuilding: Shape & Surface Integration	Oct 1-Nov 5 5:30 PM	\$400
Helena Fairgrounds handmademontana.com/pages		Helena Holiday Made Fair	December 5 & 6 Daily	Free and \$5+
Helena Civic Center helenamt.gov/Community/Civic-Center		The Rat Pack	October 5 7:30 PM	\$49.50+
		MANIA The ABBA Tribute	October 8 7:30 PM	\$27.50+
		The Black Jacket Symphony Presents: AC/DC "Back In Black"	November 7 7:30 PM	\$34+
		2025 Helena Civic Center Holiday Market	November 8 & 15 9:00 AM	Free
		An Evening with David Sedaris	November 10 7:30 PM	\$34.50+
The Holter Museum of Art holtermuseum.org/exhibitions		On the Edge of Kitsch	Sept 26-Nov 2 Daily	Free
		Cross X Roads	Oct 3-Dec 31 Daily	Free
Grandstreet Theatre grandstreettheatre.com		Noises Off	October 3-26 7:30 & 2:30 PM	\$17+
		Frozen Jr.	December 4-14 7:30 PM, 10:30 AM & 2:30 PM	\$15
		A Christmas Carol	December 12-16 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM	\$23+

Lewis & Clark Brewing Company lctaproom.com/events	 Line Dancing On Tap	October 2 8:00 PM	Free
	 The Waiting	November 8 8:00 PM	\$10
Lewis and Clark Library lclibrary.libcal.com/event	 Montana Historical Society Lecture Series	Oct 2, 16, Nov 6 & 20 6:30 PM	Free
	 Books & Babies	Mondays 10:30 AM	Free
	 Toddler Tales	Tuesdays 10:30 AM	Free
	 Preschool Storytime	Wednesdays 10:30 AM	Free
	 Middle Grade Book Group	Oct 9, Nov 13 & Dec 11 4:00 PM	Free
	 Adults Who Read YA	Oct 14 & Dec 9 6:00 PM	Free
	 Mystery Book Group	Oct 15, Nov 19 & Dec 17 6:30 PM	Free

KALISPELL

Wachholz College Center wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	 The Rat Pack in Concert	October 8 7:30 PM	\$35+
	 Old Crow Medicine Show	October 9 7:30 PM	\$69.50+
	 Rumours of Fleetwood Mac	October 12 7:00 PM	\$39.60+
	 Story Pirates: The Amazing Adventure Tour	October 15 6:30 PM	\$20+
	 Sam Bush	October 16 7:30 PM	\$49.50+
	 Glacier Symphony: Emperor and Titan - Mahler 1	October 18 & 19 7:30 PM & 3:00 PM	\$15+
	 The St. Olaf Orchestra	October 23 7:00 PM	\$22+
	 Gaelic Storm	October 24 7:00 PM	\$39.60+
	 The Tallest Man on Earth	October 25 7:30 PM	\$38.50+
	 Glacier Symphony: The Poetry of Meaning	November 8 7:30 PM	\$15+
	 An Evening with David Sedaris	November 12 7:00 PM	\$55+
	 Glacier Symphony: Romantic Cathedral	November 15 7:30 PM	\$15+
	 Mark Synnott	November 18 7:00 PM	\$12+
	 Mannheim Steamroller Christmas	December 1 7:00 PM	\$99+
	 Glacier Symphony: Handel's Messiah	December 6 & 7 7:30 PM & 3:00 PM	\$44+

Glacier Art Museum glacierartmuseum.org/exhibition	 Glacier Symphony: The Nutcracker with San Diego Ballet	December 13 & 14 2:00, 7:00 & 1:00 PM	\$44+
	 Rhythm & Whimsy by Richard Swanson	Sept 26-Dec 20 Daily	\$4+
	 The Lens and Legacy of Danny On: Photographer, Smokejumper and Silviculturist	Oct 10-Mar 14, 2026 Daily	\$4+
	 Close Encounters: Wildlife Paintings by Carl Brenders	Oct 10-Mar 14, 2026 Daily	\$4+
	 History Book Club discusses Timothy Egan’s “The Big Burn”	October 1 2:00 PM	Free
	 Donna L. Erickson presents on “Rooted to the Edge: Where the Old West and New West Collide”	October 8 6:30 PM	Free

LIVINGSTON

Shane Lalani Center for the Arts theshanecenter.org	 The Hunchback of Notre Dame	Oct 17-Nov 9 7:30 PM & 3:00 PM	\$10+
	 Gabriel Donohue with Yonnie Quinn	November 15 7:30 PM	\$10+
	 Holiday Vaudeville	December 12-21 7:30 PM & 3:00 PM	\$10+

MILES CITY

Waterworks Musuem wtrworks.org/upcoming-exibits	 Broad Spectrum Quilts & Steve Stickel Wooden Art	Oct 3-Nov 14 Daily	Free
	 Annual Holiday Exhibition	Nov 21-Dec 31 Daily	Free

MISSOULA

Missoula Art Museum missoulaartmuseum.org/exhibitions/current	 Alaina Buffalo Spirit, Through A Cheyenne Woman's Eyes	Jul 1-Dec 31	Free
	 Rearranging Stars	Aug 1-Dec 31	Free
	 After School Art Adventure Series 1	Sept 30-Nov 4	\$70
	 Teen Art Project	October 9	Free
Radius Gallery radiusgallery.com/exhibitions	 Blurring the Line	Sept 12-Oct 25	Free
	 I'll See You in the Morning	Sept 19-Oct 25	Free
	 12th Annual Holiday Show	Nov 7-Dec 27	Free
	 Nation of Language	October 5	\$32.45+
	 Suka	October 10	Free
	 Lakeview	October 12	\$26.20+
	 Azure Larkwood	October 17	Free

MISSOULA

The Wilma logjampresents.com/event		Senterline & The Gray Goo	October 24	Free
		The Dial-Up Kids	October 31	Free
		Latin Night	November 1	Free
		Magoo	November 7	Free
		Signal Fire	November 15	Free
		Level 1 Freeski Film Tour	October 1	\$15+
		Static-X	October 2	\$50.75+
		Trevor Hall	October 3	\$52.40+
		The Motet	October 10	\$32.45+
		Yung Gravy	October 16	\$46.10+
		Story Pirates	October 17	\$32.45+
		Charles Wesley Godwin	October 19	\$43.50+
		Niko Moon	October 21	\$33.50+
		Between the Buried and Me & Hail the Sun	October 22	\$37.10+
		TroyBoi	October 25	\$40.45+
		Prof	October 27	\$46.10
		Margo Price	November 2	\$40.45+
		Zakk Sabbath: American Winter Tour	November 4	\$50.25
		The Robert Cray Band	November 11	\$58.65+
		Trapt - Full Band Acoustic	November 13	\$32.45+
		The Brothers Comatose	November 14	\$28.25+
		Todd Snider Band	November 15	\$43+
		The Last Revel	November 21	\$32.45+

Missoula Children's Theatre mctinc.org/event		Funksgiving	November 22	\$34.50+
		Trivium	November 26	\$63.25
		The Mountain Goats	December 1	\$42.75+
		Paula Poundstone	December 4	\$43+
		Pinky and the Floyd	December 5	\$32.45+
		Memphis May Fire	December 6	\$43+
		Rain - A Beatles Christmas Tribute	December 27	\$46.10+
		The Hunchback of Notre Dame	October 9-19	\$27+
		Play in a day	Oct 16, 17, Nov 14 & 29	\$78
		Coldplay & Imagine Dragons	October 25	\$38.50+
		Halloween Classics Concert	October 25	\$30+
		Beetlejuice JR.	Oct 31-Nov 2	\$17
		Annie	December 4-21	\$27+
		Vivaldi's Four Seasons and More	December 27	\$34+
		Christmas Carols on Strings	December 27	\$30.50+
		Missoula Holiday Made Fair	December 14	Free
		2nd Wednesday Book Group	Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10	Free
		Watercolor Painting	Fridays	Free
		Story Time	Saturdays	Free
		Tiny Tales	Thursdays & Fridays	Free
		Middle School Writers	Wednesdays	Free
		Young Adult Writers	Fridays	Free
		Homeschool Art Camp	Wednesdays	\$45+
		Homeschool Art Club	Fridays	\$45+

	 UM Small Groups	October 3	Free
	 Jonathan Richman Featuring Tommy Larkins on the Drums!	October 4	\$28.50
	 The Golden Ghouls	October 9	\$11.40+
	 Zookraught with Apocalipstick	October 15	\$13.60
	 Goth Ball	October 18	\$17.10
	 Mount Pom w/ Minot, J.A.D.E., & Dylan Running Crane	October 19	\$11.40+
	 3D Building Bonanza	Oct 21-Nov 18	\$145
	 Sewing Club 201	Oct 22-Nov 19	\$145
	 Carving Relief in Slate	Oct 23-Nov 20	\$180
	 Inexplicable Sidenote	October 29 & 30	\$23+
	 Ancients + Special Guest	November 28	\$16.50
	 Beginner Holiday Jewelry Making	December 2-16	\$90
	 Fantasy Art and Map Making	December 3-17	\$90
	 J.M Cooper: Adel Sheep Shearing	Oct 3-Feb 21, 2026	Free
	 Stella Nall: Offerings from my Heart	Oct 3-Dec 27	Free
	 Teen Art Project	October 9	Free
	 After School Art Adventure Series 2	Nov 11-Dec 16	\$70
Mansfield Library Mall umt.edu/theatre-dance/season	 Dance On Location	October 4 & 5	\$10
University of Montana Theatre umt.edu/theatre-dance/season	 Anything Goes	Oct 23-23 & 30, Nov 2	\$12.50+
Masquer Theatre umt.edu/theatre-dance/season	 End of Shift	October 2-5, 9-12	\$12.50+
	 Dance Up Close	November 13-15	\$12.50+
University of Montana Music Recital Hall sormt.org/concerts	 Pedja Muzijevic plays Beethoven	November 23	\$12+

RED LODGE

Roosevelt Center warrenmiller.com/events/roosevelt-center	 Warren Miller's SNO-CIETY	November 28 7:00 PM	\$25+
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RONAN

Ronan Middle School missionvalleylive.com/concert	 Pipeline Vocal Project	October 24 7:00 PM	\$15
	 Broadway in Love	November 14 7:00 PM	\$15

SEELEY & SWAN VALLEY

Various Galleries alpineartisans.org	 Tour of the Arts	October 11-12 Daily	Free
Seeley Swan High School alpineartisans.org	 2 Valleys Stage presents The Drum Brothers	November 23 3:00 PM	TBA

STEVENSVILLE

Bitterroot Valley artistsalongthebitterroot.com	 Artists Along the Bitterroot	October 17-19 Daily	Free
Stevensville Playhouse stevensvilleplayhouse.org	 And Then There Were None	October 10-18 7:30 PM & 2:00 PM	\$13.50+
	 Little Women	December 5-14 7:30 PM & 2:00 PM	\$13.50+

VICTOR

Mary Stuart Rogers Performing Arts Center https://bitterrootperformingarts.org/venue-locations/	 Missoula Symphony Holiday Concert	December 13 2:00 PM & 4:30 PM	\$38
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WHITEFISH

The O'Shaughnessy Center warrenmiller.com/events/mt	 Warren Miller's SNO-CIETY	November 8 & 9	\$20
Whitefish Depot Park whitefishoktoberfest.com	 Great Northwest Oktoberfest	Oct 2-4 & 9-11	\$10
Whitefish Performing Arts atpwhitefish.org/shows/2025	 Madagascar Jr.	October 17-19	\$10+
	 The Rocky Horror Picture Show	Oct 28-Nov 1	\$45
	 Yuletide Affair 22	December 20-22	\$49+
Downtown Whitefish whitefishgallerynights.org	 Whitefish Gallery Nights	October 2	Free
Whitefish Theatre Co whitefishtheatreco.org/take3	 Take3: Where Rock Meets Bach	October 4	\$20+
	 Wait Until Dark	October 17-25	\$10+
	 Reverie Road	November 7	\$20+
	 World Builders	November 15 & 16	\$10+
	 Let Nothing You Dismay	December 4-14	\$10+

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