

# STATE OF THE ARTS

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL



By Tracy Sullivan

## INDIGIPALOOZA MT

### Brings Bold Voices and a New Kind of Festival to Missoula

When Missoula plays host to a festival, it tends to go big. But this summer, it's doing something even more ambitious. On August 1–2, the city will become a crossroads for some of the most compelling Indigenous artists working today. It's called IndigiPalooza MT—a two-day cultural gathering that isn't just worth attending. It's worth remembering.

Rooted in community and built on the belief that art can carry truth across generations, IndigiPalooza is a rare kind of public event: one that feels urgent and celebratory at the same time. It's not a spectacle. It's a conversation. And everyone's invited.

### A Stage for Stories That Needed Telling

Over two days and two venues, the Masquer Theatre on the University of Montana campus and the Missoula Public Library, festivalgoers will encounter a wide-ranging lineup of performances, readings, conversations, and workshops. But more than anything, they'll encounter a sense of presence: the power of Indigenous voices reclaiming space, language, and narrative on their own terms.

Friday night opens with a poetic summit: four Indigenous poet laureates, each distinct in voice and background, reading together on one stage. *continued on page 26*

## INSIDE



.....  
A conversation with Montana's about Ron Meyers' bold legacy in contemporary clay.

*page 8*



.....  
Montana Folk Festival's Folklife Area returns to celebrate the hands and hearts keeping our traditions alive.

*page 14*



News of the art world for all Montanans, provided by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana





Courtesy of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks

08

**Conversations in Clay**

10

**Montana Shakespeare**

12

**Toby Scott Records History**

16

**The Yellowstone Art Museum  
2024 Heritage and Cultural  
Tourism Award**

20

**New Books**

21

**Montana Heritage Awards**

27

**Art as a Powerful Healer**

29

**Summer Calendar**



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Photo by Eric Heidle



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# KEEP THE GOLD

## THE NEA: HUGE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is one of those small treasures that returns to the nation far more than the space it takes up.

At current funding of \$207 million, the NEA is 0.003% of the federal budget.

**But the industries the NEA supports:**

- return \$1.2 trillion to the nation's economy,
- support 5.2 million wage and salary workers, and
- provide a \$36.8 billion trade surplus to America.\*

More than that, the NEA funds projects and programs that bring arts experiences into our world across Montana.

A prodigious amount of research shows that engaging in art boosts brain development, enhances learning, supports physical healing, promotes economic vitality, draws people off their screens, creates community cohesion, and helps reduce loneliness and isolation.

*\*Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis*

I lived in Alaska for most of my twenties and thirties, and yes I did some gold panning, so—though my knees and lower back much preferred hiking to bending over a cold stream—I do have a small vial of gold flakes on my bookshelf as a reminder. The gold-panning process of gathering, swishing around, rinsing, picking out the color and tossing the dregs, is a great metaphor for living right now. In many ways, we're all dipping our pans in the fast-moving stream, dredging up whatever the day holds for us, swirling and rinsing through whatever systems and values we hold dear, and separating the gravel from the gold.

Gold panning is a good metaphor, too, for the political process, especially as Congress debates the federal budget, which is the one document that most clearly reflects the values, hopes, and dreams of the nation. But we citizens, with our stiff knees and sore backs from doing all the panning, are left to hope that Congress doesn't throw out the gold. How much gold, for example, gets panned out of the National Endowment for the Arts? See the box to the left.

In all the swirl and churn of our national life right now, we also have to keep our eyes on the gold nuggets that pass through our own hands. The dappled sunlight through an aspen stand in July. The way a tiny Kris Larsen encaustic painting can gas up your heartbeat. The rambunctious Dvořák Piano Quintet coming to the stunning setting of St. Timothy's Memorial Chapel outside Anaconda. Or the moving poem "Directions Home," by young Eli from Yaak Valley, which is a big fat gold nugget for me right now. Political movements flame up and burn out, but human needs now remain the same always: for food, shelter, safety, and strong relationships. We need beauty, meaning, and moments of joy. Through every civilization, art is the way we express our needs, our longings, our creative visions—and it will ever be so. When we question the value of public funding for the arts, we're not talking about our ability to make art. *continued on page 4*

from the director



## Submissions Welcome!

**State of the Arts** welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases, and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

**Next deadline:** September 15 for the Fall issue (October-December).

*Please check with the Montana Arts Council for reprint permission.*

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WE'D LIKE  
TO HEAR  
FROM YOU



Public funding is about access to the shared experience of art.

**I can listen** to Strauss on Youtube and hear many beautiful notes. Or I can join a bunch of Montanans on a green hillside at Rebecca Farm while the Glacier Symphony carries our conjoined spirits on a journey through Strauss music together. What’s lost is those powerful moments of shared experience. The gold nugget.

**The NEA has a quiet but powerful impact across Montana, from Yaak to Miles City and beyond.** Example: next month the Holter Museum of Art will launch an NEA-funded project providing art classes specifically to veterans and active-duty members. The NEA launched its Creative Forces grant program based on research showing that arts engagement in a shared environment can help improve the well-being and resilience of veterans and active-duty service members, and support successful life transitions.

**Sharing and celebrating culture is core to human survival.** One of the little-known NEA-supported projects in Montana

brought Indigenous artists and culture carriers from reservation communities to the Helena Indian Alliance and The Myrna Loy to teach and share Indigenous arts. The project created shared experiences and strengthened cultural practices for urban Indigenous people living far from their communities. Just as the project gained steam, it was terminated and funds clawed back. A gold nugget tossed into the stream.

One of my favorite lines from scripture is Matthew 13:44-46: “The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” To me, our cultural institutions are pearls of great price, worth treasuring at whatever cost.

Because the cost of losing them—to our spirits, our schools, our communities, our culture, our future—is greater yet.

## DIRECTIONS HOME

By: Eli, a student in Montana’s Yaak Valley.

Go back to the old dusty plains  
where the tumbleweeds speak of family.

Walk up to the screen door,  
the racing bed stretched up  
in the old pine tree.

Beneath the earth, a worm wiggles  
and squirms in cursive.

Stretch, stretch weeping willow,  
your hidden grace-your viny secrets.

You’re almost there when you  
have seen the old shot out sign.

That sign, a memorial of my dog Rable  
who got hit by a limousine,  
comes back in my dreams.

# WALLY BADGETT: DRAWING THE WEST ONE LAUGH AT A TIME

In that part of Montana where the wind carries stories and the sky stretches wider than most folks can imagine, Wally Badgett was born to a life shaped by dust, cattle, and ink.

**Raised on Otter Creek** in Powder River County, Wally’s early days were spent between the ranch gate and the schoolhouse, his father a working cowboy, his mother a teacher. When a stroke left his mother disabled while Wally was still a boy, hardship took root early. But so did resilience. And so did humor.

**Long before he was a cartoonist, Wally was a rodeo cowboy.** A good one. He won the college national bull riding title in 1971, and by 1974, he was ranked eighth in the world. Later, he worked as a deputy sheriff in Rosebud County. But it wasn’t until a back injury sidelined him from the job that he picked up a pen and started drawing seriously again something he’d always done, even as a kid.

**That injury gave the world Earl.**

Under the pen name M.C. Tin Star, Wally began drawing Earl a rancher with a stubborn streak, a sharp, tongued wife, and a gift for getting things almost right. What

started as a single panel cartoon in the local paper turned into a syndicated strip, read and loved across the West. Ranchers and small-town folks clipped it from the paper, taped it to feed store walls and kitchen fridges. Because Earl wasn’t just funny; he was true.

In 2022, Wally was inducted into the **Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame**. Not long after, he was awarded the **Saddle of Honor**, one of only three ever given joining the ranks of Charles M. Russell and Jay Contway. The award came



Wally Badgett receives his Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame plaque from trustee Steve Held of Broadus.

with a bronze replica of Russell’s saddle, a fitting tribute to a man who has chronicled cowboy life with both reverence and grit.

Wally’s work doesn’t live in museums behind velvet ropes. It rides in pickup dashboards, vet clinic lobbies, and branding pens. It lives in laughter shared over coffee at the co-op.

His wife, Pam, helps manage it all editing, archiving, mailing cartoons when the Internet is acting up. Their son, Brett, is a sculptor with a life-sized bronze at the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs. Their daughter, Whitney, teaches art in Bangladesh.

These days, Wally still draws Earl by the wood stove in Miles City. Still keeps one boot in the past, one eye on the world. Still reminding us, with every inked line, that art doesn’t have to shout to matter. Sometimes, it just has to be honest.





*“I’ve always  
hoped that I’ve  
contributed more  
than I took out.”*  
— Wally McRae



IN MEMORY OF  
**WALLY MCRAE**  
1936-2025

**The Last Word from  
Rosebud Creek**

In the high plains east of the Musselshell, where the wind talks first and loudest, Wally McRae spent a lifetime listening. Not just to the cattle or the seasons, but to the slow, deep language of the land. And from that listening came poems—sharp, soulful, unvarnished—just like the man who wrote them.

Wally died on June 22 at the age of 89. A poet, a rancher, and a fiercely articulate voice for rural Montana, he leaves behind a body of work and a way of life that will echo long after the last campfire’s out.

He was born February 26, 1936, and raised on his family’s ranch near Rosebud Creek. That land ran in his blood. After earning degrees in zoology and chemistry from Montana State University and serving in the Navy, he returned to the Rocker Six Cattle Co. in 1960 when his father died. For the next six decades, he worked the same dirt his grandfather homesteaded—raising cattle, kids, and questions too important to ignore.

Though he came from cowboys, Wally’s words were never ornamental. He wrote with dirt under his fingernails and conscience in his lines. His poems—like “Reincarnation” and “Things of Intrinsic Worth”—weren’t nostalgic

odes. They were moral reckonings. A way of telling the truth.

He was there at the first National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, in 1985, and became one of the genre’s guiding lights—though he never cared much for being called a “cowboy poet.” He once joked it made him sound like he wore rhinestones.

Wally never did go in for show. He went in for meaning. For connection. For stewardship. His long fight against coal development in Colstrip wasn’t about politics—it was about protecting the land and water for his neighbors and grandchildren. He co-founded the Northern Plains Resource Council, stood up to big interests, and used his poems the way some folks use fence posts: to hold the line.

In 1990, he was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts—the first Montanan and first cowboy poet to receive it. He gave the \$10,000 prize away to support the Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering. That was Wally. He’d rather build something that lasts than take a bow.

He served on the National Council on the Arts, was given the Montana Governor’s Award for the Arts, and was inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame. But none of those titles meant as much to him as rancher, husband, or dad.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, their children Clint, Allison, and Natalie, and a community that spans the West—folks who found in his poems a mirror for their own stories.

A public memorial was held July 2 at the Rosebud County Fairgrounds in Forsyth.

Wally once said, **“I’ve always hoped that I’ve contributed more than I took out.”** He did. He always did.

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**IN MEMORY OF**  
**PAT WILLIAMS**  
**1937-2025**

**He Brought Montana With Him**

Pat Williams never forgot where he came from. Not when he stood on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Not when national headlines came clawing. Not when his voice shook against the grain. He was Butte born, Montana made—and carried the rumble of the West into every room he entered.

He passed away on June 25, 2025, at home in Missoula. He was 87. And though his voice is quiet now, the echo of his service—fierce, funny, unflinching—will live on in this place he never stopped fighting for.

Pat was born October 30, 1937, in Helena, and raised in Butte, where copper dust coated windowsills and solidarity ran thicker than blood. His father owned a candy shop. His grandmother ran the household. It was a city that taught him early what working people carried—and what they deserved.

He studied at the University of Denver. Taught sixth grade in Butte. Served in the Montana and Colorado National Guards. In 1966, he won a seat in the Montana House of Representatives. In 1969, he worked for Congressman John Melcher. And in 1978, after knocking on 51,000 doors, he was elected to the U.S. House, where he'd serve for the next 18 years—the longest consecutive House tenure in Montana history.

Through nine terms and two districts, Pat Williams never traded principle for popularity. He voted his conscience, even when it cost him. He opposed the Gulf War. Supported abortion rights. Defended public lands. And when the National Endowment

for the Arts came under fire, he stood in the storm.

That stand—against censorship, for freedom of creative expression—brought national scorn. When he defended the National Endowment for the Arts through a particularly acrimonious attack in the 1990s, opponents called him “Porno Pat.” He was even met at the Butte airport by Montanans carrying signs advocating his demise. But Pat didn’t blink. To him it wasn’t about winning a political fight; it was about protecting a principle at the heart of democracy. “Art reflects the diversity of our society,” he said, “and freedom is our bulwark against tyranny.”

He helped pass the Family and Medical Leave Act. He brokered deals to protect wilderness while safeguarding rural jobs. He fought for coal tax trusts that still serve Montana communities today. And he never forgot the families he taught, the towns he visited, or the voices that sent him to Washington in the first place.

He left Congress in 1997—not defeated, just tired of dialing for dollars. He came back home and taught at the University of Montana. He spoke at tribal colleges. He served on the Board of Regents. And when he faced criticism in later years, he stood by his words.

He married Carol Griffith Williams, his campaign advisor and one of Montana’s most respected legislative leaders. Together, they raised three children—Griff, Erin, and Whitney—and built a life rooted in service, story, and mutual respect.

Friends called him kind, stubborn, decent. A gentleman. A firebrand with a soft drawl and a steel spine. A man who believed government could still be good. Who never forgot a promise. Who loved Montana

not just for what it was—but for what it could be.

Pat Williams lay in state at the Montana Capitol earlier this month; a public celebration of his life will follow in Missoula on July 15. He is survived by Carol, their children, and three grandchildren.

He brought Montana with him. Into classrooms. Onto ballots. Into the belly of power, where compromise gnawed at conviction. And still, he held fast. To decency. To justice. To the long game of public trust.

Because that’s what he believed in—not performance, but presence. Not flash, but follow-through. And not a legacy made of headlines, but one made of handshakes, hard votes, and the old stubborn hope that government could still serve the people who needed it most.

May we carry that hope forward. And may we never forget the sound of his voice rising in defense of the people, the place, and the promise he called home.



**IN MEMORY OF**  
**RAND ROBBIN**  
**1938-2024**

**A Life Made by Hand, By Heart, and By Home**

Randolph Knute Robbin passed away at home on September 30, 2024, at age 86. An artist, educator, and rancher, Rand left behind a body of work that quietly honored the land and life that shaped him.

Born in Kalispell in 1938, he studied art at the University of Montana and earned an MFA from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His mentors included Rudy Autio and Warrington Colescott, but Rand’s voice was all his own—his prints and sculptures grounded in story, light, and labor.

He taught drawing, printmaking, and art history at Skagit Valley College until 1974,

*Photo of Pat Williams courtesy of the Williams family.*



when he returned to Montana to raise his daughters on the Robbin Hereford Ranch. He continued making art at his studio there, balancing the rhythm of the land with the quiet discipline of creation.

His retrospective at the Wachholz Center in spring 2024 was his first major public showing in years. Deeply moved, he saw his life’s work recognized before he passed. That exhibit is set to travel to the Montana Museum of Art and Culture this fall.

Rand is survived by his wife, Linda; his daughters, Tia and Marca; and grandchildren Liv, Holt, Gage, and Alyssa. His posthumously published memoir, *Man from Rose Creek*, captures his stories, poems, and artworks.



IN MEMORY OF  
**CLAUDETTE MORTON**  
1940-2025

**Voice for Montana’s Rural Schools**

Dr. Claudette Morton, a lifelong advocate for public education in Montana, passed away May 6, 2025, at the age of 85.

Raised in eastern Montana, Claudette understood that small schools were the heart of rural communities. She spent her career ensuring those schools had a voice in state policy. After earning her doctorate, she served as executive director of the Montana Rural Education Association and was instrumental in shaping equitable funding and policy.

Her work earned her the 2020 Superintendent’s “Friend of Education” Award. But more importantly, it earned her the respect of teachers, administrators, and communities across the state.

Claudette believed in education as a public good. She didn’t just talk about it—she showed up, year after year, for the districts and students that needed her most. She also served on the Montana Arts Council’s Cultural Trust review committee.



IN MEMORY OF  
**JAMES TODD**  
1937-2025

**An Artist Who Never Stopped Teaching**

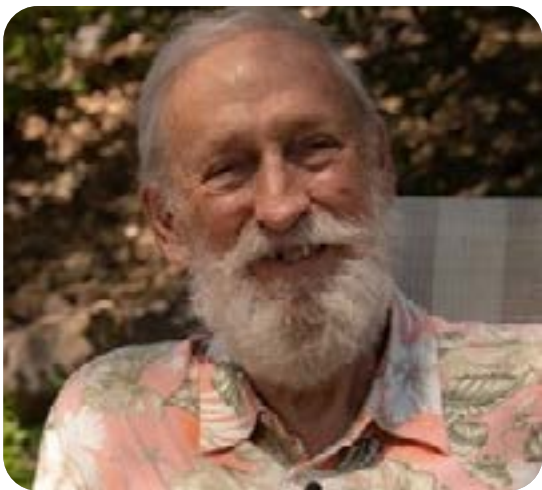
James Todd, professor, printmaker, and poet, passed away on April 27, 2025 at the age of 87.

For over 40 years, James taught art at the University of Montana, inspiring generations with his surrealist intaglio prints and deep commitment to creative thought.

His work, collected by institutions like the Boston Public Library and Portland Art Museum, was as sharp as it was strange, filled with symbols, metaphors, and quiet humor.

James also published books, including *Quiet Defiance* and *That’s Art: A Life Observed*. His teaching and writing reflected his belief that art is inseparable from life—political, personal, and poetic.

He is remembered not only for what he created, but how generously he shared it.



IN MEMORY OF  
**DENNIS MCCAHERN**  
1945-2025

**Painter of Light, Silence, and Helena’s Corners**

Dennis McCahon passed away in April 2025, leaving behind a life quietly steeped in art.

He painted Montana as it truly was—its alleys, signage, and skies rendered with luminous

care. A Helena fixture, Dennis worked in museums, as an illustrator, and a restorer, but he was always, at heart, a painter of light and shadow.

Dennis left several lasting marks on Helena, advising on the Lyndale underpass and facade of the Federal Reserve Buildin. He created the pattern drawing for the Performance Square Mural, and helped paint the mural onto the large outdoor wall. His influence on downtown Helena art matches his passionate advocacy for Helena and for promoting walkability for downtown spaces.

Influenced by the American Luminists, he brought stillness to the overlooked. He taught others to notice. To look twice.



IN MEMORY OF  
**RUSS NASSET**  
1949-2025

**Missoula’s Honky-Tonk Lightning Rod**

Russ Nasset, a beloved Missoula musician and father, passed away in April 5, 2025 at age 59.

With his bands, *The Revelators* and *The Nassetts*, he tore through Montana’s stages with raw energy, twang, and soul. He opened for legends and raised two sons, Sam and Gus, in the rhythm of the road.

Russ wasn’t just a performer—he was a presence. His guitar work, wit, and warmth made every crowd feel like kin.

He leaves behind a community still singing his songs, still stomping along to that foot-stomping, heart-thumping, irrepressible spirit.



# RON MEYERS AND GEORGE MCCAULEY

By Eric Heidle

**“He’s not a big name for this country, but one of our most important functional potters,”** says George McCauley at the very start of our conversation about Ron Meyers. George and Ron have studied and worked in tandem for nearly six decades, beginning when George showed up as a student in the first class Ron taught at the University of South Carolina in 1967. That association continued earlier this year, as George appeared on a panel, moderated by Archie Bray Foundation executive director Rebecca Harvey, discussing Ron’s work at this year’s National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) conference in Salt Lake City. Noting that there are just a handful of people Ron Meyers’ age still working, George insisted to the conference’s planners that missing the chance to learn about Ron’s legacy would be a lost opportunity for the next generation of ceramic artists.

**Fortunately, they listened, as did an enthusiastic crowd at the panel in late March,** a crowd which included Ron himself. As George explains it, that Ron and his contemporaries practiced a strong tradition of craft, and it’s one George fears could be lost. “One thing about Ron that’s very important? He didn’t try to make excuses about staying as a person that made functional pots. He makes other things, but he’s continued this path all

these years as a functional potter, which isn’t stressed anymore, you know?” Asked about the difference between being a potter and a ceramicist, George comments, “I’m fine with change, but there’s nothing wrong with the word ‘potter.’ The other one is ‘maker,’ or ‘creative.’ It’s fine to say that, but I don’t use those words. And I know that I’m sort of anachronistic in that way.”

**The distinctions go beyond words.** Ron’s pottery isn’t exclusively limited to functional items, but it’s been his focus. Plates, bowls, *yunomi* teacups, and other vessels populate his repertoire, and are often decorated with whimsical, roughly-sketched animal figures painted or incised into their surfaces. The *yunomi* cups in particular prompt a compulsion to hold them; their cheerful asymmetry and squat, corklike bases invite both the ceremonial Japanese reverence for tea and the casual embrace of imperfection in American counterculture. Graced with nonplussed frogs or cranky rats or frequently nothing representational at all, these vessels radiate a sort of reassurance that we need not be perfect to be perfectly valued.

**And the humbleness of the forms sometimes frames loftier themes.** Ron’s glazed terracotta *Bull Plate*, for example, features a horned figure with distinctly human

features and a side-eye gaze of both menace and unease. It’s got to be at least a passing take on Picasso’s minotaur motifs, if not the classical references behind them, but in Ron’s hands the critters from his work seem to be more about themselves than any self-referential trickster-creator mythos. He’s a potter, not a maker.

**Ron’s influence on the Montana arts landscape** takes a little teasing out; what’s a guy born in New York who spent his career working and teaching in the South have to do with the Treasure State? If it hasn’t been evident yet, George’s advocacy for Ron’s career points to its influence on his own work here in Helena and the Big Sky, and George in turn has passed on many of the things Ron taught him. More broadly speaking, Ron’s career has been contemporary with that of his friend Peter Voulkos as well as Rudy Autio, and like them the aesthetic that Ron developed deviated sharply from classic traditions of perfection in clay. Ron valued the medium’s expressiveness value in all its raw, crooked, drippy, askew qualities, preferring to let the materials do the talking; his sculpting and draftsmanship had full permission to follow them where they led. It’s a half-century-long cross-country conversation in clay that still reverberates here today, in George’s work and in the work of those who’ve followed.





*Ron Meyers illustrating a plate, from Ron Meyers and the Usual Suspects*

# CONVERSATIONS IN CLAY

Mentioning Voulkos and Autio turns the conversation to Frances Senska's seminal years teaching pottery at Montana State University, where that pair met and began exploring the same possibilities of clay that Ron was discovering. Senksa's epic road trips from Bozeman to central Montana roadcuts to hunt for clay with students prompts further thought about mentorship and sharing traditions; thinking of the discussions that must've occurred on those trips, George lights up. "That's a point I didn't make, and that's exactly right. Think of all the people who've had that kind of relationship. Going with Ron, doing workshops." He laughs, adding, "I would go wedge clay, and that would kind of be the brunt of all the jokes... those conversations, some were serious, some were not."

**Ron Meyers directly influenced Montana potters as well.** George brought him to Helena several times to share that experience with others at the Bray. Ron put on wood-firing workshops, and of them George remarks, "Everyone loved him and his attitude to working; he's low key. Ron definitely made an impression on people here. He touched enough people with his ideology, and that made a difference." At this spring's NCECA panel, that impression was on full display. "His two sons flew him in. He was in the audience; the room was packed. The three of us, everybody did their

talk, and we asked Rebecca to have people in the audience tell stories. Part of my talk was mentioning that Ron is now 91 and still working, and I started crying." George adds that Ron was a mentor for many in the room, and allows with a chuckle, "He was always a babe magnet. He had this effect on people."

**And Ron's career is still going.** One result of the panel is a new exhibition: this November 4, on Ron's birthday, he and George will open a two-man show of their ceramics and drawings at In Tandem, a gallery in Bakersville, North Carolina. In addition, George made a film in 2013 about Ron's work titled *Ron Meyers and the Usual Suspects*, and it's in the process of being digitized and will soon be available for a new generation of potters on George's website—right below his motto, "Mistakes Make the Magic."

**And so the teaching goes on,** through frames of film, and sharing of stories, and new work in the making. George is reticent to say too much about his own work and influence, but he sums things up by recalling the lessons he's carried to Montana. "Be serious about your work, but don't take it so serious. Don't be afraid to step outside the box. All those things I brought to this state." Which is fortunate for us—and fortunate for George. In closing, he concedes that he nearly

chose a career where mistakes seldom make magic: "I wanted to be an architect."

**See George's work at the Montana Clay Tour in Helena, July 19th-20th.**



*Ron Meyers in conversation, from Ron and the Usual Suspects*

George McCauley's website: [www.georghouseofclay.com/](http://www.georghouseofclay.com/)

See a selection of Ron Meyers' work here: [www.thenevicaproject.com/ron-meyers](http://www.thenevicaproject.com/ron-meyers)





Images Courtesy of ShakespeareInTheParks.org

## BRINGING TIMELESS TALES TO NEW GENERATIONS

In the sharp light of a Montana summer evening, something ancient and sacred begins. A hush falls across the lawn. Kids fidget in camp chairs. A rancher shifts his weight on the grass. Grandparents unwrap sandwiches. And from a simple wooden stage tucked between cottonwoods and wildflowers, the words of Shakespeare come to life again.

For **53 years**, **Montana Shakespeare in the Parks** (MSIP)

has carried the torch of live theater across the backroads of the American West. This summer, their touring company brings *Henry V* and *As You Like It* to 64 communities across five states—Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, North Dakota, and Washington—with every performance offered entirely free of charge.

It's an act of generosity, but also an act of faith. Faith that theater still matters. That stories still change people. That even in the smallest town—especially in the smallest town—there are hearts hungry for poetry, truth, laughter, and catharsis.

## WAR AND WONDER: THIS SEASON'S SHOWS

This year's productions strike a rare balance—between power and tenderness, steel and song.

*Henry V*, directed by Kevin Asselin, is a story about leadership under pressure, a young king trying to forge peace through war. "These ideas of loyalty, patriotism, and service are rooted in the Montana way of life," Asselin says. "It's the human component I want to bring out most." Expect visceral battle scenes, moral tension, and Shakespeare's immortal rallying cry: "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers".



Then there's *As You Like It*, directed by Eva Breneman—a verdant, romantic counterweight. It's a wild-hearted comedy about exile and love, set in the Forest of Arden, where mistaken identities, gender play, and poetry collide. "I love the primal idea of going back to nature to

find one's deepest desires," says Breneman. "The citizens of the Mountain West will understand that impulse."

Both productions opened in Bozeman at the MSU Duck Pond Grove, with *As You Like It* June 11–14 and *Henry V* June 18–21. From there, the company hits the road, performing under courthouse lawns, school parks, and on downtown greenspaces, often with local artists opening the night as part of their "Share Our Stage" program.

## MORE THAN A SHOW—IT'S A GATHERING

There is something holy about hundreds of people gathering in a field to hear old words made new. About laughter rising like smoke into the pines. About children mouthing the lines before they can read. MSIP isn't just preserving Shakespeare—it's preserving a rhythm of community that many places have forgotten.

This isn't theater behind velvet ropes. This is theater in the dirt, in the breeze, in the real.

*"For all people.  
For all time," the  
company promises.  
And they mean it.*

So bring a lawn chair. Pack a sandwich. Show up early and stay late. Because in a time that too often feels disconnected, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks is still doing what Shakespeare did best—reminding us that we belong to each other.

**For more information** and the full tour schedule, visit [ShakespeareInTheParks.org](http://ShakespeareInTheParks.org).





1 Glendive	As You Like It	6:30 pm	Hyatt Ampitheater, Makoshika State Park
2 Ekalaka	Henry V	6:30 pm	Nursing Home Lawn
3 Miles City	As You Like It	6:30 pm	Riverside Park
5 Forsyth	Henry V	6:30 pm	Rosebud Courthouse East Lawn
6 Colstrip	As You Like It	6:30 pm	CPRD--Rye Park Pavillion
7 Hardin	Henry V	6:30 pm	South Park
8 Billings	Henry V	6:30 pm	Pioneer Park
9 Billings	As You Like It	6:30 pm	Pioneer Park
10 Red Lodge	Henry V	6:30 pm	Lions Park
11 Fishtail	As You Like It	6:30 pm	Fishtail Family Park
12 Silver Gate	Henry V	6:30 pm	Silver Gate Park
13 Powell, WY	As You Like It	6:30 pm	Washington Park
15 Cody, WY	Henry V	6:30 pm	Canal Park
16 Worland, WY	As You Like It	6:30 pm	Sanders Park
17 Sheridan, WY	As You Like It	6:30 pm	Kendrick Park Bandshell
18 Birney	Henry V	6:30 pm	Poker Jim Butte
19 Laurel	As You Like It	6:00 pm	Town Square
20 Roundup	Henry V	6:00 pm	Roundup City Park
21 Columbus	Henry V	6:00 pm	Heritage Park
22 Chico	As You Like It	6:00 pm	Chico Main Lawn
24 Gardiner	Henry V	6:00 pm	Arch Park
25 Big Sky	As You Like It	6:00 pm	Big Sky Town Center Plaza
26 Driggs, ID	Henry V	6:00 pm	Teton County Courthouse Lawn
27 Afton, WY	As You Like It	6:00 pm	Kodiak Mountain Resort
28 Pocatello, ID	Henry V	6:00 pm	ISU Hutchinson Memorial
29 Pocatello, ID	As You Like It	6:00 pm	ISU Hutchinson Memorial
30 Salmon, ID	Henry V	6:00 pm	Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural Center

1 Dillon	As You Like It	6:00 PM	Legacy Plaza, Montana Western Campus
2 Deer	Lodge Henry V	6:00 PM	Old Montana Prison Museum
3 Anaconda	As You Like It	6:00 PM	Washoe Park
4 Philipsburg	Henry V	6:00 PM	Winninghoff Park
5 Helena	As You Like It	6:00 PM	Anchor Park
6 Helena	Henry V	6:00 PM	Anchor Park

7 Fort Benton	As You Like It	6:00 PM	City Park
8 Great Falls	Henry V	6:00 PM	Gibson Park
9 Great Falls	As You Like It	6:00 PM	Gibson Park
11 Augusta	Henry V	6:00 PM	Sun Canyon Lodge
12 Conrad	As You Like It	6:00 PM	Swimming Pool Park
13 Cut Bank	Henry V	6:00 PM	Cut Bank City Park
14 Kalispell	As You Like It	6:00 PM	Woodland Park
15 Eureka	Henry V	6:00 PM	Historical Village
16 Libby	As You Like It	5:00 PM	Libby Elementary School
17 Sandpoint, ID	Henry V	5:00 PM	Lakeview Park
19 Sandpoint, ID	As You Like It	5:00 PM	Lakeview Park
20 Liberty Lake, WA	As You Like It	5:00 PM	Pavillion Park
21 Superior	Henry V	6:00 PM	Mineral County Fairgrounds
22 Trout Creek	As You Like It	6:00 PM	Trout Creek Park
23 Hamilton	Henry V	5:00 PM	Sapphire Lutheran Homes
24 Charlo	As You Like It	5:00 PM	Palmer Park
25 Polson	Henry V	6:00 PM	Polson Fairgrounds Amphitheater
26 Seeley Lake	Henry V	6:00 PM	Double Arrow Resort
27 Missoula	As You Like It	6:00 PM	The UM Oval

29 Missoula	Henry V	6:00 PM	The UM Oval
30 Choteau	As You Like It	5:00 PM	Weatherbeater/ TASGA Grounds
31 Townsend	Henry V	5:00 PM	Heritage Park

1 Butte	As You Like It	5:30 PM	Stodden Park
3 Boulder	Henry V	5:30 PM	Jefferson County Fairgrounds
4 White Sulphur	As You Like It	5:30 PM	Castle Museum Lawn Springs
5 Livingston	Henry V	6:00 PM	Blake Pavilion at The Shane Center
6 Pony	As You Like It	5:00 PM	Pony Park
7 Whitehall	Henry V	5:00 PM	Main Street Green- Next to Star Theatre
8 Twin Bridges	As You Like It	5:30 PM Fairgrounds	Riverside Park, Soccer Field by the
9 Bozeman	Henry V	5:30 PM	Grant Chamberlain Park







# Mixed Feelings: TOBY SCOTT RECORDS HISTORY

Story by Eric Heidle

*Toby Scott in his favorite place: behind a mixing console.*

*—Photo courtesy Toby Scott*

**In the lore of rock and roll,** select artifacts become legend—holy grails that catalyze watershed events in popular music. We're thinking of the charred remains of the Stratocaster Jimi Hendrix burned at Monterey Pop, a vintage theatrical poster hanging in John Lennon's house that held the lyrics to "Being For the Benefit of Mr. Kite!," shards of metal from the plane crash that claimed the lives of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and JP Richardson.

**Some of these relics helped make the music, and some have helped shape it.** But few literally are the music, and among them maybe only one has survived a tenuous journey in its creator's back pocket, passed casually from hand to hand for months, to become one of the great rock albums of all time.

The item in question is a humble cassette tape, and one set of hands it passed through belongs to Whitefish recording engineer Toby Scott. The cassette, the music stored on it, and the back pocket it once traveled in are the property of one Bruce Frederick Joseph Springsteen, and the album would become *Nebraska*.

**But let's rewind a bit.** Toby's engineering career got its start in the mid-Seventies, a bit south of Whitefish, at Clover Recording in Los Angeles. Beloved by artists, Clover was the kind of studio where musicians often showed up just to hang out. "Well, one night we had a jam session," Tony says, "And it was Steve Cropper on guitar, Duck Dunn on bass, [ both of Booker T. & the M.G.'s ] Keith Moon on drums and Ronnie Wood on the other guitar. We started at midnight or something, till about 4:00 in the morning."

**Such experiences helped Toby Scott connect with lots of artists;** it's how Bruce Springsteen entered his orbit in 1978, when Toby was asked to remix a song for Springsteen's upcoming album *Darkness on the Edge of Town*. The song, "Prove It All Night," became the album's lead single and ignited a four-decade collaboration with the Boss. It was later, in New York in April 1982 during early sessions for what would become *Born In the USA*, that Bruce showed up with that pesky cassette.



The tape was itself a copy of a master cassette Springsteen had made using the early-Eighties equivalent of Garage Band: the TEAC Portastudio. Set up in the bedroom of his New Jersey home, the Portastudio let the user record four distinct tracks onto a single off-the-shelf cassette tape, with basic mixing capabilities thrown in. But due to various technical snags, the master cassette refused to transfer cleanly to professional tape. After days of failed attempts, a frustrated Springsteen simply said, “Tob, what’s the chance...is it possible to make a master from this?” Pulling out another tape—the one he’d carried in his pocket since January—Springsteen tossed it casually across the control room. It was a stereo mix of the multitrack session which had been recorded, as Springsteen went on to explain, using a mud-encrusted boombox he’d scavenged out of New Jersey’s Navesink River.

**After a tortuous series of copying and mastering efforts,** Toby Scott was able to elicit usable music from the tape. Even so, the muddy boombox’s misaligned head and related glitches meant that the resulting sound wouldn’t be ideal for his, or any engineer’s, exacting standards.

**But the imperfections made the album.** Initially intended by Springsteen merely as a demo for the E Street Band to build full performances around, he quickly grasped that its spare, haunted sound was far better. Indeed, from the opening and closing harmonica lines which bookend the album—one spectral, one bittersweet—the echoey, distant soundscape perfectly underlines the record’s themes of dislocation, powerlessness, highways to nowhere, and casual twists of fate. “And it came out, you know, it was just one of those records,” Toby says now. “And I tell people, number one, as an engineer, be comfortable or be able to live with anything that you let go out of the studio.”

**Critics and the listening public seemed pretty comfortable with it.** The November 15, 1982 issue of *Time* had this to say: “*Nebraska*, an acoustic bypass through the American heartland, sounds a little like a Library of Congress field recording made out behind some shutdown auto plant...[Springsteen] can get the same sort of mythic resonance from this setting that John Ford took out of Monument Valley.”

Toby Scott would ultimately work on 18 Springsteen albums, and record for other big names you’ve heard of: Bob Dylan, Bette Midler, Natalie Merchant, and Blue Öyster Cult (he’s not responsible for the cowbell). As the Eighties entered their second half, producer Daniel Lanois asked him to work on the next album for an up-and-coming band across the pond, but a day after signing on Toby had to decline when Bruce called him in to help with new mixes. The album Toby had to pass on? U2’s *The Joshua Tree*.

**Asked if he had any all-time favorite recordings he’s engineered,** Toby name-checks the most famous phone number in pop culture: 867-5309. “I always love it when it comes on the radio. I recorded and mixed it in the course of, like, a day or two. When I hear it I go, geez, that’s a good mix.” These days, though, far from music’s epicenters of New York and LA, Toby’s having fun recording local acts at a cozy facility nestled among the gift shops and restaurants of downtown Whitefish. His studio, Cabin 6 Recording, is home to modern audio gear that lets him produce music for a new generation of artists, along with a medium not available in the 1970s: podcasts. Toby’s helped folks like area singer-songwriter Dawn Beyer hold live performance broadcasts; one of Dawn’s albums is even named *Live From Cabin 6*. The power of digital recording means that it’s possible to do it anywhere, and for anyone.

**This approach**—portable tools, small footprint, a do-it-yourself aesthetic—is in a sense the closing of a loop that began with the Portastudio and *Nebraska*: democratized record-making lets artists and engineers alike focus on the art, pursuing whatever sound serves the songs best. But Toby’s not entirely sold. “You know, I have very mixed feelings about the ease with which one can become a recorded musician. [In the Seventies,] you were required to make decisions. And the decisions were set in stone. And it didn’t matter how many drinks you’d had the night before or how late you stayed out, you still had to play it.”

In any case, this older way of making music is about to hit the spotlight once more. A new collection featuring seven unreleased Bruce Springsteen albums, *Tracks II*, has just been released; a biopic starring Jeremy Allen White as the Boss hits theaters under the title *Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere* this fall. The film’s trailer teases scenes of Springsteen’s early struggles and rise to fame, including a faithful recreation of his New Jersey bedroom, the recording of a certain cassette tape, and its role in Springsteen’s eventual superstardom.

We’re left to wonder how the story might’ve been different if that cassette, yanked from Bruce’s pocket and sent spinning carelessly through space, had shattered against the recording console instead of landing in Toby’s capable hands. But if even a casual listen to his considerable body of work tells us anything, it’s that there’s one thing Toby Scott seldom does: miss.





*Dan Roberts, Lutherie*

## LIVING TRADITIONS RISE FROM THE RICH GROUND OF BUTTE

***Montana Folk Festival's Folklife Area returns to honor the artists, elders, and everyday makers who carry our heritage forward***

In a place where the earth once gave up the copper that wired the modern world, something even more valuable is still being drawn from the ground. Butte, Montana—one of the most storied mining towns on the planet—becomes a stage once again July 11 through 13 as the Montana Folk Festival returns. At the center of it all is the Folklife Area, a living space of memory and meaning curated by the Montana Arts Council's Folk and Traditional Arts Program.

This year's theme, From the Heart and Hand: Celebrating the Continuation of Montana's Traditions, speaks to the quiet power of people who make things that matter. Not for fame. Not for sale. But to keep something alive. Something rooted.

Twelve master artists will be on hand to share their work—beading, bootmaking, toolbuilding, fly rod crafting, and more. Some come from tribal traditions passed down for generations. Others carry the skills of ranch life, immigrant ancestors, or small-town trades. All have been selected for their exceptional talent, cultural knowledge, and dedication to passing their work on to the next generation.

*Lake Berkeley, Decoys*



*Rose Williamson  
Crow Fashion Beading*



*Nathan Kimpell, Blacksmith*



*Rose Atkinson, Star Quilting*





Photos courtesy of The Montana Folk Festival

DEMONSTRATING  
ARTISTS FOR 2025:

- Rose Atkinson, Star Quilting
- Eva Boyd, Basketry
- Glenn Brackett, Bamboo Fly Rod Building
- Frecker's Saddlery, Custom Saddle Craft
- Allison Grove, Weaving and Fiber Artistry
- Nathan Kimpell, Blacksmithing
- Linda King, Beading and Weaving
- Mark Mariano, Hunting Decoy Carving
- Dan Roberts, Lutherie (String Instrument Making)
- Tim Ryan, Salish Tool Building
- Dan and Julia Schwarz, Custom Boot Making
- Olivia "Rose" Williamson, Crow Fashion Design and Beading

ON THE FOLKLIFE STAGE:

- Throughout the weekend, the Folklife Stage will come alive with stories, music, and conversations:
  - Readings by Montana's Indigenous Poet Laureates — **Chris La Tray, M. L. Smoker,** and **Henry Real Bird**
  - A memoir conversation with **Arnold "Smoke" Elser and Eva-Maria Maggi** on Hush of the Land: A Lifetime in the **Bob Marshall**
  - A panel on place-based craft with **Glenn Brackett, Mark Mariano, Tim Ryan,** and folklorist **Mary Sutherland**
  - Performance by family drum group **Little Mountain Cree**
  - Music by local bands **Left for Dead** and **The String Beings**
  - Live demonstrations by artists **Nathan Kimpell and Dan Roberts**

A NEW COLLABORATION  
WITH THE FAMILY AREA

- This year, the Family Area and Folklife Area will come together for the first time to offer a shared space full of creativity and hands-on learning. Along with face painting by Martin's Masks and fun activities from Montana 4-H, several of the demonstrating artists will lead workshops designed especially for kids.
- This isn't just a festival. It's a gathering of tradition. A chance to meet the people who still carry it, and the next generation they're passing it to.
- For the full schedule and more information, visit [montanafolkfestival.com](http://montanafolkfestival.com).





# CREATING

## *new beginnings*

Photos courtesy of YAM

Summer evokes powerful themes of vitality and expression, offering a sense of fullness after the long thaw of spring. In Montana, where nature's beauty and the creativity of its people are deeply intertwined, the season holds special meaning. For local artists, summer is not only a time of natural abundance but also an inspiration to explore themes of growth, energy, and connection through their craft. Whether through painting, literature, sculpture, photography, or performance, Montana's artists capture the essence of this radiant season, reflecting its spirit of celebration and the boundless possibilities it brings.

### Nature as a Metaphor for Rebirth

In Montana, spring represents more than just a change in weather—it symbolizes the potential for new beginnings. For visual artists, such as those who paint the state's stunning landscapes, spring contrasts the barren snowfields with vibrant meadows that emerge from the thaw. The blooming snowdrops, crocuses, and budding trees reflect the triumph of life after adversity, serving as metaphors for resilience and hope after periods of struggle.

Artists like **Russell Chatham**, renowned for his evocative depictions of Montana's landscapes, capture the gradual transition from winter's bleakness to the soft hues of spring. His works highlight the cyclical nature of the seasons, portraying Montana's landscapes—often quiet and harsh—where renewal happens slowly, yet with undeniable certainty.

Contemporary artist **Wendy Red Star** also explores themes of transformation, blending indigenous traditions with modern practices. Her series *Four Seasons* uses humor and parody to challenge stereotypical portrayals of Native American identity, especially that of the Apsáalooke (Crow) Tribe. By placing herself in exaggerated, artificial environments—made of inflatable animals and plastic plants—Red Star critiques how cultural representations are often constructed. Through this lens, she reclaims Native American identity as dynamic and evolving, not confined to outdated stereotypes. Her work reimagines the "natural" world, highlighting the cyclical process of self-definition and the ongoing rebirth of identity.

### Resilience and Rebirth in Literature

Montana's literary tradition frequently uses spring as a metaphor for emotional and psychological renewal. Authors like **Ivan Doig** and **Rick Bass** have explored the state's landscapes not only as backdrops but as integral to the personal growth of their characters.

In *The Whistling Season*, Doig uses the changing seasons as a framework for his characters' journeys. Spring, for his protagonists, represents a fresh start—a time for healing and adaptation after hardship. Similarly, in *The Sky, the Stars, and the Wilderness*, Bass ties the physical transformation of nature to the inner renewal of his characters. In his stories, spring is more than a thawing of snow; it is a time when characters shed emotional burdens, much like the earth sheds the weight of winter.

The Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings has just been recognized with the 2024 Heritage and Cultural Tourism Award at the Montana Governor's Conference on Tourism—an annual gathering hosted by the Montana Department of Commerce to celebrate the people and places shaping the state's visitor economy.

This particular honor highlights institutions and individuals who elevate Montana's distinct culture and natural history as a reason to visit—and YAM fits that description to a T. From contemporary exhibitions and public programs to artist talks and community events, the museum continues to serve both locals and travelers looking to connect with Montana's creative side.

In 2024, out-of-town guests made up 22% of all museum visits—an impressive figure that speaks to YAM's draw beyond Billings and beyond state lines. The award is a meaningful nod to the museum's staff and their ongoing work to represent Montana's art scene on a broader stage.

To learn more about the museum, current exhibitions, or upcoming events, visit [www.artmuseum.org](http://www.artmuseum.org).

**"It's an incredible honor for the YAM! Tourists are an important part of the Montana economy, and the museum loves to welcome visitors to our state to show them what makes Montana such a special place."**

- Jessica Kay Ogdin, Executive Director.



## STRANGE COWBOYS

### The Road Agents

Strange Cowboys' *The Road Agents*, released in May 2025, is a raw, dust-blown dispatch from Montana's backroads. It's not polished for radio—it's built for barrooms and long drives where the cell signal dies. Jeff Peterson and Joe Corrado expanded their duo into a full ensemble with fiddle, accordion, and trumpet adding texture to the grit. There's no nostalgia here, just stories sung with a voice that's been lived in. Tracks like "Stealing Bibles" and "Dead & Gone" feel both familiar and unpredictable—echoes of the old West bent through broken amps and memory. The album moves like a slow freight train, heavy with heartbreak, humor, and the stubborn rhythm of survival. Mastered by Jerry Tubb at Terra Nova, it's a debut that sounds like it's always existed—just waiting for the right bar jukebox, the right open road. These are songs carved into the grain of the landscape itself.

## STRYKONE

### Indigenized: Volume 1

StrykOne's *Indigenized: Volume 1* is more than music—it's a voice rising out of generations of silence. Troy Warclub, a member of the Blackfeet and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, turns hip-hop into ceremony, protest, and medicine. With beats grounded in boom-bap and layered with traditional drumming and vocals, he builds a bridge between ancestral memory and modern urgency. Tracks like "War Cry" and "We the People" carry the rhythm of survival—blunt, bold, and full of intention. But there's healing here too. "Good Medicine" opens a window into recovery, resilience, and the sacred work of coming home to oneself. The album never leans on pain for effect. It testifies, honors, and claims space. This isn't about performance. It's about presence. Warclub's flow is deliberate, measured, as if each word was chosen in prayer. *Indigenized* isn't trying to impress. It's trying to last.

## ZACHARY RICCI

### Only Way Out Is Through

Zachary Ricci's debut EP, *Only Way Out Is Through*, doesn't try to dazzle—it invites you to sit in the quiet with it. Written during the solitude of the pandemic, these five songs feel like pages from a personal journal, set to sparse guitar and unfiltered emotion. Ricci's voice is raw and sincere, almost fragile, like someone telling you something they've never said out loud before. "In the Trees" sounds like winter light through bare branches; "Forget You" aches without collapsing. There's no excess production—just space to feel. Every lyric holds the weight of someone trying to make sense of loss, change, and what comes next. It's not polished for perfection, but that's the point. This EP isn't about arriving—it's about surviving the journey. And sometimes, just naming the truth is the bravest kind of song.

## MIKE KILLEEN

### Golden Moment

Mike Killeen's *Golden Moment* doesn't shout for attention—it quietly earns it. Rooted in Americana and Southern folk, these songs carry the steady wisdom of someone who's learned to listen before they speak. There's no flash here, just melody and memory. "Big Big Rain" rolls in slow, full of longing. "Until the Sun" flickers with cautious hope. Killeen's voice is worn and warm, like a letter found in a drawer years after it was written. The album isn't trying to impress. It's trying to mean something. That's its power. Each song is a reminder that grace

lives in the small moments—the wait, the walk, the decision to stay. In a world that moves too fast, *Golden Moment lingers*, like the last light on a front porch. It's not about reinvention. It's about returning—to yourself, to the truth, to what matters most.

## JENNIFER CASE

### Unlearning

Jennifer Case's *Unlearning* is a quiet reckoning—an album about peeling back the stories we're given to find the truth underneath. Built on stripped-down folk and poetic precision, each song feels like a conversation you've needed to have with yourself. "House of My Mother" holds space for love and conflict in equal measure. "Tectonic" captures the slow, seismic shifts of identity and self-forgiveness. There's nothing flashy here—just voice, guitar, and the courage to be honest. Case sings like she's not trying to be heard, but trying to understand. Her words don't perform. They witness. This is music for the in-between moments—when something old is ending and something new hasn't quite begun. In that raw space, Case writes with deep tenderness and restraint. *Unlearning* doesn't try to fix anything. It simply tells the truth, and trusts that's enough.



Photos courtesy of Shadow Devereaux

## FORESHADOW

### Perfect Timing

Shadow Devereaux, performing as Foreshadow, brings clarity and conviction to *Perfect Timing*, his first solo album—a collection of seven tracks that shine light through personal and cultural shadows. A member of the Blackfeet and Salish tribes, Devereaux uses hip-hop not for spectacle, but for survival, stitching language, memory, and movement into every bar.

Funded by the inaugural Billy Conway Artist Fund, *Perfect Timing* is deeply rooted in family and place. "Sunshine" offers hope through hardship, while "Bring Them Home" pairs Blackfoot language with a booming tribute to buffalo restoration near Chief Mountain. Produced in collaboration with Paul Durham and Ty Acord (Lophiile), the album is both intimate and expansive—like the land it comes from.

Devereaux's voice carries the urgency of someone reclaiming space, not just for himself, but for every kid still learning the names of their ancestors. It's not just an album. It's a way forward.





Photos courtesy of Alpine Artisans' Nature of Art Works

# LET'S MAKE ART IN THE WILD: Nature of Art Workshops Are Back in Seeley Lake

September 5–7, 2025 | Hosted by Alpine Artisans

Looking for a creative reset? Something unplugged, hands-on, and rooted in the natural beauty of Montana? Alpine Artisans' Nature of Art Workshops are happening again this fall in Seeley Lake, and if you've ever wanted to make your own paint from dirt or sketch a magpie in your nature journal, this is your kind of weekend.

From Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, September 5–7, you'll be learning from some of Montana's most inspiring artists but don't worry about being "good enough." These workshops are designed for everyone, whether you're a practicing artist or just someone who likes to make things with your hands.

## HERE'S WHAT'S ON TAP:

### Saturday, Sept. 6:

Start the day with Jodi Gear, a landscape painter and former veterinarian who's teaching Paint Making with Earth Elements. Yep... actual dirt turned into watercolor and pigment sticks. You'll get to try them out after her demo and then create a still life using paints she's made ahead of time. Jodi says she loves finding unexpected colors in shadows and pushing a painting "beyond the ordinary." You'll see what she means.

### Sunday morning, Sept. 7:

Kiana Fecteau leads "The Colors of Watercolor... a New Way!", showing how to paint beloved pets in bold, imaginative color palettes. Think "rainbow labrador" or "technicolor tabby." Just send in a photo of your pet ahead of time and she'll have it prepped for you. It's playful, fun, and a totally different way to think about painting.

### Sunday afternoon:

Close out the weekend with Inspired Nature Journaling, guided by Valerie Bayer and Jean Pocha. You'll start indoors building a mini nature journal, then head outside to observe, sketch, and reflect by the lake. No writing or drawing skills needed, just a love for slowing down and noticing the world around you.

Cost is \$75 for the full weekend. Meals and housing are up to you, and full details — including supply lists are available at [www.alpineartisans.org](http://www.alpineartisans.org).

Check-in is Friday, September 5, from 5–6 PM at the Seeley Lake Community Hall. Bring your curiosity, your walking shoes, and maybe a thermos of tea... it's going to be a beautiful weekend.

For questions or to submit pet photos for the watercolor class, reach out to: Kris Gullikson, e-mail [krisgullikson@gmail.com](mailto:krisgullikson@gmail.com), call 406-241-1209







# AN OVERWHELMING, TRANSCENDENT CELEBRATION OF RELATIONSHIP

by Chris La Tray

Photo by John Sullivan

**If time isn't a construct, or a figment of our collective imagination, then why can an odyssey around Missoula to merely attend to two or three errands seem, what with all the traffic, interminable, and yet two years in service to the arts community of Montana can fly by in the blink of an eye? Because that's how it feels sitting here at my desk, a little maudlin, attempting to write this final episode for State of the Arts as my tenure as Montana's 11th poet laureate comes to a breathless and wheezing conclusion.**

I received the news of my appointment in the late morning of August 14th, 2023. My phone rang from a Bozeman number and at the time I didn't think there was anyone from Bozeman I wanted to talk to so I let it go to voice mail. The message was Governor Greg Gianforte sharing the news, and asking me to call him back at that number, his cell phone. Which I did. It might have been the shortest phone call in history between two guys prone to bloviation but I was still pleased to have been granted the opportunity to unleash myself on the state of Montana. Which I've made my best effort at doing ever since; I bought a car in May of 2024 that had 25 miles on the odometer when I rolled it off the lot and I just broke 55,000, which accounts roughly for a little over only half of my term's worth of ambassadoring.

That I was ever even nominated for the position at all begins with a practice I started many years ago of writing one sentence a day, a practice anyone can do that I've constantly encouraged folks to try. It's an enlightening way to not just pay attention to the world, but also the life you are living while engaged with it. That is the essence of poetry, and a practice, sometimes the only one I'm able to maintain a relationship with, that I have continued throughout.

In 2018 I distilled my version of that essence into a collection of poems based on my favorites of those first sentences. That book,

my first, One-Sentence Journal, came out on August 14, 2018. Five years to the day later is when Governor Gianforte called me, representing a not-insignificant example of coincidence sometimes being more than coincidence. So in honoring those short poems I am going to be brief in my expression of gratitude for what traveling all over the state, speaking to thousands of people, has meant to me. I'll boil it down to one sentence, in fact, which I recorded in my journal the night almost 300 people showed up at the Missoula Public Library – the Peoples' House! – to celebrate my poet laureateship:

## 2023-1010: AN OVERWHELMING, TRANSCENDENT CELEBRATION OF RELATIONSHIP.

In closing, I also have to take a moment to express some disappointments. When it comes to the goals I set for myself as poet laureate, while I made it to many communities that aren't often served, I pretty much failed in my efforts to create many relationships in tribal communities. That bums me out, and that effort will continue even as I return to just being a simple rube with no fancy title to cling to. I'm also bummed to see the explosion of AI in schools. I'm absolutely certain that there is nothing more detrimental to the future of education in this country than this technology being rammed down our throats. We should be fighting it every step of the way and we simply aren't. That has to change. Nothing less than the future of our human relationship to creativity depends on it.

Which leads me to the last thing: The destruction by the federal government of a broad swathe of the public commons as represented by arts organizations is a disaster whose ramifications are yet to be

fully determined. It touches all of us and hinders the pursuit of deeper relationships within our broad expanse of communities. That an unelected imbecile with no greater resumé to boast than that he was born smug into wealth and privilege was allowed to gut programs that reach into every single community regardless of how it's been gerrymandered will go down in history as an unfathomable crime against the greater good. It's unconscionable behavior that people on both sides of the voting ballot must recognize is a terrible way to run a country. Our elected officials need to recognize that they represent everyone in Montana and show a little political backbone in standing up to these ignorant bullies.

So I'm going to give a big war-whoop of a shout-out to all my comrades at Humanities Montana and the Montana Arts Council, who have all been the most wonderful and supportive gang of mad geniuses I've ever been associated with. What a mighty crew constantly standing firm against the tide of ruthless cowards terrified at the power of a motivated and active art community! I've been inspired and uplifted by every one of you every moment of these last two years. Now the battle is just getting started and if I know one thing, it is the relentless unstoppability of a committed long game, and we are all engaged in that together.

We're going to win this thing, my friends.





**A Mountain's Idea of Time**  
By Charles Finn

Poems that linger like snow in the pines.

Charles Finn has always had a quiet way with words. In *A Mountain's Idea of Time*, he gives us poems that move slowly, deliberately—like something living underground, waiting for spring.

There's a hush in these pages, the kind you feel just before the world begins to thaw. A crow lifts off a fencepost. A boy remembers a river. A mountain listens.

These aren't loud poems. They don't shout. They invite you in, pour a cup of something warm, and ask you to stay awhile. And if you do, you might just remember what you've forgotten.

This is poetry for anyone who loves silence, who knows beauty doesn't need to explain itself.

*Now available from Chatwin Books.*



**The 4 Rs**  
By R.P. Perkins

It started with a shovel. It became a lifetime.

One summer day, bored and curious, ten-year-old Rachel grabs a shovel and heads out with her three best friends in search of buried treasure. What they find isn't what they expected—and it changes everything.

The *4 Rs* is the story of a friendship that grows into something bigger. A mystery that weaves itself into the fabric of four lives. Good deeds. Strange luck. Close calls. And the kind of bond that doesn't break, even when life gets messy.

R.P. Perkins writes with heart, humor, and a touch of magic. This is a book for anyone who remembers what it felt like to be a kid, and what it meant to believe—really believe—that anything was possible.

You'll laugh. You'll hold your breath. And maybe, just maybe, you'll wish you'd found your own shovel when you were ten.

*Now available in print and digital.*



**Seeing Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks**  
By David William Peterson

What one photographer saw. And waited for.

For over 40 years, David William Peterson returned again and again to the wild heart of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. He waited. He watched. He listened.

The result is *Seeing Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks*—a breathtaking visual record of patience, presence, and love for the land.

These are more than pretty pictures. You'll feel the stillness before a geyser erupts. You'll meet the eyes of a bear. You'll see a mountain catch fire with the first light of day.

Some images were taken from a Cessna flying high above the peaks. Others from trails you've maybe walked yourself. Each one reminds us why these places matter—and why we must protect them.

This is a book to return to, again and again.

*Published by Sweetgrass Books / Farcountry Press. Available now.*



**5. Pawnee Bill and May Lillie's Legacy**  
By Jeff Barnes

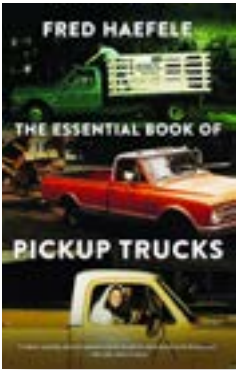
They made a myth. But their story was real. They were stars of the Wild West. Pawnee Bill, the showman with a flair for the dramatic. May Lillie, the sharpshooter who stole the spotlight and never gave it back.

But behind the buckskins and the big crowds was a marriage—full of grit, ambition, love, and loss.

In *Pawnee Bill and May Lillie's Legacy*, historian Jeff Barnes digs deep, telling a story that goes far beyond the performance. It's a tale of two people navigating fame, reinvention, and each other. A story of the West not just as a place, but as an idea they helped create—and complicate.

With rich detail and archival images, Barnes brings these legendary lives into sharp, surprising focus.

*Published by the University of Nebraska Press. Out now.*

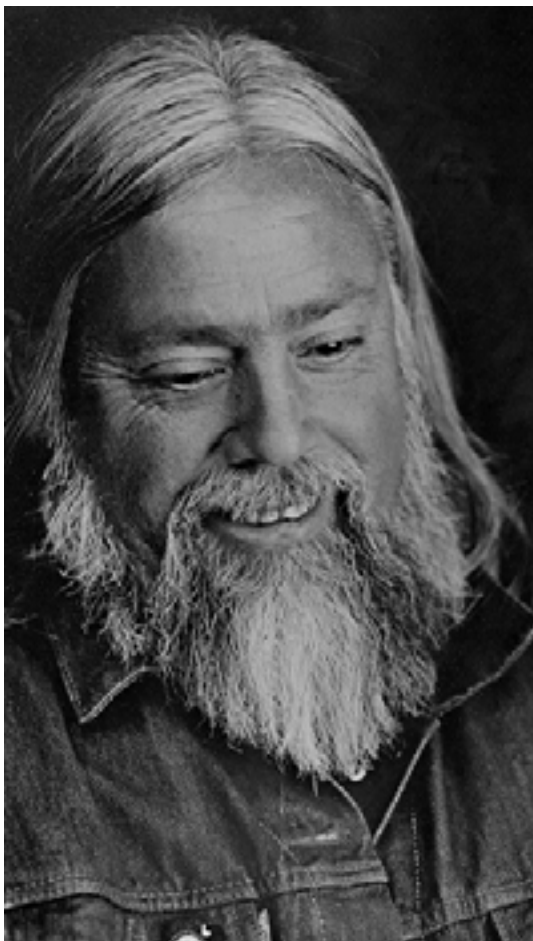


**The Essential Book of Pickup Trucks**  
By Fred Haefele, Bison Books

This reviewer's ears and eyes pricked up when Fred Haefele's new memoir, *The Essential Book of Pickup Trucks*, landed on the Arts Council's desk. It had already nailed the title; subject and author confirmed it'd be a gas. The pages brim with frank but loving descriptions of the trucks in Haefele's life, given names like Dreamer and Blue Dog and Sunny, and it turns out they're vehicles for a lot more than cords of green fir or rare Indian motorbikes. These Chevies and Dodges and Fords (Fred's ecumenical in his worship of Detroit iron) haul him back and forth across the continent, to jobs, to opportunities, to readings by future Nobel-winning poets. In equal parts about carving out a life as a writer and carving up trees for a living, *Pickup Trucks* embraces a Montana and a time that gloriously permitted one to pursue State Capitol tree-trimming contracts and Stegner writing fellowships in the same run to town.

Haefele's journey traces the times as one truck leads to the next, through Forest Service gigs to published fiction to marriage to fellow writer Caroline Patterson (peeling away from the church in a Bondo-shedding Dodge named Trigger). Notable authors sometimes ride shotgun, and straddling the transmission housing we as readers get to eavesdrop on it all. From Montana's Algonquian Round Table—the Eastgate Liquor Lounge—to climbing ladders up derelict ash trees and big-city publishing gigs, Fred and Caroline zigzag across North America in search of what we're all in search of: if not the Last Best Place, then the next best thing, chasing it down through lightning-fork cracks in pitted glass, Stihls and Smith-Coronas skittering in the bed, the fine fragrance and soothing slosh of leaded gas bearing our bones ceaselessly down the road. —Eric Heidle





# THE KEEPERS AND THE GUARDIANS

## Jon Axline and Chris La Tray Honored with Montana Heritage Awards

In Montana, history isn't just kept in books—it's stitched into landscapes, carried in voices, and passed hand to hand. This year, the Montana Historical Society honors two stewards of that legacy: historian Jon Axline of Helena and writer Chris La Tray of Frenchtown. Both were recently recognized by the Society's Board of Trustees with Heritage Awards—an honor reserved for those who have given themselves, fully and faithfully, to the preservation of Montana's story.

### JON AXLINE: MONTANA HERITAGE GUARDIAN AWARD

Jon Axline received the Montana Heritage Guardian Award, the highest distinction granted by the Society. It is only given on special merit, and this year, it found its rightful recipient. For over 30 years, Axline has served as historian for the Montana Department of Transportation, a role in which he's done far more than document roads and structures—he's illuminated the very arteries of Montana's past.

Axline's work spans the state in every direction. He has authored more than nine books, published a dozen articles, and written 57 National Register of Historic Places nominations. He has traced the state's stories through forgotten stage routes and dusty railbeds, restoring context and memory to places most travelers pass without a second thought. His public talks, rigorous research, and deep collaborations have inspired Montanans across generations to know where they stand—and what came before. Jon has also served on the Montana Arts Council's Cultural Trust review committee.

### CHRIS LA TRAY: MONTANA HERITAGE KEEPER AWARD

Chris La Tray, a citizen of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Montana's 2023–2025 Poet Laureate, was honored with the Montana Heritage Keeper Award for his powerful storytelling and advocacy. His work has helped bring the story of the Little Shell people—federally

restored in 2019—into clearer focus for thousands of readers and listeners across the state and beyond.

Through his memoir *Becoming Little Shell*, a widely followed newsletter, and dozens of public talks, La Tray tells stories of dispossession, resilience, and identity. With candor and fire, he invites Montanans to reckon with what's been taken and what still remains. His voice, grounded in lived experience, is reshaping how we understand not just Native history, but Montana's shared future.

### RECOGNIZING THE RECORD KEEPERS

"Their work has greatly contributed to our understanding of Montana's stories, peoples, places, and cultures," said Molly Kruckenberg, Director of the Montana Historical Society. "Jon and Chris are both champions of history."

The Montana Heritage Awards are given annually by the MTHS Board of Trustees to individuals or organizations who have shown an extraordinary commitment to preserving the state's cultural and historical heritage. The Guardian Award is not presented every year—it is reserved for nominees whose record of accomplishment is both profound and enduring.

Awardees were celebrated earlier this year in ceremonies held in their home communities, where their work first took root. In rooms filled with neighbors, students, and friends, the stories they've spent decades telling will echo back to them—alive, and still being heard.

Because in Montana, we don't just remember history. We live it forward.

# In Conversation with KEETJE KUIPERS

By Eric Heidle



**Early this year, Missoula poet Keetje Kuipers was awarded a \$25,000 Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts**—after two decades of applying. Based on a blind submission of 10 pages of poems, Keetje was one of just 35 awardees from a field of more than 2,000. The grant comes at a great moment, since her roles as editor for *Poetry Northwest*, mom to two kids, and wife make carving out time to write difficult and precious. I spoke with her about the meaning in her work, what it means to be an NEA Fellow, and the importance of realism not being too real. Her fourth collection of poetry, *Lonely Women Make Good Lovers*, was published in April.

**Eric Heidle:** I don't know if you have any overarching theme or anything you want to talk about with the poems, or let the work speak for itself, but maybe talk about how this new collection came together and what you were thinking about during that time.

**Keetje Kuipers:** It's interesting talking about the connection between the body and the land. It makes me think a lot about my first book; I wrote a portion of those poems in Montana the same way that a portion of this book is in Montana. And so this book feels a lot more like my first book to me than any of my other books. And part of that, I think, is getting back to a kind of sense of wildness and freedom on the page. I'm always trying to connect myself to a place in my life and also in my work. But I never am really able to do that when I'm not in Montana.

And some of the landscapes in the book are not Montana landscapes, but they're places where the natural world really does inform what I'm able to do with the poem. So I'm thinking in this book about the poem, "In the Outdoor Shower With My Pregnant Wife," which is set at the Jersey shore, which is a place we go back to every summer to visit her family and that poem is about the aging body, the body transformed by pregnancy, about loving the imperfect body. And the changed body. But I couldn't have written that poem without the place.

**EH:** It's sort of like holding on to something that's going to go away or evolve. We all have to contend with the aging of our own selves.

**KK:** There's another poem in the book, "At 40, the Mountains Are More Green," about when they removed the dam from Rattlesnake Creek, which is the creek that we live on here. It was pretty profound to experience within our community. What is the equivalent of a body that's free and a creek that's free and, like I say in the poem, the rhythms of geologic time and the marks that that are left, those kinds of scars.

And I'm thinking too, of the poem, "Boat Puller / Bird Woman / Madame Charbonneau..."

**EH:** The Sacagawea poem?

**KK:** Yeah. And, how, you know, the poem is a failure, but it's an attempt, right? So it's an attempt to connect and to understand and to achieve a kind of genuine compassion and empathy with someone whose history and life story has been co-opted in so many ways. And how to locate the real when we look at another person outside ourselves.

**EH:** That poem, too is interesting...the structure was interesting because you had numbered sections, but they interrupted one thought and the thought in the next section almost served as a title for that section as well as completing the previous thought and the ruminations on not really being able to know who and what her life was.

**KK:** I think the reason I put the section breaks where they are is...I didn't want the poem to be easy to read. I didn't want someone to be able to move through it easily. And I wanted the reader to be conscious of the difficulty of the empathic imagination.



**EH:** That kind of revelatory shift in perspective, that constant reevaluation of what we think we know, is a big part of that poem.

**KK:** Yeah, I like thinking about the empathic imagination like it sometimes takes some...some magic. It sometimes takes something kind of supernatural. I'm thinking about Victor Lovell's book *Lone Women*. It's set in Montana during the time when parcels of land were being settled, but the main character is a black woman, and she's one of the these. They were called lone women, and they would homestead on their own. But it's a book of speculative horror, basically. That's what Victor uses in order to explore ideas of race and gender in the settling of the West. And it needs that element in order to make the leap.

I feel like a lot of my poems in this book use things like magical realism, like the poem couldn't do it any other way, like the very first poem in the book "In Palm Springs with Greta Garbo." The poem even says, "If I say it's real you won't believe me." And if I say it's not real, then it doesn't have that kind of value and importance. But can't it be both?

**EH:** Yeah, I think it gives the reader permission to say, okay, this is mostly real, and so I'm willing to go there with you. I'm thinking also of Dan Simmons' *The Terror*.

**KK:** I'm loving that we're discovering through this conversation the places where magical realism or something that's somewhat supernatural occurs in mountain Western literature because I think that magical realism is really underutilized. Especially in poetry. But the book that you just mentioned is making me think of the ways in which James Welch used sort of elements of magical realism.

**EH:** *Fools Crow*. Absolutely.

**KK:** Yes. And so there is this real history in the mountain west of making use of those elements in order to explore exactly the ideas we're talking about.

**EH:** So, I kind of want to talk about your NEA grant.

**KK:** Well, you know, I applied every other year for 20 years, or thereabouts. And, it's just something I think that every writer should do; apply every year forever until you get one or you're dead. So it was really a shock after all those years of applying to get that phone call and to get that recognition for my work. It's an interesting time to receive a grant like that, both culturally and in terms of my life. I think getting it at a point where I'm launching my fourth book...they're very clear that you can use it for whatever is going to feed your work or help your work. And so in some ways, this money is going to allow me to travel to deliver that book and to give readings.

But it also is going to do something which nothing else in the world adequately compensates for right now, which is child care. So it's going to help cover child care so that I can really not have to wait to start working in earnest on the next book. But mostly what it means to me is not so concrete. Mostly what it means is recognition. And I think especially being recognized, you know, as a middle-aged woman writer and having to contend with the voice inside me that says the "work you make doesn't matter". You know, it's frivolous and doesn't have value and doesn't deserve to be part of the canon, which is a message that I've received in many ways over my career. I think getting that NEA grant is the thing that can silence that voice. And that's what really allows me to write the next book and to write the poems that I need to write.

Before I had kids, it was very different. I wrote all the time, but having a family, I can't follow the whims of the poems, and I'm not

a writer who says, like, oh, get up every morning at six and write for an hour. So it will be interesting to see where I carve out that writing time.

**EH:** I sure appreciate you taking the time. That concept of "the magic is important, and gives us permission," is really something to think about. I need more magical realism in my time sheets and my budget documents.

**KK:** (Laughs.) Yeah, more magical realism in my Slack channels, for sure.

# Landscape with Sage and the Names of My Children

by Keetje Kuipers, from *All Its Charms*.

*I picked all the flowers, I palmed all the stones.*

*I dropped the nameless insects onto my tongue  
and felt their black wings unfurl. I held the dead*

*buck by his antlers and dragged him  
through the sage,*

*brought my teeth to the tender bridge of ribs  
and fed until the glossy maggots overtook me.*

...

*I put the earth—all its charms—within me,  
into each waiting pocket. Lip and ear.*

*What will happen when my body can no longer  
hold this fragrant salt...? Let mine into the  
dirt. The names I've chosen for my children are  
already fast*

*across the sky like the ochre feathers that frame  
the blackbird's shrug.*





At an Art Mobile of Montana school visit, students learn the Salish word for bison, “quey quay,” along with its sign language symbol.

# ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES? YES!



The Glacier Art Museum used their AISC Experiences grant to bring Blackfeet artists to Superior High School to teach traditional and contemporary arts, as part of their Traveling Medicine Show.

Nothing connects learners and artists in Montana quite like the opportunities Artists In Schools and Communities (AISC) grants provide. AISC Experiences grants bring arts and arts tools to schools, groups, and locations, and brings arts learners to places where arts happen, in order to extend the reach of Montana’s cultural heritage and cross-pollinate communities separated by our vast geographical spaces. AISC Residencies place professional teaching artists in communities for hours, days, or even months to foster the processes of art creation.

***Applications for the next round of these meaningful grants are currently being accepted. Bring the arts to your community, or bring your community to the arts. Visit [art.mt.gov/aisc](http://art.mt.gov/aisc) for details; the next application deadline is August 14.***



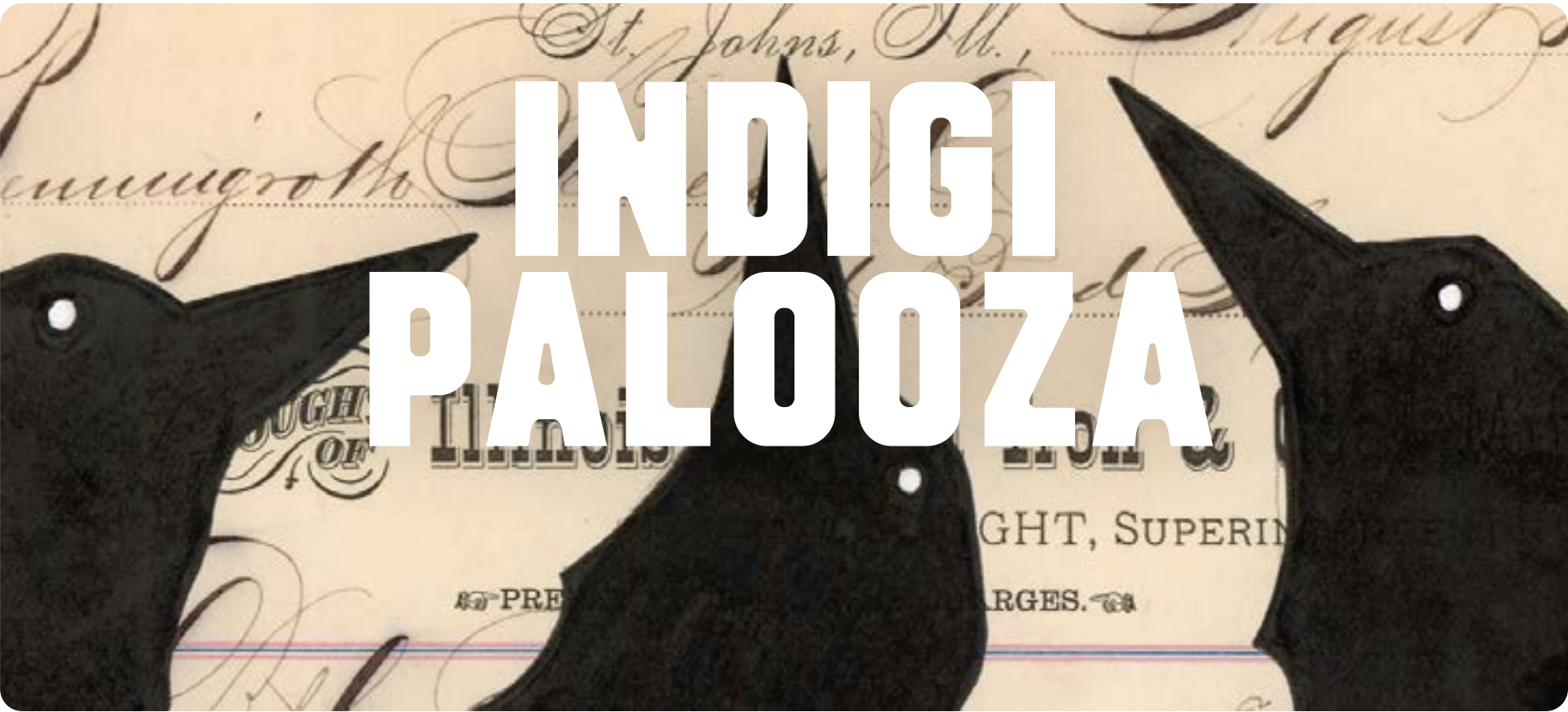
AISC Experiences FY 26 | Awarded Grants

Organization Name	Organization	Project Name	Awarded
Art Mobile of Montana	Statewide	Art Mobile of Montana Travel Money	\$2,500
Arts Council of Big Sky	Big Sky	Artist-in-Residence with the Arts Council of Big Sky - Dia de Muertos Mariachi	\$2,500
Arts Missoula	Missoula	Arts Missoula Art Kits - "See Yourself As the Artist"	\$2,500
Bare Bait Dance	Missoula	westFEST New Works Festival and Intensive: Celebrating the Mountain West’s Movement Artists	\$2,500
Befrienders	Bozeman	Senior Improv - A Return to Play!	\$1,681
Council Groves Apartments, Inc.	Missoula	Council Groves Summer Program	\$2,500
Friends of the Library (Roosevelt County Library)	Wolf Point	Wolf Point Library Painting Class	\$2,500
Great Falls Business Improvement District	Great Falls	Great Walls Great Falls - ArtsFest MT	\$2,000
Greater Gallatin United Way	Bozeman	United Way Songwriting Collaboration	\$1,540
Land to Hand Montana	Whitefish	Art in the Wildcat Garden	\$2,200
Links for Learning	Livingston	Summer LINKS Art	\$2,500
MAPS Media Institute	Hamilton	MAPS-Fort Belknap Recording Studio: A Soundproof Space for Music, Podcasting & Storytelling	\$2,500
Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation dba Free Cycles	Missoula	Free Arts Workshops for All	\$2,500
Missoula Writing Collaborative	Missoula	Words with Wings and Rattlesnake Writing Studio	\$2,500
Montana Shakespeare in the Parks	Sidney	MSIP - Shakespeare in the Schools 2025 - Technical Equipment	\$2,500
Northeastern Arts Network	Statewide	Saxsational Jazz in Malta	\$2,500
Noxon School District 10	Noxon	Building student skills in photography through material and career exploration.	\$2,500
Singing Waters Montana	Helena	Creative Arts Camp	\$2,500
The Omerta Arts Syndicate	Helena	Helena Art Forms	\$2,500
The Roxy Theater	Missoula	Roxy Film Academy - Summer Camps	\$2,500
Western Montana Professional Learning Collaborative	Lolo	Place-Based Making: IEFA and the Visual Arts Origins, Function, Form, & Contemporary Art	\$2,500
Western Strings	Florence	Pryor Instrumental Music	\$2,500
		TOTAL	\$54,921

AISC Residencies FY26 | Awarded Grants

Organization Name	Organization	Project Name	Awarded
A VOICE	Pablo	Our Community Record Two Eagle River School	\$7,500
Alberta Bair Theater	Billings	Cirque Kalabante	\$5,000
Arlee CDC	Arlee	Creative Spark of Music	\$7,500
Art Mobile of Montana	Statewide	Art Mobile of Montana Artist in Residence	\$7,000
Arts Missoula	Missoula	Cultural Feast	\$2,500
Bare Bait Dance	Missoula	REVEAL Community Workshops at Westside Theater	\$5,000
Belgrade School District #44	Belgrade	Belgrade Rocks 2025	\$7,500
Bozeman Art Museum	Bozeman	Exploring Creativity - Drawing In & Outside the Lines with the Bozeman Art Museum free art classes	\$7,000
Carbon County Arts Guild & Depot Gallery	Red Lodge	Art Education Outreach Program	\$7,500
Clay Studio of Missoula	Missoula	The Clay Studio of Missoula Afterschool and Outreach Program	\$8,500
Cohesion Dance Project	Helena	Cohesion Dance Project’s School and Community Outreach	\$9,000
Holter Museum of Art	Helena	Art Feeds the Artist Within IV	\$8,500
Lowell School Parent Teacher Association	Missoula	Poets in Residency at Lowell Elementary School	\$2,500
MAPS Media Institute	Hamilton	MAPS Media Institute - Fort Belknap Program (MAPS-FBIC)	\$7,500
Missoula Art Museum	Missoula	MAM's Teen Art Project: How do bison, prairie dogs, and beavers create a healthy landscape in MT?	\$7,500
Missoula Writing Collaborative	Missoula	Missoula Students Write!	\$7,500
Montana Actors' Theatre	Havre	MAT Youth Education Program 2025-26	\$7,500
Montana Repertory Theatre, University of Montana	Statewide	Montana Repertory Theatre's 2026 Educational Tour	\$7,500
Montana Shakespeare in the Parks	Statewide	Fall 2025 Shakespeare in the Schools Tour of RICHARD III	\$8,500
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art	Great Falls	Lifelong Learning for Veterans and Seniors	\$5,000
Singing Waters Montana	Helena	Woodland Arts Youth Camp	\$2,500
SPARK! Arts Ignite Learning	Missoula	SPARK! Arts Integration Residencies for EL-8 Grade Students	\$8,500
The Myrna Loy	Helena	Wind in The Willows	\$3,000
The Omerta Arts Syndicate	Helena	Helena Art Forms	\$7,500
The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts	Livingston	Youth Education Program	\$7,500
WaterWorks Art Museum	Miles City	The Art of Loving Art	\$7,000
Young Poets, Montana State University Billings	Billings	Young Poets at Orchard Elementary	\$6,000
Zootown Arts Community Center	Missoula	Teen Rock Club at the ZACC	\$7,000
		TOTAL	185,000





Joy Harjo, the celebrated Mvskoke poet and former U.S. Poet Laureate, leads a lineup that includes Denise Lajimodiere (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), Heid Erdrich (Ojibwe), and Montana’s own Chris La Tray (Métis). What they share isn’t just verse—it’s memory, resilience, warning, and praise.

Saturday widens the lens. From morning to evening, visitors can catch everything from storytelling circles and language revitalization sessions to music performances and First Friday gallery openings. Along the way: hip-hop, beadwork, memoir, food sovereignty, and more. The shape of the weekend reflects the shape of Indigenous life today—layered, restless, and very much alive.

## A LINEUP WITH GRAVITAS AND SPARK

*The roster reads like a who’s who of Indigenous creativity:*

- Joy Harjo**, three-term U.S. Poet Laureate and cultural torchbearer.
- Denise Lajimodiere**, poet, academic, and boarding school truth-teller.
- Heid E. Erdrich**, Minneapolis Poet Laureate, curator, and literary force.
- Chris La Tray**, author of *Becoming Little Shell* and a deeply local voice with national reach.
- Sasha taqwšblu LaPointe**, Coast Salish memoirist and punk poet.
- Diane Wilson**, Dakota author of *The Seed Keeper* and advocate for food justice.
- Supaman**, the dynamic Apsáalooke hip-hop artist known for turning concert halls into call-and-response spaces of joy.
- Mariah Gladstone**, founder of Indigikitchen, pushing Indigenous cuisine into new territory.
- Carrie Moran McCleary**, beadwork artist and fashion designer blending Little Shell Chippewa heritage with contemporary form.
- John Isaiah Pepion**, a bold new voice in Blackfeet ledger art.

**James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw**, Ojibwe linguist preserving endangered knowledge with precision and heart.

**Shadow Devereaux**, rapper and producer from the Salish and Blackfeet Nations, balancing beats with history.

**Aspen Decker**, CSKT artist and language advocate.

**Carrie Lowry Schuettpelz**, Lumbee writer and former White House advisor, bringing policy and prose together.

This isn’t a curated lineup built for applause. It’s a coalition built to challenge, move, and remind.

## BUILT BY COMMUNITY, FOR COMMUNITY

IndigiPalooza MT isn’t backed by corporate dollars or industry fanfare. It’s powered by local organizers—Chickadee Community Services, the Missoula Public Library, La Tray, and the Montana Arts Council, and supported by a groundswell of individual donors and community sponsors. Some gave \$50. Others gave \$5,000. What unites them is belief: that this matters.

And it does. The stories shared over this weekend aren’t just performances. They’re acts of continuity. In a country where Native stories have too often been footnoted or forgotten, IndigiPalooza MT offers space—real, public, celebrated space—for presence, pride, and possibility.

## ONE WEEKEND, MANY WAYS IN

Whether you come for the poetry or the pop-up market, the food talk or the hip-hop, you’ll find something worth holding onto. And whether you’re Native or not, you’ll be entering a space where listening is part of the experience.

More details, schedules, and opportunities to support can be found at [www.ipfestmt.com](http://www.ipfestmt.com). Attendance is free, but the value of showing up—of being present in this moment—goes far beyond any ticket price.

**This is what it looks like when art makes space for what history tried to erase. Missoula will be ready. The voices are ready. Now all that’s needed is you.**





Helena teaching artist Eric Dymit led 460 second graders across the Helena school district in exploring movement and emotion through the lens of “mask theater.” Students learned how masks can hide or amplify actions and emotions while participating in mini-“performances” that allowed them to express emotion through a guided scene. One student reported: “It was really fun doing all the different feelings when our faces could not be seen!” (Photo by Retta Leaphart)

By Kryz Holmes

Research over the past 15 years has shown what humans have known for thousands of years: art stimulates neural connections, reduces anxiety, helps heal body trauma, and promotes better overall health in people and communities.

**This year the Montana Arts Council will roll out a new Art In Health initiative, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA),** intended to create partnerships between art and healthcare in communities across Montana. The goal is to support innovative projects that deploy the power of art—movement, music, storytelling, visual art, and the theater arts—to improve health outcomes. You can google “arts in health” and discover hundreds of examples: dance therapy in healing from major brain injuries; music therapy to treat Parkinson’s disease; standup comedy to address PTSD among veterans; addressing mental health challenges through visual arts.

The research over the past two decades is vast and solid. In the U.K., and in several states in the U.S., doctors even prescribe arts activities to help treat a variety of health challenges, and insurance covers the cost. This new Art In Health initiative is to lay groundwork to bring these health benefits to Montana.

**The program will expand on some projects already at work in Montana.** This spring MAC sponsored a tiny pilot project at the hospital in Lewistown, providing jazz dance classes for cardiovascular and diabetes patients to help manage blood pressure, weight, and long-term blood glucose levels. The eight participants discovered that learning new jazz moves helped them meet exercise goals, peel a little weight, and actually enjoy dealing with their diagnoses together.

**The Myrna Loy (Helena)** has been partnering with the Helena School District to bring arts and mental health together for both students and teachers. With students, projects focus on social and emotional learning, and practicing creative ways to identify and express big feelings. With teachers, artists provide creative instruction, opportunities to de-stress and laugh together, and also take home new skills applicable in the classroom.

**The Holter Museum of Art (Helena)** is now developing a program bringing hands-on art instruction to military families, under the NEA Creative Forces Initiative. It’s a partnership between the NEA and the U.S. Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and seeks to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for military and veteran populations exposed to trauma, as well as their families and caregivers. The Holter will provide art classes specifically for veterans and their families, taught by instructors who are trained to work with military populations.

**The Co-Lab for Civic Imagination (Missoula)** will launch a second year of touring statewide with its *State of Mind* residencies focused on building community coalitions of youth, schools, and mental health workers. Their work, spearheaded by artist/facilitator Michael Rohd, uses theater skills to explore local mental health issues among teens, and to create partnerships that empower the teens in addressing their programs on a community-wide scale.

Cellists in infusion centers. Improv groups in the dementia wing. Painting classes for cancer patients. Dance therapy for amputees. Movement workshops as part of brain injury recovery. Arts at the bedside in hospitals. Standup comedy prescriptions to help treat depression. Songwriting workshops for disabled vets. Hundreds of innovative programs around the country are bringing local artists



and creatives right into the healthcare setting to enhance healing, wellness, resilience, and quality of life.

**“Healing is more than a cure,”** says Sarah Mensink, arts program director at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. The Mayo Clinic reports that “making or even just seeing art can impact the brain.” And the brain—more than any other part of the body—is where healing happens.

**How might this concept work in your own community?** What partnerships might be put in place in your area? Art is everywhere; artists live all over Montana. As our healthcare systems become more fractured and challenged, how can the arts help? The Montana

Arts Council, working with partners at the MT Dept. of Health and Human Services, and with Michael Rohd, are developing a series of workshops to bring to Montana communities to help forge new concepts, create new partnerships, and support innovative projects. To receive information and updates on the Art in Health project, email [krys.holmes@mt.gov](mailto:krys.holmes@mt.gov).

**To learn more about the NEA’s Arts and Health Initiative, go to [www.arts.gov/impact/arts-and-health](http://www.arts.gov/impact/arts-and-health).**



*State of Mind* is a theatre and public dialogue tour aimed at community listening, tackling stigmas around mental and behavioral health, sharing resources and exploring strategies for care across our communities. While not very photogenic, the impact in Montana communities has been significant and enduring. (Photo by Mikell Fox)



The Creative Forces program of the National Endowment for the Arts places creative arts therapies at the core of patient-centered care at veterans’ hospitals throughout the country. Approximately 515,000 military men and women have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury between 2000 and 2024. More than 20% of veterans serving in recent wars have PTSD at some point in their life. Both diagnoses may contribute to depression and to the estimated 17 suicides committed by veterans each day. (Photo courtesy of the NEA)



Helena teachers got to experiment nature journaling, storytelling, and theater arts in The Myrna Loy’s mental health initiative for teachers. These workshops were fun, provided a release from some of the stress of contemporary teaching, and inspired teachers to take home new skills—either social/emotional or curriculum-based—to their classrooms. (Photo by Mikell Fox)




In this student-focused portion of The Myrna Loy’s mental health partnership with the Helena School District, 500 fifth graders learned the basics of Japanese Bunraku-style puppetry. Guided by local teaching artist Retta Leaphart, they practiced observing movement and emotional expression in a person, and then developed ways to replicate that expression through choreography of the puppet. (Photo by Mikell Fox)



Cultural healing matters, too. This year The Myrna Loy partnered with Helena Indian Alliance to bring traditional Indigenous arts experiences to Helena’s urban Indians. In one of their workshops, Aspen and Cameron Decker (Salish and Kootenai) taught participants about ledger art, cordage making, touched on some Salish and Kootenai language and sign language, and—as seen here—demonstrated and cattail mat weaving. (Photo by Benji Cosgrove)

# SUMMER CALENDAR

## ANACONDA

<b>St. Timothy's Memorial Chapel</b> sttimothysmusic.org	 Pollo Loco	Sun. August 10 4:00 PM	\$25
	 John J. Roberts	Sun. August 24 4:00 PM	\$25
<b>Washoe Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 3 6:00 PM	Free

## AUGUSTA

<b>Sun Canyon Lodge</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	August 11 6:00 PM	Free
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
## BELT

<b>Belt Rodeo Grounds at Castner Park</b> beltperformingartscenter.com	 BeltStock	August 23 4:00 PM	\$30
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## BIGFORK

<b>Bigfork Summer Playhouse</b> bigforksummerplayhouse.com	 Catch Me IfYou Can	August 1, 5, 9, 13 & 21 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	\$25+
	 The HITS of the 50s, 60s, 70s & 80s	August 28-Sept. 6 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	\$25+

## BIG SKY

















<b>Art Council Studio at BASE</b> bigskyarts.org/events	 Kids Art Camp	July & August 9:00 AM	\$290
	 Beginner Stained Glass	Mondays 6:00 PM	\$290
	 Open Pottery Studio	June, July & August 4:00 PM	\$20
	 Open Pottery Studio	Thursdays 6:00 PM	\$20
	 Open Pottery Studio	Fridays 10:00 AM	\$20
<b>Len Hill Park</b> bigskyarts.org/events	 The Nude Party	August 7 6:00PM	Free
<b>Art Council Studio at BASE</b> bigskyarts.org/events	 Level-Up Stained Glass	July & August 10:00 AM	\$290
	 Stained Glass Open Studio Saturdays	July & August 12:00 PM	\$30
<b>Len Hill Park</b> bigskyarts.org/events	 Zach Person	August 14 6:00 PM	Free

 Big Richard	August 21 6:00 PM	Free
 Hot Buttered Rum	August 28 6:00 PM	Free
 Hell's Belles with Scavenger	September 4 6:00 PM	Free


























## BIG TIMBER






















<b>Sweet Grass Arts Theater</b> baroquemusicmontana.org/concert-series	 Mad Mask	August 20 7:00 PM	\$5+
<b>Camp Mimanagish</b> mimanagish.org	 Woodland Arts Youth Camp	August 4-9 Daily	\$460+





















## BILLINGS

<b>First Interstate Arena at Metrapark</b> metrapark.com/events/2025	 Flo Rida	August 8 7:00 PM	\$48+
	 Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias	August 9 7:00 PM	\$48+
	 Russell Dickerson with Niko Moon	August 10 7:00 PM	\$37+
<b>Kirks Grocery</b> kirksgrocery.com/event	 The Ugly American Dream Hosue Exhibition	August 1 5:00 PM	Free
<b>Alberta Bair Theater</b> albertabairtheater.org/calendar	 Scotty McCreery	August 2 7:30 PM	\$57+
	 The Wonder of Elvis	September 6 7:30 PM	\$450+
	 Brian Regan	September 13 8:00 PM	\$49.50+
	 Amy Grant	September 17 7:30 PM	\$62+
	 Whose Line Anyway?	September 19 7:30 PM	\$52+
	 Billings Symphony Presents Diamond Celebrations	September 2 7:30 PM	\$20+
	 Readers Theatre	July 6, August 3, September 7 5:30 PM	Free
	 Electives Camp	July 28-August 1 9:00 AM	\$350
	 Teeny Tiny Camp	August 4-8 10:00 AM	\$120
	 Itty Bitty Camps: Fairy Tale Creatures	August 11-15 1:00 PM	\$200
	 Itty Bitty Camps: Under the Sea	August 18-22 1:00 PM	\$200
	 Itty Bitty Camps: World of Wizardry	August 25-29 1:00 PM	\$200






Yellowstone Art Museum artmuseum.org/enjoy	 The Phantom Tollbooth	September 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 7:30	\$12+
	 Northeastern Asia and the Northern Rockies	April 18-August 3 Daily	\$6+
	 Of Neon & Bones	May 9-January 2026 Daily	\$6+
	 The Language of the Land	June 20-October 5 Daily	\$6+
Downtown Billings billings365.com	 Jon Lodge: Carbon Strata	September 5-January 2026 Daily	\$6+
	 Art Walk	August 1 5:00 PM	Free
	 Painting 102 with Carolyn Thayer	August 7, 14, 21, 28 6:00 PM	\$225
	 Mixed Media Meet Up	August 7, 14, 21, 28 6:00 PM	\$10
First Interstate Arena at MetraPark metrapark.com	 Open Art	August 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM	\$8
	 Painting 101 with Carolyn Thayer	August 4, 11, 18, 25 6:00 PM	\$225
Crooked Line Studio crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	 Friday Painters with Carolyn Thayer	August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 1:00 PM	\$225
	 Once Upon A Fairytale Kids Summer Art Camp	August 4, 5 9:00 AM	\$185
Crooked Line Studio crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	 Art Museum Kids Summer Art Camp	August 18, 19, 25, 26 9:00 AM	\$185
	 Bob Ross Style "Reflections" w/ Ray Dicken	August 23 2:00 PM	\$65
The Pub Station Taproom thepubstation.com/events	 Pecos & The Rooftops	August 1 8:00 PM	\$35.50+
	 Dinosaur Jr. + Snail Mail with Easy Action	August 2 7:00 PM	\$44+
	 Giovannie and the Hired Guns	August 4 8:00 PM	\$28.50
	 Mountain Grass Unit	August 5 8:00 PM	\$22.50
	 Lukas Nelson	August 6 8:00 PM	\$40.50+
	 The Wilder Blue with Taylor Hunnicutt	August 10 8:00 PM	\$33.50+
	 Colum Tyrrell	August 19 8:00 PM	\$22.50
	 49 Winchester: Leavin This Hollar Tour	August 25 8:00 PM	\$33.50+
	 Mihali	August 27 8:00 PM	\$28.50
	 Southall - Six String Sorrow Tour	September 11 8:00 PM	\$28.50+
	 Colby Acuff	September 13 8:00 PM	\$28.50+

Downtown Billings downtownbillings.com/events	 Sunny Day Real Estate with Cursive	September 21 8:00 PM	\$49+
	 Summer Stroll featuring ArtWalk	August 1 5:00 PM	Free
KettleHouse Amphitheater logjampresents.com/event	 Dispatch & John Butler	August 3 6:00 PM	\$45.05+
	 Tedeschi Trucks Band	August 5 8:00 PM	\$62.25+
	 My Morning Jacket	August 8 8:00 PM	\$46.10+
	 Kitchen Dwellers + The Infamous Stringdusters Leftover Salmon	August 9 6:30 PM	\$53.40+
	 "Weird Al" Yankovic	August 10 8:00 PM	\$50.25+
	 Rainbow Kitten Surprise	August 13 8:00 PM	\$52.90+
	 Alabama Shakes	August 19 & 20 8:00 PM	\$57+
	 Riley Green	August 21 7:00 PM	\$53.15+
	 Wilco	August 22 8:00 PM	\$52.40+
	 Symphony on the River	August 30 8:00 PM	\$32.45+
	 Pixies	August 31 6:30 PM	\$58.65+
	 The Flaming Lips	September 16 8:00 PM	\$46.10+
Jefferson County Fairgrounds shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	September 3 5:30 PM	Free
Museum of the Rockies museumoftherockies.org/exhibitions	 Sue: The T. rex Experience	Feb 8 - Sept 7 Daily	\$5+
	 Living History Farm	May 19 - Sept 1 Daily	\$5+
	 The Pellett Project Book Signing	September 11 5:30 PM	Free
Bozeman Art Museum bozemanartmuseum.org	 Plein Air Montana 2025	Jul 26-Aug 30 Daily	Free
	 New Frontiers: Contemporary, Abstract, & Digital Art	Sept 12-Dec 13 Daily	Free
	 Miniature Art Auction 2025	November 14th Daily	Free

<b>Reynolds Recital Hall</b> bozemanartmuseum.org	 Angella Ahn & Jean Schneider	September 5 7:30 PM	\$5+
<b>Willson Auditorium</b> bozemansymphony.org	 Sounds of America I: Marsalis + Rachmaninoff	September 20 & 21 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	\$207+
<b>Bozeman Library</b> bozemansymphony.org	 Symphony Storytime	August 13 10:15 AM	Free
	 Sweet Pea Summer Art Show	August 1-31 Daily	Free
<b>Lindley Park</b> bozemanartmuseum.org	 Sweet Pea Festival	August 1-31 Daily	\$30+
<b>Downtown Bozeman</b> downtownbozeman.org/event	 Downtown Art Walk	August 9, September 12 6 PM	Free
<b>The Elm</b> logjampresents.com/event	 Clutch	August 4 8:00 PM	\$46.10+
	 Michael Franti & Spearhead	August 5 8:00 PM	\$46.10+
	 Vansire	August 6 8:00 PM	\$39+
	 Paper Flowers	August 15 8:00 PM	\$28.25+
	 Dr. Fresch	September 13 8:00 PM	\$28.25+
<b>Live from the Divide</b> livefromthedivide.com/events	 Mike McClure Duo	August 1 8:00 PM	\$35
	 Jason Eady	August 2 8:00 PM	\$50
	 Erik Koskinen	August 8 8:00 PM	\$30
	 Taylor Hunnicutt	August 9 8:00 PM	\$40
	 The Montvales	August 15 8:00 PM	\$30
	 Olive Klug	August 16 8:00 PM	\$40
	 Martha Scanlan	August 23 8:00 PM	\$45
	 Jason Scott & The High Heat	August 27 8:00 PM	\$45
<b>Grant Chamberlain Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	September 9 5:30 PM	Free

## BUTTE

<b>West Park Street</b> mainstreetbutte.org/see-do	 Butte Farmers Market	May 17-Oct 4 8:00 AM	Free
<b>The Clark Chateau</b> montanachambermusic.org	 Angella Ahn & Jean Schneider	September 3 6:00 PM	Free
<b>Stodden Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	September 1 5:30 PM	Free


## CHARLO

<b>Palmer Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 24 5:00 PM	Free
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## CHOTEAU

<b>Weatherbeater/TASGA Grounds</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 30 5:00 PM	Free
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## CONDON

<b>Swan Valley Community Hall</b> alpineartisans.org	 A Woman Among Wolves: My Journey Through 40 years of Wolf Recovery	August 16 7 PM	Free
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## CONRAD

<b>Swimming Pool Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 12 6:00 PM	Free
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## CUT BANK

<b>Cut Bank City Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	August 13 6:00 PM	Free
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## CROW AGENCY

<b>Crow Fair Powwow Grounds</b> crow-nsn.gov/crow-fair.html	 Crow Fair	August 14-17 Daily	Free
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## DEER LODGE

<b>Old Montana Prison Museum</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	August 1 6:00 PM	Free
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## DILLON

<b>Legacy Plaza, Montana Western Campus</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 2 6:00 PM	Free
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## ENNIS

<b>Various Locations</b> ennisarts.org	 Art in the Garden Tour	Mid August 10:00 AM	\$10
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## EMIGRANT


<b>The Old Saloon</b> oldsaloonmt.com	 Corb Lund	August 7 6:00 PM	\$45
	 Aaron Lewis & The Stateliners	August 9 6:00 PM	\$55

## EUREKA

<b>Lincoln County Fairgrounds</b> allevents.in/eureka	 Fiberfest Eureka	August 2-3 9:00 AM	Free
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<b>Indian Springs Ranch</b> sunburstarts.org/events	 Dawn Beyer	August 10 5:00 PM	Free
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<b>Historical Village</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	August 15 6:00 PM	Free
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## Fort Benton

<b>City Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 7 6:00 PM	Free
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



## Fort Peck

<b>Fort Peck Summer Theatre</b> fortpecktheatre.org	 Disney's NEWSIES	July 25-August 10 4:00 PM & 7:30 PM	\$6+
	 Performing Arts Camp	August 4-6 9:00 AM	\$200
	 Performing Arts Camp Showcase	August 7 7:00 PM	Free
	 Dracula	August 15-31 4:00 PM & 7:30 PM	\$6+

## Glasgow


<b>Evangelical Church</b> fortpecktheatre.org	 Performing Arts Camp	July 29-August 1 9:00 AM	\$200
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## Great Falls

<b>Downtown Great Falls</b> artsfestmontana.com	 ArtsFest Montana	August 17-23	Free
<b>Downtown Summer Jam</b> downtownsummerjam.com	 Logan Michael	August 27	\$31
<b>Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art</b> the-square.org/events	 ARTS on Fire	September 13	Free
	 "Arts Through the Decades" Summer Camp	August 11-15	\$210
<b>The Station District Bar and Eatery</b> the-square.org/events	 Profit Generating Pipeline Book Launch Party	August 5	\$35
<b>The Newberry</b> thenewberrymt.com/events	 G. Love & Special Sauce	August 6	\$38.15+
	 311 Unity Tour	August 15	\$64.50+
	 The Wallflowers	August 19	\$56.60+
	 Southall-Six String Sorrow Tour	September 6	\$26.27+
	 Colby Acuff	September 11	\$28.25+
<b>Gibson Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	August 8 6:00 PM	Free
	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 9 6:00 PM	Free

## Hamilton








<b>Sapphire Lutheran Homes</b> ravallicountyfairgroundsfoundation.org	 Plein Air at the Fair	August 27 8:30 AM	Free
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<b>Sapphire Lutheran Homes</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	August 23 5:00 PM	Free
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





## Harlowton

<b>Harlo Main</b> harlomusicproject.com	 Harlo Music Project Concert	August 9 2:30 PM	\$45+
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## Havre

<b>MSUN/MAT Theatre</b> mtactors.com	 KidsMAT Camp Daily	August 4-8	\$50
<b>Havre Llibrary</b> havrehilllibrary.org	 Books & Babies 10:15 AM	Wednesdays	Free
	 Storytime 10:30 AM	Wednesdays	Free
	 Crafternoon 3:30 PM	Wednesdays	Free
	 Yarn Circle 4:00 PM	Fridays	Free
	 Create a book 1:30 PM	Last Friday of the Month	Free
<b>Holiday Village Mall &amp; Town Square</b> chinookfriends.org	 Havre Festival Days Daily	September 19-21	Free




## Helena

<b>Holter Museum of Art</b> holtermuseum.org	 Jennifer Kent: Landlines	June 13-August 3 Daily	Free
	 Back to the Future: A Collective Legacy of The Bray	June 6 - August 3 Daily	Free
<b>The Myrna Loy</b> themymaloy.com/whats-happening	 Free Willy Family Movie Night	August 7 7:00 PM	\$7+
	 The Big Lebowski Brew and View	August 14 8:00 PM	\$12+
<b>The Myrna Loy</b> themymaloy.com/whats-happening	 Helena Youth Battle of the Bands	August 19 3:00 PM	\$10
	 Annual Block Party	August 1 11:30 AM	Free
	 Pure Prairie League	August 3 7:00 PM	\$35+
	 Eli Howard & The Greater Good	August 7 7:00 PM	\$5
	 Shadow Basket	August 9 8:00 PM	\$5
	 El Wencho, Matt Strachan & The Hoot Owls	August 13 5:00 PM	Free




	 Studebaker John - Legendary Bluesman	August 14 7:00 PM	\$5
	 Igor & the Red Elvies	August 15 8:00 PM	\$5
	 Too Slim & The Traildraggers	August 16 8:00 PM	\$10
	 Armchair Boogie	August 22 8:00 PM	\$10
	 Buffalo Galaxy	August 23 8:00 PM	\$5
	 Hot Buttered Rum	August 27 5:00 PM	Free

<b>Womens Park</b> aliveatfivehelen.com	 John Roberts y Pan Blanco	August 6 5:00 PM	Free
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<b>Carroll College</b> aliveatfivehelen.com	 Rocky Mountain Pearls	August 20 5:00 PM	Free
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<b>Archie Bray Gallery</b> archiebraygallery.org	 Dirty Date Night	August 21 6:00 PM	\$55
	 Coffee & Clay	August 9 6:00 PM	\$55
	 Pottery Spin	August 22 6:00 PM	\$55

<b>Memorial Park</b> montanabrewers.org	 2025 MT Brewers Summer Rendezvous	August 2 3:00 PM	\$25+
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<b>Lewis and Clark Library</b> lclibrary.org	 Books & Babies	Mondays 10:30 AM	Free
	 Sensory Sprouts	Tuesdays 10:00 AM	Free
	 Creative Sparks	Wednesdays 10:00 AM	Free

<b>Centennial Park</b> lclibrary.org	 Walk & Talk Book Club	Wednesdays 10:00 AM	Free
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<b>Lewis and Clark Library</b> lclibrary.org	 Preschool Storytime	Wednesdays 10:30 AM	Free
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<b>Lockey Park</b> lclibrary.org	 Storytime in the Park	Thursdays 10:00 AM	Free
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<b>Lewis and Clark Library</b> lclibrary.org	 Toddler Tales	Thursdays 10:30 AM	Free
	 Adults who Read	July 8 & August 11 6:00 PM	Free

<b>Anchor Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 5 6:00 PM	Free
	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	August 6 6:00 PM	Free


## KALISPELL


<b>Northwest Montana History Museum</b> nwmthistory.org/programs	 The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander Book Club	September 3 2:00 PM	Free
<b>Glacier Museum of Art</b> glacierartmuseum.org	 Art Explorations Camp (Ages 6-10)	August 12-15 10:00 AM	\$114


	 Art from A to Z (Ages 10-14)	August 12-15 1:00 PM	\$144
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<b>Wachholz College Center</b> wachholzcollegecenter.org	 Taj Mahal	August 7 7:30 PM	\$59+
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	 Keb' Mo' & Shawn Colvin	August 22 7:30 PM	\$71.50+
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	 America's Diamond: The Neil Diamond Legacy Concert	Septemer 12 7:30 PM	\$38.50+
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	 Whose Live Anyway?	September 21 7:30 PM	\$66.80+
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	 Pinky and the Floyd	September 25 7:30 PM	\$30.80+
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<b>Woodland Park</b> themarketbeautiful.com/montana	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 14 6:00 PM	Free
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## LEWISTOWN

<b>Montana Day Building</b> montanachambermusic.org	 Angella Ahn & Jean Schneider	September 6 7:00 PM	Free
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<b>Fergus High School</b> montanacowboypoetrygathering.com	 Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering & Western Music Rendezvous	August 7-10 Daily	\$31.50+
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<b>Main Street</b> lewistownchokecherry.com	 Chokecherry Festival	September 6 Daily	Free
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<b>Creekside Park</b> centerfestmt.com	 Centerfest	August 2 11:00 AM	\$45+
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### LIBBY

<b>Libby Elementary School</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 16 5:00 PM	Free
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### LIVINGSTON

<b>Park County Senior Center</b> baroquemusicmontana.org	 Mad Mask	August 13 7:00 PM	\$5+
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<b>Shane Lalani Center for the Arts</b> theshanecenter.org	 One Love Livingston	August 30 7:00 PM	\$25+
	 Livingston Bluegrass Festival	September 19 & 20 6:00 PM & 1:00 PM	\$30+

<b>The Blake Pavilion at the Shane Center</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	September 5 6:00 PM	Free
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### MISSOULA

<b>The Wilma</b> logjampresents.com/event	 Michael Franti & Spearhead	August 5 8:00 PM	\$46.10+
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	 FlipTurn	August 6 8:00 PM	\$40.45+
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	 Jane Lynch & Kate Flannery	September 8 8:00 PM	\$46.10+
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	 Paper Flowers	September 12 8:00 PM	\$28.25+
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

















	 Hot Tuna	September 13 8:00 PM	\$52.40+
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	 Chase Rice	September 18 8:00 PM	\$50.25+
	 Dr. Fresch	September 20 8:00 PM	\$35.55
<b>Downtown Missoula</b> artsmissoula.org/resources	 First Friday Art Walk	August 21 September 5 5:00 PM	Free
<b>Caras Park</b> montanabrewers.org	 2025 MT Brewers Fall Rendezvous	September 6 3:00 PM	\$25+
<b>Bonner Park</b> missoulacityband.org	 Missouls City Band Summer Concert Series	August 6 & 13 7:30 PM	Free
<b>Missoula Children's Theatre</b> mctinc.org/event	 Gulliver's Travels Day Camp	July 28-August 1 9:00 AM	\$297
	 Gulliver's Travels Performance	August 1 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM	\$12
	 Shakespeare Trunk Show Twelfth Night Class	July 8-August 16 9:00 AM	\$225
	 Shakespeare Trunk Show Twelfth Night Performance	August 15 & 16 7:00 PM	\$12
	 Lyle the Crocodile Performance	September 20 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM	\$12
<b>Missoula Public Library</b> missoulapubliclibrary.org	 Hero Cape Craft	August 3 1:00 PM	Free
<b>Riverside Parking Lot</b> clarkforkmarket.com	 Clark Fork Market	May-October 8:00 AM Saturdays	Free
<b>Radius Gallery</b> radiusgallery.com	 Britta Anderson, Brian Sostrom, Courtney Michaud	Jul 25-Sept 6 Daily	Free
	 Josh DeWeese	Sept 12-Oct 25 Daily	Free
<b>Radius Clay</b> radiusgallery.com	 Brett Kern, Mitchell Spain, Tim Kowalczyk	Aug 15-Sept 13 Daily	Free
<b>Missoula Art Museum</b> missoulaartmuseum.org/summer-camps	 Summer Camp: Mystery Books from the Future. An art book making adventure	July 28-August 1 9:00 AM	\$100+
	 Summer Camp: Let's Go Crazy: The Art Camp Formerly Known as PRINTS	August 4-8 9:00 AM	\$100+
<b>Zootown Arts Community Center</b> showroom.zootownarts.org/events	 The Wildwoods with Rancher	August 3 7:30 PM	\$22.80+
	 Gorgatron, Casket Robbery & Frontal Assault	August 4 7:30 PM	\$17.10+
	 Jake Waadeland & The Sturgeon River Boys	August 6 7:30 PM	\$17.10+
	 Ryan O'Flanagan	August 12 7:30 PM	\$20.40+
	 Violent Vira	August 22 8:00 PM	\$25.00
	 Jason Scott & The High Heat	August 28 7:30 PM	\$17.10+
	 Cocaine Yogi: My Reluctant Spirtual Journey	August 29 7:30 PM	\$17.10+

<b>Big Sky Brewing Co. Amphitheater</b> bigskybrew.com/taproom	 Pile w/ Nnamdi	September 2 7:30 PM	\$22.80+
	 Parker McCollum	August 2 7:30 PM	\$48.31+
<b>The UM Oval</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Aaron Lewis and the Stateliners	August 12 7:00 PM	\$59.64+
	 Shakespeare in the Park - As You Like It	August 27 6:00 PM	Free
	 Shakespeare in the Park - Henry V	August 29 6:00 PM	Free

## PARADISE VALLEY

<b>Pine Creek Lodge</b> pynecreeklodgemontana.com/events	 Big Richard with Hillfolk Noir	August 2 7:00 PM	\$25+
	 Easton Corbin	August 3 7:00 PM	\$40+
	 Shawdow Grass	August 7 7:00 PM	\$25+
	 Daniel Donato's Cosmic Country	August 8 7:00 PM	\$35+
	 G. Love & Special Sauce	August 10 7:00 PM	\$40+
	 Susto with WC Huntley	August 13 7:00 PM	\$25+
	 Creekside Revival Music Festival	August 22-24 5:00 PM & 12:00 PM	\$30+
	 49 Winchester with Marfa	August 26 7:00 PM	\$35+
	 Matisyau with BLVK H3RO	August 27 7:00 PM	\$55+
	 Nathan Xander	August 28 7:00 PM	Free
	 The Disco Biscuits	August 29-31 7:00 PM	\$65+
	 Jack Cloonan	September 3 7:00 PM	Free
	 Kitchen Dwellers	September 4-6 7:00 PM	\$50+
	 Johnny Dango	September 10 7:00 PM	Free
	 Hot Tuna Acoustic	September 14 7:00 PM	\$40+
	 Everclear with Local H & Sponge	September 17 7:00 PM	\$56+
	 Umphrey's McGee	September 19 & 20 7:00 PM	\$65+
	 Dan Tyminski	September 21 7:00 PM	\$35+

PHILIPSBURG

<b>Winninghoff Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park – Henry V	August 4 6:00 PM	Free
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POLSON

<b>Sandpiper Art and Gift Gallery</b> sandpiperartgalleryandgifts.com	 The American West	June 23 - September 5 Daily	Free
	 Upcycled and Recreated	Sept 16-Nov 1 Daily	Free
<b>Lake County Courthouse Lawn</b> sandpiperartgalleryandgifts.com	 Courthouse Art Festival	August 9 Daily	Free
<b>Polson Fairgrounds Amphitheater</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park – Henry V	August 25 6:00 PM	Free








PONY

<b>Pony Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park – As You Like It	September 6 5:00 PM	Free
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RED LODGE

<b>Broadway Street</b> rlacf.org/red-lodge-art-walk	 Red Lodge Art Walk	July 12, August 9, September 13 3:00 PM	\$25+
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REXFORD

<b>Abayance Bay Marina</b> abayancebaymarina.com/live-shows	 Samantha Fish	August 2 6:30 PM	\$27.33
	 Lukas Nelson	August 3 6:30 PM	\$56.27
	 Jessee Lee	August 8 6:30 PM	\$22.19
	 BCDC	August 9 6:30 PM	\$22.19
	 Marty O'Reilly	August 16 6:30 PM	\$22.19
	 Michelle Rivers	August 20 6:30 PM	Free
	 Everclear	August 22 6:30 PM	\$56.27


ROCKY BOY

<b>Rocky Boy Powwow Grounds</b> havrechamber.com/rocky-boy-pow-wow	 Rocky Boy Powwow	August 2-3 Daily	Free
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SEELEY LAKE

<b>Various Locations</b> alpineartisans.org	 Nature of Art Workshops	September 5-7 9:00 AM	\$75
	 Deadly Yellowstone: An original Collection of Tantalizing Western Mystery Tales	August 30 7 PM	Free
	 TOOR Dance	September 15 3 PM	Free
<b>Double Arrow Resort</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park – Henry V	August 26 6:00 PM	Free

SHEPHERD

<b>Kania House</b> baroquemusicmontana.org/concert-series	 Mad Mask	August 19 7:30 PM	\$5+
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SUPERIOR

<b>Mineral County Fairgrounds</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park – Henry V	August 21 6:00 PM	Free
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TOWNSEND

<b>Heritage Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park – Henry V	August 31 5:00 PM	Free
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TROUT CREEK

<b>Trout Creek Park</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park – As You Like It	August 22 6:00 PM	Free
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TWIN BRIDGES

<b>Soccer Field at Riverside Park/ Fairgrounds</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park – As You Like It	September 8 5:30 PM	Free
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VIRGINIA CITY

<b>Pioneer Park</b> virginiacityplayers.com	 Rustle Your Bustle Vaudeville Show	Jul 29-Aug 31 4:00 PM	\$17+
	 Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles + Vaudeville	Jul 29-Aug 31 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM	\$17+

WEST  
YELLOWSTONE

<b>Performing Arts Theatre</b> destinationyellowstone.com	 Music in the Park - The Soul Funk Collective	August 1 7:00 PM	Free
	 Music in the Park - The Limited Warranty Band	August 2 12:30 PM	Free
	 Music in the Park - SunsAh406	August 16 6:30 PM	Free

WHITEFISH

<b>For Fine Art</b> forfineart.com/gallery-events	 Donald Yatomi	August 7 Daily	Free
	 Kathleen Hudson	September 4 Daily	Free
<b>Whitefish Theatre Company</b> whitefishtheatreco.org	 The Music of Motown	August 15-17 8:00 PM	\$35
	 Broadway Concert Series	August 1-4 8:00 PM	\$35
<b>Various Galleries</b> whitefishgallerynights.org	 Whitefish Gallery Nights	July 10, August 7, September 4 5:00 PM	Free

WHITEHALL

<b>Star Theatre - Main Street Green</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park – Henry V	September 7 5:00 PM	Free
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WHITE SULPHUR  
SPRINGS

<b>The Ringling Social Club</b> montanachambermusic.org	 Angella Ahn & Jean Schneider	September 4 7:00 PM	\$20
<b>Castle Museum Lawn</b> shakespeareintheparks.org	 Shakespeare in the Park – As You Like It	September 7 5:30 PM	Free



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