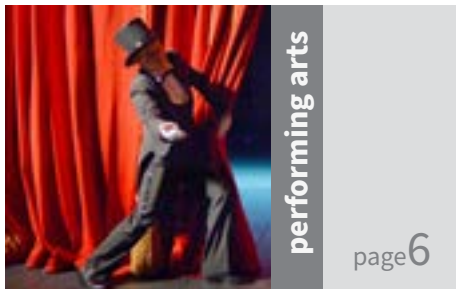
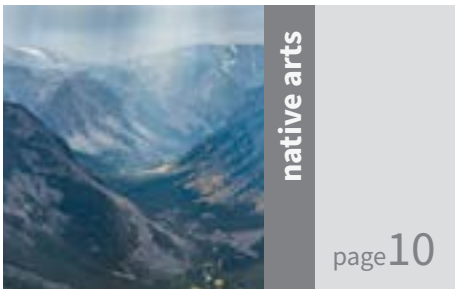


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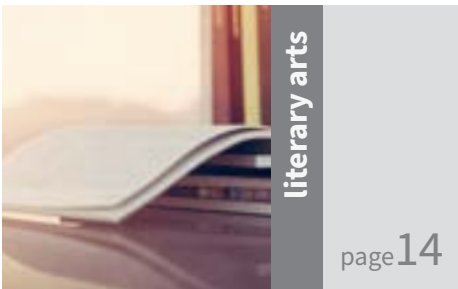
performing arts

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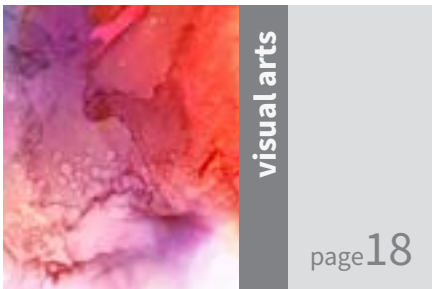
native arts

page10



literary arts

page14



visual arts

page18



Art directed by John Sullivan.

# The Business of Art in Montana

Deeply rooted in Montana’s identity, the arts play a significant role that goes beyond numbers. *Read on to learn more...*

Read more, page 4



Ahuizotl, ruler of Tenochtitlan, gave 1,600 quachtli (800 shown) to merchants to exchange in the Tlatelolco market. Codex Florentine, lib, IX, f. 8r. Image: Arqueologia Mexicana.

# The Fabric of Life

Jennifer Woodcock-Medicine Horse explores Native ready-wear fashions and the history that impacted its survival. *Read on to find out more...*

Read more, page 10



Photo courtesy of Monica Grable

# Putting Montana’s Arts Economy On the MAP

Many talented artists pursue their craft out of pure love, not necessarily for the business side of things. MAP fills in the gaps. *Read on to find out more...*

Read more, page 22



Art directed by Tracy Sullivan.

# Montana: The Perfect Breeding Ground?

Russell Rowland takes us on a journey of Montana’s many authors, bookstores, and publishing houses and ponders why Montana has such a thriving literary legacy. *Read on to find out more...*

Read more, page 14





Krys Holmes  
Executive Director  
[krys.holmes@mt.gov](mailto:krys.holmes@mt.gov)

# Art is our first language.

It’s the way we express what it means to be human in our place and time. And culture is how we share what is most meaningful to us—stories, foodways, worship, and values. Montana’s colorful braid of many cultures, and its variety of creative expressions that arise from those cultures, are what make our state different from every other.

During my time as Executive Director of The Myrna Loy in Helena, I’ve been so fortunate to help bring visual, performing, literary, film, and folk arts to our capital city. I’ve loved amplifying cultures from all over the world, as well as Montana’s Indigenous, Irish, Eastern European, and other cultures rooted in Montana. It’s been immensely rewarding to collaborate with these creators, along with community leaders, schools, local government, and nonprofits to deepen our cultural understanding of this town and this state.

“ And culture is how we share what is most meaningful to us— stories, foodways, worship, and values.”

What an honor, then, to step into the post of Executive Director of the Montana Arts Council, and to take on the mantle of stewarding Montana’s arts and culture programs into our next chapter. Art simmers at the very core of human, social, and economic life. A state’s creative vitality shows the world who we are to ourselves, to each other, and to history. I look forward to stoking that creative vitality in all our communities.

I’m eager to come out and see what you all are doing in your own studios and landscapes. Be brave, make art, and I hope to see you soon.

— Krys Holmes

## Arts and Montana’s Economy Now

“The arts.” It’s such a broad, sweeping term for so many creative pursuits that gauging the economic benefit of all the activities it stands in for may seem next to impossible.

But consider this: in a recent report, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that **arts and cultural production accounts for \$2,072,986,000 and 3.5% of the Montana economy, contributing 15,584 jobs.**

That’s 2 billion with a B, and it’s not a small number. Depending on what you choose to call “the arts,” they’re on comparable footing with some of the biggest contributors

to Montana’s economy, just behind retail, construction, and transportation and—perhaps surprisingly—ahead of agriculture and education.

Those findings, as presented by the USBEA, are certainly subject to interpretation, refinement, and perhaps even heated debate: it’s harder to say with conviction what’s part of the arts economy than it is when talking about mining or timber. (For another take on Montana’s arts economy by the numbers, see page 4.) But the report hints at trends we’ve known about for some time: tourism, recreation, retail, and the information economy are all venues where the arts thrive, and they’re only going to grow as Montana’s population does.

For a more detailed dive into the arts economy and what it means for Montana, a great resource is the newly-released **Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6)** study. Produced by Americans For the Arts, it’s an economic and social impact study of the nation’s nonprofit arts and culture industry, providing detailed findings on 373 regions from across all 50 states and Puerto Rico—ranging in population from 4,000 to 4 million—and representing rural, suburban, and large urban communities.

<https://aep6.americansforthearts.org/study-findings>

### State of the Arts Welcomes Submissions

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

**Next deadline:**  
The deadline for submissions is Nov. 17 for the winter issue (January-March).

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

**Send items to:**  
Montana Arts Council  
PO Box 202201  
Helena, MT 59620-2201  
**phone** 406-444-6430  
**fax** 406-444-6548  
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New Member Profile: Cat McIntyre



Cat McIntyre offers fellow Arts Council members and staffers a tour of the Glasgow underpass murals, designed and painted by her and fellow Glasgow artists.

# Montana Arts Council Welcomes a New Member

In the spring of 2023, Governor Gianforte appointed a new member to the Montana Arts Council: Cat McIntyre. We ask each new member to tell us about themselves to help us all get to know them.

“I was nine months pregnant with my oldest, and pouring metal. It was crazy!”

So says Cat McIntyre, the Montana Arts Council’s newest member, speaking of a public art event she organized in which old cast-iron tubs were turned into art on the spot. It’s a stark example of her multidisciplinary fine arts practice, one she’s brought to the tight-knit arts community of Glasgow in Montana’s northeastern corner. Cat came to Glasgow in 2010 after finishing her MFA at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and immediately opened a gallery downtown. Of the experience, she says, “I feel like the community really opened up in realizing that there’s so much out there and that you just have to say yes.” Cat offered classes at the gallery, and later, when she decided to close the gallery to focus on her own work, one of her students opened a new venue, the Wheatgrass Gallery. That student, Mary Falhgren, continues to run the gallery and provide classes for the next generation of artists in the region.



Cat McIntyre provides a tour of her home studio on the edge of Glasgow.

“I want to say that one of the things that I’ve really appreciated in terms of Glasgow’s creative expression,” Cat continues, “Is the way that it’s continuously evolving; it’s as if it’s not something that’s really spoken out and conversation is just accepted. It prides itself in fostering creative expression.”

Cat’s own work has been a prime example of this, as she’s been a prominent figure in the town’s blossoming mural scene. Glasgow’s central rail underpass is a vital traffic corridor through the heart of town, but was regarded by many as a little sketchy to walk through. Enlisting the help of fellow artists and community members, Cat designed and painted mural panels covering the walls of the underpass which depict episodes from the region’s history. It’s a communal effort that heightens emotional investment in the place you live while expressing what’s unique about it through art. Cat echoes the sentiments of another Glasgow resident and artist, photographer Sean Heavey: “One of the things he said is that so often you see artists and creative types moving to these communities that have more affordable living and their artistic temperament gets embraced and help the communities develop in a really interesting way.”

Especially if that development involves imminent motherhood and red-hot iron.  
**Welcome to the Council, Cat!**





Art directed by John Sullivan.

# THE BUSINESS OF *Art in Montana*

By Tracy Sullivan

Creative individuals, in their various roles as artists, play a vital part in enhancing the health, development, and overall well-being of our society. They bring joy, interaction, and inspiration to their communities, while also offering valuable critiques of our political, economic, and social systems. Through their work, they encourage thoughtful engagement and drive us closer to social progress.

Montana, known as “The Land of Creativity,” has nurtured a remarkable array of artists and authors throughout its history. From the skilled rock-art inscriber of native origin to iconic figures like Charles Russell, A.B. Guthrie Jr., and James Welch, Montana’s artistic heritage shines bright. This diverse landscape serves as an endless source of inspiration, capturing the imaginations of artists from all walks of life. Whether it’s the Montana Indian adorning a hide tepee, the country-western singer performing in a cozy Livingston bar, the landscape painter capturing the beauty of Glacier National Park, or the talented potter at Helena’s Bray Foundation, art thrives within Montana’s borders. Each brushstroke, melody, and written word is a testament to the profound influence this land imparts on its artists, making Montana a true beacon of creativity.

Over the past 40 years, the arts industry in Montana has experienced phenomenal growth. Despite having just over a million residents, it might astound you to discover that more people are employed in the arts than in the state’s mining, wood products manufacturing, or buildings materials retail sectors. Montana prides itself on its abundance of talented artists and artisans, who can be found in every county.

Art is something that often occupies my thoughts, and I believe the same may be true for you. Yet, it’s quite possible that many individuals are unaware of just how much art intersects with their daily lives.

For instance, when you choose what to wear in the morning, whether it’s a dress or a pair of jeans, remember that someone dedicated their skills and creativity to design those clothes. The TV shows and movies you enjoy are profound forms of art, involving a diverse array of talents such as writers, actors, editors, and designers who bring sound, lighting, sets, and costumes to life. Music, too, has likely touched your life in

countless ways. Consider for a moment how it has resonated with you, influencing your emotions and experiences throughout the years. And let’s not forget about the newspaper you read each morning — it, too, is a testament to artistry, featuring elements of writing, graphic and web design, storytelling, and photography. Art consistently surrounds us, and it’s worth appreciating the depth it brings to our lives.

The arts also have a profound impact on energizing Montana’s communities and invigorating their economies with their vibrant presence.

**The National Governor’s Association Center for Best Practices says:** “To compete in today’s economy, a robust creative sector is necessary. The United States economy relies heavily on services, information, technology and intellectual property. Along with the increasing dominance of these enterprises comes the need for greater creativity and innovation in the workforce...The arts and cultural sectors are proven anchors for attracting and improving these assets. Investment in the arts may be among the most innovative workforce development tools at the disposal of state governments.”

**According to the nationwide Business Committee for the Arts:** “The arts are a major force in the growth and development of our global business world. Through the arts, people learn creativity and innovation. The partnership between the arts and business improves not only economic development but also the social fabric and enlightenment of society.”

**Business Week Online says:** “Artists are significant and vastly underestimated contributors and generators of local economic growth. The more creative types working in a regional economy, the better is its outlook for improved earnings, productivity, and competitiveness. According to the Travel Industry Association of America, arts and cultural amenities attract tourism dollars. A state’s cultural amenities – festivals, museums, historical monuments – are all important destinations for tourism.”

**A remarkable finding reveals that nearly one-third of travelers are significantly influenced by arts, cultural, or heritage events when deciding their travel destinations.** These cultural travelers not only contribute more financially but also extend their stay, generating



substantial economic benefits for the state. Furthermore, the U.S. Conference of Mayors highlights the pivotal role played by the creative industries in nurturing economically prosperous communities. Acting as powerful magnets, these industries draw businesses and talented individuals, serving as the driving force behind the remarkable surge in cultural tourism.

**Montana boasts an arts-driven economy that leaves a lasting imprint.** Through multiple comprehensive studies, the state reveals the significance of the arts in various ways:

**1 Vibrant Artistic Community:**  
Surprisingly, one out of every **36 individuals** in Montana's labor market is a working artist, amounting to nearly 15,600 talented Montanans.

**2 Unprecedented Growth:**  
Over the past three decades, the number of artists in Montana's labor market has skyrocketed, growing three times faster than the rest of the state's labor force.

**3 Thriving Economy:**  
Montana artists contribute a staggering economic impact of **almost a quarter BILLION dollars** yearly. What's remarkable is that most of this income comes from out-of-state buyers, highlighting the national appeal of their creations.

**4 Fostering Creativity:** Montana nurtures artistic endeavors with over 400 incorporated arts organizations. These establishments collectively generate an astounding **economic impact of 80 million dollars** each year.

**Deeply rooted in Montana's identity, the arts play a significant role that goes beyond numbers.**

An exemplary embodiment of this is Charlie Russell, undoubtedly one of Montana's most renowned citizens...and a celebrated artist. Or towns like Livingston whose motto is "where cowboys and artists meet."

**Montana's arts scene is not just about cultural enrichment - it has a significant impact on our state's economic growth.** Economic developers consistently emphasize that creativity and innovation are what set apart successful industries that offer well-paying jobs. This success is strongly tied to a thriving arts industry.

The benefits generated by the arts extend beyond aesthetics. They play a vital role in attracting businesses, entrepreneurs, and highly skilled workers. Nowadays, businesses carefully choose their location based on the cultural attributes it possesses.

**Montana's arts industry possesses boundless energy and talent, making it one of our state's most powerful catalysts for economic growth.** It's worth noting that a staggering 85% of Montana's businesses are small, with fewer than four employees. This entrepreneurial landscape includes a significant portion of Montana's artists and arts-related enterprises.

This is precisely why the Montana Arts Council directs its resources towards skill-building, market development, and creating opportunities for Montana's artistry, creativity, and innovation to flourish. By doing so, we are fostering an engaging and prosperous arts community that benefits us all.



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# Performing Arts

## Theatre

### Rialto Theatre Announces Concert Series

The historic Rialto Community Theatre in Deer Lodge has announced upcoming special events in the 2023-2024 “Live! At the Rialto” Season of live events. The program is family-oriented and offers lots of variety at affordable prices.

Comedian Mark Cordes from Arizona will bring his “The Spouse Whisperer” show to Deer Lodge on Thursday, Nov. 15, at 7pm. Cordes has been described as a “One-man Laugh Factory” and his clean comedy show highlights family relationships in an inventive and humorous way. He has been performing for over 30 years and headlined at all the big comedy clubs.

On Saturday evening, December 30, the “Acrobats of Cirque” will thrill audiences of all ages with their dazzling circus feats all over the Rialto

stage, in a high-energy, family-friendly flurry of fun. There will be a special \$15 children’s ticket for this show.

Finally, on Thursday, April 11, the “Stringfever” band from England will entertain Rialto patrons. Originally scheduled before Covid, this string quartet is best known for their rendition of Ravel’s “Bolero,” featuring all four men playing one instrument simultaneously. They have performed in over 33 counties and at venues including Madison Square Garden.

**More information about the series and Rialto events is available at 406-846-7900, at [www.deerlodgerialto.com](http://www.deerlodgerialto.com), and on Facebook.**

## Music Review

Missoulia Chris R. Lane recently released a four song E.P. featuring “So Near”, “Fly By”, “Believe This”, and “High Road”. A traveling salesman for the last 20 years, it’s easy to picture Chris driving the Hi-Line longingly admiring his loved ones when you listen to “High Road”. The melody instantly puts you at ease and the lyrics have you aspiring to be a better person. A singer-songwriter performing folk-rock originals, Chris plays and sings everything on the E.P. and we look forward to more.

[Check out High Road on iTunes!](#)

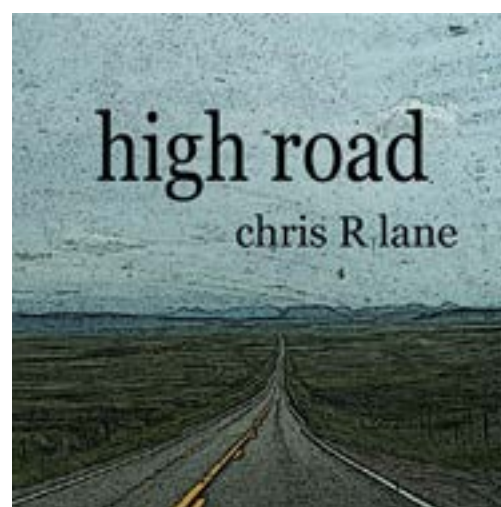


Photo courtesy of Chris R. Lane.

## Dance



**Get ready to rock this Thanksgiving weekend** with the electrifying Helena’s 9th Shira Greenberg’s Nutcracker on the Rocks by Cohesion Dance Project! Witness an explosive fusion of dance styles as community and professional dancers come together to deliver an unforgettable performance at the Helena Civic Center. Prepare to be blown away by the iconic tunes of James Brown, Aretha Franklin, The Rolling Stones, Janis Joplin, and more. This one-of-a-kind holiday classic will take you on a thrilling journey through the decades, incorporating dancers of all ages and abilities, including those with disabilities, into the heart of the choreography. With a roaring Harley

Davidson on stage, Nutcracker on the Rocks promises a unique, energetic, and engaging experience like no other! Don’t miss out on the excitement - mark your calendars for Saturday, November 25, and Sunday, November 26, 2023.

**Show times:** Saturday, November 25 at 7:30pm  
and Sunday, November 26 at 2:00pm.

**Ticketing info:** Tickets available through the Helena Civic Center box office at 406-447-8481 or online at [www.helenaciviccenter.com](http://www.helenaciviccenter.com)



Film



Photo Courtesy of the Paramount Network

MONTANA ECONOMY IN-DEPTH

# Assessing the Impact of the *Yellowstone* Television Series on Montana’s Tourism Economy

BY PATRICK M. BARKEY AND MELISSA WEDDELL

Since 2020, the *Yellowstone* television series, produced by Paramount Studios, has been filmed in its entirety in and around the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana.

As part of its application for a tax credit based on its film production expenditures, as spelled out in the Montana Economic Development Industry Advancement (MEDIA) Act that became law in July 2019, the studio made available detailed information on its production-related expenditures in the state. The Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of Montana made use of this and other information to compile an analysis of how those expenditures interacted with the state economy to support jobs, incomes, spending and investment across the economy.

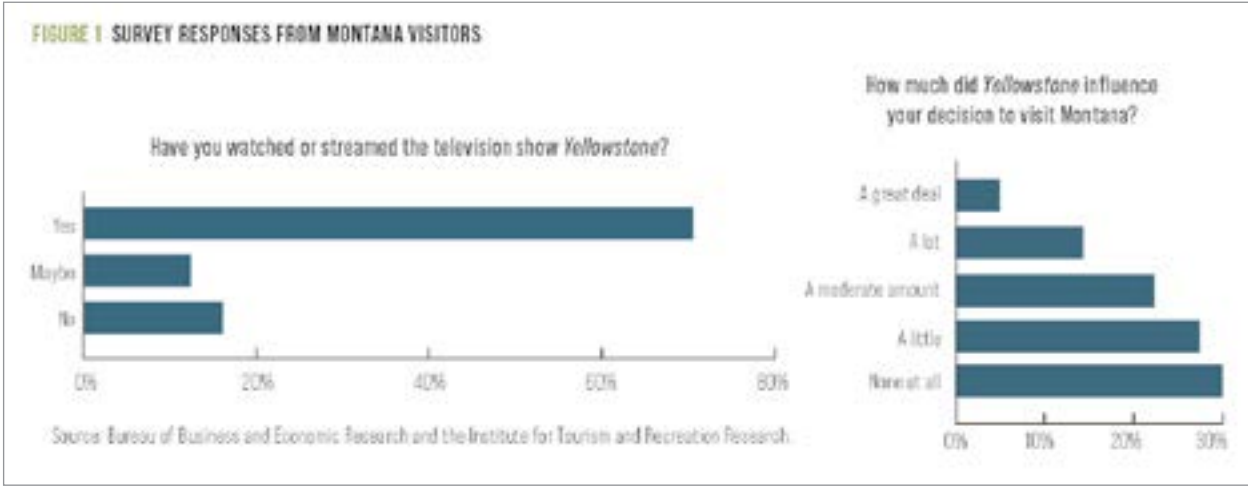
The BBER’s research report, released in April 2022, found that the approximately \$72 million in spending that qualified for tax credits under the MEDIA act, along with the 116 Montana residents employed in production activities, had a significant impact on the overall economy. Specifically, the bureau’s April 2022 report found that the production activities over the five-month period between October 2020 and February 2021 related to Season 4 of the show ultimately supported 527 new jobs

across a full range of industries; \$25.3 million in additional personal income; and \$85.3 million in additional gross receipts for Montana business and non-business organizations. These findings occurred both directly through spending of the studio itself, and spending subsequently induced in the economy, as spending received by vendors, employees, and governments was partially re-spent in the local economy to add to the total impact.

The conclusion of the April 2022 BBER report was that the significant spending associated with the production of the show, and the composition of that spending toward local goods and services, resulted in the production activities supporting many more jobs and much more income than the studio’s direct spending accounted for.

*Continued on page 8...*

Figure 1 Survey Response from Montana Visitors





Broadening Our Understanding of Impacts

The spending and income-based approach of the BBER’s April 2022 study of production activities for *Yellowstone* Season 4 in Montana yielded significant insights on the nature and magnitude of those activities as they relate to the state economy. The analysis also benefited greatly from the detailed expenditure records made available.

The study serves as an important example of what is involved with a specific production and how production activities connect with the rest of the state economy. But as a complete analysis of what the production activity does to affect the economy, the study fell short, as it acknowledged:

... the advertising value of films that use Montana as a backdrop doubtless would add to the ultimate impact of film production on the state economy, but impacts from those sources are not included in this report.

Film tourism, the niche of tourism where visitors explore locations and destinations made famous from movies and television, seems especially applicable to *Yellowstone*. The title of the show itself is associated with the famously beautiful national park, and the story lines, characters, and backdrop of the show embraces the Mountain West in general, and the landscape of western Montana in particular. The Montana Office of Tourism spends millions in advertising campaigns to make potential visitors aware of our state’s attractions. Yet the popularity of *Yellowstone*—the highest rated non-sports television show of 2021-22—has arguably eclipsed those efforts and raised the image of Montana to a wider audience of potential visitors.

To enhance the original study, BBER teamed up with the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research (ITRR) to include a survey-based approach to the issue of Yellowstone-induced tourism spending. In partnership with the nationally recognized survey research vendor Qualtrics, we assembled a national panel of respondents who were not residents of Montana and had visited the state within the last three years. Using a survey designed and developed by BBER and ITRR, respondents were asked a number of questions about the purpose, frequency, and duration of their visit(s) to the state. They were also asked questions to measure the degree to which *Yellowstone* was an influence on their decision to visit.

Survey Findings

The survey responses were tallied only for those non-Montana residents who said that they had visited Montana in the last three years. The critical portion of the survey was the response to two questions that asked specifically about exposure to *Yellowstone*. Remarkably, 71.2% of those surveyed said that they had watched the show (**Figure 1**). Another 12.5% were unsure, leaving only 16.2% who answered no to the question. With

viewership of 10 to 12 million for individual episodes for a national audience, this is clearly a sub-population of the country that is much more likely to tune into the show.

A subsequent question asked how the show influenced their decision to visit Montana, with five choices ranging from “not at all” to “a great deal.” From **Figure 1** we see that 19.3% of visitors responded that *Yellowstone* influenced their visitation decision “a lot” or “a great deal.” This is another remarkable result. This information was combined with spending profiles developed and maintained by ITRR on all visitors to Montana to estimate visitor spending that was induced by the show for the calendar year 2021. Our estimate is that 2.1 million visitors came to Montana because of the television show in that year, spending \$730 million in our state.



Photo Courtesy of the Paramount Network

Findings

When the results of the April 2022 study are extended to include the impact of visitor spending, the impact of the show’s production and viewing on the state economy changes dramatically. Using the BBER’s policy analysis model, we constructed a “no *Yellowstone*” scenario of the economy in which the filming and production activities for Season 4 in the state did not take place, and the spending of the 2.1 million visitors who said that viewing the show motivated their visits did not occur. Comparing this hypothetical, “no *Yellowstone*” economy to the actual economy gives a measure of how the show adds to the economy.

Adding tourist spending into the analysis has clearly increased our estimates of *Yellowstone*’s contribution to the economy, as summarized in **Table 1**. All of the impact estimates include both the production activities reported in the April 2022 study and the *Yellowstone*-induced tourism spending.

We find that *Yellowstone* has ultimately boosted employment by more than 10,000 jobs statewide, compared to the number of jobs that would have existed had the show not been produced or aired. These jobs fall into a wide range of industry and occupational categories.

Unsurprisingly, many of the jobs are in industries that receive the spending of visitors,

including the accommodations and food and the arts and entertainment industries. However, the job impacts also are significant in seemingly unrelated industries, such as health care and transportation, reflecting the propagation of spending throughout the economy.

This kind of job impact supports significant gains to households in the form of income. We estimate that *Yellowstone* has boosted income received by households – personal income – by \$376.1 million, with \$324.7 million of that sum representing after-tax, or disposable, income available for spending. As reported in the table, there are impacts on state government tax revenues as well. We find that the *Yellowstone*-induced activity in the state economy has produced \$44.5 million more in taxes collected by the state that are directed, in whole or in

TABLE 1 THE CONTRIBUTION OF YELLOWSTONE TO THE MONTANA ECONOMY

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	10,240 jobs
PERSONAL INCOME	\$376,100,000
Disposable Personal Income	\$324,700,000
SELECTED STATE REVENUES	\$44,500,000
OUTPUT	\$1,059,400,000
POPULATION GROWTH	3,305 people

part, to the state’s general fund. The largest of those, of course, is the state individual income tax, which has seen a \$17.3 million increase because of the show.

Conclusion

The surge in interest and attention that Montana has received because of the success of the *Yellowstone* television series has had significant impacts on the state economy. The production activity from filming the series in the state has already been shown to support a sizable number of jobs here. Expanding the analysis to incorporate the show’s impact on tourism spending reveals much larger impacts to the state economy.

Patrick M. Barkey is director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana.

Melissa Weddell is director of the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana.

Read the full report: [www.bber.umt.edu/pubs/econ/FilmIndustryImpact2022.pdf](http://www.bber.umt.edu/pubs/econ/FilmIndustryImpact2022.pdf)  
WINTER 2022 // MONTANA BUSINESS QUARTERLY 29, YELLOWSTONE Television series





# Montana's Performing Arts Industry - *a captivating tale of boom or bust?*

By Tracy Sullivan

**As the leading service export for the Treasure State, tourism has brought in an impressive influx of non-resident visitors, with a whopping \$5.15B spent by 12.5 million tourists in 2022,** as reported by the UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research (ITRR). For American tourists, leisure trips that include festivals and special events hold great importance, with 37% of them seeking these adventures, according to Destination Analysts.

While Montana attractions continue to be popular tourist destinations, including the renowned Glacier and Yellowstone national parks, this year has seen a slight decrease in advance hotel reservations across the state. Rising costs and the conclusion of the COVID-19 emergency have opened up more travel options for people, impacting the numbers. Daryl Schliem, CEO of the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce, holds optimistic expectations of a 4% to 5% annual growth in tourism for the state—a steady pace that echoes the pre-2020 experiences.

After the past few years of bustling trailheads, busy restaurants, and packed hotels, the question arises: were Montana tourism officials accurate in their predictions? Has this summer brought about a sense of calmness as the state's pandemic-driven travel surge gradually settles to a semblance of normalcy? And what implications does this hold for the performing arts industry in Montana, which witnessed a tremendous surge in popularity in the post-pandemic era?

**Montana has a storied history of cherishing entertainment.** From Native Americans who enjoyed a wide variety of entertainment in the form of sports, games, music, dance, and festivals to early European settlers who considered books a survival tool and built theaters just after bars in the towns they settled. Take Helena, for example—a regional hub that has delighted audiences with an array of performances. Helena thrived as a vibrant railroad stop, playing host to top-notch artistic performers and vaudeville entertainment on their journey between Chicago and Seattle during the 1880s to 1920s. Even later, well into the 1960s, several grand old vaudeville/movie houses welcomed the crème de la crème of touring companies. For a small town nestled in the Montana Rockies, Helena, along with other Montana communities, has always been an unexpectedly cultured enclave.

**Montana's performing arts scene is thriving with a plethora of entertainment options that are sure to captivate you.** Whether you're into dance, music, theater, or film, there's always a perfect event just around the corner, ready to make your night out or weekend unforgettable. Picture yourself at the iconic 1907 Babcock Theater in Billings, soaking in the magic of cult classics and legendary films, or immersing yourself in the MINT Film Festival. And that's not all—the state boasts numerous seasonal theaters like the Fort Peck Summer Theatre, showcasing live performances of popular plays.

**And let's not forget about the fantastic festivals that Montana has to offer!** The sheer number of festivals held here is mind-boggling! With so many choices, it's no wonder why tourism in the state is booming. However, amidst this cultural and artistic extravaganza, one question lingers: is the performing arts industry receiving the support it truly deserves?

Well, according to the Big Sky Country State Fair in Gallatin County, the outlook seems positive. The fair, which took place from July 19 to 23, saw a staggering total of 46,513 people attending the five-day event – a significant 15% increase from last year. With three nights of extraordinary concerts featuring the likes of Flo Rida, Gary Allan, and Billy Currington, over 11,359 music enthusiasts reveled in these unforgettable performances. In fact, this year's concert attendance experienced a jaw-dropping 142% surge compared to 2022, where all three shows combined garnered only 4,685 attendees. As Amanda Hartman, the fair spokesperson, aptly put it, "Just one show this year had more people there than all the shows last year combined!"

If that isn't enough to convince you of the passion for live music here, then let's take a trip to Big Mountain Ranch, located just outside of Whitefish, where the Under the Big Sky music festival took place. This incredible three-day event attracted an impressive crowd of about 20,000 attendees each day, which was more than double the population of Whitefish itself. The festival became an international affair, with tickets being sold to music lovers representing all 50 states and even reaching countries like Canada, Australia, Sweden, and Italy.

**And let's not overlook the unforgettable Red Ants Pants festival—**a true gem for country, folk and indie music enthusiasts. Drawing the attention of fans from near and far, with 52% of ticket sales from Montanans and 48% from out of state, this festival has sold out consistently over the past three years. Founder Sarah Calhoun emphasized that the festival's aim is not to be bigger, but better. The festival's mission of developing leadership roles for women, supporting working family farms and ranches, and enriching rural communities is truly admirable. Community grants, timber skills workshops, and their Girls Leadership Program are all funded by the festival, which was able to raise an astounding \$160,000 this year.

**But it's not just attendance that proves the performing arts industry's strength.** The Art House in Billings has an exciting plan in store—a 50-seat theater, expanded pub space, a gallery kitchen offering hand-crafted pizza, sandwiches, and more. And that's not all—they're even adding ANOTHER theater with over 100 seats for live events and performances.

The performing arts industry in Montana is undeniably making waves, and with the incredible support shown by enthusiastic audiences, its future seems brighter than ever.



# The Fabric of Life: Native Ready-Wear Clothing

By Jennifer Woodcock-Medicine Horse

Humans have been crafting clothing since time immemorial. For most of that time many families have fashioned their own clothing; the affluent have always had access to bespoke custom-tailored garments created for them by artisans. In the days of awl and sinew, or handwoven fabrics created thread by thread, the creation of clothing was laborious to a degree almost impossible to imagine in today’s world.

The cost in time and materials is measured in months to create a garment requiring several yards of fabric made from hand twined thread, dyed from vegetal materials collected and prepared, woven into fabric on a backstrap loom with patterns of complex cultural signifiers, then sewn into a garment embellished with hand drilled beads or embroidery or prepared porcupine quills or painted with pigments collected from nature and prepared with buffalo tallow or something similar. **The intrinsic value of such garments cannot be overestimated and is reflected in the auction prices that they bring today.**

Although anthropologists of yesteryear sought to create codified classifications of garment styles by tribe, through time, the reality is that **Native people have engaged in vigorous trade networks for thousands of years, incorporating novel elements into their clothing designs and trading clothing pieces and jewelry along trade networks.**

The phrase “trade goods” evokes images of bolts of wool and cotton fabrics, or a bright array of glass beads—true enough, but prior to European contact, the estimated 40 million citizens of our Turtle Island continent had elaborate trade networks across the North American continent and ranging from what is now Canada to the Andes.

For more expensive commodities, purchase was made in standardized lengths (if I interpret this correctly, approximately half a yard) of high-quality white cotton cloth, called quachtli; the value represented

the labor time required to weave the fabric. Quachtli came in quality grades rated from 65 to 300 beans per length. The Tlapa taxation roll indicates that one quachtli equaled twenty cakes of rubber, or 112.5 quachtli could purchase one warrior regalia. An average commoner’s annual income was estimated at twenty quachtli. (Berdan, Carbalho)

In short, the multitude of Native peoples of the Americas were accustomed to routinely accessing a broad array of trade goods sourced from two continents for hundreds or thousands of years before European colonists turned up to barter machine-made cloth and glass beads in exchange for hides and furs. The academic literature would give the inattentive reader the distinct impression that this was a socio-economic advance of earth-shaking proportions for Native peoples, when, in fact it was not. Trade with distant nations was the norm, not the exception, and with far more interesting trade goods.

It is true that there were a few European trade goods that were useful to Native clothing artists and artisans. A packet of metal sewing needles was expedient compared to manufacturing bone awls. Glass beads were far less work than the manufacture of stone, shell or bone beads or the preparation of porcupine quills. Machine woven cotton and wool cloth was consistent and readily available, although neither as warm nor durable as tanned leather. However, in retrospect, the amortized cost of these convenient trade goods in exchange for millions of acres of treaty ceded lands makes them far less appealing.

One can formulate a strong argument that more important than the physical introduction of manufactured goods was the introduction of the concept of the mass production of manufactured goods.

Before the disruption of the fur trade, Native women’s creative works were each singular and unique, since goods were made by hand and not by machine. The mass processing of furs and hides was Native women’s intimate and immersive introduction to the concept of the mass production of manufactured goods as an alternative to individually created goods intended for personal use, gift giving or trade.



North American Indian trade routes map, Circa 1600. Image: National Museum of the American Indian.



Pre-contact trade networks, North and South America. Image: Strayer.



Willard, Emma. Introductory Map: Location and Wanderings of the Aboriginal Tribes. Image: Library of Congress



Thomas, Cyrus. Distribution of Mounds in the Eastern United States. 1890. Individual red dots and clusters of red dots indicate mounds or mound groups in the eastern United States. Image: Library of Congress.

In addition, the US Government operated 408 federal Indian boarding schools across 37 states between 1819 and 1969.

**Essentially, the boarding schools were running internal sweatshops, staffed by their own students, to supply the required clothing and linens for the school.** At most of the federal Indian boarding schools, the children were not permitted visits home until they graduated at eighteen. Thus, they were born into communities where creativity in clothing and adornment was a part of daily life, but raised and trained in the boarding school communities where uniformity was the social norm and expectation. Because the boarding schools signally disrupted transmission of Native cultural knowledges, what was available to teach children were the skills and ideas conveyed at school—in this case mass production sewing techniques. This sewing knowledge among many if not most Native women, inculcated over several generations has permitted an agentic

response to burgeon—that of **in some cases creating unique clothing, but in many cases to design once, but manufacture and sell multiple identical garments, reducing the labor investment per piece and creating a viable business. Companies such as Spoonflower allow these textile artists to design their own unique fabric, then use it in multiple garments or styles.** Although some more established designers have their designs manufactured abroad, many use the services of a company like Spoonflower to design their fabric, but manage their garment manufacturing as a cottage industry, circling back to the work life balance theoretically possible before the industrial revolution redefined work lives.



Montana is gifted with an extraordinary array of Native fashion designers, each finding their own equilibrium between custom work and manufacturing.

## Bethany Yellowtail

*(N Cheyenne/Apsaalooke)* was the first prominent Native fashion designer from Montana. She took the plunge and moved to Los Angeles where she got her start working for BCBG Max Azria Group.

**She started her own clothing business, B. Yellowtail in 2014,** creating designs drawing inspiration from the beadwork designs of her foremothers. At that time, Native women who needed attire for an event had two choices—they could pick a “Native inspired” culturally appropriated garment, or they could pick culturally neutral clothing that did not reflect their identity. For business attire, there were no other choices.

**Bethany Yellowtail made fashion history with her Future Chairwoman Collection released in 2020.** Affordably priced and beautifully constructed, the collection is composed of a pencil skirt, bow blouse, trousers, classic blazer, and a square silk scarf, all in an elk tooth print. This collection created an opportunity for Native professional women to express their indigeneity in business clothes, sacrificing neither their identity nor their professionalism. The collection exploded in Indian Country, pieces appearing on Zoom calls, webinars, Ted talks—everywhere women needed to look good. The collection pieces are classic designs that will not become stale and can be worn together or with other garments.

**Because Yellowtail had access to mass production, her clothing was able to be sold at an affordable price and reach the many women who wanted to add it to their wardrobe.** Yellowtail has recently added to her sales website the option to purchase the classic elk tooth print in two-yard lengths for those who would like to design their own clothes. This is notable, because it is rare for a designer to make the raw materials of their signature design available for use by others. Yellowtail has used her personal success as a designer to support emerging Native artists, including and featuring their work on her website, [byellowtail.com](http://byellowtail.com)



B Yellowtail Future Chairwoman pencil skirt, bow blouse, slacks.  
Photo: B. Yellowtail

“Vintage 80s Southwestern Jacket Aztec Blazer Striped Tapestry Boho Hippie Southwest” Photo: Etsy

The Notched Two Button Blazer in Seasonless Stretch  
Photo: AnnTaylor.com





## Carrie Moran McCleary

*(Little Shell Chippewa) designed for friends and family, starting her business Plains Soul in 2016.*

Moran McCleary comments,

**“I am the tenth of eleven children, so hand-me-downs were a way of life growing up. But my mom and grandmothers were very creative so I never thought anything of it. I’m just doing what my mothers and grandmothers did before me.”**

Her indigenization of the popular concept of “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” imbues the very modern concept of upcycling with deep cultural values of not wasting resources, resulting in one of a kind wearable art. Moran McCleary also designs couture and has been featured in numerous fashion shows and art markets. Moran McCleary also utilizes the opportunity of mass production to create affordable work that showcase not just her own work, but that of other artists as well. Moran McCleary collaborated with Mashantucket Pequot wampum artist Dan Simonds to create beaded pieces that she photographed and used to create custom fabric that could be mass produced into culturally congruent, accessible items such as the resulting Wampum Mix Neoprene Laptop Sleeve, priced at \$42.00. Mass production of fabric and laptop sleeve transmogrifies a very expensive collection of carved wampum and beadwork into an accurate and detailed image analogue that is affordable and offers the opportunity to share this artwork publicly in settings where it might not otherwise be encountered by people familiar only with stereotyped images of Native art, such as cafes or business meetings. (PlainsSoul.com)



Ledger Horse Skirt. Photo: PlainsSoul.com.  
Wampum Mix Neoprene Laptop Sleeve. Photo: PlainsSoul.com



## Designs by Della

*is the brainchild of Della Bighair-Stump (Apsaalooke)*

Moran McCleary comments,

**Della began commercially designing fashion and accessories in 2016.** She observes, “I’ve been designing native fashion & accessories since 2016. Growing up I would watch my mother, grandmothers & grandfathers sit around the table beading, sewing, doing feather work, designing/drawing out geometric & floral Crow designs. From these teachings, I figured how to combine both traditional & the modern world together to make wearable fashion of today.

**I always wanted to wear & express who & where I come from. Our cultural tribal designs, colors & beadwork are amazingly beautiful & one of a kind. That is why all my gowns & attire are one of a kind. No two are the same, similar but never the same.”** (<https://www.apsaaloookedesignsbydella.com>).



**Bighair-Stump’s beadwork is impeccable and serves two purposes. She creates commissioned one-of-a-kind pieces for individuals and for fashion shows;** contemporary designs and fabrics embellished with beadwork that draws on her Crow culture. She also photographs her beadwork, using the images to create fabric that can be used in ready to wear pieces such as sportswear, backpacks, and dresses that can be sold over the internet or at art markets.

**Bighair-Stump lives in Hardin, Montana,** population 3,818. Whereas many aspiring fashion designers would pack their bag and head for a metropolitan environment, for many Native designers moving out of their community is not an attractive proposal. Thus, the quandary—how does one create a presence when one lives in a small rural town, an hour away from the nearest airport. Technology, social media, and mass production are tools that Big-Hair Stump uses to create a larger market for her work than the extraordinary unique pieces that she creates for individuals. Custom fabric printing companies such as Spoonflower permit artists such as Bighair-Stump to design their own fabric and have it economically produced into ready wear garments and accessories that can be advertised through social media and sold online to a customer base far larger than the population of Hardin, MT.



Designs by Della dress, Sycuan 2023 Fashion Show. Photo: <https://www.facebook.com/designsbydella/>



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**Jennifer Woodcock-Medicine Horse**  
Program Director • *IndigenEyes: Contemporary Native American Art of the Rocky Mountain West*;  
Adjunct Faculty MSU Dept. of Art History  
Photo courtesy of Jennifer Woodcock-Medicine Horse







Art directed by Tracy Sullivan.

## *Montana: The Perfect Breeding Ground?*

By Russell Rowland

In 2019, Medellee Antonelli moved from Colorado back to her home state of Montana and bought a used bookstore that had been operating in an old barn just outside Bozeman. The store was called The Used Book Emporium, and the owners, two women who were ready to retire, had fallen a little behind on keeping the store organized.

So Medellee, with the help of her mother Susan Rosten, who had just recently lost her husband, went to work restoring the space, building new bookshelves, and sorting through tens of thousands of books to bring some order back to the store. Medellee has a history of success selling books online, so it wasn't surprising that once they got the business up to speed, and renamed it the Isle of Books, the store took off. Unfortunately, about two and a half years later, the owner of property decided that they wanted to pave the parking lot, which would have cost Medellee more than she could afford.

So she and Susan packed up their tens of thousands of books and found a location in town, where they opened up again earlier this year.

The main feature of this new location is a floor laminated with thousands of pages from one of Medellee's favorite books, *Lonesome Dove*.

"We are currently on copy number twenty-three," Medellee says. "And it's about 80 percent finished." The Isle of Books just had their most successful month ever in August, and after relying more on her online sales during Covid, Medellee says that the store now brings in at least seventy percent of their business.

About three years ago, Medellee also purchased the old Books and Books bookstore in Butte, which just happened to be owned by her ex-husband's grandmother. That store moved to a more centralized location, and is now called Isle of Books and Books.

**The main reason Medellee's story fascinates me is because it provides such a strong indication of how robust the book market remains in Montana.** Another thing that makes her success in Bozeman

so remarkable is that her store is within a twenty-five mile radius of two of the other best bookstores in the state, Country Bookshelf, which is just a few blocks from the new location, and Elk River Books in Livingston. Medellee says that she has had a great relationship with these stores since she opened, and that they constantly refer customers back and forth between the stores. Which seems to indicate that the book business is doing well enough that there is no need for a competitive spirit. Oh, and did I mention that Medellee accomplished all this while raising two pre-teenagers as a single mom. Sadly, her ex-husband also passed away in the midst of all this.

**A few years ago, I was at a writer's conference in Casper, Wyoming, and Alyson Hagy, one of my favorite writers from the West, posed the question "Why does Montana produce so many more writers than Wyoming, or even Colorado, which has a much bigger population?"**



The answer to that question usually gives a lot of credit to the excellent writing program in Missoula, which has produced some incredible writers through the decades. But since its founding, Livingston has developed its own little haven for great writers, in large part because Tom McGuane fell in love with Paradise Valley and bought a house there in the late '60s.

McGuane got his masters from Stanford, so many of his fellow Bay Area friends followed him here, including 'Gatz' Hortsberg and Richard



Brautigan. Their presence eventually attracted other writers who had already developed reputations of their own, like Jim Harrison.

But the glut of home-grown writers in Montana is harder to explain. The landscape is an easy answer, but probably most of it can be attributed to Montana being a place that cultivates creative people.

We also boast an inordinate number of visual artists, and a growing number of filmmakers as well.

**And because we have so many writers, we have also become great supporters of some of the best independent bookstores I’ve ever visited.** Besides those already mentioned, we have the Montana Book Company in Helena, The Bookstore in Dillon, Chapter One in Hamilton, Fact and Fiction and Shakespeare and Company in Missoula, This House of Books in Billings, and Cassiopeia in Great Falls. Brian and Amy Sweet moved from Ohio just a little more than a year ago to open a new bookstore called Beartooth Books in Red Lodge, and they have already established a stellar reputation as well.

# Poetry

## Unemployed, Fully Employed

By Chris La Tray, Montana Poet Laureate



Whenever I consider the oft-identified “Sisyphean task” of making a living as an artist, I think of the alternative: the capitalist-culture ideas of what constitutes “gainful” employment and what it is capable of doing to one’s soul. The late poet and musician Leonard Cohen said, “I think unemployment is the great affliction of man. Even people with jobs are unemployed. In fact, most people with jobs are unemployed. I can say, happily and gratefully, that I am fully employed. Maybe all hard work means is fully employed.”

Since I left my old gig on the fringe of corporate America I have never been more employed, even if the moderate social safety net I enjoyed there has, as it has for so many of us, disappeared. If that is the result of burning the boats on the shore of creativity, vowing to never return to the world of morning check-ins via email or kowtowing to middle management, then so be it. It is a trade-off I am privileged to make, as I don’t have any chronic health concerns that leave me beholden to a system that really only wants

to chew me up and spit me out anyway. The Cree had a word for my Métis ancestors – Otipemisiwak – which means “the people who own themselves,” and I have chosen to live up fully to that description. I was recently asked “Whose faculty are you on?” during a Q&A for a discussion I was giving called “The Writing Life” and my answer was no one’s.

So my full employment comes on my porch where I watch the world unfold in the morning and tuck itself in for the night. It comes on rambles in forests, along riverbanks, and down the occasional alley. It comes at the end of long drives around this magnificent region of Turtle Island that most now call Montana, when I arrive in a school or library or bookstore to share my work or perspective. It is a good kind of employment, one I am able to embrace with joy, despite – maybe even because of – its difficulties, uncertainties, and inconveniences.

Approaching the challenges with a wry humor has helped, as these excerpts from my first book, *One-Sentence Journal*, attest to. They speak to the “hazardous journey” alluded to in the apocryphal “Men Wanted” ad I have tattooed on my forearm, alleged to have been placed in a London newspaper by Ernest Shackleton just prior to his fateful voyage aboard the doomed *Endurance*. The entire ad reads as follows: “Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful, honor and recognition in case of success.”

And as one would expect, all of this has also made Montana a perfect breeding ground for small publishers.

In 2013, Daniel Rice started his own little publishing house in Livingston called Riverfeet Press, not to be confused with Riverbend Books, also a Montana publisher, based in Helena. Rice is basically a one-man operation, but he has already produced *One Sentence Journal*, winner of the Montana Book Award for Chris La Tray, also the most recent Poet Laureate of Montana. And Riverfeet published Tom Harpole’s *Regarding Willingness*, a finalist for the High Plains Book Awards.

Aside from Riverbend, Helena also houses the biggest Montana publisher in Farcountry Press, for whom I have a particular fondness since I used their self-publishing branch to publish one of my novels, and because they now distribute my book *Fifty-Six Counties*, which was originally published by another Montana publisher, Bangtail Press out of Bozeman. Drummlummon Institute, which was founded by Rick Newby, is also headquartered in Helena, and they have been producing Montana based books for nearly thirty years, including Allen Morris Jones’ recent poetry collection, *Mumblecusser*.

There are many other small publishers that have sprung up in Montana over the years, but sadly, due to the financial risk, most of them are not publishing fiction anymore. But that has never stopped Montanans from writing fiction, and as the publication of Debra Magpie Earling’s recent masterpiece, *The Letters of Sacajawea*, shows, there’s every reason to believe that we will continue to enhance this wonderful literary legacy.

These short poems are a record on my journey toward success, and a dedication to never being entirely trapped in the ice.

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What will run out first:  
the year, or the money?

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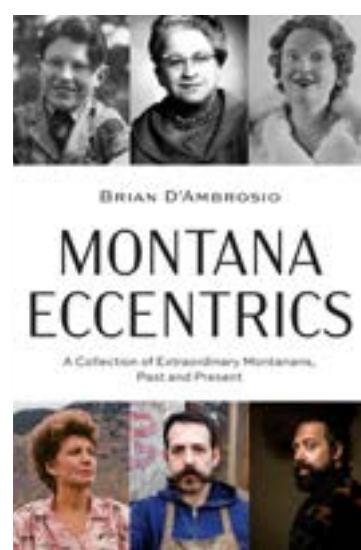
Leaving the house in the morning  
with only \$1 and no packed lunch,  
I wondered how the day would play out ...  
and then the universe provided  
a surprise gift card for coffee and cookies,  
then a soda, then pizza for lunch,  
elk meat nachos in the evening,  
and finally late dinner and drinks  
bestowed by a generous employer.

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One thing about living  
paycheck to paycheck  
is that it feels like Christmas  
comes every other Friday.

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Montana Eccentrics

by Brian D’ Ambrosio

The unusual lives of 41 unique Montanans are profiled in *Montana Eccentrics: A Collection of Extraordinary Montanans, Past & Present*. The characters range from the world famous to the almost unknown, from opera singers to saddle makers, and from world-changing inventors to comic innovators. Many names are familiar to Montanans, but many of these eccentrics have never before been profiled. Even Montanans who are well versed in Montana history will be surprised by some of the remarkable characters who sprang from the state and by the exceptional, little-known free spirits who still live here.

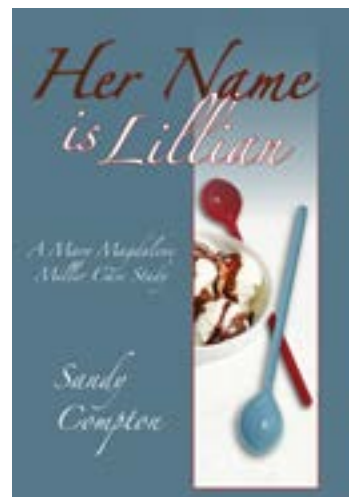


Doughboys, Rumrunners and Bootleggers

by Gary Montgomery

It was spring 1918, and naïve Montana country boys joined the army as the Great War in Europe raged on. Initially seen as an opportunity for a grand

adventure, most were somehow transformed by the rigors of war. Upon returning home they discovered a new amendment to the Constitution that forbade the use of alcohol. It was the first time in American history that rights were taken away rather than secured by the Constitution. Few proponents of Prohibition stopped to consider the myriad employment opportunities the new law would engender for both law enforcement and scofflaws. A new generation of young people ushered in the Roaring Twenties. There would be no going back.



Her Name Is Lillian

by Sandy Compton

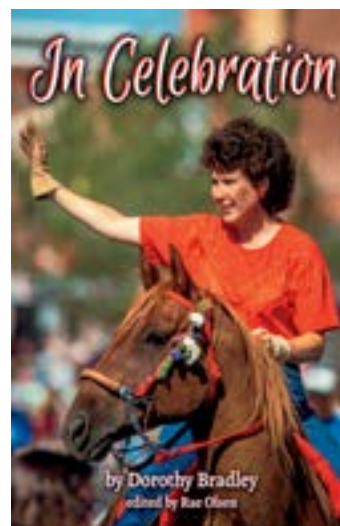
Dr. Mary Magdalene Miller, M.D., the self-named narrator of this series, is falling in love with two people at the same time. One is the “smart dog,” an architect who may or may not be wooing her. It’s hard to tell, sometimes. The other is Lillian, a beautiful 15-year-old anorexic girl intent on starving herself to invisibility. Lillian’s parents have charged Dr. Miller with saving her life, and the doctor has concluded that maybe the only way that can be done is to get Lillian away from her parents. As a psychiatrist, Dr. Miller believes in miracles. They are the only thing she can attribute to some of her successes as a therapist. At the narrator of *Her Name is Lillian*, the third of her “case studies,” she finds herself hoping for such as she faces some of the most difficult decisions of her life.



The Grandest Thing of All and Other Grandma Tweetie Stories

by Patricia “Tweetie” Elliott and Steph Lehmann

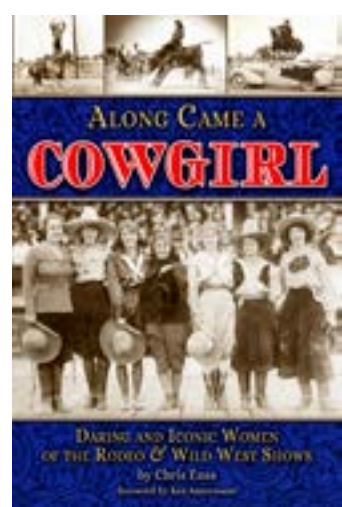
Grandparents and Grandchildren Are the Grandest Thing of All! Grandma Tweetie and Grandpa Pops take the grandchildren on many grand adventures and share many memories. Come join them as they meet Charlie the Chickadee, play at the dog park, and learn about the grandest things in life.



In Celebration

by Dorothy Bradley

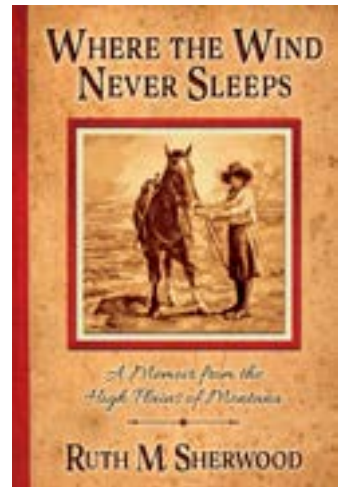
Dorothy Bradley’s lifelong commitment to Love, Learning, Beauty, Hope, and Heart is infused throughout this collection of short essays and reminiscences in her book, *In Celebration*.



Along Came a Cowgirl: Daring and Iconic Women of Rodeos and Wild West Shows

by Chris Enss

In *Along Came a Cowgirl: Daring and Iconic Women of Rodeos and Wild West Shows*, New York Times best-selling author Chris Enss introduces you to the world of early rodeo and to the stories of the women whose names resounded in rodeo arenas across the nation in the early twentieth century. These cowgirls dared to break society’s traditional roles in the male dominated rodeo and trick riding world, defying all expectations. With the desire to entertain crowds and a lot of grit and determination, they were able to saddle up and follow their dreams.



Where the Wind Never Sleeps: A Memoir of the High Plains of Montana

by Ruth Sherwood

The life of a homesteading family in Northeastern Montana is vividly captured in this poignant and revealing memoir. Never shrinking from the reality of



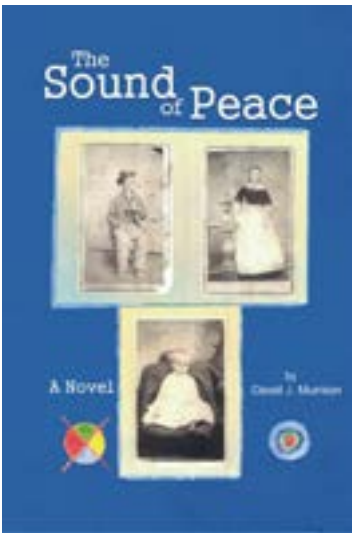
hardships faced and tragedies overcome, the story of Ruth Sherwood’s family and their Montana experience includes an extraordinary cast of characters and more than one mystery.

A blizzard howled across Montana’s high plains, down the Milk River Valley, and into the small railroad town of Hinsdale the day Ruth Sherwood was born there in 1940. Much of Ruth’s childhood was spent on farms along the Milk River near Hinsdale and Glasgow, Montana. Ruth grew up with rich stories of homesteading from her parents and family friends who her parents had known when homesteading in northern Valley County, Montana.



**Jim Wilson, Oldest Man In America**  
by John Holbrook

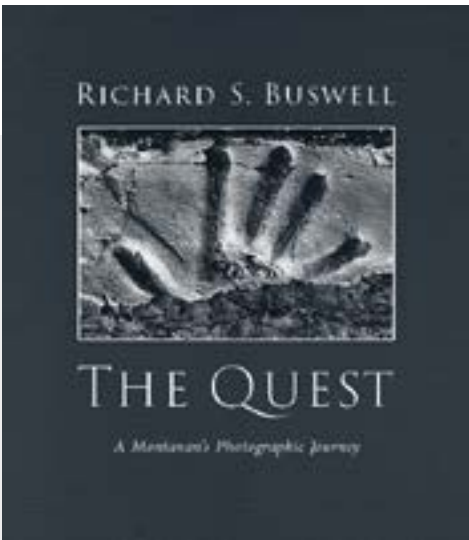
John Holbrook’s second FootHills release. 92 page hand-stitched book with spine. John Holbrook is a narrative poet, and the stories he offers in *Jim Wilson, Oldest Man in America* illuminate both the beauties and difficulties of landscape and the practical and moral dilemmas of the humans who inhabit them.  
—BJ Buckley, author of *In January, the Geese*, *Comstock Review’s 35th Anniversary Poetry Chapbook*



**The Sound of Peace**  
by David J. Murnion

*The Sound of Peace* is the saga of two dynamic Quaker families immigrating to Central Montana in 1879, where nothing resembling European civilization exists except one abandoned fort and one trading post operated by two men of questionable reputation. From 1879-1884, everything changes: There are three gold strikes in three nearby island mountain ranges, two huge open-range cattle companies who resent homesteaders, at least five small towns within a 50-mile radius, road agents, and vigilantes. For the two Quaker families, made up of unique individuals, it is not always possible to maintain their peaceful lifestyle.

David J. Murnion was born in the territory of Alaska and moved to Eastern Montana at the age of eight, whereupon his family assumed management of his grandparents’ 76-square-mile sheep, cattle, and horse ranch, where his father was born.



## Buswell Photos on Display at the Myrna Loy

Celebrate Richard S. Buswell’s new book *The Quest: A Montanan’s Photographic Journey* at the Myrna Loy.

The book showcases the Helena physician and photographer’s black and white images, which he created during more than half a century of visiting Montana’s ghost towns. His remarkable work is held in more than 200 museums, nationally and internationally, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Library of Congress.

Most recently, the Montana Historical Society acquired Buswell’s complete oeuvre as part of its permanent collections. The state agency also partnered with the University of Montana Press for the book.

**“Dr. Buswell has created images of some of the most haunting relics of Montana’s settler period,”** noted Diana Di Stefano, publications manager for the Montana Historical Society. **“We are honored and delighted to work with him on this spectacular book.”**

**In conjunction with the book release, the Jailhouse Gallery at the Myrna Loy is displaying his art from Oct. 10-29 at 15 No. Ewing St. in Helena.**

Contact Di Stefano at [diana.distefano@mt.gov](mailto:diana.distefano@mt.gov) or 406/444-0090 for more information.





Art directed by John Sullivan.

## Bartering Artists: Then & Now

by Tracy Sullivan

**Long ago, in the ancient world, bartering was a way of life.**

Mesopotamia tribes introduced this age-old practice, and the Phoenicians carried it forward, trading goods with distant cities across vast oceans. Babylonians refined the bartering system, exchanging a variety of goods like food, tea, weapons, spices, and even the valuable commodity of salt. Romans valued salt so highly that they even used it to pay their soldiers. Native Americans of the Plains traded amongst themselves for thousands of years, while flint points from Texas quarries made their way to eastern New Mexico, and stone from the Obsidian Cliffs in Montana, near Yellowstone Park journeyed to the Ohio River Valley.

As time went on, Europeans ventured across the globe during the Middle Ages, bartering crafts and furs for coveted silks and perfumes. Even colonial Americans relied on bartering, exchanging goods like musket balls, deer skins, and wheat. The Great Depression in the 1930s brought about a resurgence of bartering, as people turned to it to obtain food and services when money was scarce.

**Bartering, however, did not fade away with the invention of money.**

Instead, it adapted and became more organized. Today, bartering has reemerged with technological advancements, such as the internet, enabling global exchanges through online auctions and swap markets.

**But how does all of this tie in with art?** Well, artists throughout history have also embraced the barter system. Even in ancient times, humans exchanged creative works with one another, perhaps with something as artistic as a woven basket traded for quillwork moccasins. In the

Renaissance era, notable trades in art occurred, such as when Raphael gifted Albrecht Dürer a drawing in red chalk titled *"Studies for Three Standing Men."* This artwork, now proudly displayed at Vienna's Albertina Museum, bears an inscription by Dürer detailing its unique history of ownership.

In the world of art, there have been fascinating tales of bartering between artists and others.

For instance, the legendary Picasso once settled his restaurant bills by offering his famed canvas *"Au Lapin Agile"* in 1905. It's worth mentioning that this artwork later sold for a staggering \$40 million (in retrospect perhaps Picasso might have regretted parting with it). Another notable artist, Salvador Dalí, had a peculiar habit of paying bills with personal checks adorned with his doodles, knowing that they would likely never be cashed. As a token of his appreciation for treatment, he even gifted his dermatologist several artworks.

Taking the concept of art as a trade to the extreme, Edward Kienholz devised the *"Barter Show"* in 1969 at Los Angeles's Eugenia Butler Gallery. He stamped specially designed paper rectangles with varied amounts of money or objects, emphasizing the seemingly arbitrary



valuation of art. Some of the stamped items included a fur coat, ten screwdrivers, or even a specific dollar amount.

**In Montana, bartering art has a rich tradition.** The renowned Charlie Russell, during the early stages of his self-taught painting career, would trade his pictures at local saloons and brothels. And residents of Livingston still recall how Russell Chatham bartered his canvases for necessary services. If you explore the town, you may stumble upon his artwork in the most unexpected places.

Another fascinating anecdote involves Rudy Autio, who faced uncertainty after graduation with no job prospects. Driven by desperation, he went door to door in Bozeman, offering to draw portraits, and even painted the Burger Inn for his friend Pete, presumably exchanging his artwork for a delicious hamburger meal or two. These captivating stories illustrate the intriguing and sometimes unorthodox nature of the art world.

In an interview about the life and success of modernist artists in Montana, Michele Corriel, author of *Montana Modernists: Shifting Perceptions of Western Art*, shared fascinating insights. She revealed that these artists seldom sold their work; instead, they traded amongst themselves. However, there was one person who purchased modernist art in Montana: Miriam Sample. She established a foundation that acquired artwork and donated it to state museums, ensuring the presence of outstanding Montana art in their collections. Sample's support was instrumental in the survival of some artists.

Interestingly, artists bartering with each other went beyond mere transactions. It created a strong sense of community and provided essential support. As Corriel observed, this bond extended to artists, dancers, poets, writers, playwrights, musicians, and more. A robust art community is vital for artists' existence, a timeless lesson for every generation.

This informal system of exchange among creative individuals has existed for a long time, born out of mutual admiration, camaraderie, and sometimes, a complex mix of emotions.

Pablo Picasso traded artwork with his great frenemy Henri Matisse; Paul Gauguin with Vincent van Gogh. Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky, close friends, exchanged small paintings as birthday and Christmas gifts. Russell Chatham, both a writer enthusiast and a friend to poets and writers, had his artwork grace the book covers of acclaimed authors like Jim Harrison, Rick Bass, and Tom McGuane. In return, Jim Harrison provided essays for Chatham's book *One Hundred Paintings*.

**However, swapping artwork, even among the dearest of friends, can be challenging.** Egos come into play, as does the fear of rejection. Logistical concerns, such as transportation and storage, also arise when the middleman is eliminated. The rules of engagement become fluid, sometimes unsettling, given the high stakes of the commercial art market. After all, who can predict the future value of artwork?

As Gertrude Stein famously said, "works of art are either priceless or worthless."

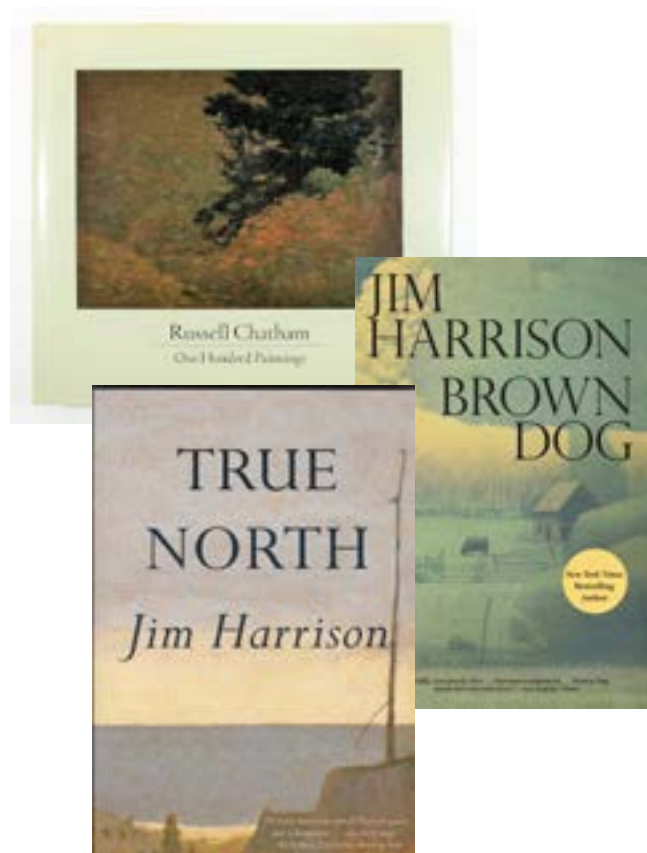
One of my favorite stories of an awkward exchange involves the iconic musician Bob Dylan and the extraordinary artist Andy Warhol. Back in 1966, Dylan visited Warhol's Factory studio and sat for a screen test.

Star-struck by Dylan, Warhol offered him a painting—a remarkable 1963 silk-screened portrait of Elvis Presley. Dylan graciously accepted the gift, but there was a small problem—fitting the massive seven-foot-long canvas into his station wagon! With the help of a friend, they managed to secure it to the roof of the car. What happened next is both fascinating and unexpected. Dylan later confessed that he had given the painting to his manager in exchange for a sofa! Little did Warhol or Dylan know that the painting would ultimately find its way to the renowned Museum of Modern Art in New York.

**In a world where the art industry has become increasingly cutthroat and driven by exorbitant prices, the age-old tradition of trading art remains resilient.** It serves as a testament to the fact that artists, more than anyone else, truly understand the value of art beyond mere monetary worth. Artists

select pieces based on their sensibility and sentiment, their personal connection with the work. Bartering offers a unique and empowering alternative to the conventional business-driven art market. It allows artists to assert their independence and choose art for the pure love and meaning it brings to their lives. Not only does this practice continue among young artists, but it also represents an exhilarating anticapitalist gesture in the art world.

**While the value of art will forever remain subjective, the power of bartering—for survival, respect, or camaraderie—seems to hold a promising future.**





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# The Intersection of *Fine* ART & Commercial

The Main Streets of Montana hold a special charm with their delightful array of art galleries that cater to the diverse set of residents and visitors from all walks of life.

**These galleries exhibit an impressive fusion of both fine art displayed within their walls and captivating commercial art that adorns the buildings to create a distinctive brand and visual experience on the very buildings that house these fine art galleries.**

Step inside these fine art galleries and be transported into a world where creativity knows no bounds. The striking logos and creative signage outside hint at the visual treats that await inside. It's not just the art works on display that captivate visitors, it's the intricate interior design of these galleries that adds an extra touch of elegance and sophistication.

The artworks showcased in these galleries beautifully reflect the rich culture and history of this vibrant state. From landscapes that capture the breathtaking beauty of Montana's mountains and rivers to abstract pieces that push the boundaries of artistic expression, there is something to pique the interest of every visitor. The talent and skill of both commercial artists and fine artists shine through their creations, resulting in masterpieces that leave visitors intrigued and inspired.

As you stroll through the streets adorned with these art galleries, it feels like stepping into a curated art exhibition. Each gallery you come across tells a unique story, showcasing the incredible diversity and versatility of art in Montana. The dedication and passion of the artists is evident as they blend their individual styles and techniques to create works that effortlessly captivate art enthusiasts and casual onlookers alike.

Indulging in a tour of these art-filled streets is an experience every Montanan and tourist should embrace while exploring Montana. It not only offers a visual feast for the eyes but also provides an opportunity to immerse oneself in the vibrant art scene of this treasure state. Discover hidden gems tucked away in alleyways, engage in conversations with local artists, and let the atmosphere of creativity and inspiration envelop you as you navigate the Main Streets of Montana.



The Main Streets of Montana stand as a testament to the power of art in capturing the heart and soul of a place. The art galleries that line these streets serve as gateways to the expression of Montana's rich artistic heritage. From the skillfully crafted pieces to the profound stories they tell, these galleries are sure to leave a lasting impression on anyone who chooses to explore them. So, take a step into this artistic wonderland and let the Main Streets of Montana embrace you in their magic.



# Hidden Treasure in Montana

Story and photos by Jeffrey Conger

## Yellowstone Hat Company

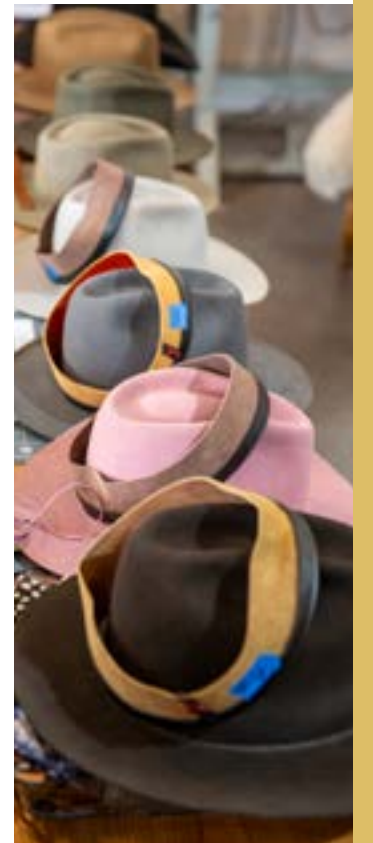
**It is a wild west dream come true!** What started as a passion has transformed into a business in Paradise Valley. The Yellowstone Hat Company is a family-operated business dedicated to making hats to make you look and feel your best. It has a real treasure state spirit, established in 2020 by Russ Fry and Susan Byerly.

**All hats are 100% handmade.** Starting as a blank, each hat is dyed and then customized to develop a character or personality. They are often distressed to the point of authenticity. Looking around their warehouse studio, previously owned by the famous painter Russell Chatham, it's easy to see the spirit of the West piled in each corner as inspiration for the custom creations.

**Most hats fall into a couple of basic categories** that are defined by their shape, crease, color, headband, and decoration. Each one-of-a-kind original comes with its own distinctive name, like Starry Night, Dusty Blue, Red Rocks, John D., Good Times Charlie, Brown Betty, Missy, and Boss Man.

**In addition to their beautiful retail shop** and warehouse studio, you can find Yellowstone Hat Co. at Lone Mountain Ranch, pop-up outdoor events like the classic Big Sky PBR Rodeo, the Livingston Art Walk, and several charity events.

**So, the next time you are in downtown Livingston,** make it a point to visit Yellowstone Hat Co. at 115 East Callender Street. They are open weekly, Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 am to 6 pm. For more information, call 406 580-5979 or check them out online at [yellowstonehatco.com](https://yellowstonehatco.com) and on social media.



The Yellowstone Hat Company a retail shop in Livingston features unique hand-crafted hats, clothes, jewelry, accessories, and art. It is family-owned and operated by Russ Fry, Susan Byerly, and their daughter, Charlie.





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# Arts Learning



The Fall 2023 MAP cohort, meeting at Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art in Great Falls, with coach Liz Chappie-Zoller at far right.

## Putting Montana’s Arts Economy On the MAP

Story and Photos by Monica Grable and Eric Heidle

Most artists don’t become artists because they dream of careers in business. But as the passion artists bring to their work leads to recognition and success, the desire for that passion to become a full-time job means having the skills to market and sell their work.

**To that end the Arts Council’s Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP) has been serving individual artists’ professional development needs for nearly 15 years, with more than 500 artists taking part in this unique business development program to date. Put simply, MAP helps artists identify and connect with customers who’ll love and support their work.**

Helping artists become nimble navigators of social media, business basics, networking, and more means developing the flexibility to turn challenges into opportunities. And in the process of designing this fall’s MAP workshops we faced a challenge of our own: the venue we’d chosen to host this year’s classes suddenly became unavailable. Realizing that no single location would now be ideal, we instead chose four new venues in four Montana cities—a move that’s opened up new possibilities for inspiration and exposure to some of the best arts venues in the Big Sky. The Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art in Great Falls hosted the cohort’s first workshop weekend, with working artist and Executive Director Sarah Justice sharing her own approach to the business





of art with our group as well as a visit to her studio on site.

A few hours south, our second MAP weekend was held at the Imagine Butte Resource Center (IBRC) providing time with artists Elizabeth Tritthart (a former MAP participant herself) whose weaving studio is housed in the IBRC, and printmaker BT Livermore, who manages the facility and works at their own studio in the building. October's workshop weekend took place at the Shane Lalani Center for the Arts in Livingston and the upcoming fourth workshop weekend will have participants spending time at two Helena arts institutions: the Holter Museum of Art and the Archie Bray Foundation, each of which will host an art business owner who'll share their experiences with the group.

**For an idea what MAP provides, it's best to let someone who's seen the program at first hand explain. Kim Kapalka, Executive Director at the Carbon County Arts Guild & Depot Gallery, has this to say:**

"In fall of 2022, the Carbon County Arts Guild was fortunate to be a cohort location for the Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP). The group met at the Arts Guild one weekend a month from September through December 2022. It was great to witness how the group worked with the MAP coach Liz Chappie-Zoller to develop their careers at their own pace. Following the MAP program, the Red Lodge artist in the cohort, Pat Olding, met with one of our artists in the area, Shirle Wempner, to do a mentorship. Pat was very excited for the opportunity to learn from an established artist like Shirle and Pat thanked the Guild over and over for the referral.

"In addition, Pat decided to submit an exhibition proposal to the Carbon County Arts Guild & Depot Gallery to plan for a MAP cohort group show at the Guild. This will be a great opportunity for the artists from that 2022 cohort to share their work beyond their regular venues. And it is a great chance for the Arts Guild to feature work from other artists in Montana. We applaud Pat Olding for applying and working to advance her career in the arts beyond being a member at the Arts Guild."

**Everything MAP provides is evident in Kim's words:** a dedicated, energetic forum for learning and networking, refinement of vital business and marketing skills, ongoing mentorship and support beyond the MAP classroom, and the encouragement to think of new opportunities—and achieve them.

It's also why we're so excited to see what the class of 2023 will learn and achieve as they travel from site to site. Accepted into the fall of 2023 program are: Cheri Dyk of Bozeman, Tess Fahlgren of Glasgow, Meghan Hanson of Stevensville, Tina Larsen of Billings, Skye Bella Lindsay of Bozeman, Galen ("Mac") McCallister of Helena, Abby Morical of Missoula, Sara Orchard of Bozeman, Licia Lucas-Pfadt of Three Forks, Afton Ray-Rossol of Sidney, Sunday Dutro Sauter of Thompson Falls, and Luanne Waldow of Medicine Lake.

**The application cycle for the next MAP cohort will begin in late January and will be available via MAC's website at <https://art.mt.gov/map>.**

**To discuss the program further, contact** Monica Grable at 406.444.6522 or [Monica.Grable@mt.gov](mailto:Monica.Grable@mt.gov).







# Poetry Out Loud

## is in full swing for the 2023-24 program year!

*Hannah Ruth Davidson, Wica-ta-wi Hoksina Brown, and Isabelle Bennett, the top three finishers in Montana's 2023 state Poetry Out Loud finals.*

By Monica Grable

The competition at Poetry Out Loud may be fierce, but it's always more verses than versus.

**That's because throughout the renowned poetry recitation contest's 19-year history,** it's been a contest where every student who participates learns a great deal about spoken-word literature while they're learning about themselves. Created and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Poetry Foundation, this remarkable program engages high school students in the art of poetry through performance of notable poets' work, both past and present.

**As one of 56 state and jurisdictional agencies involved, the Montana Arts Council has administered the Treasure State's program** since its inception and we're looking to expand participation statewide in the coming year. Students in grades 9 – 12 are invited to take part individually, with classmates, or club peers through educator-led activities.

**As a program, Poetry Out Loud is easy to implement and is supported through access to well-established resources, a 1200+ poem anthology, and personal coaching.** Annual program activities culminate in schoolwide or local recitation events and regional competitions, resulting in top finishers advancing to Montana's State Finals. From there, one student will go on to represent our state at the national Poetry Out Loud Finals in Washington D.C., with the chance to become the National Champion and receive a top prize of \$20,000. In fact, Montana's current state champion, Wica-ta-wi Hoksina Brown of Polson, finished among the top nine competitors at Nationals earlier this year.

### Why participate in Poetry Out Loud?

Through participation in POL, students build self-confidence, gain fluency in poetry and spoken word performance, develop and hone public speaking skills while discovering their unique voices, meet and celebrate peers from around the state and potentially nationwide, and compete to win monetary prizes and poetry books for their school.

#### This year's key program dates are:

October 1 – 31	School and participant recruitment
November 1 – 30	Students engaged with poetry – individually and/ or within class curriculum
December 4 – 14	Classroom or club competitions held
December 15	Schools' deadline to register for Regional events
January 8 – 26	Schoolwide competitions held
January 29	Student registration deadline for Regional events
February 6 – 15	Regional events held (TBD)
March 1 & 2	State Finals take place in Helena

**To access program materials, visit** <https://art.mt.gov/pol>. For further information or to discuss participating, please contact Monica Grable at (406) 444-6522 or [Monica.Grable@mt.gov](mailto:Monica.Grable@mt.gov).

## Meet MAC's New Poetry Out Loud Outreach Coordinator!



Montana Poetry Out Loud Outreach Coordinator, Paige Ferro.

Paige Ferro began her role as POL Outreach Coordinator on October 2, 2023, and hit the ground running with a wealth of ideas and strategies to broaden our program reach. Formerly a program coordinator at the Deschutes Public Library in Bend, Oregon where she spearheaded "A Novel Idea," the largest and most successful community-wide reading program in the state, Paige has held multiple literary positions in the Northwest and is also currently serving Helena College as its Academic Administrative Coordinator. Paige holds a BA in English Literature and Creative Writing and an MA in English; her enthusiasm for this work and her dedication to increasing involvement in Poetry Out Loud across Montana is already an asset to the program. To contact Paige, send an email to [poetryoutloud@mt.gov](mailto:poetryoutloud@mt.gov).

## Montana Teaching Artists Invited to Join Community of Practice

**A professional teaching artist is an artist-educator, able to translate their creative process into an instructional setting.** Nationally recognized teaching artist and author Eric Booth developed the following definition: "A teaching artist is a practicing professional artist with the complementary skills and sensibilities of an educator, who engages people in learning experiences in, through and about the arts." Teaching artists represent all disciplines including theatre, dance, literary arts, media arts, music, visual arts, folk and traditional arts, and multidisciplinary arts.



To better serve the needs of those artists sharing their knowledge with learners of all ages, the Montana Arts Council has recently launched its first-ever Montana Teaching Artist Community of Practice. Designed to bring together teaching artists from across disciplines and across the state to “talk shop,” share interests and introspections, explore collaborations, and learn more about the work taking place in our state and nationally, the Community of Practice will continue to evolve over the months and years ahead, welcoming new members at any time.

**Partnering in the development of this emerging community** with Monica Grable, MAC’s Arts Education Director, is the accomplished poet and veteran teaching artist BJ Buckley, a Montana representative of the

national professional organization supporting teaching artists, Teaching Artist Guild (TAG). Together they lead the group through discussion topics and resource sharing, beginning first and foremost with ample opportunity to learn about one another’s work.

**2023-24 meetings are currently scheduled** for the first Wednesday of each month, with upcoming meetings taking place on November 1 and December 6; no January meeting scheduled at this time. Plans for an in-person gathering in the late spring is beginning to take shape. To join the community, reach out to Monica Grable at (406) 444-6522 or [Monica.Grable@mt.gov](mailto:Monica.Grable@mt.gov) for further information and to receive a Zoom meeting link.



# Artists in Schools and Communities Grants Fund Arts Learning Activities for All Ages

**For many Montanans,** the arts may seem like they’re “for someone else,” whether that means creating art of one’s own or enjoying art made by others. Social, cultural, and economic factors can serve as barriers to participation in the arts, and overcoming them means bringing art to where people are. For more than five decades, the Arts Council’s Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant programs have done just that: supporting the development and growth of arts learning programs across a spectrum of arts disciplines, ages, settings, and intended learning outcomes. Over time AISC’s programs and processes have evolved to adapt to our communities’ needs, but their focus remains at the forefront: access to arts learning experiences which have transformative potential for all Montanans.

class with MSU Billings music faculty member John Roberts; the Bozeman Art Museum providing access to sequentially-designed process-oriented artmaking classes; and Cohesion Dance in Helena which has engaged older adult learners in movement classes that recall dance styles they grew up loving.

Across all of our Artists in Schools and Communities grant programs, two primary processes are offered: AISC Residencies grants centered around in-depth, hands-on learning led by professional teaching artists, and the AISC Experiences grants which recognize that arts learning takes countless forms, including one-time experiences with art and artists, experimentation with new arts media and methods, and travel support to make an experience possible.

One recent example of AISC’s evolving response to Montana’s needs is our development of a Creative Aging program. Building on nationwide efforts to provide high-caliber arts learning opportunities to adult learners roughly age 60 and over, establishing a creative aging program has become an agency priority to address the shortfall of such opportunities in Montana’s arts learning landscape. Over the past two years organizations interested in providing in-depth, sequential arts learning opportunities to the benefit of older adult learners have been encouraged to apply for support. Among those organizations taking the lead across the state are Tumblewheel Studios, providing a series of visual art classes across art media to residents of Carbon County;

St. John’s United of Billings engaging its residents in an Afro-Latin rhythm instrumental



A participant at a Bozeman Art Museum AISC-funded visual art class creates a portrait.

In both cases, AISC grants are awarded only to non-profit arts or community-based organizations to ensure dedicated community involvement. AISC Residencies grant awards range between \$2500 and \$10,000 and require a 1:1 match (or 2:1 match for new grantee organizations or for Class C or Tribal schools) while AISC Experiences awards range between \$250 and \$2500 and do not require a match.

**The next deadline for that grant process is December 14, 2023 at 5 PM.** Those considering applying to that round are encouraged to schedule a conversation about their project with Monica Grable, MAC’s Arts Education Director, by email to [Monica.Grable@mt.gov](mailto:Monica.Grable@mt.gov).

**New grant guidelines for 2024** will be posted to MAC’s website in early January to include the annual Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) Residencies grant opportunity, due mid-March, and a spring cycle of the AISC Experiences process. Organizations may receive up to one of each type of AISC grant per calendar year.

Further information and guidelines are available on MAC’s website at <https://art.mt.gov/aisc>.





Science Women participating in the 2023 University of Montana Homecoming Parade

# The Science of **Advocacy and Arts**

Creativity, freedom of expression, commerce, the First Amendment, the very pursuit of happiness—they’re bedrock principles of what it means to be an American, and a Montanan. From the campaign signs in our yards to the bumper stickers on our vehicles to the t-shirts we wear, creative expression often mingles with plain old creativity. These expressions of free expression often advocate for the value of the arts themselves, sometimes for the point of view of an individual, and sometimes for communities at large.

**Take Arlee artist Leslie Van Stavern Millar, for example.** In the 1990s, Millar created Science Woman, a performance art persona, to appear at the Missoula Art Museum’s annual art auction and remind MAM members of the special benefits of supporting the arts. Science Woman then went statewide over the next decade by traveling as a speaker for Humanities Montana, where she presented Montanarama, a slideshow and lecture touting our state’s unique qualities. In 1993 Science Woman began marching in the Arlee, July 4th parade and Missoula’s Day of the Dead and Wildwalk Parades. In each of these instances she used the humor of her brand of performance art to draw attention to issues of particular importance to her, most frequently on subjects of environmental preservation.

**Millar’s most recent advocacy** involved recruiting a team of Science Women from the regional art community and local residents to march in this year’s 4th of July parade to express their concerns about a proposed 157-acre gravel pit and asphalt plant planned for operation on rural farmland near the Garden of One Thousand Buddhas at the base of the Mission Mountains. For Millar, it was notable that “over half of the marchers in July were from the larger Montana art community, broadly reflecting its inherent prioritization of issues affecting quality of life and the environment...Science Woman is grateful for the generous spirit of her marching team who volunteer their energy, time and enthusiasm for the greater good.”

**In just a few years, Montana has witnessed rapid change** unlike anything comparable in recent memory, and balancing our existing way of life and Montana’s cherished landscape against new economic ventures created in response to the state’s rapid growth has become an ongoing conversation that’s not going away soon. Does dressing in lab coats and marching in parades change any minds in that conversation?

Millar, for her part, reports that the march was well-received, and based on the experience made plans for another, this time for a larger audience at this year’s University of Montana homecoming parade. The desires of the various interested parties—the developers, the businesses who could benefit, the residents affected by the development, and the general public—are part of the conversation, too. Arts and the economy, after all, interact in more ways than one, and advocacy can be a reward of its own in service of a larger idea, even if not everyone agrees.
















































Missoula 1996 Day of the Dead Parade, Honoring the memory of loved ones. Photo by Marcy James for the Missoula Independent Newspaper



Billings						
Alberta Bair Theator	🎵	Straight No Chaser “Sleighin It Tour”	October 21	7:30 PM	albertabairtheater.org	\$45+
	🎭	World Ballet Series: Cinderella	October 22	3:00 PM & 7:30 PM		\$28+
	🎭	Pamyua	October 24	9:30 AM & 12:30 PM		\$6
	🎵	Three Dog Night	October 27	7:30 PM		\$45.50+
	🎭	Pete the Cat in Pete’s Big Hollywood Adventure	October 30	9:30 AM & 12:30 PM		\$6
	🎵	Ruben Studdard & Clay Aiken Twenty	November 1	7:30 PM		\$45+
	🎵	A Rhythm and Blues Battle Royale	November 4	7:30 PM		\$22.50+
	🎵	Dirty Dancing in Concert	November 10	8:00 PM		\$42+
	🎵	John Pizzarelli Trio: Stage and Screen	November 11	7:30 PM		\$27+
	🎵	Ryan Adams	November 15	7:30 PM		\$49+
	🎵	Billings Symphony ‘The Nutcracker Ballet’	November 25-26	2:00 PM & 7:00 PM		\$20+
	🎭	Jesus Christ Superstar	November 29	7:30 PM		\$72+
	🎭	The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System	December 4	9:30 AM & 12:30 PM		\$6
	🎵	Mark O’Connor’s “An Appalachian Christmas”	December 9	7:30 PM		\$22.50+
	🎵	Billings Symphony ‘Christmas on Broadway’	December 16	10:30 AM & 7:30 PM		\$20+
	🎵	Billings Community Band - Winter 2023	December 17	3:00 PM		\$5+
Billings Metrapark	🎵	Jon Pardi	November 4	7:00 PM	metrapark.com	\$39+
	🎵	Skillet & Theory of a Deadman	November 7	7:00 PM		\$40+
	🎵	Mannheim Steamroller	November 17	7:30 PM		\$38+
Yellowstone Art Museum	🖼️	Will James in Magazines	July 6 - Jun 1, 2024	Daily	artmuseum.org	\$6+
	🖼️	Art Evolved: Intertwined	Jun 30-Oct 22	Daily		\$6+
	🖼️	Not out of the Woods: Woodcuts by Gesine Janzen	Oct 19 - Jan 28, 2024	Daily		\$6+
Downtown Billings	🖼️	Art Walk Downtown Billings	October 6	5:00 PM	artwalkbillings.com/	Free
	🖼️	Art Walk Downtown Billings	December 1	5:00 PM		Free
The Pub Station	🎵	Reverend Payton’s Big Damn Band	October 17	8:00 PM		\$17
	🎵	Spafford	October 19	8:00 PM		\$20
	🎵	Martin Sexton	October 20	8:00 PM		\$35
	🎵	Hallowscream 2023 Featuring Trapt	October 31	8:00 PM		\$20
	🎵	The Lacs	November 2	8:00 PM		\$29.50
	🎵	Switchfoot - The Beautiful Letdown 20th Anniversary Tour	November 3	8:00 PM		\$35+
	🎵	Cooper Alan	November 4	8:00 PM		\$29.50
	🎵	Black Stone Cherry/Giovannie and the Hired Guns	November 7	8:00 PM		\$29.50
	🎵	William Clark Gren	November 9	8:00 PM		\$15
	🎵	Chancey Williams	December 1	8:00 PM		\$20
Crooked Line Studio	🖼️	Open Art	October 20, 23, 27 & 30	10:00 AM or 6:00 PM	crookedlinestudio.com	\$8+
	🖼️	After School Art for Kids!	October 4 , 11, 18 & 25	2:45 PM		\$30+
	🖼️	Watercolor Wednesday w/ Dan Granger	October 4 , 11, 18 & 25	5:30 PM		\$8
	🖼️	Watercolor for the Absolute Beginner with Noel Hawke	October 5 , 12, 19 & 26	1:00 PM		\$225
	🖼️	Painting with Carolyn Thayer	October 5 , 9 & 16	6:00 PM		\$225
	🖼️	Friday Painters with Carolyn Thayer	October 6 , 13 & 20	1:00 PM		\$225
	🖼️	Mixed Media Meet Up	October 5, 12, 19 & 26	6:00 PM		\$10
	🖼️	Open Oil	October 6, 13, 20 & 27	1:00 PM		\$10
	🖼️	Barn Owl with Brittney Hernandez	October 11	10:00 AM		\$38
	🖼️	Abstract Grid Art with Brittney Hernandez	October 12 & 26	2:00 PM		\$25
	🖼️	Fall Bird in Watercolor with Jennifer Plumley	October 14 & 19	1:00 PM		\$38
	🖼️	Summer’s Salutation with Carley Haskell	October 14	6:00 PM		\$48
	🖼️	Explore GOLDEN: Fall Aspens with Brittney Hernandez	October 21	2:00 PM		\$55
	🖼️	Lupin Locs with Carley Haskell	October 21	6:00 PM		\$48
	🖼️	Quiet Creek with Brittney Hernandez	October 26	10:00 AM		\$38
NOVA Center for the Performing Arts	🎭	Orpheus and Eurydice	October 13-15, 20-22	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	novabillings.org	\$10+
	🎭	The Game’s Afoot	November 10-12, 17-19	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM		\$10+



Billings						
NOVA Center		A Christmas Carol Musical	December 7-10, 14-17	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM		\$10+
Big Sky						
BASE Community Center		Fall Art Classes	Sept 5-Dec 22	Various Times	bigskyarts.org	\$20+
Big Timber						
Sweet Grass Arts Theater		Ahn Trio	October 29	4:00 PM	montanachambermusicsociety.org	\$20
Bozeman						
Willson Auditorium		Bozeman Symphony Holiday Spectacular	December 15-17	7:30 PM & 2:30 PM		\$25+
The Emerson		Advice for Girls: An All-Women Ski Film	November 10	6:00 PM	theemerson.org	\$20
Museum of the Rockies		Unbridled Spirit: The Photography of Barbara Van Cleve	Sept 30-Dec 31	Daily	museumoftherockies.org	\$10.50+
The Ellen Theatre		You can't take it with you	October 20-29	3:00 PM & 7:30 PM		\$36
		Pecha Kucha 40	November 8 & 9	6:40 PM		\$9
		Admiral Radio & The Dirt Farmers	November 10	7:00 PM		\$29.75
		A Christmas Carol	December 8-22	7:30 PM		\$21.75+
Downtown Bozeman		Winter Art Walk	December 8	6:00 PM	downtownbozeman.org	Free
JLF Architects		WindSync - Intimate Evening	November 9	6:40 PM	montanachambermusicsociety.org	\$45
Reynolds Recital Hall, MSU		WindSync	November 10	7:30 PM		\$10+
Bozeman Art Museum		Himalaya	Sept 8-Dec 15	Daily	bozemanartmuseum.org	Free
The Elm		The Lil' Smokies	October 19	8:00 PM		\$25+
		Martin Sexton	October 21	8:00 PM		\$35+
		Reggie Watts	October 23	8:00 PM		\$45+
		Monophonics	October 26	8:00 PM		\$25+
		Apashe	October 27	8:00 PM		\$29.50+
		Henry Rollins	October 28	8:00 PM		\$35+
		Dead Sky	October 31	8:00 PM		\$25+
		Mersiv	November 2	8:00 PM		\$28+
		Atmosphere	November 3	8:00 PM		\$35+
		Patty Griffin	November 5	8:00 PM		\$47+
		The Brothers Comatose	November 7	8:00 PM		\$22+
		Pigeons Playing Ping Pong	November 8	7:30 PM		\$29.50+
		Slaughter to Prevail	November 9	8:00 PM		\$35+
		Cole & The Thornes	November 10	8:00 PM		\$20+
		Funksgiving 9	November 17	8:00 PM		\$22+
		The Last Revel	November 18	8:00 PM		\$25+
		Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs	December 8	8:00 PM		\$25+
		Portland Cello Project	December 9	8:00 PM		\$35+
		TJ Miller	December 16	8:00 PM		\$39+
Live from the Divide		Ross Cooper	October 21	8:00 PM		\$35+
		Darren Nicholson	October 25	8:00 PM		\$60+
Butte						
The Mother Lode Theatre		2023 Montana Outdoor Recreation Summit Film Festival	October 12	7:00 PM	buttearts.org/dirtydancing/	\$10
		Cinderella	October 24	7:00 PM		\$30+
		Yesterday Once More	October 26	7:30 PM		
		Butte Symphony: Ahn Trio & Beethoven's Triple Concerto	October 28	7:30 PM		\$15+
		Dirty Dancing	November 15	7:30 PM		\$52+
		Matilda the Musical	November 9-19	7:00 PM & 1:00 PM		\$10+
		Christmas in Killarney	November 29	7:00 PM		\$10+
		The Butte Symphony Series: Our Butte Holiday!	December 16	7:30 PM		\$15+
Darby						
Brigand Taphouse		Tom Catmull	October 28	6:00 PM	tomcatmull.com	Free
Deer Lodge						
Rialto Community Theatre		Comedian Mark Cordes	November 16	7:00 PM	deerlodgerialto.com	\$25



Deer Lodge

Rialto Community Theatre		Acrobats of Cirque	December 40	7:00 PM		\$25
		Stringfever Band from England	April 11	7:00 PM		\$25







Dillon

UM-Western Beier Auditorium		Holland and Coots Jazz Quintet	November 9	7:30 PM	facebook.com/dillonconcertassociation	\$6+
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Eureka

Lincoln County High School		Tom and Kalissa Landa	October 26	7:00 PM	sunburstarts.org	TBA
		Robin Layne and the Rhythm Makers	November 11	7:00 PM		TBA

Great Falls

The Historic Mansfield Theater		World Ballet Series: Cinderella	October 23	7:00 PM	greatfallsmt.net	\$27+
		Dirty Dancing in Concert	November 9	7:30 PM		\$48.75+
		Holland and Coots Jazz Quintet	November 10	7:30 PM		\$15+
		Napoleon Dynamite LIVE!	November 13	8:00 PM & 3:00 PM		\$36.50
		Nutcracker! A Magical Christmas Ballet	November 22	7:00 PM		\$32+
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art		Curator’s Lecture: An Artist in the Time of Love and War	October 20	5:30 PM	the-square.org/events	Free
		Art of Christmas Holiday Open House & Artist Market	December 1 & 2	Daily		TBA
Montana Expo Park		Harvest Howl	November 3	5:30 PM	harvesthowl.com/	\$450+
The Newberry		Reggie Watts	October 27	7:30 PM		\$39.60+
		Henry Rollins	October 30	8:15 PM		\$34.20+
		Trapt	November 1	7:30 PM		\$43.20+
		The Lac’s-Party from the South Tour	November 3	7:30 PM		\$31.50+
		Frank Ray	November 9	7:30 PM		\$21.60+
		Joan Osborne	November 12	7:30 PM		\$36+
		Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs	November 22	7:30 PM		\$22.50+
		Crash Test Dummies	December 5	7:30 PM		\$31.50+
		Mark Wills	December 6	7:30 PM		\$45+
		TJ Miller	December 17	8:00 PM		\$36+
		Taylor’s Version, A Taylor Swift Dance Party	December 31	9:00 PM		\$24.30+

Hamilton

Ravalli County Museum		Victorian Christmas Stroll	December 7	6:30 PM		Free
Hamilton Performing Arts Center		Suzy Bogguss	November 4	8:00 PM		\$45+
Mary Rogers Performing Arts Center		Missoula Symphony Orchestra	December 16	8:00 PM		\$45+

Havre

Montana Actors’ Theatre		Lend me a Tenor	October 6-7, 12-14 & 19-21	8:00 PM	mtactors.com	\$10+
		Newsies	November 16-18 & 23-25	8:00 PM		\$10+
		Puss In Boots Christmas Pantomime	December 8-10, 14-17 & 21-24	8:00 PM		\$10+

Helena

Montana Wild - FWP		Andy White, Oils: Developing Your Creative Process	Sept 30 & Oct 1	8:00 AM	Call 406-431-6253 to register	\$200+
Archie Bray Foundation		Adult Continuing Education Classes	Sept 25-Nov 17	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM		\$275
		Intro to Pottery	Sept 26-Nov 14	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM		\$275
		Introduction to Hand Building	Sept 27-Nov 15	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM		\$275
		Glazed and Confused	Sept 29-Nov 17	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM		\$275
Helena Civic Center		Little Texas	October 25	7:00 PM		\$43+
		J Swizz Presents Jimmy Failla Live	October 27	8:00 PM		\$42.50+
		Big Sky Shows Autumn Arts & Crafts Show	October 28	9:00 AM		\$5
		Euphoria 500! Halloween	October 31	6:00 PM		\$25+
		Holiday Gift Shows	November 4 & 11	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM		\$4+
The Holter Musuem of Art		The Art Center	Sept 22-Oct 20	Daily	holtermuseum.org	Free
		Broad Spectrum	Oct 6-Dec 31	Daily		Free
		Quilt National 2023	Nov 3-Dec 31	Daily		Free
Grandstreet Theatre		Misery	October 6-22	7:30 PM & 2:30 PM	grandstreettheatre.com	\$17+
		The Wizard of OZ - Youth Addition	December 1-17	7:30 PM & 2:30 PM		\$17+
		A Christmas Carol	December 19-23	7:30 PM & 2:30 PM		\$17+




Kalispell

Wachholz College Center		Straight No Chaser “Sleighin It Tour”	October 20	8:00 PM		\$86.90+
		Three Dog Night	October 26	7:00 PM		\$52+
		Spain Flamenco Arts: “Lo Preciso”	October 29	4:00 PM		\$37.40+
		Eli “Paperboy” Reed vs. The Harlem Gospel Travelers	November 2	7:30 PM		\$44+
		An Evening with Mike Murray	November 3	8:00 PM		\$27.50+
		Glacier Symphony Chorale: Mystic Dreams	November 4	7:30 PM		\$12+
		An Evening with Suzy Bogguss	November 5	5:00 PM		\$35.20+
		WCC Speaker Series: John Brennan	November 7	7:30 PM		\$54.78+
		WCC Speaker Series: Ami Vitale	November 14	7:30 PM		\$22+
		Glacier Symphony: Vision Spirit Land	November 18 & 19	7:30 PM		\$12+
		Mannheim Steamroller Christmas	November 21	7:30 PM		\$104.50+
		FVCC Ensembles Concert	November 30	7:00 PM		\$5+
		Glacier Symphony Chorale: Handel’s Messiah	December 2 & 3	7:30 PM & 3:00 PM		\$12+
		Glacier Symphony Orchestra & San Diego Ballet Nutcracker	December 9 & 10	2:00 PM, 7:00 PM & 1:00 PM		\$12+
		Tower of Power: Holiday & Hits	December 12	7:30 PM		\$61.60+
		WCC Speaker Series: John Lithgow	December 14	7:30 PM		\$54.78+
Hockaday Museum of Art		CoFlourish by Open A.I.R.	Sept 22-Dec 23	Daily	hockadaymuseum.com	Free
		Her Stories, Her West	Sept 22-Dec 23	Daily		\$10
		Tessa Heck: Way Too Slow, Way Too Fast	Sept 29-Dec 23	Daily		\$10
























Livingston

The Dulcie Theatre		The Spongebob Musical	Oct 20-Nov 12	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM		\$11+
		Livingston Film Series: Greyhound	November 9	7:00 PM		Free
		Holiday Vaudeville 2023	December 8-17	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM		\$11+
		Livingston Film Series: The Polar Express	December 23	7:00 PM		Free








































Miles City

Waterworks Museum		The Odyssey of Montana’s Thomas F. Meagher	Oct 6-Nov 9	Daily	wtrworks.org	Free
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Missoula

Missoula Art Museum		After School Art Adventure Series 1, Fall	Sept 26-Nov 7	3:45 PM	missoulaartmuseum.org	\$63+
Radius Gallery		Contre/philia	Sept 15-Oct 26	Daily	radiusgallery.com	Free
		Sue Tirrell: Other Kingdoms	Sept 15-Oct 26	Daiy		Free
		Joseph Pintz: ICONCERAMICS	Sept 29-Oct 26	Daily		Free
		Selections from MATRIX PRESS	Sept 29-Oct 26	Daily		Free
		New Works buy Hadley Ferguson	October 6-26	Daily		Free
		10th Annual Holiday Show	Nov 3-Dec 30	Daily		Free
Draught Works		Tom Catmull	October 19	5:00 PM		Free
The Top Hat		Vicent Neil Emerson	October 18	9:00 PM		18+
		Martin Sexton	October 22	8:00 PM		\$35
		Desperate Electric	October 27	10:15 PM		Free
		The Brothers Comatose	November 8	8:30 PM		\$18+
		North Fork Crossing	November 11	10:15 PM		Free
		Ben Larson and the Grownass Men	December 1	10:15 PM		Free
		Jaden Decker	December 16	10:15 PM		Free
		Kitchen Dwellers - NYE’23	December 29	10:30 PM		\$131
The Wilma		The Mavericks	October 17	8:00 PM		\$45+
		Stoke Fest Film Festival	October 18	8:00 PM		\$15
		David Cross	October 19	8:00 PM		\$35+
		The Lil’ Smokies	October 20	8:00 PM		\$25+
		Reggie Watts	October 24	8:00 PM		\$30+
		Andy Grammer	October 25	8:00 PM		\$35+
		Henry Rollins	October 29	8:00 PM		\$30+



Missoula		Mersiv	October 31	8:00 PM		\$25+
		Atmosphere	November 2	8:00 PM		\$33+
		Patty Griffin	November 4	8:00 PM		\$42.50+
		Funksgiving 9	November 18	8:00 PM		\$20+
		Portland Cello Project	December 8	8:00 PM		\$28+
		TJ Miller	December 15	8:00 PM		\$30+
Missoula Community Theatre		Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein	October 19-29	2:00 PM, 6:30 PM & 7:30 PM	mctinc.org	\$20+
		Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer	Nov 30-Dec 17	2:00 PM, 6:30 PM & 7:30 PM		\$20+
George & Jane Dennison Theatre		Symphonic Variations	November 3 & 5	7:30 PM & 3:00 PM	missoulasympphony.org	\$19+
		Holiday Pops	December 1-3	7:30 PM & 3:00 PM		\$21+
Adams Center University of Montana		Missoula Holiday Made Fair	December 10	Daily	handmademontana.com	Free
Zootown Arts Community Center		Haunted Missoula Squares	October 20	7:00 PM		\$5+
		Goth Ball	October 21	8:00 PM		\$10
Missoula Arts Musuem		A few of our Favorite Things: Staff Selections	Jul 7-Nov 11	Daily	missoulaartmuseum.org	Free
		Make it Funky: Bay Area Influence on Missoula Ceramics	Jun 27-Dec 16	Daily		Free
		Joeann Daley: Montana Remembered	Oct 15-Dec 23	Daily		Free
University of Montana Theatre		The Legend of Sleepy Hollow	October 26-28	7:30 PM & 2:00 PM		\$10
		35MM: A Musical Exhibition	November 17-18	7:30 PM		\$10
		Dance Up Close	Nov 30-Dec 2	7:30 PM & 2:00 PM		\$16.50+
University of Montana Music Recital Hall		Musical Stars and String Serendes	November 19	4:00 PM	sormt.org	\$12+
Montana Theatre		Can't Drink Salt Water	November 19	4:00 PM	montanarep.com	TBA
Polson						
Polson High School		Pamyua - Inuit Music	October 28	7:00 PM	missionvalleylive.com	\$20
Ronan						
Ronan Performing Arts Center		Robin Layne and the Rhythm Makers	November 10	7:00 PM	missionvalleylive.com	\$20
Seeley Lake						
Seeley Lake Community Foundation		Author Christopher Preston reading from his new book	October 21	7 PM		FREE
Seeley-Swan High School Auditorium		Celebration of Life	October 29	3 PM		FREE
Bare Bat Dance at Westside Theatre		Bare Bait Dance Company's Nutcracker.	December 3	3 PM		FREE
Stevensville						
Stevensville Playhouse		The Butler	October 20-29	7:30 PM & 2:00 PM	stevensvilleplayhouse.org	\$12+
		The Season for Giving	December 8-17	7:30 PM & 2:00 PM		\$12+
Whitefish						
Whitefish Depot Park		Great Northwest Oktoberfest	Sept 28-30 & Oct 5-7	Daily	whitefishoktoberfest.com/	\$8
Whitefish Performing Arts		APT Kids: CATS	October 21-22	2:00 PM, 6:00 PM & 7:00 PM	atpwhitefish.org	\$10+
		The Rocky Horror Picture Show	October 27-29	8:00 PM		\$20+
		Yuletide Affair KIDS	December 1-3	7:00 PM		\$20
Downtown Whitefish		Yuletide Affair 20	December 20-22	7:00 PM		\$44+
Whitefish Theatre Co		Lost in Yonkers	October 12-15 & 19-21	7:30 PM & 4:00 PM	whitefishtheatreco.org/	\$10+
		Pamyua	October 27	7:30 PM		\$20+
		Admissions	November 11 & 12	7:30 PM		\$10+
		Albert Cummings	November 17	7:30 PM		\$20+
		A Christmas Carol: The Musical	December 7-10 & 14-17	7:30 PM & 4:00 PM		\$10+
Star Theatre		WindSync	November 11	7:00 PM	montanachambermusicsociety.org	Free



This Issue: *Montana and Creativity*



Art directed by John Sullivan.

"All this space reminds me of possibility..."  
– Gretel Ehrlich, *The Solace of Open Spaces*

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