



Photo courtesy of Eric Heidle

Old Salt, New Approach

If you’re looking to add a summer festival to your travels next year, consider the Old Salt Festival. Eric Heidle provides a recap of this year’s visit featuring some new tastes and sounds.

Read more, page 8



Marcus Amerman (American and Choctaw), Glass Horse Mask. 2008.

Depart • Apart • Partner

Horses play an integral role in the lives and art of Native Americans. Jennifer Woodcock-Medicine Horse leads us on a historical and visual tour of their evolving relationship.

Read more, page 12

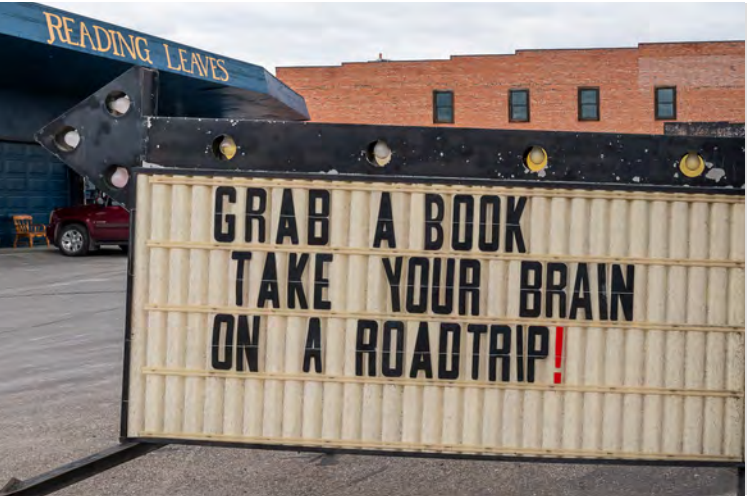


Photo courtesy of Eric Heidle

Passport, Please: The Montana Bookstore Trail

In a state with more bookstores per capita than any other state, why not make a journey of it? That’s exactly what Reading Leaves owner Rachael Elliot-Brug thought when she created the Montana Bookstore Trail Passport.

Read more, page 17



Illustration by

Art and Community Meet Again

Headed to Bozeman this summer? Maybe you should. The 46th Annual Sweet Pea Festival returns featuring a Juried Art Show, Chalk on the Walk, International Youth Short Film Festival, Bite of Bozeman, Music on Main, Sweet Pea Run, Sweet Pea Dog Parade, Shakespeare in the Parks, Artist Marketplace, and workshops... there’s something for everyone!

Read more, page 20



Marc Brogger



Glenn Gilmore



Terry Hill

The Montana Circle of American Masters Inducts Three

On May 19 citizens, dignitaries, and craftspeople gathered in the Montana State Capitol’s Old Supreme Court Chamber to honor three of our most accomplished practitioners of traditional arts as Marc Brogger, Glenn Gilmore, and Terry Hill were inducted into the Montana Circle of American Masters.

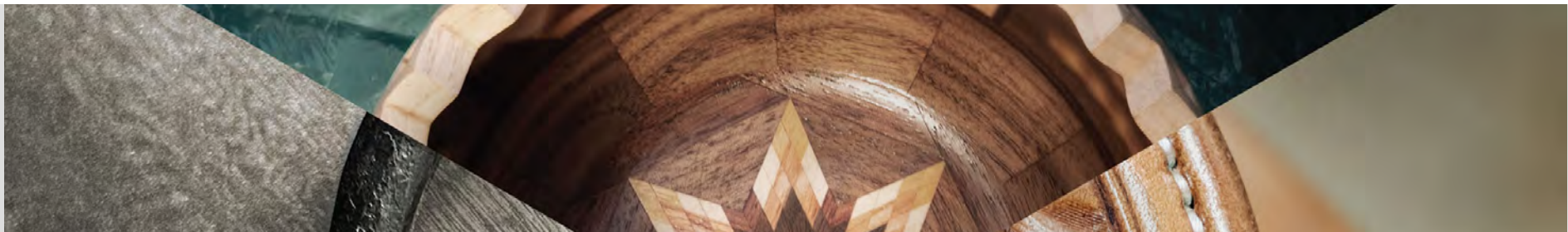
This award, created to honor exemplary makers of folk and traditional arts, recognizes the importance of craft, utility, and tradition—whether in visual, performance, literary, or cultural pursuits.

Marc Brogger of Three Forks—horseman, saddle maker, cowboy—was recognized for the decades he’s spent making fine western saddles which are truly functional as well as beautiful. **Glenn Gilmore** of Corvallis has elevated his work as blacksmith to high art, bending raw steel into delicate, lyrical, living things. And Great Falls’ **Terry Hill** molds his creations through speed and patience, turning intricate layers of wood under the chisel into organic shapes alive with potential.

Presided over by Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Montana Arts Council Chair Greg Murphy, and distinguished guests and friends of the honorees, the ceremony was a celebration of work, craft, artistry, and vision in the hands of three of Montana’s best. We can’t wait to see who our next honorees will be.

To learn more about the Montana Circle of American Masters, visit art.mt.gov/mcam

Photos above courtesy of Katie Knight





Above: Council members, former honorees, and family and friends gather to attend the MCAM ceremony.
Below: Terry Hill, Marc Brogger, and Glenn Gilmore make remarks during their acceptance of the MCAM award.
Photos courtesy of Eric Heidle.



**MONTANA
ARTS COUNCIL**
an agency of state government

We're hiring!

The Montana Arts Council is currently in the process of finding a visionary leader to serve as its next Executive Director, overseeing the Council's mission to provide program innovation and advocacy leadership on behalf of Montana's arts and creative communities through an annual budget of approximately \$2.2 million.

The Montana Arts Council is governed by our 15-member council, and the executive director leads a seven-person administrative staff. The executive director reports to the Council's chair and CEO and works with the chair and Council to set and implement strategies to fulfill our mission, goals, and objectives.

We're looking for a director whose skills will be a good fit for the position's responsibilities, which include developing and implementing a strategic vision for positive change in the arts across Montana's large cultural and physical landscape; directing, managing, and implementing all of the agency operations, programs, and services; recognizing and acting on strategic opportunities, building critical partnerships, and managing relationships needed to maximize the reach of the agency's budget; cultivating, managing, and being accountable for the effective use of federal funds that fuel and support the agency's objectives; and providing leadership to the arts throughout the state.

The position is currently closed as we evaluate applications from several dozen candidates. We're excited to engage in the process of finding our next executive director, and look forward to updating you on this vital part of our mission to strengthen the arts under the Big Sky.



MCAM Guidelines for New Nominations

The Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) is a program of the Montana Arts Council that celebrates the contributions of the state’s master artists in folk and traditional arts.

A member of MCAM is a person who throughout their lifetime of work in the folk and traditional arts has created a notable body of work. Of significant cultural and artistic stature, their work is representative of the historic, traditional, and innovative arts distinctive to the State and is worthy of note on both a state and national level. To date, 49 artists have been inducted.

We are excited to announce that the nomination process is now open. Review the information below to learn more how to nominate someone. To review the full MCAM Nomination form go to <https://art.mt.gov/mcam>

Nominations can be submitted via email to folkarts@mt.gov or over the phone by calling 406-444-4700 or 406-209-8839. Hardcopy nominations can be sent to P.O. Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620.

Nomination and Review Process

1. Nominations are submitted by someone who knows the nominee well; family members, friends, community members, or students of honorees may submit a nomination form on behalf of the artist.
2. Nominations will be reviewed by Montana Arts Council staff. Approved nominees are invited to submit a full application.

3. Complete applications received by September 8, 2023 will be reviewed by a peer artist with expertise in the medium, and then a panel consisting of Montana Arts Council members and local and national folklorists.
4. Applications recommended by the panel are sent to the full Montana Arts Council governing board for final approval.

Eligible Applicants

- Individual artists at least 18 years of age, U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and residents of Montana for at least one full year before the application deadline. Upon request, applicant can provide proof of Montana residency.
- Currently practicing artists in folk and traditional arts.
- Artists producing work that reflects the culture or community to which they belong.

Ineligible Applicants

- Hobbyists, historical reenactment actors, and individuals who produce their work using craft kits or who assemble purchased commercial objects will not be considered for this award. This award aims to honor those who have dedicated themselves to their craft as a primary pursuit or profession.
- Groups of artists, arts collectives, businesses, or nonprofit organizations.
- Deceased artists; no posthumous awards will be given.
- High school and degree-seeking students.
- MAC staff or members of its current governing body, or anyone connected

- to them by one degree of relationship, marriage or shared household.
- Applicants with outstanding overdue final reports on Montana Arts Council grants.

Review Criteria

1. **Mastery of their art form:** The artist demonstrates a high level of technical proficiency and artistic excellence in their craft or art form, including a deep understanding of its techniques and aesthetics. The artist should have an eye for detail and a commitment to quality craftsmanship or performance, ensuring that their work meets the highest standards of excellence.
2. **Cultural authenticity:** The artist demonstrates a deep understanding and respect for the cultural heritage of their art form, including knowledge of its historical context, traditions, aesthetics, and symbolism. Their work should reflect the values, techniques, and materials that are characteristic of their own cultural tradition and community.
3. **Contribution:**
 - a. Teaching and mentoring: The artist has mentored others in their art form, passing on their knowledge, skills, and passion to future generations. They demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively, inspire and motivate students, and foster a love for the art of their respective field.
 - b. Impact on the community: The artist has a positive impact on their community, whether by preserving and promoting cultural traditions, providing economic opportunities, or enhancing social cohesion and mutual understanding

Congrats...



Reflections Upon Retirement: Caroline Patterson

When Megan McNamer called me in September 2009 to see if I would be interested in teaching poetry to fourth graders at Central School in Helena, Montana, who knew what a life-changing moment that would be? I wasn't even sure about taking the job. I had only taught university students, and teaching young students wasn't something I was interested in.

But I was appalled by the poetry education of my son: in sixth grade, the poetry he was learning in middle school was, I repeated,

'Three little pumpkins sitting on a gate, the first one said, "Oh my, it's getting late..."'

This? I thought, to middle-schoolers, filled with raging hormones and passionate questions about identity? Pumpkins?

So, after training quickly with Sheryl, I copied my college poetry curriculum and started teaching those unsuspecting fourth graders in Helena. And, of course, I was hooked. The first time I saw a child discover herself on the page, I was transformed. The first time I saw a young boy, Sean—I'll never forget him—read the poem about visiting his mother in jail, I was stunned. The first time the young woman wrote one of my favorite poems still—'Ode to the Alphabet'—I knew I had to keep teaching kids. No cynicism here. No ironic distance. There was a purity to these students' experience of writing that was completely exhilarating.

Five years and hundreds of student poems later, the MWC board asked me to become the executive director. This, in contrast, was an experience of pure terror. Life as an executive director is not conducive to sleep. I love this organization and was passionate about its mission. I respected MWC's accomplished writers and board, and I only hoped I was up to the task. And I wasn't. At least, not by myself. That is because this organization is a true collaboration with a shared vision because people jump

in when the going gets tough—as during a pandemic—it was all possible. This shared vision, this shared mission, is the great strength of the Missoula Writing Collaborative. That, and the fact that every year, we help people experience what we believe in: the joy of writing. That joy is why so many of our writers remain as teachers for so long. We love the passion and the play that we see in the classrooms; we love the transformations that happen in these twelve-week visits to young lives.

When I started out, we were in 24 schools, with 8 writers. In 2023, we will be in more than 40 schools in western Montana with an expanded staff and budget from those early days. With the MWC board and writers, we created the Children's Poetry Map (at the Missoula Public Library), hometown poetry posters, river posters—and we navigated a pandemic. And we have had a lot of fun along the way: lawn party at Lois's, pizza party writer meetings, and oh, so many readings in school cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums, and classrooms. Thank you all for a wonderful journey. Sheryl Noethe always notes that 'Poetry saves lives.' Of course, it does. I started writing poetry with Richard Hugo in a workshop in 1975, and while my poetry has morphed into prose, sharing poetry with the state I love has been an amazing gift.

Thank you.

In Memory of...



Brenda Kornick June 8, 1975-June 5, 2023

Brenda Kornick, Associate Director at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, MT, passed away on June 5th after a courageous two-year battle with cancer.

For nearly twenty years, Brenda was dedicated to the stewardship of the C.M. Russell Museum. She began her career at the Museum as the Office Assistant, but was encouraged by former Executive Director, Anne Morand, to apply for a Masters Certificate program in Museum Collections Management and Care from George Washington University in Washington D.C. After completing this program in 2009 she was promoted to Collection Manager at the Russell Museum. For the next seven years she would serve in that role and be instrumental in the execution of several groundbreaking exhibitions, including *The Bison Exhibition* and *Romance Maker*. During that time, Brenda also spearheaded the accreditation process for the Russell Museum in 2010, resulting in the Museum's reaccreditation for the next 15 years.

Due to her exceptional leadership and unmatched wisdom, Brenda moved her way up the ranks at the Museum, from Collection Manager to Chief Collections and Exhibitions Officer, and then to her final role as the Associate Director. During that time Brenda

had her hand in nearly every aspect of the museum. She led the Curatorial department to create some of the largest C.M. Russell-focused exhibitions ever created at the Museum, including *Charlie Russell and the Women in His Life and Art*, *Return to Calgary: C.M. Russell and the 1919 Victory Stampede*, and the restoration and reinterpretation of Charlie Russell's Home and Studio. She led the Facilities department in introducing a humidification system to the galleries, a much needed upgrade to the Museum's HVAC system. She also facilitated in numerous grants, including a NEH grant used to create a digital publication for the Russell Home and Studio.

Brenda was intelligent, poised, and a constant professional. Her leadership style was strong but always respectful. Her kindness and positive attitude was infectious. Her wisdom and her friendship is something that we all cherished. She will be missed.

Remembrance by Geoff Stocking

Continued on next page.

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 Aug. 25 for the fall issue (October-December).
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
email mac@mt.gov

Sign up for MAC's eNews
art.mt.gov/enews or send us an email at: mac@mt.gov

Subscriptions
State of the Arts is available free of charge upon request as a public service of the Montana Arts Council.

In Memory of...



Christie Arnold

April 15, 1960-March 15, 2023

Christie was born April 15, 1960 as the third sister of three. Christie, Carolyn and Cathy were all raised in a music, dance and drama loving household. This would be a major influence on Christie’s life. She began taking ballet lessons at a young age and developed a love for dancing and choreography. As she grew to adulthood, music and performing became her driving force. She became an exceptionally gifted pianist and singer.

Alice Lyon, choir director at the First Congregational Church, insisted on memorization and perfect harmony, which Christie championed way earlier than her two sisters, courtesy of her own perfect, beautiful pitch. Accompanied by her acute ear and her love of performance, she could play the piano and guitar, sing, dance, draw and paint her “little people” and recite any and everything!

Christie was an adored and respected English teacher at Billings Senior High. She called going into her classroom, “Stepping on the Stage” and high-step she did, for every class she ever taught. She taught for 29 years and changed the lives of countless young minds. She also directed and choreographed numerous musical productions while at Senior High. Her attraction to the stage defined her entire life.

It was while on the stage in the 1988 Billings Studio Theater production of “Fiddler on the Roof” that Christie found the love of her life, Howard Arnold. Christie and Howard played Hodel and Perchik, a young couple in love. Christie knew from that moment she would marry Howard and, for almost 35 years, these best friends lived a wonderful life.

Remember Christie every time you enter a theater, church, or auditorium. Her theater lights will never grow dark, as long as we keep her memory alive. If you’d like to make a contribution in her memory, please choose a cat adoption shelter, church, mental health association, school, or theater arts organization.

To enjoy the last song Christie recorded, and to leave condolences, please visit www.michelottisawyers.com.

Read the full story at <https://billingsgazette.com/>



George Winston

Feb. 11, 1949-June 4, 2023

George Winston, a pianist whose successful recordings made him one of the first stars of New Age music, died June 4 in California after a decades long struggle with cancer at 73 years old.

Selling more than 15 million albums worldwide, Winston became synonymous with a distinctive, highly imitated flavor of solo piano: warm, melodic and pastoral. His reputation was largely built on a series of blockbuster instrumental albums for the pioneering new age label Windham Hill Records. In particular, his 1980 album *Autumn* and its follow-ups, 1982’s *Winter into Spring* and *December*, all platinum-selling releases, are considered cornerstones of the genre.

Born in Hart, Mich., in 1949 and raised in Miles City, Montana, Winston was drawn to the organ after hearing the rock band The Doors in 1967. His investigation of Doors organist Ray Manzarek’s roots led him to jazz player Jimmy Smith, and in turn to the stride piano of Fats Waller — who inspired Winston to switch to piano in 1971. Winston spent much of the ‘70s studying New Orleans pianists Henry Butler, James Booker and Professor Longhair. While his more pastoral and melodic music made him a star on records, he would often insert those pianists’ songs, and his own originals inspired by them, into his albums and live performances.

His 1973 debut album, *Piano Solos* (later re-released as *Ballads and Blues*), was recorded by folk guitarist John Fahey and had a more identifiable folk sound. By the time Winston signed with Windham Hill and released *Autumn* in 1980, he had a glossier style that eliminated the folksy twang and incorporated the stride piano technique of left-hand bass patterns against right-hand melody. It was a surprise hit, which Winston replicated with a sequel season-themed album *Winter into Spring* and the holiday record *December*. Together, the three recordings helped to launch the commercial success of what became known as new age — and made Windham Hill the genre’s flagship label. He would record 13 more solo piano albums, with 1994’s *Forest* winning a Grammy Award for Best New Age Album.

Read the full story at <https://www.npr.org/2023/06/07/1180774279/george-winston-new-age-pianist-obituary>



Jerry Cornelia

Aug. 30, 1954-May 18, 2023

Jerry David Cornelia, 68 of Sidney, MT, left us unexpectedly and far too soon, Thursday, May 18th, 2023, at the Sidney Health Center.

Jerry knew at a very young age he was destined to be an artist. Sculpting came most natural to him, making roses with his grandmother at the age of 5.

Jerry attended school in Sidney and graduated from SSHS in 1972. After high school, he attended fashion school in Atlanta, GA, as well as pursuing fashion in LA. He returned to Sidney in the early 80s. Jerry then moved to NYC in 1985 and pursued his dreams in a variety of mediums. Jerry produced his own paintings, sculptures, and bird houses, as well as painting and designing mannequins and store front windows. After 10 years, Jerry moved back to Sidney.

Jerry said moving back to Montana was great for his art career. His art was shown in galleries across Montana and the United States.

He was known for the many whimsical titles of his paintings and enjoyed penning them as much as he enjoyed painting them.

He loved doing it all, sculpting, painting, writing, drawing, and creating elaborate candle holders and clocks.

Besides his hard work and talent as an artist, he was a hard worker in so many ways. He also was an excellent dancer, and we HAVE to mention his fabulous hair!

Memorial donations can be made to your local animal shelters. A celebration of life will be planned for the future. Please search the Sidney Herald archives for some great articles on Jerry.

The family would like to thank everyone who has reached out and expressed their love for Jerry.

Read the full story at <https://www.fulkersonfuneralhomes.com/Obituary/5737/Jerry-D-Cornelia>

Sally McIntosh



Sally McIntosh

July 13, 1946-Dec. 26, 2022

Sally McIntosh died peacefully at her home in Billings on December 26, 2022, surrounded by her family. She was born in Billings, Montana on July 13, 1946, to Jacqueline and Joseph McIntosh.

In 1968 Sally earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Montana. Following graduation, Sally moved to Long Island for her first year of a ten-year teaching career. Employed by "Students Abroad" in the summer of 1969, she assisted in leading a group of college students through Western Europe. In the fall of 1969 she moved to Berkeley, CA where she taught at the Bentley School in the Oakland Hills until 1971. While there, Sally enrolled at San Francisco State College in their Art History graduate program.

In 1989, after the passing of her brother Bill, she returned to her hometown of Billings to operate the McIntosh Art Company founded by Bill in 1976. The business was located on Grand Avenue until she moved it back to Montana Avenue. In addition to the fine art and graphic design retail/wholesale business, she added the Bill McIntosh Gallery which featured more than 100 different art exhibits of local and regional artists.

She became an active member of the art community. The Yellowstone Art Museum honored Sally by naming her Volunteer of the Year in 2013, and Educator of the Year in 2019. She served on the boards of the Billings Depot, Big Brothers and Sister of Yellowstone County, and the East Rosebud Lake Association. Sally served as president of the ArtWalk from 2006-2014. She was founder and director of the Summer Art Academy, a weeklong summer art camp for young artists, which ran from 2000-2019.

In 2010 Sally was named Director of the Ryniker-Morrison Galley at Rocky Mountain College and also taught a class there on "How to Run a Gallery". In 2016 she became the Adult Program Coordinator at the Yellowstone Art Museum where she directed the adult art education program that included taking art classes to the Montana Women's Prison. In September of 2022, at The Night at the Yellowstone Art Museum Gala, the evening honored Sally, a former YAM Art Educator whose dedication to art, students, and the YAM has inspired countless members of our community.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the McIntosh Art Company Scholarship at the Yellowstone Art Museum, <https://www.artmuseum.org/> or call 406-256-6804.

Sheila Stearns



Sheila Stearns

Aug. 30, 1946-May 23, 2023

Sheila MacDonald Stearns, educator, died Tuesday, May 23, due to complications from lung cancer. She leaves behind hundreds of grieving hearts because she was so loved by so many.

Sheila was born August 30, 1946, in Ft. Snelling, Minnesota, where her father, Alexander MacDonald, was stationed as a dentist during World War II. Her mother, Marie Peterson, was the daughter of Swedish homesteaders, raised near Highwood, Montana. Alex and Marie moved their family to Glendive, Montana in 1947.

Sheila arrived at the University of Montana in September 1964. In Missoula, she met the love of her life, Hal Stearns, on a Newman Center retreat weekend. Each knew within days that they had found their soulmate, and what a great partnership it has been.

Having earned advanced degrees from the University of Montana, Sheila served as UM's 18th President, after posts as Montana Commissioner of Higher Education, President of Wayne State College in Nebraska, Chancellor of UM Western in Dillon, Vice President and Alumni Director of UM, and teacher and librarian at Whittier Elementary School.

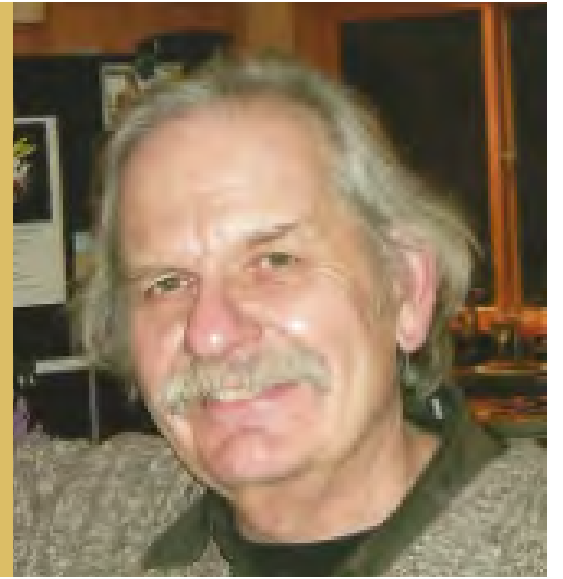
In 2012, she was honored as a Distinguished Alumni of the University of Montana. In 2017, Sheila and Hal were honored with the Governor's Humanities Award. She received an honorary Doctorate from Montana State University in 2018.

Sheila modeled a life of dedicated and tireless public service. Much of her career was devoted to serving, building, and improving Montana's well-respected higher education system. She earned the admiration and respect of everyone she encountered in education circles and in public service, on both sides of the aisle, whether she was at a PTA meeting, in the halls of the Legislature, in the Governor's office, or leading a campus community.

In lieu of flowers, please consider working to make education more obtainable for someone else, just as Sheila did for her kids, grandkids, and countless others. Memorials may be sent in Sheila's honor to the foundations of any of the many colleges she led and loved, including tribal and community colleges.

Read the full story at <https://www.legacy.com/>

Wilbur H. Wood



Wilbur H. Wood

Sep. 26, 1942- March 27, 2023

Wilbur H. Wood (80) Poet, Journalist, Environmental Activist, Teacher, died March 27, 2023 in White Sulphur Springs, Montana. Kind, idealistic, gentle, dedicated to improving the world and living out his ideals; few people embody his genuine curiosity and humanity. He is truly missed.

Born September 26, 1942 in Billings, MT to Wilbur H. Wood and Annie Evans Wood, Wilbur was raised in Roundup, where he retained friendships from his childhood. Wilbur graduated from the University of Montana in 1964 and headed to San Francisco to pursue his Masters Degree in Creative Writing. Following his degree, Wilbur wrote for the San Francisco Bay Guardian and the Nation Magazine during the tumultuous and exciting 1960's. His poetry developed under the mentoring of Jack Gilbert. Gilbert and Linda Gregg's Sunday gathering of poets was the first of many writers groups he was part of over the course of his life. It was in San Francisco that Wilbur met his partner and wife, Elizabeth Hughes Wood. He convinced her that it would be a great idea to move to a small rural town in eastern Montana, and they returned to Roundup in 1971.

Wilbur was a patient teacher. An original writer in the Billings Writers Voice project, he traveled from Springdale to Crow Agency, Billings to Fort Belknap, inspiring young students to find their voice through writing. He taught writing and journalism at Rocky Mountain College for over 20 years.

Appointed by the Governor, Wilbur served two terms on the Montana Arts Council. In Roundup he was a co-founder of the Roundup Arts and Culture Committee, bringing writers, poets, artists, Shakespeare in the Parks, and other events to Roundup schools and community. He was a co-founder of the Roundup RiverWalk Heritage Trail, providing access to the river for everyone. Wilbur loved the piney wood hills of his Bull Mountains and Musselshell watershed. Always attentive to the land, Wilbur honored it through his devotion to its preservation.

A Celebration of a Life Well Lived will be held for Wilbur on August 12, 2023 at the Crawford Ranch 3.5 miles East of Roundup on Hwy 12 beginning at 4:00 PM. Please come and share your stories of a remarkable friend. If you are unable to join us, please send your stories of Wilbur, then take a long walk, where he would enjoy your companionship.

To plant a tree in memory of Wilbur H. Wood, visit: https://tree.tributestore.com/?old=27791475&tag=&source=%20tco_description&ph=2

Performing Arts



Old Salt staffers man Friday night's hog roast.



The play area offered cornhole and other games for kids of every age. The merchandise tent, soon to have a lot more customers when the storm behind it hits.

Old Salt, New Approach

Story and Photos by Eric Heidle

Picture attending a big-idea conference like Davos or TED—in a cow pasture. That's sort of what took place in June at the inaugural Old Salt Festival, except better: Old Salt had barbecue.

If you're willing to fill your tank and hit the road in late June, Old Salt—a new entry in Montana's summer festival scene—is a pretty short drive for some great music, literature, ideas, and chow. Lots and lots of chow. An idea thought up by the Mannix ranching family of Helmville and other members of a local ranching co-op, the Old Salt Festival does a lot of things other festivals do: great music, culture, food, agricultural setting. In addition, it adds some wrinkles of its own: dedicated panel discussions on stewardship, wild lands, the future of agriculture, and how they're all interconnected; readings from some of Montana's best literary lights in landscapes to inspire great words; and family-style meals for you and a few hundred of your closest friends, prepared by some of the region's most innovative chefs.



Chef Eduardo Garcia, thinking about the meal he's cooking up for Sunday brunch.

Visiting the festival on Friday evening I caught a glimpse of its spirit in a nutshell: authors Debra Magpie Earling and David James Duncan perched on straw bales, chatting and sampling roast pork and charcuterie from paper plates served up by chefs Elias Cairo and Jeremy Charles, all while serenaded by Butte's own Dublin Gulch and the looming sound of approaching rain. Big ideas served up with no pretense, Montana-style. When I arrived, the festival's conservation partnerships panel was under way, hosted by the ranch's Cole Mannix; the group included a range of participants, from producers to wilderness advocates, talking about land, access, locally-sourced food, and environmental stewardship. It's evidence of a partnership which looks to move beyond perceived differences and to protect what makes Montana uniquely its own.

The approach to food is unique to Old Salt as well. The Old Salt Co-Op comprises four area ranches which banded together to sell their

products directly to consumers in the wake of increasing market pressure from corporate ag. Pairing this approach with open-air wood-fired cooking for each of the festival's primary meals means visitors got to sample food that's from the ground beneath their feet and raised by local Montanans. Each of the chefs, who also included Jarret Foster and Eduardo Garcia, put their own stamp on the grub they served to festival-goers.

The same can be said for the entertainment. Much of the music came courtesy of artists originally from and working in Montana, and readings included a few from our most well-respected authors—Debra Earling was set to close Friday night's schedule with Native ghost stories around the campfire, and Chris Dombrowski, David James Duncan, Bryce Andrews, and Mountain & Prairie podcast host Ed Roberson were many of the names on Old Salt's literary menu.

I missed the ghost stories, needing to get back to Helena ahead of the storm. Hail flecked across Highway 12, and as I topped out on MacDonald Pass a brilliant pencil of lightning nicked the tall radio tower on the hill. The storm and the rain it brought were evidence of nature's power to create, sustain, and occasionally remake this place we call home. The founders of the Old Salt Festival mean to make us all more aware of that power and its potential for Montana and, from the looks of things, next June I imagine lightning will strike twice.



Dublin Gulch brings a touch of Butte to the Blackfoot valley.



Baroque Music Montana Celebrates Young Bozeman Musicians

Baroque Music Montana (BaMM), with the help of a MAC SIG grant, presented a concert featuring outstanding young musicians in Bozeman this spring. BaMM stages “Youthful Splendor” every other year, showcasing students as soloists in baroque concerti, accompanied by a one-on-a-part orchestra of the region’s top professional players.

It’s an opportunity for the community, especially the musical mentors in the orchestra, to celebrate these outstanding high school and collegiate musicians.

This year, the right group of students was available to stage Vivaldi’s beloved and virtuosic “Four Seasons,” along with Vivaldi’s moody cello concerto in C minor. The students had the benefit of three rehearsals with the orchestra to workshop the skills of leading a concerto as soloist, a unique and challenging experience. The concert took place at MSU’s light-filled Inspiration Hall, with a crowd of

225 attendees including many young families. Visual artist Linda Foy exhibited her set of four large scale paintings, which she painted while listening to Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons.” Linda arranged tech support to have these images project as a stunning backdrop for the performance. The students remarkably all delivered their best performances of the pieces during the concert, a triumph for them and an inspiration to others.

Student musicians include high school seniors Sasha Draeger-Mazer, Felix Guggenheim, Elijah Leafy, and Kamara Wilbur, as well as underclassman Jacqueline Santiglia, MSU student Noah Certalic, and cellist Anastasia Grayl. Orchestra professionals included violinists Carrie Krause and Pico Alt, violist Alyssa Roggow, cellist Dr. Julia Slovarp, and harpsichordist Julie Gosswiller.

Baroque Music Montana presents interactive concerts, workshops, and lectures across the state, often in rural areas and intimate venues—similar size spaces to which the music was originally intended—on historical instruments with musicians both nationally and internationally renowned who specialize in historical performance.

Carrie Krause, the Artistic Director of Baroque Music Montana, recently answered a few questions from an interviewer about her about her path to becoming a professional musician in Bozeman who specializes in Baroque Music.

1. Q. I understand you grew up in Fairbanks, Alaska—a pretty remote spot. How did you happen to take up the violin in Fairbanks as a child?

A. Yes, Fairbanks is the farthest north US city by a great distance. We had the northernmost McDonald’s in the world. My mother was a violinist, and apparently I was interested in playing. So, with her encouragement, I took up the violin at age 3. It turned out there was a wonderful community of young musicians in Fairbanks, and we were fortunate to have a number of excellent music teachers.

2. Q. Your Bachelor’s degree is in Music from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. I understand you were initially planning to go on to medical school. What happened?

A. I majored in music at Carnegie-Mellon because I understood at the time, that music majors had a good chance of getting into medical school. But I liked music so much that I decided to make a career in music, and I’m very grateful for that path.

3. Q. After more study at the Cleveland Institute and Juilliard in New York, you’ve ended up in Bozeman, a small city in Montana. That would appear to be an unusual choice for a highly trained violinist. How did you come to settle in Bozeman?

A. Most professional musicians end up chasing work and settling where there is a good opportunity to earn a living. Growing up in Fairbanks, I had a lifestyle that involved a lot of outdoor activities such as backpacking, trail running, and Nordic skiing. In selecting a place to live, I focused on finding a place that would allow me to continue these activities. I figured I could always support myself giving violin lessons. But I was very fortunate, Bozeman turned out to be an incredible place that has offered me wonderful musical as well as outdoor opportunities.

4. Q. You specialize in playing Baroque music, which is not as popular as classical, romantic and modern music. How did you come to concentrate on the music from that period?

A. While most violinists focus on the music from the classical and romantic periods, others, including me, end up feeling confined as if we are missing. Some of these musicians go on to specialize in contemporary music, alternative styles, or early music. As a Suzuki violin



student in Fairbanks, I played a lot of Baroque music, and it has always been my favorite. The quest to get as close as possible to how it was originally played more than 350 years ago allows a great deal of freedom in interpreting the music. We can’t know exactly how it was played in that period, but we learn as much as we can about the composers and musicians of that time.

5. Q. You spend a lot of time traveling around Montana playing Baroque music in small towns (that probably hadn’t heard of Baroque music before). This seems like an unusual thing for a classically-trained violinist to do. Why do you do it?

A. I have a deep love of small towns, perhaps it is because I went to kindergarten in Vida, Montana; it’s a town of about 200 people where my dad grew up. What is surprising to me is how much our music connects to people in these small towns. I think if you bring Baroque music on a high level and allow the folks in these town to experience it in a personal way in an small venue, they really appreciate it. We’ve all heard Baroque music even if we don’t usually listen to this sort of music. The freshness and connected-ness of this music seems to really resonate with our audiences in these locations.

6. Q. You spend a lot of time driving around the less populated parts of Montana where about the only type of music one can find on the car radio is Country & Western. How is that you didn’t end up as a violinist that plays Country or Western music?

A. It is interesting that you bring that up as my father believed that there were two types of music: Country and Western! But as a violin student in the Suzuki method in Fairbanks, I played a lot of Baroque and classical music, and those are the styles I love.



North Valley Music Receives \$10,000 Capital Campaign Gift Father of NVMS co-founder supports the Be Instrumental building fund

North Valley Music School has received a \$10,000 capital campaign gift from the National Academy of Sciences through a designation from Dr. Kirk Bryan Jr., the father of NVMS co-founder, Betsy Kohnstamm.

NVMS, a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching Montana communities through music education, appreciation, and performance by offering musical opportunities for all ages, is celebrating their 25th Anniversary. The community music school is actively seeking funds for Be Instrumental, the capital campaign to build a new state-of-the-art music school and campus in Flathead County.

Dr. Kirk Bryan Jr. of the NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory and Princeton University was awarded the NAS Alexander Agassiz Medal for his pioneering and visionary efforts in oceanography and climate science. It is presented every five years and carries with it a prize of \$20,000.

“We are so moved by Kirk’s generosity to help make North Valley Music School the foremost nonprofit community music school in the state,” said Executive Director Deidre Corson. “The relationship between the arts and sciences has a long history of providing the world with innovative thinkers and we are grateful for his investment in the future of Montana music education.”

The capital campaign is focused on raising the final \$2.3M of its \$6.5M goal. Multi-year pledges can be made and naming rights for studios, collaborative spaces, and wings are still available. Donors can also purchase personalized music notes to adorn the Music Tree (\$200-\$5000).

To learn more about the project and donate to Be Instrumental, please visit www.nvms.me or call 406-862-8074.

Film



MAPS Media Institute's Clare Ann Harff, Janna Williams, and student Amilia Blackcrow pose with the Emmy™ Statuette.

MAPS Media Institute accepts 2023 NATAS NW Board of Governors' Award Emmy™

By Janna Williams

On June 3rd, 2023, during the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Northwest (NATAS NW) 60th annual ceremony in Seattle, Washington, MAPS Media Institute, received the Governors' Award.

The Governors' Award is the highest Award a local chapter can bestow and is given for truly outstanding and unique accomplishments or for achievements of some duration and durability. For this an Emmy™ Statuette is given.

MAPS Media Institute's Executive Director Clare Ann Harff, Communications & Marketing Director Janna Williams, and MAPS Fort Belknap student Amilia Blackcrow accepted the Award.

"Receiving the 2023 NATAS NW Governors' Award is humbling. There are 19 years of people, places, experiences, stories, and supporters packed into our Emmy™!" said Harff after delivering her acceptance speech – words that expressed MAPS mission, vision, and values.

As a statewide Montana nonprofit, MAPS empowers, inspires, and prepares future generations for success through professional media arts instruction, engaging community service, and compassionate mentoring.

Established in 2004 as a free-of-charge after-school media arts program, MAPS Media Institute began teaching only twenty eager filmmaking students. Today, MAPS offers year-round programming in 2 brick-and-mortar Montana locations (Hamilton and Helena) and classes in all media arts mediums, including graphic design, music production, new technologies, podcast, photojournalism, and more.

To create greater access, In 2017, MAPS started the MAPS Media Lab - their statewide educational outreach program that brings industry-level equipment and professional instruction to rural and First Nation communities across Montana. Because of this, MAPS Media Institute is also NATAS NW's 2023 "Trailblazer in Diversity" for Montana.

The "Trailblazers in Diversity" video project was created and led by the NATAS NW diversity committee in the Spring of 2023 to highlight

professionals who faced and overcame obstacles. A video was produced for each of their five state regions which include Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska.

"We are excited to recognize the incredible work MAPS Media Institute is doing throughout Montana," said Nicole Sanchez, NATAS NW president. **"This nonprofit is truly helping young people find their voice through storytelling in a unique and powerful way."**

MAPS Media Institute and Media Lab have established foundational connections that elevate student voices to new heights. Through MAPS, students have started community conversations to better understand the world around them.

While this is acknowledgment enough, MAPS has received multiple awards including the 2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award given by the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services in cooperation with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies.

Since 2015 MAPS student films have been nominated for and won nearly thirty awards. Among them are:

- 3 NATAS NW Awards of Excellence;
- 8 Short Form Nonfiction Regional Student Production NATAS NW Awards;
- 2 Long Form Nonfiction Regional Student Production NATAS NW Awards;
- and 2 National NATAS Awards for both Short and Long Form Nonfiction.

To provide free-of-charge and professionally taught programming to students, MAPS funding comes from federal and state agencies, private foundation contributions, and client-based projects.

Watch MAPS Media Institute's acceptance speech, Montana "Trailblazers in Diversity" tribute video, and learn more about them at mapsmediainstitute.com.





Marlena Myles (Spirit Lake Dakota/Mohegan/Muscogee). Indigenous Wealth. 2020. 10' height x 34' width. Mural commissioned for the City of Minneapolis Public Service Center by Art in Public Places program. Location: 6th floor of the Minneapolis Public Service Building, 505 S 4th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55415.

Depart • Apart • Partner: “*Our Horses Knew the Way*”

(James Welch. “Call to Arms”. *Riding the Earthboy* 40. Montana Historical Society Press. 1976)

By Jennifer Woodcock-Medicine Horse

Fifty-eight million years ago, Eohippus (Hyracotherium), the Dawn Horse, evolved in what is now the Great Plains of North America. Standing a petite twelve inches at the shoulder, Eohippus looked similar to a dog, sporting large canine fangs. By fifteen million years ago, its descendant Pliohippus had evolved into a recognizable horse, roaming the vast grasslands of North America in herds. One of the oldest *Equus species* is *Equus simplicidens*, dated to ~3.5 million years old, discovered in Idaho. As the Pleistocene glaciers reduced their grassland habitat, horses began migrating north to Asia and Europe, rapidly diversifying into many species of horses, asses and zebras. Humans and horses co-existed for many millennia in North America until about ten thousand years ago when horses had departed from North America. (Kooyman)

In the meantime, horses exerted their charismatic charm during their great migration over the Bering land bridge into Asia and Europe. Horses account for nearly a third of animal representations in European cave art, and are featured at more than three quarters of recorded cave art locations. They are consistently represented as dominant over all other species, despite being neither a domesticate or a primary food species at that time. (Cassella) Some of the earliest representations are approximately 32,000 years old, at Chauvet Cave in what is now France. These ancient Paleolithic artists rendered remarkably accurate representations of horses and other animals, despite adverse working conditions deep underground in caves, and sometimes working on cave ceilings. An entertaining article by Horvath et al finds that Paleolithic artists were consistently more accurate than contemporary artists in depicting quadrupeds in motion. (Horvath)

Initially, there were four distinct horse lineages in Europe and Asia. The earliest recorded domestication of horses was 5500 years ago in what is now Kazakhstan; the Botai people domesticated horses for milk and transportation. (Levine) Approximately 4200 years ago, the domesticated horses of Northern Caucasus, *Equus caballus*, spread like wildfire across Europe and Asia, replacing the other three species, and leading to the contemporary horse as we know it. (Ashworth) Domestic horses were introduced initially to Egypt and then throughout Africa in approximately 1600 BC.

Apart for nine thousand years or so, Native North American people and horses were reunited.

In the 1400s and 1500s horses returned to North America, reintroduced by Europeans. Indigenous oral history and recent scientific documentation confirm that in 1493 horses came back home, reintroduced by Hernan Cortez in Mexico, and subsequently in Texas by Hernando de Soto and Francisco Vásquez de Coronado in 1541-42, in New Mexico by colonial governor Don Juan de Onate y Salazar and dispersed along Native trade networks. (Sullivan). Winning the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 provided a large infusion of thousands of horses along these trade networks as far north as Canada and across the breadth of the continent in a matter of decades.

Partners – the kind of friends where time and distance are erased in a moment.

The saturation of North America with horses was astonishingly fast and culturally radical, especially among the more nomadic peoples of North America. Domesticated dogs were part of daily life for at least ten thousand years from the Arctic to South America, used for a variety of purposes, such as hunting, protection, and portaging with travois. However, man’s best friend was highly valued but unadorned. Historic photographs show dogs and travois with carefully made gear, but rarely embellished. Dogs were indispensable for assisting in carrying goods from one location to another, but their load capacity was limited, since these were not large dogs. And they were dogs—utilitarian, not glamorous. Horses, on the other hand were an entirely different story. Horses were huge, but gentle. They were sleek, fast, and strong. They were beautiful standing still or running like the wind. They could carry riders or pull much larger travois than dogs. They revolutionized travelling distances and moving camp from the drudgery of days to an efficient pack and move. They were a commodity on the hoof, a spoil of war, and a friend and a brother (or sister). In short, they were all that.

Some of the earliest Native American representations of horses are in rock art. Pictographs, etched into stone, can be difficult to date precisely, or interpret accurately without consulting tribal knowledge holders. What can be discerned is the frequent depiction of horses with mounted riders. Some depictions, such as the Tolar Petroglyph are highly detailed, showing the mane, hooves and reins; others, such as the Arches petroglyph are simpler shapes – so quadrupeds without riders can be ambiguous regarding species.



Tolar Petroglyph. Cultural Lands. Citizens for the Red Desert. Wyoming. Photo: Scott Copeland, <https://reddesert.org/cultural-lands/>



Niimiipuu (Nez Perce). *Horse mask.* circa 1865. Wool cloth, cotton cloth, glass bead/beads, glass pony beads, silk ribbon, wool felt, wool twill tape, hide, brass bell/bells, sinew, cotton thread.



Northern Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne) *Quilled horse mask, mid-1800s.* Porcupine quills, hawk feathers, brass buttons, seed beads, wool cloth, hide, sinew, and cotton thread.



Apsaalooke (Crow) horse mask, ca. 1860. Montana. Pony beads, owl feathers, buffalo horn, porcupine quills, ermine, horsehair, hide, ribbon, wool cloth, and sinew.



Lakota buffalo horse mask, ca. 1860. Eagle and grouse feathers, pigment, buffalo horn, buffalo hide, rawhide, and cotton thread.

Pre-contact inter-tribal warfare in North America was complex, served a variety of purposes, and was carried out in numerous ways. The myth of all tribes living in harmonious brotherhood is just that—an oversimplified misconception of reality. What was true was a complex sociopolitical system of shifting allegiances negotiated through warfare and diplomacy. The introduction of the horse allowed for several new things. A mounted warrior was able to be far more nimble in attacking, stealing horses, and withdrawing without being caught, for example. While ostentatious accumulations of wealth were feasible in potlatch country where communities lived in permanent towns, such was not the case with nomadic Plains nations where every ounce had to be carried or stashed—until the advent of the horse, which carried not only itself, but household goods and riders as well. These horse herds were a temptation and challenge for warriors seeking prestige. As with European horses garbed in terrifying armor, Native horses were painted in battle paint and adorned with ornate, finely crafted and frightening masks and tack. The four horse masks above, Northern Tsitsistas, Apsaalooke, Lakota and Niimiipuu, all from the mid-1800s show the wide variety of styles and materials used to create a beautiful and spooky effect. In particular, the Northern Tsitsistas quilled horse mask demonstrates the capacity for horse regalia to serve several purposes. First, it would surely terrify an opponent to see a horse like that running full tilt at you. Second, it offers the quilling artist an opportunity to showcase their work in a very public way, and third, just as the horse is a display of wealth, so is the horse mask that is the product of hundreds of hours of invested labor and materials.

The deep relationship between Native people and horses is unabated. Today, horses are not ridden into battle, but they are adorned with equally painstaking and elaborate regalia for events such as Crow Fair. Indian Relay has become increasingly popular; horses are frequently painted, but horse and rider regalia is usually fairly simple due to the physically rigorous nature of the race event.



Horse Nations Indian Relay. Tom Crash. May 25, 2022. Lakota Times. *photo courtesy of Diana Volk.* <https://www.lakotatimes.com/articles/horse-nations-indian-relay/>



Riders take part in the morning parade at Crow Fair on Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021. Photo: Mike Clark. Billings Gazette. https://billingsgazette.com/entertainment/despite-covid-rain-and-tragedy-crow-fair-returns-in-2021/article_a15c0147-7eeb-5575-a7a0-fa86843b7d3a.html

Artists such as master beader Jackie Larson Bread may use a traditional object, such as this pair of travelling flat cases commissioned by the National Museum of the American Indian, but create a very modern design like these highly stylized horses. Please note that the entire surface of these 11'x11' cases is beaded.



Jackie Larson Bread (Pikuni /Blackfeet Nation), Piikuni Flat Cases. 2009 Tanned deerhide/deerskin, glass bead/beads, rawhide, nylon thread, wool. 27.5 x 28.0 x 3.5 cm, NMAI purchase from the artist, 2009. Commissioned for "Songs of the Horse Nation." https://americanindian.si.edu/collections-search/objects/NMAI_394547

In contrast to these more pragmatic instances of art binding horses and humans, contemporary Native artists draw on philosophical and symbolic connections to convey their ideas. An exemplary example of this is Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, who has used horses frequently throughout her work. Smith's 1994 collaged *Memories of Childhood #10* portrays a young Jaune exploding with aspirations of identity, including "State of the Art" written on the right side of the image, all grounded on the calm horse at the base of the painting. In *Trade Canoe: A Western Fantasy*, instead of a Lakota warrior on a horse, she depicts what appears to be a Niimiipuu woman astride her horse. *War Horse in Babylon* brings an anonymous horse to the killing fields of Iraq, bloodied and belly deep in the skulls of the dead – a chilling indictment of that war.



Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, War Horse in Babylon, 2005. Oil and acrylic on canvas, two panels: 60 x 100 in. (152.4 x 254 cm) overall. Forge Project Collection, traditional lands of the Muh-he-con-ne-ok. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. Photograph courtesy the artist and Garth Greenan Gallery, New York. <https://whitney.org/exhibitions/jaune-quick-to-see-smith?section=4&subsection=2#exhibition-artworks>

Going Forward/Looking Back Going Forward/Looking Back draws the viewer in from a distance with an iconic image of a galloping horse sketched in ledger style, replete with three painted hands on its hip. Stepping closer, the viewer is confronted with the phrase “Whoa Nellie!” plastered on the horse’s flank, a big hint that this is not a ho-hum piece of equine ledger art, but something much more subtle and nuanced. Going Forward/Looking Back is in essence a kind of self portrait, a whimsical and ironic assemblage of glimpses of traditional Native life, historical trauma, and incidents of ordinary modern life encapsulated in newspaper clippings that are complexly layered and revealed through washes of paint.

Marcus Amerman works primarily in glass beads. In *The Gathering*, Amerman references a historic photograph of Nez Perce Chiefs on the Umatilla reservation, transposing them onto the current city of Portland – a kind of visual Land Acknowledgement regarding the Indigenous population of present day Oregon. His extraordinary Glass Horse Mask takes his work in glass a step further, a sleek, luminous abstraction that lures the eye.



Marcus Amerman (American and Choctaw), *The Gathering* (1997) Glass beads on cotton cloth. 10 1/8 in x 17 in. Museum Purchase: Caroline Ladd Pratt Fund, 1999.7 © Marcus Amerman. <http://portlandartmuseum.us/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=3041;type=101>

Rebel artist, Fritz Scholder has taken an all too familiar genre, Native male warriors on horseback, and tweaked and warped it almost beyond recognition. He has given us a yellow dotted field with purple horses carrying the most abstract of figures against a periwinkle sky. It is a refreshing and sprightly middle finger response to tedious and derivative paintings of imaginary Lakota warriors of yesteryear. Linda Haukaas co-opts a traditionally male genre, ledger art in *Chase the Art Patron*, populating it with a Native woman on horseback walking up on a pair of White art patrons, bedecked in their Native finery and loaded down with their purchases. This theme of poking fun at tourists is one that echoes through the work of many contemporary Native artists, such as Mandan photographer, Zig Jackson.

Marlena Myles discards traditional materials, methods and graphic styles, using a visual style reminiscent of anim   to communicate Dakota oral history regarding the initial meeting of the Dakota and the Horse nation at Ow  mniyomni, now called St. Anthony Falls near Minneapolis, bringing great economic benefit to the people.



Fritz Scholder. *Four Indian Riders*. 1967. Oil on Canvas. 60" x 72". Collection of Mr. and Mrs. William Metcalf. Photo by Walter Larrimore, NMAI.

Jim Denomie moves a step further into what he referred to as “metaphorical surrealism.” Much of Denomie’s work was fiercely satirical, commenting on past and present issues of settler colonialism and indigenous sovereignty. During the last two years of his life, Denomie painted his “Four Days and Four Nights” series, a dreamy surrealist vision of ambiguous spiritual landscapes, in this case, four horses carrying masked riders, possibly accompanied or pursued by birds, or perhaps a flying cat. The expression on the lead horse suggests that a new land can come none too soon. Like Scholder, Denomie uses saturated color to great effect, evoking an uneasy emotional tone.



Jim Denomie (Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe), *Four Days and Four Nites, Two Moons*, 2020, oil on canvas. 30 x 40 inches. <https://new.artsmia.org/exhibition/the-lyrical-artwork-of-jim-denomie>

James Welch’s line in “Call to Arms,” “Our Horses Knew the Way” evokes the close partnership of millennia between Native people and horses, a partnership that is explored and reflected upon through art from time immemorial to the present.

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Taylor, William et al <i>Early dispersal of domestic horses into the Great Plains and northern Rockies</i> .	Vershinina AO, Heintzman PD, Froese DG, et al. <i>Ancient horse genomes reveal the timing and extent of dispersals across the Bering Land Bridge</i> . <i>Molecular Ecology</i> . 2021;30:6144–6161. https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.15977	Cassella, Carly. <i>Stone Age Artists Were Inexplicably Mesmerised by Horses, Millennia Before Domestication</i> . Humans. November 19, 2019. Science Alert. https://www.sciencealert.com/for-some-curious-reason-stone-age-artists-were-crazy-about-horses	
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Closer Together—In Person

Story and photos by Monica Grable

In the Spring 2023 edition of *State of the Arts* we featured a unique project taking place at Lame Deer High School called Closer | Together/ Moheh Stestove. Directed by Lame Deer teacher Susan Wolfe and supported by collaborators from all walks of life, Closer | Together is an interdisciplinary arts program designed to quickly match students’ interests to various forms of artistic expression and give them access to world-class arts experiences and artists.

On May 7, the project held an exhibition at the Montana Artists Refuge gallery in the tiny town of Basin, where students were joined by Susan Wolfe and program collaborator and master of the *shakuhachi* Japanese flute, Kojiro “Ko” Umezaki, along with members of the arts community in Basin and elsewhere. These images give a hint of the energy, creativity, and sheer breadth of work that Closer | Together’s students have been creating in the past year. We’re excited to see what comes next.

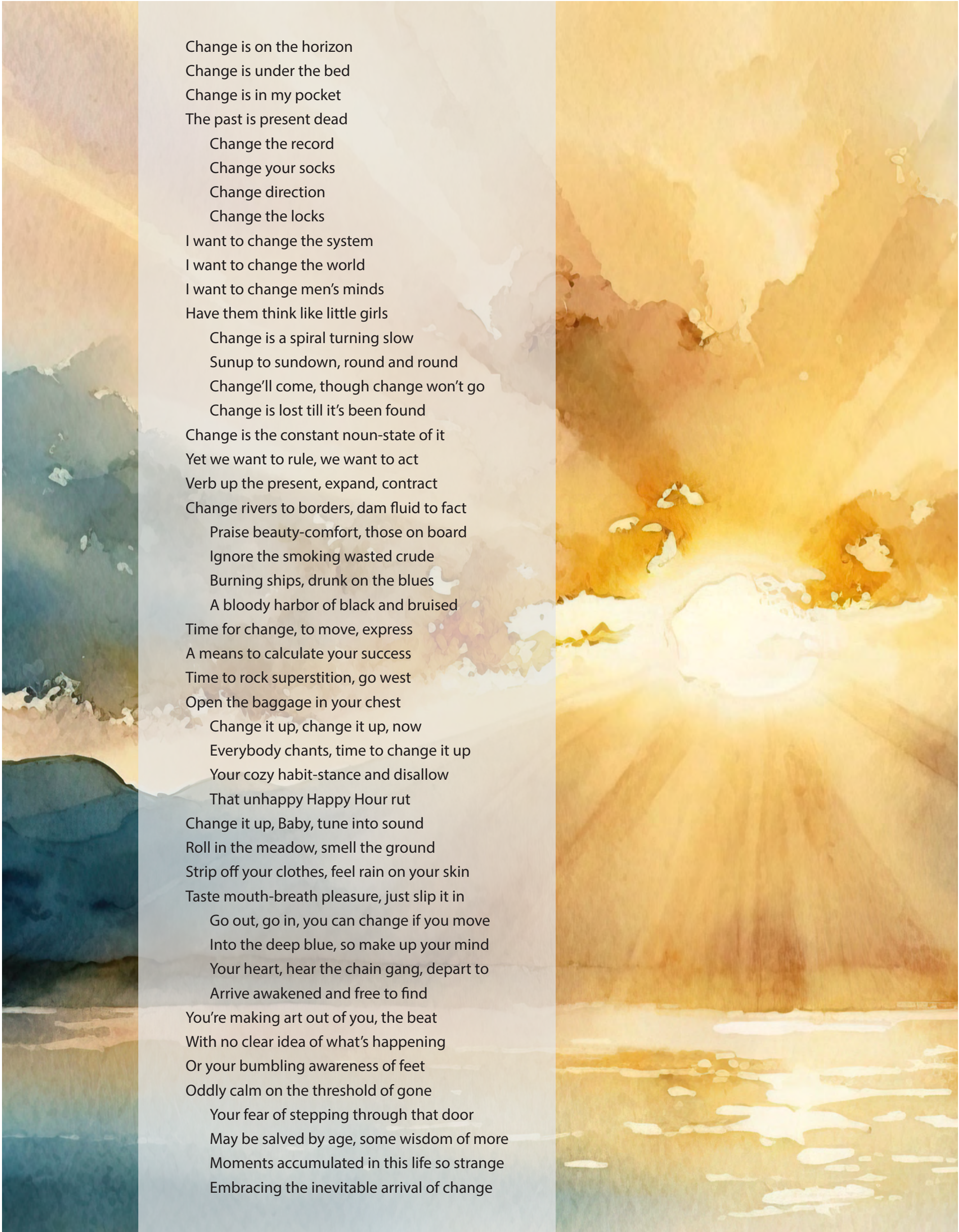


A. Montana Artists Refuge on Basin’s main street harbors fantastic and inventive art. **B.** Students and guests share stories of the project’s work. **C.** In collaboration with Nike, students designed their own shoes, using everything from clay to Lego. **D.** Closer | Together isn’t limited to visual arts; the reception also featured traditional powwow clothing design and dance. **E.** A mobile installation adds kinetic life to the gallery space. **F.** Ko Umezaki speaks to students and guests at the Closer | Together exhibition at Montana Artists Refuge. **G.** Closer | Together student Shandiin Kaline discusses her ribbon dance performance as Susan Wolfe looks on. **H.** Small-scale sculptures combine color and shape.

Read the full story on Page 9 of the Spring 2023 State of the Arts here: art.mt.gov/soa

Change Gang *for Sam Cooke & Bob Dylan*

By Mark Gibbons



Change is on the horizon
Change is under the bed
Change is in my pocket
The past is present dead
 Change the record
 Change your socks
 Change direction
 Change the locks
I want to change the system
I want to change the world
I want to change men's minds
Have them think like little girls
 Change is a spiral turning slow
 Sunup to sundown, round and round
 Change'll come, though change won't go
 Change is lost till it's been found
Change is the constant noun-state of it
Yet we want to rule, we want to act
Verb up the present, expand, contract
Change rivers to borders, dam fluid to fact
 Praise beauty-comfort, those on board
 Ignore the smoking wasted crude
 Burning ships, drunk on the blues
 A bloody harbor of black and bruised
Time for change, to move, express
A means to calculate your success
Time to rock superstition, go west
Open the baggage in your chest
 Change it up, change it up, now
 Everybody chants, time to change it up
 Your cozy habit-stance and disallow
 That unhappy Happy Hour rut
Change it up, Baby, tune into sound
Roll in the meadow, smell the ground
Strip off your clothes, feel rain on your skin
Taste mouth-breath pleasure, just slip it in
 Go out, go in, you can change if you move
 Into the deep blue, so make up your mind
 Your heart, hear the chain gang, depart to
 Arrive awakened and free to find
You're making art out of you, the beat
With no clear idea of what's happening
Or your bumbling awareness of feet
Oddly calm on the threshold of gone
 Your fear of stepping through that door
 May be salved by age, some wisdom of more
 Moments accumulated in this life so strange
 Embracing the inevitable arrival of change



Reading Leaves offers books for kids, teens, adults, and everyone in between.

Passport, Please:

the Montana Bookstore Trail

Story and Photos by Eric Heidle

The proprietor of Reading Leaves, Townsend’s independent bookstore, is a bundle of energy toward the end of a recent weekday. Every customer is greeted warmly, new books are inventoried for placement on shelves, and the sales floor is continuously walked to make sure everything’s in tip-top shape. So when the owner stretches out on the comfortable living-room area floor to catch a late afternoon nap, just know that it’s well earned.

And when Gilly the cat does take his nap, the store’s still in good hands—thanks to his co-owner, Rachael Elliot-Brug. In addition to picking up the slack for her four-legged friend, Rachael has been steadily building a unique space for books on Townsend’s Broadway Street. Readers of a certain age will recognize the storefront’s distinctive profile (it was once a Circle K) and it’s a convenient spot to pick up new and used books. But it’s hardly the only such spot in Montana, which brings us to what might be Rachael’s biggest project yet.

Make a purchase at Reading Leaves and Rachel won’t just bag up your books, stickers, or board games; she’ll also issue you a new Montana Bookstore Trail passport, complete with its first stamp. Like the Montana Brewery Passport, the Bookstore Trail is designed to help visitors and locals alike find new stops during their travels. With nearly two dozen locations, the inaugural passport can point readers to shops in every corner of the state for books and related goodies. A QR code on the passport also gives owners a chance to win tote bags filled with books, advance reader copies, and other surprises.

Do we have enough book lovers to support the passport? It would sure seem so; in 2012 *Publishers Weekly* determined that Montana had more bookstores per capita than any other state. We’ve always been a literary location, and it’s no surprise that we have strong support for these local hubs of culture and learning. Readings by authors, literacy drives, game nights, crafts gatherings, and other events help local bookstores do what online retailers simply can’t. And they’re welcome stops for tourists looking for gifts to take home, as well as guidebooks, volumes on local history, and reading material for the lake or cabin.



Rachael Elliot-Brug and Gilly take a break at Reading Leaves Books. A passport receives its first stamp.



The Bookstore Trail helps other Montana businesses succeed too, since booksellers are encouraged to help visitors find the best places to eat, shop, and explore, and they’ll send readers to bookstores in other towns. It only makes sense, as independent booksellers are a small but deeply networked community. Some of Reading Leaves’ shelves, in fact, came from the neighboring Montana Book Company in Helena (they’re on the trail) when that store completed its recent remodel. The Bookstore Trail’s passports themselves were designed by Marc Beaudin,

poet and co-owner of Elk River Books in Livingston (get your passport stamped there, too). And while Rachael is quick to call the Trail a group effort, Montana Book Company co-owner Chelsia Rice says flatly, “Rachael’s a humble and kind person who did this s--- all by herself, with a little bit of help from other booksellers.”

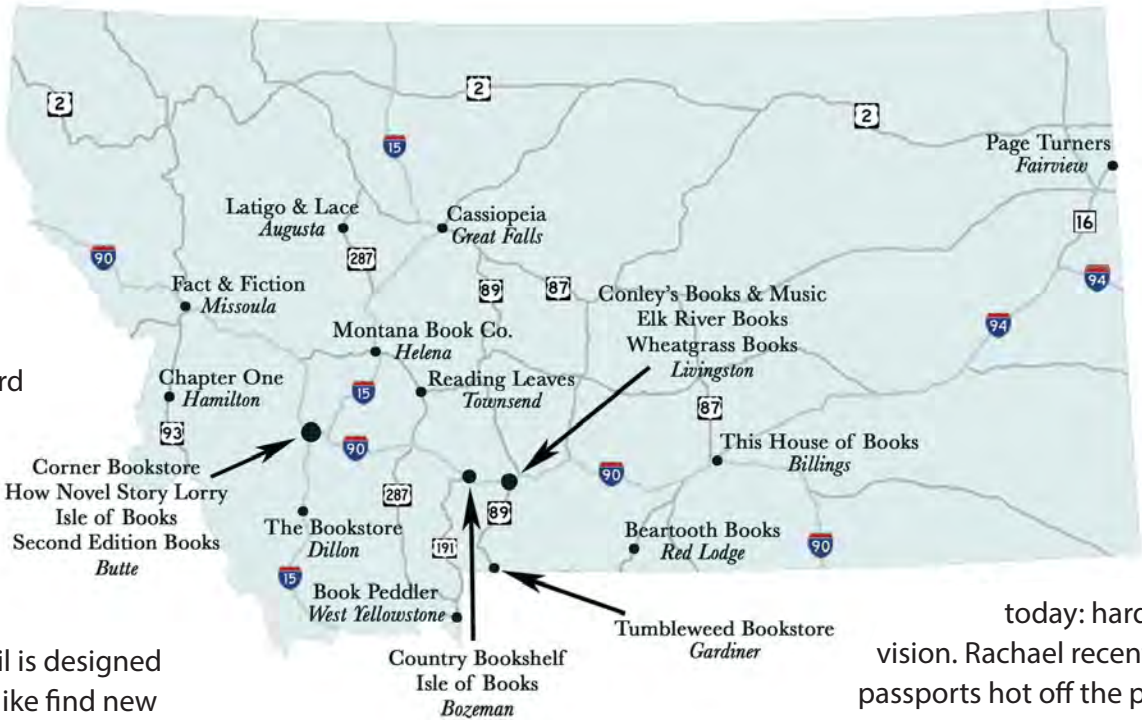
That seems to be what it takes to put the “independent” in independent bookstores

today: hard work, adaptability, and vision. Rachael recently hit the road with boxes of passports hot off the press to distribute to bookstores along the trail, and back at home she and her husband continue to work hard transforming their space into one of Townsend’s most prominent small businesses. And the work never truly ends: on my way out the door, the proprietor offers a few dinner recommendations at local eateries. The human proprietor, of course—Rachael’s left with the task of closing up shop; co-owner Gilly the cat is deeply focused on snoozing in a patch of bright sun.



Learn more about the Montana Bookstore Trail at: www.mtbookstoretrail.com

Bookstore logo and map courtesy of Montana Bookstore Trail.





Carol Drives a Tractor
by Tammi Fladager

Carol Drives a Tractor is a fun children’s picture book, guaranteed to bring a giggle at the end. It’s simplicity and lightheartedness has many messages within, including gender is not always a job qualification! Inspired by a neighbor and friend, Carol is a true inspiration and living the American Dream. By working side by side with her husband, following the formula of working hard and spending little, they built their farm into a sustainable business for generations to come. Without Carol, it wouldn’t have happened!



Come, Walk With Me Into... Africa
by Thomas Curry

Come, Walk With Me Into...Africa is a visual trip with Thomas Curry for three weeks in amazing Africa.

www.artwanted.com



Eclipse of the Sun
by Alicia Beckman

In this striking poetry collection, Red Shuttleworth, who holds the record as the oldest active boxer (professional or amateur), offers evocative imagery that unapologetically reveals the life of a boxer. From the inspiring hopes of an early career to agonizing defeats, the poems in *Eclipse of the Sun* take readers on a journey from moderate successes to the realization that a

dream of a promising future has become the reality of the long haul of a journeyman. Along the way, Shuttleworth rubs elbows with greats like Muhammad Ali, Chickie Ferrara, and Ron Lyle, exposing the resolute path and difficult end of a hard-lived life.

This collection is an homage to boxing at its grittiest levels, and to fighters who persevere—with hope, blood, and bone—against sense and loss. Few professional boxers earn a living in the ring, and even fewer arrive in their forties with any money left from their sport. In this collection, boxers attain poverty rather than riches, end up in post-career menial jobs, and have no pension plan to fall back on. Shuttleworth’s poetry is a visceral inside look at the brutality and humanity at the heart of boxing.

Eclipse of the Sun can be purchased on Amazon or here: <https://unpress.nevada.edu/9781647791209/eclipse-of-the-sun/>



I Am Montana – Free Verse Project
Edited by Nicole Gomez and Dave Caserio

In 2017, the National Endowment for the Humanities funded a proposal by the Free Verse Writing Project and Young Poets, a poet-in-the-schools program of the Center for Creative Writing at Montana State University in Billings, for the I Am Montana project, a collaborative endeavor that offers creative writing workshops at five different learning facilities across Montana, along with yearly publication of an anthology that features student writing. Writers, teachers, and guest speakers go into these youth detention centers and learning facilities on a regular basis to teach literature and writing classes structured around the theme of Montanan identity. These workshops encourage students to excavate and analyze the beauty and hardship of their unique experiences growing up in Montana and to explore those experiences in writing.

I am Montana - Free Verse Project can be purchased online through Amazon, or in-person at the **Zootown Arts Community Center** or **Fact & Fiction**.



MONTANA PANORAMIC - Transparent in the Backlight
Photographs by Craig W. Hergert
Poetry and Stories by Shann Ray

This brand new hardcover coffee table book is a compilation of some of my favorite shots of the last 15 years from all over the state, and is beautifully complimented with poetry and stories from award winning writer Shann Ray.

Transparent in the Backlight is a collaboration between the poems of Shann Ray and the panoramic photography of internationally renowned photographer Craig W. Hergert. Ray first encountered the art of Hergert when Ray’s wife gave him a gift collection of Hergert’s work. Since that time, over the span of 15 years, Ray’s life as a poet, short story writer, and novelist has often been accompanied by Craig’s images of Montana. In referring to Hergert’s work, Ray said: “He is an artist of uncommon acumen, his eye attuned to visions of great magnitude alongside the specific substrata of both the human and the wild, flora, fauna, land and sky, the face of a wildflower or the neck of a swan, captured and given to those of us graced to witness Craig Hergert’s craft.

MONTANA PANORAMIC - Transparent in the Backlight can be ordered here: <https://montanapanoramic.com/products/montana-panoramic-transparent-in-the-backlight?variant=42619597979906>

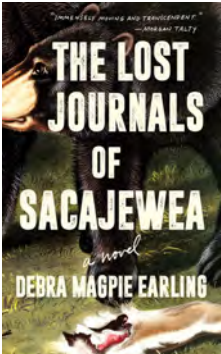


Scuffy Finds a Home
by Jessica Shaw

Scuffy is a spunky young horse who is about to learn a lot about life, the wilderness, and living in the vast, rugged beauty of the Montana backcountry.

In Book One of *The Scuffy Series*, we’ll meet Scuffy and learn about family, unexpected changes, trust, and the promise of a new day.

Follow *The Scuffy Series* to learn more about horses, Montana history, and our treasured back country heritage.



The Lost Journals of Sacajewea: A Novel
by Debra Magpie Earling

“In my seventh winter, when my head only reached my Appe’s rib, a White Man came into camp. Bare trees scratched sky. Cold was endless. He moved through trees like strikes of sunlight. My Bia said he came with bad intentions, like a Water Baby’s cry.”

Among the most memorialized women in American history, Sacajewea served as interpreter and guide for Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery. In this visionary novel, acclaimed Indigenous author Debra Magpie Earling brings this mythologized figure vividly to life, casting unsparing light on the men who brutalized her and recentring Sacajewea as the arbiter of her own history.

Raised among the Lemhi Shoshone, in this telling the young Sacajewea is bright and bold, growing strong from the hard work of “learning all ways to survive”: gathering berries, water, roots, and wood; butchering buffalo, antelope, and deer; catching salmon and snaring rabbits; weaving baskets and listening to the stories of her elders. When her village is raided and her beloved Appe and Bia are killed, Sacajewea is kidnapped and then gambled away to Charbonneau, a French Canadian trapper.

Heavy with grief, Sacajewea learns how to survive at the edge of a strange new world teeming with fur trappers and traders. When Lewis and Clark’s expedition party arrives, Sacajewea knows she must cross a vast and brutal terrain with her newborn son, the white man who owns her, and a company of men who wish to conquer and commodify the world she loves.

Written in lyrical, dreamlike prose, *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea* is an astonishing work of art and a powerful tale of perseverance—the Indigenous woman’s story that hasn’t been told.

The Lost Journals of Sacajewea: A Novel can be purchased here: <https://milkweed.org/book/the-lost-journals-of-sacajewea>

Hidden Treasure in Montana

Story and photos by Jeffrey Conger

Great Northern Carousel

If you are looking for the perfect destination this summer, visit the Great Northern Carousel in the capital city of Helena. This one-of-a-kind carousel boasts 37 hand-carved animals by renowned artist Ed Roth of A&E Sculpting and Painting Studio.

The detailed hand-painted animals include several horses in a variety of classic arrays. Other animals on the carousel include the iconic mascots of a bobcat and grizzly bear and several creatures that roam Montana, like a bison, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, antelope, wolf, otter, cutthroat trout, and even a dinosaur.

Adorning the canopy of the carousel are 14 stunning iridescent glass panels created by local artist Mary Harris. Each glass panel reflects a classic theme from Montana, including Lewis and Clark, Sacajawea in the Gates of the Mountains, and many more Big Sky scenes.

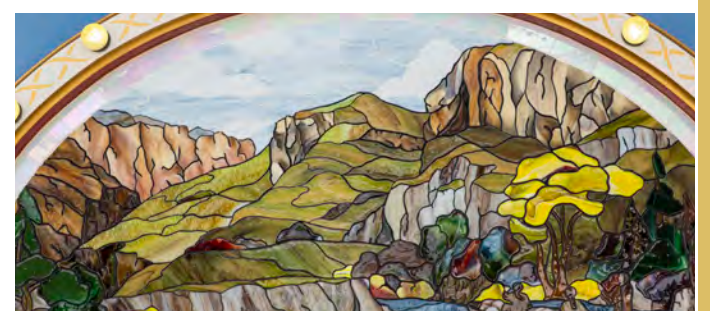
Opened in 2002, the landmark carousel is the brainchild of business entrepreneur Alan and Nancy Nicholson. It serves as the epicenter of the Great Northern Town Center, which features a science museum, a movie theater, and retail shops.

The carousel's manager, Keith Brugman, explains once the carousel ride begins, a popular activity is the brass ring game, where riders on the colorful animals closest to the outer rim can grab one of 35 rings from a custom holder. The coveted prize is one golden ring that offers a free ride.

In addition, the carousel boasts an ice cream parlor with a party area for special events. Proudly serving Montana-made Wilcoxson's ice cream, the most requested flavors include Moose Tracks, Graham Slam, Bubblegum, and Cotton Candy.

So, the next time you are in Helena, make it a point to visit Great Northern Carousel at 989 Carousel Way. They are open weekly, Wednesday through Sunday, and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and holidays. For more information, call (406) 457-5353 or check them out online at www.gncarousel.com.

The Great Northern Carousel in Helena features 37 stunning hand-carved animals by Ed Roth and is a delightful summer destination for all ages.





Art and Community Meet Again at Montana's Sweet Pea Festival

by Dana Dickman

The Sweet Pea Festival—Montana's quintessential three-day festival of the arts held the first Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in August—is the festival people look forward to every year. With an art show, flower show, parade, dog parade, theatre, music and dance performances, children's activities, a beer and wine garden featuring Montana microbrews, and the highly anticipated Artist Marketplace, the festival offers something for everyone. The question is, how do you see and do everything you want in those three days? We spoke with Sweet Pea Festival Executive Director, Kris Olenicki, and fellow board member, Melanie Mangione, for insights on how to get the most from this year's festival.

"We're in our 46th year," Olenicki says, "It all started in 1978 with a bunch of folks from Bozeman who decided to celebrate the arts—music, dance, theater, fine arts, and based it off the Sweet Pea Carnival that took place in 1906 through the teens. The festival at that time had a parade, a queen, and was a celebration of sweet pea flowers and was created to help Bozeman lure a canning company to town, which was unsuccessful. The first Sweet Pea Festival in 1978 was funded in part through a Montana Arts Council grant. As of 2022, this annual celebration has grown to include 15,000 people.

"To have it exist for this long, it's amazing. It's a testament to where Sweet Pea is in the hearts of the community. The celebration goes on all week long and the Festival itself is held in a beautiful place—Lindley Park. We present the Festival for the community and in turn the community supports the Festival. The Festival still exists because it's become a part of the fabric and tradition of the community."

For the 3-day festival weekend, kids 12 and under are free with adult wristbands priced at \$30/3 days if ordered after July 1, 2023, <https://sweetpeafestival.square.site>. Wristband prices go up to \$50 at the gate. But, according to Olenicki, there is a way to make the weekend more affordable, "We are non-profit, and tasked with keeping the festival affordable for the community. We need 400 community volunteers for the festival weekend. If you volunteer for a 3 ½ hour shift, you can come for free all weekend long." Sign up to volunteer at <https://sweetpeafestivalofthearts.volunteerlocal.com>.

Melanie Mangione started as one such volunteer and eventually took her place on the Sweet Pea board, now working on the Artist Marketplace planning committee.

"There's something nostalgic about going back to your favorite booth. It's fun to catch up and see how repeat Sweet Pea artists' work has evolved over the years but also to see the new artists. We have 30-45% artist marketplace vendors who are new every year.

The guests like to see the new artists and meet new people. It's a great place for community to gather and be absorbed in the arts."

Another not-so-widely-known fact—The Girl Scouts usually have black bean burritos and keep Thin Mints in the freezer at their booth! The festival has ice cream and all kinds of fun foods. Olenicki suggests you, "Get a copy of our schedule <https://sweetpeafestival.org/sweetpea-events> and look at what you want to see and do. We've tried to space things out so you can see and do more of what's offered."

This year there are ten bands on the music stage, three that are local. "We've gotten a reputation for bringing in acts who make it big later," Olenicki cited one musician, Anderson East, who performed at Sweet

Pea a few years ago and ended up touring with country music star, Miranda Lambert. "Every year we try to do something different. On the music stage we've only repeated a band once in 46 years. Last year, the Bozeman Symphony played and their percussion section is playing for the kids this year, letting the kids play with the percussion instruments as well. We are tasked to bring local, regional, national, and international artists. In addition to our music stage, we have a family stage, dance stage, and a theater stage."

Art and community come together after the festival too. In fact, Sweet Pea sponsors an Ice Carving contest in January. Mangione chairs the committee. "We have 10-12 blocks of ice. Each block is 300 pounds, and each carver—teams of 2—gets a block. They create whatever they want between 9am and 3pm. Then we light them up and award cash prizes. Beginners (1-3 years) and Advanced (4 years or more) carvers can win for 1st, 2nd or 3rd place. Some of my favorites were the turtle that we had last year, and a woody scene with a cabin, some fish and trees done by some



Art from the 2023 Kids' T-shirt Design Winner Clara Michael.



first timers. What I like about ice carvings is how they melt and then stay as Mother Nature creates the lines you can't create; the edges are worn down into something you can't imagine."

Olenicki described other year-round programs. "We give the proceeds of the festival back to the community in the form of grants for art projects, to other arts organizations, and art education. We feel strongly about supporting the arts in schools, it is so important for kids' growth and their minds. We support public arts projects and work with another festival in town. We've done a mosaic at the Bogert Park Pool entrance. For The Lindley Park Tree Project—we are working with Bozeman Farmers' Market to get an artist to carve a damaged tree that lost its canopy in a storm and make it into a piece of art. Sweet Pea also sponsors local arts organizations like the Bozeman Film Festival, and Bozeman Night Live."

Sweet Pea volunteer work has been rewarding to both women. For Olenicki, "It is truly fulfilling. I'm so passionate about Sweet Pea. It's important to me and our board and the community that this festival is here and it thrives. We're 4 years away from 50. We're looking for ways to expand to be even more of a part of our community and the arts. The Festival is such an experience and listening to audiences cheer, their applause and their reactions at the art at Sweet Pea, it always fills my heart."

Artist Marketplace: **A.** *Heart and Hand* from Bozeman, Montana **B.** *Essential Baubles* from Huson, Montana **C.** *SM Ceramics* from Livingston, Montana **D.** *DB Reality Rocks* from Ekalaka, Montana **E.** *Needle and Axe Off the Grid Threadworks* from Columbia Falls, Montana **F.** *Kimbie Art* from Big Sky, Montana. Performances featuring: **G.** *Matt Wallin & His Nervous Breakdown*, Sunday 12:00pm • The Bowl **H.** *Montana Ballet Company*, Saturday 12:00pm • Cypress Point

Visit Northwest Montana History Museum – Where Our Past is Present

Painter, printmaker and woodcarver Kathleen Frank hiked Montana for weeks last summer and then holed up in her studio making paintings of what she saw.

Her colorful large-scale works depict historic sites of western Montana, from St. Mary Lake to the Bitterroot Valley. The works will hang in one of the museum’s two temporary galleries.

Frank’s introduction to Montana was about 20 years ago on a trip to a horse ranch, where she and others spent time setting up teepees, sleeping outside and hiking. She recalls sitting around the campfire in the evening listening to stories told by the Blackfeet.

Between her first trip to Montana and her more recent one, Frank has ventured widely, usually in the great outdoors. Her landscapes tend to focus on the American Southwest, where she travels multiple times throughout the year to hike and take photos of the views for her artwork.

Details: Show runs through October



Kathleen Frank painting of St. Mary Lake.



One of the 10 Items on display.

Also on exhibit:

“The Way We Wore” represents the latest in the “10 Items” installations for which curators take a roundabout look at the collection and present a select group to illustrate a certain theme.

Volunteers Judy Elwood and Sharon Bristow and board member Jane Renfrow will put on display a selection of uniforms connected to the Flathead Valley.

Most of us know the psychological impact of pride felt at the act of putting on a uniform, whether enlisting in military service or joining a sports team or club. The people who wore the uniforms included in the exhibit must have felt a similar thrill. They signaled the high honor of belonging.

The uniforms prepared for the exhibit range from a 1950s Boy Scout uniform and a nurse’s cape and cap to school gym clothing and a band uniform from the Kalispell Fire Department.

Also included: a ceremonial coat that belonged to Judge Joseph E. Rockwood, a member of the Patriarchs Militant of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Rockwood served two terms as a judge in the 11th Judicial District, then two terms in the Montana House of Representatives. His 1920s home, on the National Register of Historic Places, stands at 835 First Ave. East.

Details: Show runs through August

124 2nd Ave. E., Kalispell, MT 59901 • 406-756-8381 • nwmthistory.org



Artist Spotlight: Jim Zimpel

by Tracy Sullivan

Jim Zimpel's work constructs factual and imaginary entry points and rituals—they are the means to process, explore and understand things that are actually, or perceived as, inaccessible. A meaningful fishing experience, a trip to a natural wonder, a project built together in the garage shop behind the house. His practice is an attempt to attend to actual and desired familial bonds. It is location, object, or activity. A fire ring, a broken engine, a hug, the forced proximity between two men dictated by the hull of a 14' fishing boat. It is recollection and recognition, an interpretation of traditions, fiction and history; an exploration of the terms of patrilineal relationships as he understands them.

I find all of his work fascinating. Unable to pick a favorite piece, I asked Jim what pieces were his favorite.

"In general my favorite pieces are the ones I'm working on in the moment. I enjoy the process of making the work, struggling with the details, and helping ultimately realizing the idea. One

of the best parts of any piece, is being able to be beside or to hold the physical object once it has become something tangible versus an idea.

"As far as work that has been created and is completed, I vacillate between which is my current favorite. Right now I'd have to say I'm most interested in the pool table, sailboat and riding lawnmower I created in the past year or so and which will be going to the new museum in Missoula."

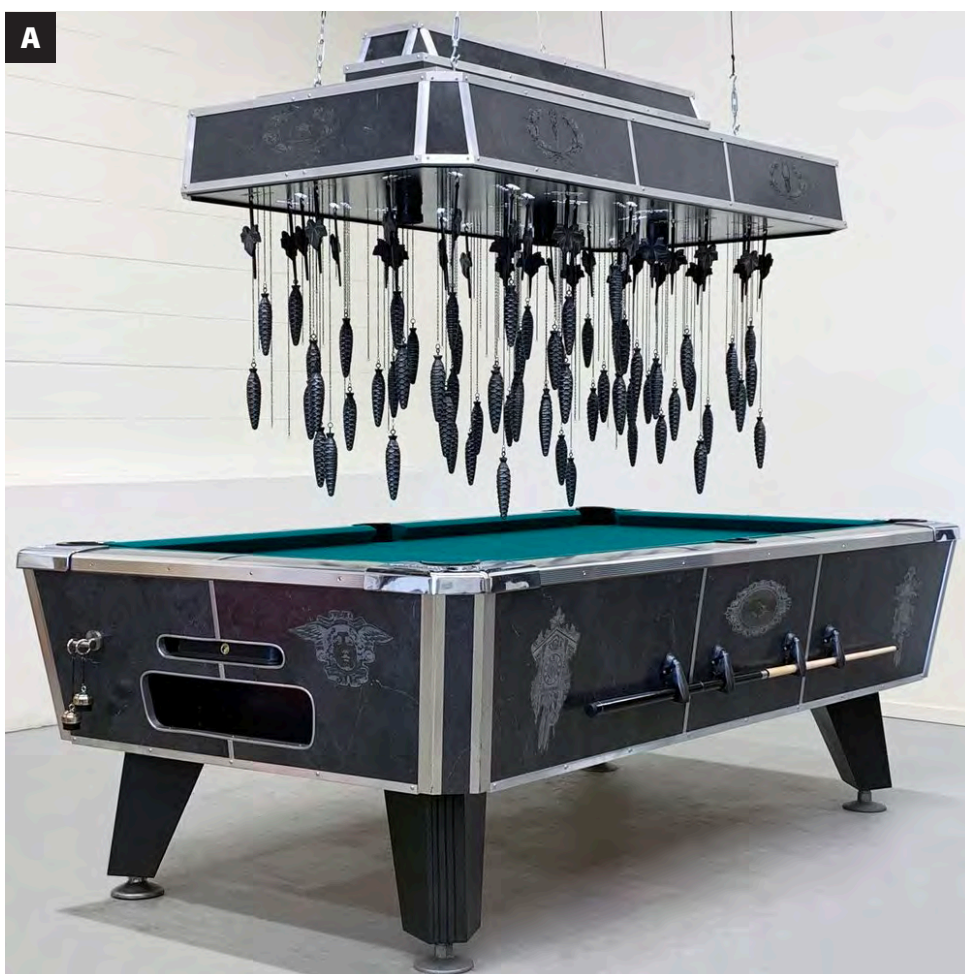
The pool table known as *Untitled* (Young Man's Disease | Patience and Time, Death and Dying) commands your attention. Made of laminate sheet, pall bearer handle hardware, cast plastic, acrylic, chain, misc. hardware, oak, plywood, electrical components, LED bulbs, projectors, enamel paint, aluminum, Valley brand pay pool table, billiard cues and accessories, the piece was created as a result of contemplating the idea of time, time winding-down, missed opportunities, what is unsaid or remains to be said, and loss in general.

His approach feels unique, so I asked Jim to explain his process and what inspires him.

"I'm inspired by or influenced by a variety of things but typically I work within certain larger project ideas. These topics include but are not limited to, complicated male familial relationships and the "rules of engagement" in terms of what bonding looks like, random objects my grandfather would be interested in picking up from a curb that would be fun to remake out of wood, trophies and what they mean/can mean, games/activities that encourage/foster relationships and create proximity."

Jim will have two works featured in the new museum opening in Missoula at the end of the summer. A bust made of pink foam and various other materials of his grandfather and the riding lawnmower mentioned previously will both be a part of the permanent collection.

To see more of his work, visit jimzimpel.com.



A. *Untitled* (Young Man's Disease | Patience and Time, Death and Dying), 2022 B & C. *Needs Belts* (Curb Find – Riding Mower), 2022 D. *Untitled* (Vessel – Sailboat), 2018 E. *Untitled* (Grandpa George Bust), 2019

Glasgow:

Daily Departures From the Ordinary

by Eric Heidle

“A skate park is activism.”

It’s an unusual statement to hear in a discussion around what’s happening in the arts in northeastern Montana, but for artist, writer, and teacher Tess Fahlgren it goes to the heart of the changes her generation is making in and around Glasgow through their creative visions for the town’s future. The skate park in question doesn’t exist yet—but it’s going to, thanks to the work of Glasgow’s close-knit creative community.

Tess brings up the skate park following the Montana Arts Council’s annual June meeting, which took place this year in Glasgow. Council members and staff spent three days in the region meeting with members of the community and visiting galleries, studios, and businesses buzzing with excitement about new work and new possibilities in this small, agricultural Hi-Line town. Tess sees the skatepark as one expression of this energy; while teaching art in nearby Nashua, she interacted with lots of kids struggling to find connections. “It’s like [the skate park] is a community outside of a school where you might not be able to feel connected to anyone else. Here is a physical place where you can go and be with your people and feel safe, you know?”

It’s a point that touches on the heart of the dilemma of making art in rural Montana. Many who’ve grown up here have left for bigger opportunities elsewhere—Tess included—only to return and dig in, determined to live and work in a place that’s truly home. “There’s the stubbornness and you don’t want to admit defeat. I’ve lived in lots of places but I still, for some reason, always talk about home.” Currently, she’s writing a memoir about Glasgow and being raised on her father’s farm, a project that echoes the writing of Judy Blunt, Tess’ professor at the University of Montana. “It’s really easy to write about your small town when you don’t live there anymore,” Tess notes, meaning that while you should be honest when writing about your town, you still need to be understanding and cooperate with your neighbors. “I don’t want to burn bridges when my niece is going to grow up here. I really want the town to build a skate park.”

Ask painter Cat McIntyre about how the place you live affects the work you do. In 2010 Cat downshifted into life along Highway 2 from the frenetic pace of art school near the Las Vegas Strip at UNLV, moving to Glasgow after finishing her MFA and immediately opening a gallery downtown. “I remember having a conversation with photographer Sean Heavey, also from Glasgow, who had moved from Seattle. We both had this larger city perspective of moving to Glasgow for our spouses’ sake, and I think it’s entirely fair to say we were both just in love with Glasgow in the same way.” On the benefits of creating art in a rural town, Cat recalls Sean’s point of view: “One of the things he said at that time 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.”



The middle of nowhere turns out to be on Glasgow’s main street.



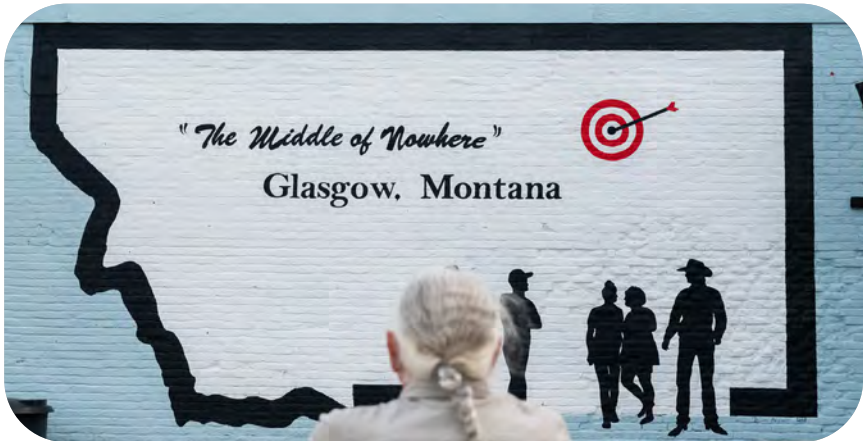
Tess and Mary Fahlgren give the Council a tour of Wheatgrass Art and Gallery.



The historic Fort Peck Theatre.



Cat McIntyre describes her work to Council members and staff.



The middle of everywhere, if creativity is the key.



Cat McIntyre in her studio with self-portrait.

What's also interesting is that while Cat McIntyre and Sean Heavey both love Glasgow in the same way, they channel it into dramatically different art. Cat's work varies widely, from floral designs and landscapes painted on tin ceiling panels scavenged by her husband to her most intensive series: large portraits of working women, often nude, posed with the tools they use in their daily lives. It's work that subverts the reduction of the female form to an object to be described, and was inspired by a crude comment from an older man at a show who was less interested in her work than in telling her how he thought she should be the subject. Cat did just that, but on her own terms: the riveting self-portrait which resulted uses multiple media including paint, her own clothing, and a word-for-word account of the comment in question rendered in needlepoint. It's astonishing to see this work come from such a traditional small Montana town, and it's provocative by design: the paintings address issues of bodily autonomy, power dynamics in the art world, and the continuing fight for agency in the early 21st century.

Sean Heavey's work may come from a less conflicted place, but he's no stranger to having his work co-opted by others. Sean's monumental land- and skyscapes capture that beauty he came to love here, expressing vast cloudscape, impossibly wide horizons, and the stark beauty of the eastern plains. One of his most iconic images, which he's named "The Mothership," captures a whirling supercell thunderstorm that looks like a portal to another dimension. Unfortunately Sean's Instagram followers weren't the only fans of the image, as he found out while watching a documentary about the hit Netflix show Stranger Things. There was the Mothership, Photoshopped into promotional images for the series. He hadn't granted permission or been compensated for the use of his work, and Sean was forced to take legal action. Moving to a small town, it turns out, is no guarantee that big-city problems won't follow you there.

But it also means you can bring big-city culture to a small town. At a reception for the Council in Fort Peck before an outstanding performance at the Fort Peck Summer Theatre, I spoke with **Mark Berger and Travis Young**, two more of Glasgow's younger creative wave. Mark is the head (and only) chef at Toodie's, a café and art gallery housed in a corner of Glasgow's Elks Lodge which specializes in the Benny, a riff on classic eggs Benedict using creative ingredients to deliver delicious, punchy flavors. Travis, by contrast, serves up graphic design, creating logos for local businesses and posters for the Theatre among other projects. Like Tess and Sean, Mark and Travis did a tour of duty in the big city: they were in a band together, playing first in Missoula and then Seattle. Like Tess and Sean, they both wound up coming home to make art here.

The strands connecting everyone started to feel like the warm conclusion to a independent film as our visit drew to a close. A group of Council members, staffers, and Glasgow residents convened at Toodie's for breakfast before hitting the road home. Tess Fahlgren gave us more news on the skate park; it's received \$75,000 in matching funds from Montana Pool Service, the slyly-named nonprofit formed by Big Sandy native, skate fanatic, and Pearl Jam bassist Jeff Ament. The rush of business we've brought in to the café threatens to overwhelm our lone server, and Tess asks if she can help out (she works occasional shifts here on top of her other jobs). Tess' mom Mary sits across the way; she's a painter and the founder of Wheatgrass Arts and Gallery, a studio space downtown offering classes and exhibition space. Mary had already co-led us on a tour of Glasgow's blossoming mural collection with Cat McIntyre; Cat had described the cultural and civic benefits of the epic mural she'd spearheaded on the town's central underpass.

One of the last murals on the tour was maybe the most famous. It's a stark bold outline of Montana, featuring a bullseye in the upper right corner and the words, "The Middle of Nowhere." The phrase stems from a 2018 story in the Washington Post which determined that Glasgow was the town farthest from all cities in the US. Far from taking offense, the town has embraced the honor: you'll find it on t-shirts, souvenirs, special street signage outside Sean Heavey's gallery (which, in true Glasgow fashion, also houses the Fort Peck Theatre office), and everywhere else there's room. And because Glasgow's so far from everywhere, there's plenty of room. Room to create, room for ideas, room to hold a diverse range of opinions on every subject under the sun.

And soon, very soon, room for a sweet skate park.



Sean Heavey discusses his work.
Photo by Monica Grable



There's art both inside and out at Wheatgrass Art.

Arts Learning



Wica-ta-wi Hoksina Brown learns he's won Montana's 2022-2023 Poetry Out Loud competition. Photo courtesy of Katie Knight.

By Monica Grable

The dust has settled on Montana's 2022-2023 Poetry Out Loud season. At its conclusion, Montana's state champion Wica-ta-wi Hoksina Brown of Polson traveled to Washington, D.C. to compete in the recitation competition's national finals. Wica-ta-wi Hoksina represented his home state with distinction, passing through the Western semifinal competition and participating as one of only nine competitors in the final round. His is the highest finish of any Montana student in 13 years—and he's eligible to compete again in the upcoming year.

And so are hundreds of Montana students who aren't yet participating in Poetry Out Loud, but should! If you're an educator, a parent, or lover of the spoken word, we encourage you to get the students you know involved. Poetry Out Loud teams are usually administered by educators,

but aren't required to be, and Montana has strong teams from public schools and alternative schools alike. As with similar competitive programs such as Speech and Debate, Poetry Out Loud combines preparation, coaching, practice, and competition. Participants are judged on both accuracy and performance, and individual students' style plays a prominent role in competition.

Convinced? Visit www.poetryoutloud.org to peruse more than 1,000 poems that students will choose to recite from, and if you're interested in starting a Poetry Out Loud program in your local school, or know a student you think would like to compete, visit art.mt.gov/pol or contact the Arts Council's Monica Grable at Monica.Grable@mt.gov for more details. Let the poetry begin!

Wheels of Harmony—Bringing Indigenous Opera to Kids



Wheels of Harmony performers fill the Helena Middle School auditorium with exciting and original operatic music.

Story and Photos by Monica Grable

Bozeman-based Intermountain Opera's spring tour of Montana schools did more than give students the chance to learn about opera. The tour's title, *Wheels of Harmony*, hints at its broader purpose: to expose students to Indigenous culture and music, to engage them in discussion about Montana and our country's tribal nations, and to encourage students to consider musical careers. At their performance at Helena Middle School in early April, mezzo-soprano Kate Raquel Morton of the Cherokee Nation, baritone Mark Billy of Choctaw ancestry, and pianist J Cruise Berry, born to Arab and Chickasaw parents, performed and spoke to an enthusiastic audience of grade- and middle-schoolers about opera as well as work created by and about Indigenous musicians. The performance illustrated that classical music is made for everyone, and that every kind of experience can be raw material for new operatic works. Students got the chance to speak with the performers afterward and learn more about the inspiration and ideas behind the music. If you're interested in learning (and hearing) more, visit www.intermountainopera.org/education



A. Artists Kate Raquel Morton, J Cruise Berry, and Mark Billy of Intermountain Opera's Wheels of Harmony. B. The performers field questions from students following the performance. C. Students interact on stage with Wheels of Harmony's performers at the show's conclusion.

Artists in Schools and Communities Grant Recipients

By Monica Grable
Photography by Eric Heidle

The Montana Arts Council’s Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grants provide funds which support a wide range of arts learning. The program is divided into two initiatives: AISC Experiences and Residencies. Experiences grants provide for direct engagement with guest artists in a learning environment, the purchase of supplies and tools to support arts learning, and transportation to support in-person interaction with artists. Residencies provide for in-depth learning sessions, lasting anywhere from hours to months, in conjunction with teaching artists which provide discipline-specific and multidisciplinary arts learning.

Listed below are AISC Experiences and Residencies grant recipients for projects occurring between June and October of 2023, and represent a diverse range of learning opportunities statewide. We’re grateful to be able to provide this support to so many organizations working to enhance education in the arts throughout Montana.




















































Monica Grable and Council member Tom Cordingley lead the online AISC panel which deliberated on the grant applications.

FY24 AISC Experiences Awards

Applicant Org Name	Project Name	Applicant City	Requested	Awarded
Camp Fire Western Montana*	Summer Art Exploration	Missoula	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
St. John’s United*	Afro-Latin Rhythm Class	Billings	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
open-ended community arts center*	“PERSPECTIVES”	Hamilton	\$2,310.00	\$2,310.00
Missoula Writing Collaborative	Words With Wings Summer Camp	Missoula	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Greater Gallatin United Way	KGLT Kids Songwriting Workshop	Bozeman	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
North Valley Music School	North Valley Music School’s Fall Workshop: A Weekend wiith Jack Gladstone	Whitefish	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Noxon School District 10 *	Building student skills in painting and printmak- ing through material experimentation.	Noxon	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Choteau Community Art Studio (Choteau Arts)	The Illuminated Field Journal	Choteau	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Cohesion Dance Project	BrainDance Training Workshop for School and Dance Educators	Helena	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Lewistown Art Center	Wild Clay Workshop (with Josh DeWeese) in Central Montana	Lewistown	\$1,612.00	\$1,610.00
Colstrip Public Schools *	Art Club Trip to the Midwest	Colstrip	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Arts Council of Big Sky	2023 Summer/Fall Arts Education Classes and Workshops	Big Sky	\$2,483.00	\$2,480.00
MSU Bozeman - School of Art	IndigenEyes: Contemporary Native American Art of the Rocky Mountain West and Plains	Bozeman	\$2,239.00	\$2,230.00
	* new applicant		\$33,144.00	\$28,130.00

FY24 AISC Residencies Awards

Applicant Organization Name	Project Name	Applicant City	Reuested	Awarded
Tumblewheel Studios	Tumblewheel Studios Teaching Artist in Residence	Belfry	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
Missoula Writing Collaborative	River City Young Poets	Missoula	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
Missoula Community Radio	A/V Club	Missoula	\$5,233.00	\$5,000.00
Montana Shakespeare in the Parks	Shakespeare in the Schools - Fall 2023 Tour of As You Like It	Bozeman	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
Art Mobile of Montana	Art Mobile of Montana Artist in Residence	Statewide	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
A VOICE	Our Community Record Two Eagle River School	Pablo	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Bozeman Art Museum	Exploring Creativity - Drawing In & Outside the Lines with the Bozeman Art Museum free art classes	Bozeman	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
SPARK! Arts Ignite Learning	SPARK! Arts Integration Residency Project	Missoula	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
Hawthorne Elementary School Parent Council*	Hawthorne School Artist in Residency Program	Helena	\$5,050.00	\$5,000.00
WaterWorks Art Museum	The Art of loving ART!	Miles City	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
Montana Repertory Theatre, University of Montana	Montana Rep's 2023 Educational Tour	Missoula	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
Missoula County Public Schools	Bare Bait Dance's Model Dance Education Program (BBD MoDE)	Missoula	\$2,900.00	\$2,500.00
Montana Actors' Theatre	MAT Youth Education Program	Havre	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts	Shane Center Arts Education Program	Livingston	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
The Myrna Loy	Locarno	Helena	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Belgrade School District #44	Belgrade Rocks with Haydn Vitera	Bozeman	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
Cohesion Dance Project	School and Community Dance Outreach for All	Helena	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
Trinity Elementary School *	Trinity Artist in Residence 23-24	Helena	\$3,386.00	\$3,300.00
Alpine Artisans, Inc.	Movements4Movement Instruction in the Seeley-Swan Schools	Seeley Lake	\$6,400.00	\$6,150.00
Wolf Creek Elementary School *	Wolf Creek School Artist in Residency Grant 23-24	Helena	\$2,898.00	\$2,800.00
Missoula Art Museum	Missoula Art Museum's Teen Art Project (TAP): Public Art & Murals - What if you could fill the void?	Missoula	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art	Veteran's Art Program and Senior Art Class	Great Falls	\$4,400.00	\$4,000.00
Holter Museum of Art	Art Feeds the Artist Within III	Helena	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
Creative Writing Center, Montana State University Billings	Young Poets at Orchard Elementary	Billings	\$7,500.00	\$7,250.00
	* new applicant			
			\$200,767.00	\$175,000.00


































Anaconda						
Washoe Park		Art in the Park	July 21-23	Daily	cvmac.org	Free
Basin						
Montana Artists Refuge		Corelli A Lover of Art and Long Walks	July 17	7:00 PM	baroquemusicmontana.org	\$5+
Belt						
Rodeo Grounds at Castner Park		BeltStock	August 26	4:00 PM		\$30
Billings						
Metrapark		The Dark Horizon Tour	July 22	6:30 PM	metrapark.com/events	\$43+
		Whiskey Myers	July 28	7:30 PM		\$39+
		REO Speedwagon	August 2	7:30 PM		\$49+
		Magic City Blues	August 4-5	5:00 PM		\$100+
		Ludacris	August 13	7:00 PM		\$55+
		Goo Goo Dolls	September 15	8:00 PM		\$39+
Kirks Grocery		Gordon McConnell	Jun 2-Jul 22	Daily	kirksgrocery.com	Free
Billings						
Alberta Bair Theater		Billings Symphony 'Pianos Fantastiques'	September 16	7:30 PM	albertabairtheater.org	\$20+
Yellowstone Art Museum		Photographs of Barbara Van Cleve	Apr 13-Jun 25	Daily	artmuseum.org	\$6+
		Will James in Magazines	June, 2023 - June, 2024	Daily		\$6+
		Art Evolved: Intertwined	Jun 30-Oct 22	Daily		\$6+
		Activating the Surface: Paul Harris	Aug 3-Oct 1	Daily		\$6+
Downtown Billings		Art Walk	August 4	5:00 PM	artwalkbillings.com	Free
		Alive After 5	July 20, 27 & Aug 3	5:00 PM	downtownbillings.com	Free
Downtown Billings Skatepark		Lyle Lovett	July 23	6:00 PM	thepubstation.com	\$49.50
Crooked Line Studio		Open Art	July 17, 21, 24, 28, 31	10:00 AM & 6:00 PM	crookedlinestudio.com	\$8+
		Watercolor Wednesday with Dan Granger	July 5, 12, 19, 26	5:30 PM		\$8
		Mixed Media Meet Up	July 6, 13, 20, 27	6:00 PM		\$10
		Abstract ARTaholics Anonymous: Grid Journaling	July 6, 20	2:00 PM		\$25
		Painting with Carolyn Thayer	July 20, 24, 27, 31	6:00 PM		\$225
		Open Oil	July 7, 14, 21, 28	1:00 PM		\$10
		Friday Painters with Carolyn Thayer	July 7, 14, 21, 28	1:00 PM		\$225
		Colts and Adding Movement with Jess Rice	July 19	6:00 PM		\$50
		Watercolor Polaroids Wild Skies with Doodlen Dan	July 22	3:00 PM		\$30
		Bullet Journaling Baics with John Kennedy	July 29	6:00 PM		\$48
		Willie Watson	July 18	8:00 PM		\$20
		Eddie 9V	July 19	8:00 PM		\$15
		The Brevet	July 20	8:00 PM		\$15
		Mogan Wade with Wade Sapp	July 26	8:00 PM		\$27+
		Priscilla Block	July 29	8:00 PM		\$22
		Aaron Watson	August 4	8:00 PM		\$29.50
The Pub Station		David Nail	August 10	8:00 PM		\$25
		Texas Hippie Coalition	August 15	8:00 PM		\$20
		Red Shahan	August 16	8:00 PM		\$15
		Fruition with Maita	August 19	8:00 PM		\$22
		Susto	August 22	8:00 PM		\$17
		Nick Shoulders	August 25	7:00 PM		\$18
		Milky Chance	August 28	6:00 PM		\$49.50
		Bumpin Ugliers	September 7	8:00 PM		\$17
		JinJer	September 23	7:00 PM		\$29.50
		Doobie: Somewhat Sober Life Tour	September 24	8:00 PM		TBA
		Buckcherry	September 29	8:00 PM	thepubstation.com	\$29.50
		Steel Panther	September 30	8:00 PM		\$29.50+
Alive After 5		Josie Dunne, Guthrie Brown and Luke Enyeart	July 20	5:00 PM	downtownbillings.com	Free
		Ryan Chrys & the Rough Cuts	July 27	5:00 PM		Free
		Lost Canyons	August 3	5:00 PM		Free















































ZooMontana		Chase Rice	July 21	6:00 PM	zoomontana.org	\$35.50
		Michael Franti and Spearhead	August 1	6:00 PM		\$49.50
		Jimmie Allen	August 20	6:00 PM		\$39.50
		Milky Chance	August 28	6:00 PM		\$49.50

Bigfork




































For Fine Art		Tyler Swain: The Birds and the Bees	August 4	5:00 PM		Free
		September Featured Artist: Kathy Bonnema Leslie	September 1	4:00 PM		Free
Bigfork Summer Playhouse		Addams Family	July 3, 11, 16, 21 & 28	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM		\$22+
		Grease	July 20, 25 & 29	7:30 PM & 8:00 PM		\$22+
		Escape to Margaritaville	July 22, 28 & 30	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM		\$22+
		Benefit Revue	July 23	8:00 PM		\$45
		Fiddler on the Roof	August 1, 8, 12 & 17	8:00 PM		\$22+
		Addams Family	August 2, 5, 10, 15 & 18	8:00 PM		\$22+
		Grease	August 3, 9, 13 & 19	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM		\$22+
		Escape to Margaritaville	August 4, 7, 11, & 16	8:00 PM		\$22+
		The Hits	Aug 24 - Sept 2	7:30 PM		\$20+

Big Sky

Art Council Art Studio		Life Drawing	July 5, 12, 19 & 26	3:30 PM		Donation
		Summer ARTventure Kid's Art Class	July 6, 13, 20 & 27	4:30 PM		Donation
Art Council Art Studio		Open Pottery Studio	July 21, 23, 28 & 30	4:00 PM		\$10
Art Council Art Studio		ARTventure Camp - Montana Adventure Edition	July 17-18	10:00 AM		Donation
		Community Art Class - Paint your Pet	July 19	6:00 PM		Donation
Len Hill Park		Music in the Mountains: Madeline Hawthorne	July 20	6:00 PM		Free
		Big Sky Artisan Festival	July 22	9:00 AM		Free
Art Council Art Studio		Community Art Class - Resin Floral Pendants & Earrings	July 26 & August 9	6:00 PM		Donation
Len Hill Park		Music in the Mountains: Funk You	July 27	6:00 PM		Free
Big Sky Waypoint		Dad Habit	July 29	8:00 PM		Free
Art Council Art Studio		Community Art Class - Illustrate your Tarot Reading	August 2	6:00 PM		Donation
		Life Drawing	August 2, 9, 16 & 23	3:30 PM		Donation
Len Hill Park		Music in the Mountains: TK & The Holy Know-Nothings	August 3	6:00 PM		Free
Art Council Art Studio		Summer ARTventure Kid's Art Class	August 3, 10, 17 & 24	4:30 PM		Donation
		Open Pottery Studio	August 4, 6 & 11	4:00 PM		\$10
		ARTventure Camp - Water Worlds Edition	August 7 & 8	10:00 AM		Donation
Len Hill Park		Music in the Mountains: Matt Nathanson	August 10	6:00 PM		Free
Big Sky Waypoint		Old Man Ben and the Grown-Ass Men	August 12	8:00 PM		Free
Art Council Art Studio		Glazing Workshop	August 13-15	4:00 PM & 6:00 PM		Donation
Art Council Art Studio		Community Art Class - Compassionate Critters	August 16	6:00 PM		Donation
Len Hill Park		Music in the Mountains: AJ Lee and Blue Summit	August 17	6:00 PM		Free
Art Council Art Studio		Beadwork Workshop	August 20-22	4:00 PM & 6:00 PM	bigskyarts.org	Free
Gallatin River Gallery		Bravo! Big Sky: The Fairest Isle with Baroque Music Montana	August 22	6:00 PM		TBD
Art Council Art Studio		Community Art Class - Paint your Pet	August 23	6:00 PM		Donation
Len Hill Park		Music in the Mountains: Futurebirds	August 24	6:00 PM		Free
Big Sky Waypoint		Mike Murray Duo	August 25	8:00 PM		Free
		Sofia Talvik	August 26	8:00 PM		Free
Len Hill Park		Music in the Mountains: Jesse Daniel	August 31	6:00 PM		Free
Big Timber						
Sweet Grass Arts Theater		Corelli A Lover of Art and Long Walks	July 20	7:00 PM	baroquemusicmontana.org	TBA
Bonner						
KettleHouse Amphitheater		Trampled by Turtles	July 20	7:30 PM	logjampresents.com	\$37.50+
		Lyle Lovett and his Large Band	July 22	8:00 PM		\$37+
		Incubus	July 23	8:00 PM		\$43.50+
		Gary Clark	July 26	8:00 PM		\$39.50+
		RAIN - A Tribute to the Beatles	July 30	8:00 PM		\$35+
		Ben Folds	August 2	8:00 PM		\$46+
		Kip Moore	August 4	8:00 PM		\$39.50+
		Greensky Bluegrass	August 9	7:00 PM		\$35+

Bozeman		Rebelution	August 23	6:30 PM		\$25+
		The Flaming Lips	August 25	8:00 PM		\$35+
Bozeman						
Museum of the Rockies		Da Vinci The Exhibition	May 26-Sept 3	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	museumoftherockies.org	\$10.50+
Bozeman Art Museum		Sacred Roots	April 25-July 22	Daily	bozemanartmuseum.org	Free
		Corelli A Lover of Art and Long Walks	July 19	7:30 PM	baroquemusicmontana.org	\$5+
		Plein Air Montana Live Painting and Quick Finish	July 24-29	Daily	bozemanartmuseum.org	Free
		Plein Air Montana	August 1-31	Daily		Free
		Himalaya	Sept 8-Dec 15	Daily		Free
Backyard of Paul and Carrie		Fairest Isle	August 17	6:00 PM	baroquemusicmontana.org	\$5+
Main Street		Sweet Pea Juried Art Show	Jul 5 - Aug 6	Daily	sweetpeafestival.org	Free
		Chalk on the Walk	August 1	All Day		Free
		Music on Main	August 3	6:30 PM		Free
Lindley Park		Sweet Pea Festival	August 4-6	Daily		\$25+
Downtown Bozeman		Downtown Art Walk	July 14, August 11 & September 8	6:00 PM	downtownbozeman.org	Free
The Elm		Rayland Baxter	July 18	8:00 PM		\$25+
		Andrew Bird	August 1	8:00 PM		\$43.50+
		Flogging Molly	August 19	8:00 PM		\$45+
		Umpfrey's McGee	September 16 & 17	8:00 PM		\$39+
		The Tallest Man on Earth	September 21	8:00 PM		\$30+
		Local Natives	September 23	8:00 PM		\$35+
Tinworks Art		Invisbile Prairie	Jul 8-Oct 14	Daily	tinworksart.org	Free
Browning						
		North American Indian Days	July 6-9	6:00 PM	facebook.com	Free
Butte						
West Park Street		Butte Farmers Market	May 13-Oct 7	8:00 AM Saturdays	mainstreetbutte.org	Free
Main Stope Gallery		Corelli A Lover of Art and Long Walks	July 18	7:30 PM	baroquemusicmontana.org	\$5+
Mother Lode Theatre		Underground Comedy Series	August 19	8:00 PM		\$20
Cardwell						
1865 Highway 2		Headwaters Country Jam	July 27-29	Daily	headwaterscountryjam.com	\$125+
Crow Agency						
		Crow Fair	August 17-20	Daily	visitmt.com	Free
Columbus						
Columbus Community Church		Fairest Isle	August 27	4:00 PM	baroquemusicmontana.org	Free
Ennis						
Peter T's Park		Fan Mountain Frog Dogs	July 6	5:00 PM	ennischamber.com	Free
		Hoke Granger	July 20	5:00 PM		Free
		Drew Cooper	July 27	5:00 PM		Free
		Mercedes Carroll	August 3	5:00 PM		Free
		DeGroot Band	August 10	5:00 PM		Free
		Mathias	August 17	5:00 PM		Free
		Madison Valley Arts Festival	July 29	10:00 AM	hennisarts.org	Free
Emigrant						
The Old Saloon		Shane Smith and The Saints	July 20	6:00 PM		\$25
Eureka						
Lincoln County Fairgrounds		Fiberfest Eureka	August 5-6	9:00 AM	eurekafiberfest.org	Free
Indian Springs Ranch		Dan Dubuque in Eureka	July 23	5:00 PM		Free
		Helnore Highwater Band	August 13	5:00 PM		Free
Historical Village		Shakespeare in the Parks	August 22	6:00 PM		Free
Indian Springs Ranch		Toast of the Town	September 8	5:00 PM		Free
Fort Peck						
Fort Peck Summer Theatre		Fort Peck Summer Theatre Camp	August 7-10	Daily	fortpecktheatre.org	\$200
		Fort Peck Summer Theatre Showcase	August 10	7:00 PM		Free
		Matilda	July 21, 22 & 23	4:00 PM & 7:30 PM		\$6+
		Irving Berlin's White Christmas	July 28, 29 & 30	4:00 PM & 7:30 PM		\$6+
		Irving Berlin's White Christmas	August 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 & 13	4:00 PM & 7:30 PM		\$6+

		Misery	August 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27	4:00 PM & 7:30 PM		\$6+
		Misery	September 1, 2 & 3	4:00 PM & 7:30 PM		\$6+
Glasgow						
Evangelical Church		Fort Peck Summer Theatre Camp	August 1-4	Daily		\$200
Great Falls						
CM Russell Museum		The Russell Sale	August 16-19	Daily	cmrussell.org	\$60+
Downtown Great Falls		ArtsFest Montana	August 11-18	Daily	artsfestmontana.com	Free
Downtown Summer Jam		Colby Acuff	July 19	6:00 PM		\$20
		Spencer Crandall	August 16	6:00 PM		\$20
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art		Sean Chandler: The One Defined to be no one	May 26-Sept 20	Daily	the-square.org	Free
		Maestro! Works by Morton Levin: Centennial Celebration	Jun 9-Dec 13	Daily		Free
The Myrna Loy Center		Cohesion Dance Project’s 10th Anniversary	August 1	5:30 PM	cohesiondance.org	Donation
		ARTS on Fire	September 9	10:00 AM		Free
400 Central Avenue		Montana Multi Cultural Fair	August 17	5:00 PM	mtmcf.com	Donation
Great Falls History Musuem		Substitute for the Saloon: The Drug Store during Prohibition	August 12	1:00 PM		Free
		Jazz Night 2023	September 15	6:00 PM		Free
Great Falls Public Library		Dungeons and Dragons Summer Campaign	July 8, 15, 22 & 29	3:00 PM		Free
The Newberry		Bad Wolves	July 18	7:30 PM		\$31.50+
		Downtown Summer Jam Colby Acuff	July 19	6:00 PM		\$20
Voyager Stadium		3 Doors Down	July 23	7:30 PM		\$59+
The Newberry		Drayton Farley	July 29	7:30 PM		\$18+
		Portland Cello Project	August 4	8:00 PM		\$31.50+
		David Nail	August 8	7:30 PM		\$31.50+
		Joe Pera	August 11	7:00 PM		\$35
The Newberry		Downtown Summer Jam Spencer Crandall	August 16	6:00 PM		\$20
		Fruition	August 18	7:30 PM		\$22.50+
		Texas Hippie Coalition	August 22	7:30 PM		\$22.50+
		Nick Shoulders	August 24	7:30 PM		\$22.50+
		Preacher Lawson	August 25	7:00 PM		\$36+
		Trash Panda	September 1	7:30 PM		\$18+
		Easton Corbin	September 4	7:30 PM		\$43.20+
		Josh Ward	September 7	7:30 PM		\$24+
		Craig Campbell	September 14	7:30 PM		\$25+
Harlowton						
		Harlo Music Project Concert	August 12	2:30 PM	harlomusicproject.com	\$34+
Helena						
Holter Museum of Art		Across the Divide 2023	Apr 14-Jul 29	Daily	holtermuseum.org	Free
		The Odyssey of Montana's Thomas Francis Meagher	May 19-Jul 21	Daily		Free
		Mathscraper	May 26-Jul 23	Daily		Free
		Makoshika	Jun 23-Sept 10	Daily		Free
Montana Wild - FWP		Andy White, Oils: Developing your Creative Process	Sept 30 & Oct 1	8:00 AM	Call 406-431-6253 to register	\$200+
The Myrna Loy		No Coward's Epitaph	July 20	7:30 PM		\$25+
		Natallie Padilla & The Growling Old Men	August 3	7:30 PM		\$20
		Brew and View: The Big Lebowski	August 10	8:00 PM		\$12+
		Skyfoot	August 17	7:30 PM		\$20
The Bray		Resident Artists & Existing Fellowship Exhibitions	Jun 15-Sept 3	Daily		Free
		Artist Amplified; First Fire	July 27	6:30 PM		Free
		August Open Studio Days	August 4 & 5	5:00 PM & 12:00 PM		Free
		First Year Fellowship Exhibition	August 10	6:00 PM		Free
		Artist Amplified; Colby Charpentier	August 17	6:30 PM		Free
		September Open Studio Days	September 1 & 2	5:00 PM & 12:00 PM		Free
		Artist Amplified; Adam Field	September 14	6:30 PM	archiebray.org	Free
Memorial Park		2022 MT Brewers Summer Rendezvous	August 5	3:00 PM	montanabrewers.org	\$25+
Havre						
		Havre Festival Days	September 16-18	Daily	havrechamber.com	Free

Jeffers						
Trinity Episcopal Church		Corelli A Lover of Art and Long Walks	July 21	7:30 PM	baroquemusicmontana.org	\$20
Kalispell						
Northwest Montana History Museum		Walk this way to know Kalispell	Jun 5 - Sept 25	10:00 AM	nwmthistory.org	\$10+
		Kathleen Frank	Jun 9-Oct, 2023	Daily		\$7+
Hockaday Museum of Art		W. Haakon Ensign: Wildlife & Water	Jun 2-Aug 6	Daily	hockadaymuseum.com	\$2+
Wachholz College Center		Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives	July 28	8:00 PM		\$46+
		RAIN - A Tribute to the Beatles	July 31	7:30 PM		\$65+
		Portland Cello Project	August 3	7:30 PM		\$25+
		Tab Benoit and The Rumble	August 27	7:00 PM		\$39+
		Daughtry: Bare Bones Tour	September 6	8:00 PM		\$60+
		Macy Gray	September 12	8:00 PM		\$42+
		WCC Speaker Series: History that Doesn't Suck	September 16	7:00 PM		\$39+
Lewistown						
Fergus High School		Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering Rendezvous	August 10-13	Daily	montanacowboypoetrygathering.com	\$30+
Main Street		Chokecherry Festival	September 9	Daily	lewistownchokecherry.com	Free
Creekside Park		Centerfest	August 5	11:00 AM	centerfestmt.com	\$45+
Livingston						
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts		Summer Young Actors' Workshop	Jul 31-Aug 11	9:00 AM		\$320
The Dulcie Theatre		Livingston Film Series	September 14	10:00 AM		Free
Missoula						
Top Hat		Devon Allman & Donavon Frankenreiter	September 12	8:00 PM	logjampresents.com	\$27+
The Wilma		Goth Babe	July 28	8:00 PM		\$27+
		Umphrey's McGee	September 15	8:00 PM		\$35+
		Coheed and Cambria	September 27	8:00 PM		\$34.50+
Downtown Missoula		First Friday Art Walk	July 7, September 1	5:00 PM	artsmissoula.org	Free
Caras Park	Misc.	2022 MT Brewers Fall Rendezvous	September 29	3:00 PM	montanabrewers.org	\$25+
Bonner Park		Missouls City Band Summer Concert Series	July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug 2 & 9	7:30 PM	missoulacityband.org	Free
Missoula Children's Theatre		Treasure Island	July 28	4:00 PM & 6:00 PM		\$5+
		Summer Day Camp - Blackbeard the Pirate	July 24-28	Daily		\$250
		Blackbeard the Pirate	July 28	4:00 PM & 6:00 PM		\$5+
		Performing Arts Skills Camp	July 30-Aug 5	Daily		\$550
		Performing Arts Camp	July 30-Aug 15	Daily		\$1,000
Riverside Parking Lot		Clark Fork Market	May 13-Oct 28	8:00 AM Saturdays	facebook.com/	Free
Caras Park	Misc.	Unseen Missoula: Basements and Back Alleys	May 9-Sept 30	4:00 PM & 10:00 AM	missouladowntown.com	\$15
Missoula Art Museum		Terran Last Gun: Future Cosmic Energy	Apr 17-Aug 12	Daily		Free
		Tyler Joseph Krasowski: Everything Becomes Something	May 27-Sept 16	Daily		Free
		Make It Funky: Bay Area Influence On Missoula Ceramics	Jun 27-Dec 16	Daily		Free
		Work_Space: Staff Selections From the MAM Collection	Jul 7-Nov 11	Daily		Free
		Summer Camp: Growl! Roar! Animal Creations!	July 31-Aug 4	9:00 AM		\$100+
		Summer Camp: Inspiration Boot Camp	August 7-11	9:00 AM		\$100+
Zootown Arts Community Center		Open Mic Night	July 5 & August 2	7:30 PM	mama4mt.org	Free
Robin's Nest		MAMA's Many Showcase	August 11	TBD		Free
Swan West		MAMA's Many Showcase	September 8	TBD		Free
Various Spaces		Songwriters Circle	July 27	7:00 PM		Free
Various Spaces		Songwriters Circle	August 31	7:00 PM		Free
UM Recital Hall		Montana International Choral Festival	July 19-22	Daily	choralfestival.org	Free
Big Sky Brewing Co. Amphitheater		Motionless in White & In This Moment	July 23	7:00 PM		\$49.50+
		VolBeat	July 25	7:00 PM		\$52.50+
		The Head and The Heart + Father John Misty	August 5	7:00 PM		\$59.50+
Paradise Valley						
Pine Creek Lodge		Hannah Jo Lall - Brunch	July 22	11:00 AM	pinecreeklodgemontana.com	Free
		King Harvest Trio - Brunch	July 23	11:00 PM		Free
		Andy Frasco & The Un	July 28	6:00 PM		\$30+
		Patrick B Ray - Brunch	July 29	11:00 PM		Free

	🎵	The Last Revel with Mercedes Carroll	July 29	11:00 AM		\$25+
	🎵	Charile Parr with Tony Polecastro	August 4	11:00 AM		\$25+
	🎵	Jackson Holte - Brunch	August 12	11:00 PM		Free
	🎵	The Infamous Stringdusters	August 12 & 13	6:00 PM		\$40+
	🎵	AJ Lee & Blue Summit	August 16	11:00 AM		\$15+
	🎵	Creekside Revival Music Festival	August 18 &19	11:00 AM		\$30+
	🎵	Paul Lee Kupfer - Brunch	August 27	11:00 PM		Free
	🎵	The Travelin' McCourys	August 27	6:00 PM		\$35+
	🎵	Nick Shoulders & The Okay Crawdad	August 30	6:00 PM		\$25+

Polson

Sandpiper Art and Gift Gallery	🖼️	Members & Memories	July 10-Sept 8	Daily	sandpiperartgallery.com	Free
	🖼️	Montana Spirit	Sept 11-Nov 3	Daily		Free

Red Lodge

Broadway Street	🖼️	Red Lodge Art Walk	July 8, August 12, September 9	3:00 PM	rlacf.org	Free
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Rexford

Abayance Bay Marina	🎵	Morgan Wade	July 23	8:00 PM		\$25+
	🎵	Ashley McBryde with Arlo McKinley	July 30	8:00 PM		\$40+
	🎵	Greensky Bluegrass	August 12	8:00 PM		\$25+

Ringling

Ringling Church	🎵	Fairest Isle	August 15	6:30 PM	baroquemusicmontana.org	Donation
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Shepherd

Kania House	🎵	Fairest Isle	August 26	5:00 PM	baroquemusicmontana.org	\$30
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Three Forks

	🎵	Rockin' The Rivers	August 10-12	Daily	rockintherivers.com	\$180+
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Virginia City

The Elling House	🖼️	Photographer and Film Maker Samantha Robison	July	Daily	ellinghouse.org	
	🎵	Paul Boruff and Dark Fidle	July 22			
	🖼️	Landscapes of Montana Art Exhibit	August	Daily		
	🎵	Fairest Isle	August 25	7:00 PM		Donation
	📢	Cowboy Poetry Open Mike	September 23			
Performing Arts Theatre	🎭	Rustle your Bustle	Jun 16-Jul 23 & Aug 1-Sept 3	4:00 PM	virginiacityplayers.com	\$15+
	🎭	Rip Van Winkle + Vauderville	Jun 16-Jul 23	2:00 PM & 7:00 PM		\$15+
	🎭	Christmas in July	July 25-30	2:00, 4:00 & 7:00 PM		\$15+
	🎭	Miriam's Crime + Vauderville	Aug 1-Sept 3	2:00 PM & 7:00 PM		\$15+

West Yellowstone

Pioneer Park	🎵	Music in the Park - The Powell Brothers	July 22	7:00 PM		Free
	🎵	Music in the Park - Slamabama	August 4	7:00 PM		Free
	🎵	Music in the Park - Imagine	August 5	12:30 PM		Free
	🎵	Music in the Park - Luke Doweler & Midnight Conversations	August 26	7:00 PM		Free

Whitefish

For Fine Art	🎵	Diner & Show Preview with Michele Usibelli	August 2	5:30 PM		\$145
	🎵	Whitefish Gallery Night: Michele Usibelli	August 3	5:00 PM		Free
	🎵	Whitefish Gallery Night: Caleb Meyer	September 7	5:00 PM		Free
Big Mountain Ranch	🖼️	The Market Beautiful	July 29-30	5:00 PM & 10:00 AM	themarketbeautiful.com	\
North Valley Music School	🎵	Mini Music Camp	July 24-27	12:30 PM		\$90
Whitefish Performing Arts	🎵	ATP Kids! Summer Camp Performance	Jul 31-Aug 2	8:00 PM	atpwhitefish.org	\$10+
Whitefish Performing Arts	🎵	Million Dollar Quartet	Aug 23-30	6:00 PM & 8:00 PM		\$25+
Copper K Barn	🖼️	Copper K Fibre Festival	July 15-16	8:00 AM	copperkfiberfestival.com	\$80+

Wilow Creek

Aunt Dofe's Gallery	🎵	Corelli A Lover of Art and Long Walks	July 22	5:00 PM	baroquemusicmontana.org	\$5+
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White Sulphur Springs

Jackson Ranch	🎵	Red Ants Pants	July 27-30	Daily	redantspantsmusicfestival.com	\$60+
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Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure

Fishtail - Fishtail Family Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	July 21	6:30 PM	hakespeareintheparks.org	Free
Billings - Pioneer Park	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	July 22	6:00 PM		Free
Billings - Pioneer Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	July 23	6:00 PM		Free
Belgrade - Lewis and Clark Park	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	July 24	6:00 PM		Free
Chico Hot Springs - Main Lawn	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	July 25	6:00 PM		Free
Gardiner - Arch Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	July 27	6:00 PM		Free
Townsend - Heritage Park	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	July 28	6:00 PM		Free
Fort Benton - Fort Benton City Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	July 29	6:00 PM		Free
Boulder - Jefferson County Fairgrounds	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	July 30	6:00 PM		Free
Helena - Anchor Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	July 31	6:00 PM		Free
Helena -Anchor Park	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	August 1	6:00 PM		Free
Seeley Lake - Double Arrow Lodge	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	August 2	6:00 PM		Free
Butte - Stodden Park	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	August 3	6:00 PM		Free
Sweet Pea - Lindley Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	August 4	3:30 PM		Free
Sweet Pea - Lindley Park	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	August 6	5:15 PM		Free
Big Sky - Town Center Plaza	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	August 7	6:00 PM		Free
Dillon - UM Western Legacy Plaza	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	August 12	6:00 PM		Free
Hamilton - Sapphire Lutheran Homes	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	August 14	6:00 PM		Free
Hamilton -Sapphire Lutheran Homes	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	August 16	6:00 PM		Free
Plains - Sanders County Fairgrounds	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	August 17	6:00 PM		Free
Trout Creek - Trout Creek Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	August 18	6:00 PM		Free
Libby - Libby Elementary School Ampitheater	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	August 21	6:00 PM		Free
Eureka - Historical Village	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	August 22	6:00 PM		Free
Kalispell - Woodland Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	August 23	6:00 PM		Free
Cut Bank - Cut Bank City Park	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	August 24	6:00 PM		Free
Conrad - Swimming Pool Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	August 26	5:00 PM		Free
Choteau - Skyline Lodge Retirement Apartments	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	August 27	5:00 PM		Free
Great Falls - Great Falls Public Library Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	August 28	6:00 PM		Free
Missoula - UM Oval	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	August 29	6:00 PM		Free
Missoula - UM Oval	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	August 30	6:00 PM		Free
Philipsburg - Winninghoff Park	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	September 1	5:30 PM		Free
St. Ignatius - Good Old Days Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	Sepember 2	5:00 PM		Free
Charlo - Palmer Park	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	September 3	5:00 PM		Free
Superior - Mineral County Fairgrounds	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	Sepember 4	5:30 PM		Free
Anaconda - Washoe Park	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	September 5	5:30 PM		Free
Deer Lodge - Old Montana Prison Museum	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	September 6	5:30 PM		Free
Whitehall - Main Street Green	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	Septemer 8	5:30 PM		Free
Livingston - The Shane Lalani Center	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	September 9	5:00 PM		Free
Three Forks - Bridger Brewing Co.	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	September 10	5:00 PM		Free
White Sulphur Springs - Castle Museum	Shakespeare in the Park - Measure for Measure	September 11	5:30 PM		Free
MSU - Grant Chamberlain Park	Shakespeare in the Park - The Three Musketeers	September 12	5:30 PM		Free



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