State of the ARTS

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

Winter 2024
January • February
March

Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana

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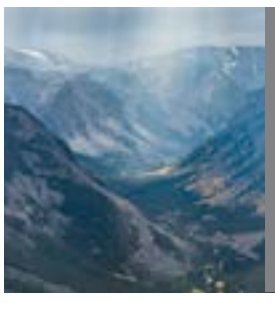

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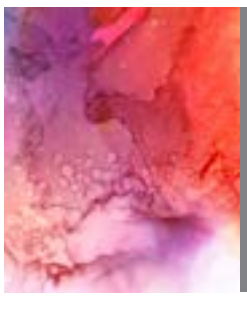

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Art News

Art provided by Tracy Sullivan.

The Rich (and generally unknown) history of **Jazz in Montana**

Montana has a rich history of broadcasting jazz, but also lays claim to a number of jazz artists, societies, house concerts and festivals. ***Read on to learn more...***

Read more, page 4

Between Worlds Robe, 2022 Lily Hope (Tlingit/Raven/Seatern Clan) *@sydneyakagiphoto*

It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got that Swing: **Riffing in Rough Times**

Jazz music is thoughtful, improvisational, drawing both on specific cultural knowledge and popular culture to forge fresh new evolving musical expression and is a natural fit for many Native musicians. ***Read on to find out more...***

Read more, page 10

Statewide

Photo courtesy of April Werle.

Painter: April Werle

April tells us the story at the very core of her art practice. From a young age, she memorized her mother's immigration story. ***See how it has influenced her art and life...***

Read more, page 14

Photo courtesy of Kaylee Parry.

MAC's Creative Aging Work Continues

Creative Aging programs provide access to learning while also combatting ageism and isolation. In recognition of this, MAC staff, over the past three years, have engaged in an ongoing initiative centered on the still-emerging field known as Creative Aging. ***Read on to find out more...***

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from the director

Krys Holmes
Executive Director
krys.holmes@mt.gov

"We all have the capacity to absorb new ways, to adapt, improvise, share, create. But—as any jazz player will tell you—true jazz comes from within. Not from your ego, not from a book."

Jazz and the Power of Art.

Jazz music was born out of an epoch of unspeakable suffering. Its roots run deep in the Mississippi Delta, where people of African, Caribbean, Mexican, Indigenous American, French, Italian and German descent played and danced and argued together. But where politics divides, music absorbs.

And so the broken hearts of the enslaved and impoverished absorbed ragtime, gospel, work songs, and West African musical traditions. And out of that tumult was created a whole new sound that became a unique gift to the world.

We live in a challenging time, but it's not the worst. And when we get discouraged we can turn to the early jazzmakers to remind ourselves: **We know how to improvise.** We know how to sing joy out of our sorrow. Humans are built to absorb new sounds and rhythms, and create something new we can all dance to. And if all we have to work with is an accordion, an old trumpet, and a gut-bucket, we can make that into something interesting and new.

> This is the power of art. It is this deeply human impulse to create beauty and meaning out of disparate parts, and thereby, somehow, to heal the disparate parts of ourselves.

In the hundred or so years since "jass" appeared in the back-road dance clubs of Mississippi, it has grown in many directions. "Jazz" is now an umbrella term that embraces Dixieland, Gypsy jazz, fusion, swing, bop, Latin jazz, soul, and that enormous field called "contemporary jazz." To me, jazz gives us something to believe in about ourselves. We all have the capacity to absorb new ways, to adapt, improvise, share, create. But—as any jazz player will tell you—true jazz comes from within. Not from your ego, not from a book.

Jazz teaches us another thing, too. As much as its about sound and celebration, jazz is also about listening. (Dizzie Gillespie famously said, "It's taken me all my life to learn what not to play.") To play jazz well leave your ego at the door, play out of your truest soul, and hold the backbeat while someone else takes the solo.

Hope, humility, and faith in our ability to create. That's a mighty big gift jazz has given the world. As we improvise our way forward into the New Year, we'd all do well to bring those principles with us. As Charlie Parker said, "If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn."

— Krys Holmes

CORRECTION:

In the Fall 2023 issue a photo depicting the Native fashion of Designs by Della ran on page 12 without attribution. It should have been credited to photographer Robyn Iron. We apologize for the error.

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 Feb. 16 for the Spring issue (April-June).

Please check with the Montana Arts Council for reprint permission.

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2023 MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS Recipients Named

"Beaded Girl's Purse" by Ramey Growing Thunder. *Photo courtesy of Ramey Growing Thunder.*

By Taylor Burby, Folklorist

Folk and traditional arts spring from the needs of a community. Beyond being utilitarian, though, the work of folks such as quilters, beaders, and boot makers are also documents of who we are as a culture.

But because of their utility, these works don't often receive the same recognition as arts such as painting, music, or literature. To celebrate Montana's heritage and showcase the folk arts, the Montana Arts Council founded the Montana Circle of American Masters in the Folk and Traditional Arts program. It recognizes Montana folk artists for artistic excellence in their work as well as their roles as culture bearers, critical to preserving the state's cultural heritage.

We're proud to announce three new additions to the Circle: beader and quilter Ramey Growing Thunder of Poplar, boot maker Mike Ryan of Helena, and beader and fashion designer Olivia Rose Williamson of Crow Agency. These three exceptional artists were nominated by members of their communities and selected through a rigorous panel process.

Dr. Ramey Growing Thunder is an accomplished artist, renowned for her award-winning Sioux Lane and flat stitch beadwork, as well as her star quilts, reflecting her cultural heritage. Specializing in late-1800s antique doctor bags, she uses brain-tanned hides and traditional techniques, paying tribute to Dakota women who adorned such bags in gratitude toward Western doctors. Since 2003, Ramey has earned artistic acclaim, securing awards such as Best of Show at the Fort Peck Community College art show and multiple first-place recognitions for her unique beaded doctor bags. In 2011, she won 2nd place in the beadwork category at the Heard Art show in Phoenix, AZ, with a beaded doctor bag, and in 2016, she won the Best of Classification in beadwork award as well as first place in the beadwork division. Notably, she achieved first place again in the beadwork division in both 2022 and 2023. Additionally, in 2023, she attained a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies, focusing on Cultural and Linguistic Anthropology, Native American Studies, and Educational Leadership. Described by peer Tomecina Bullshoe as a longstanding knowledge keeper of the Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribe, Ramey's dedication to her artwork and textiles has a significant impact on the community.

Mike Ryan, a skilled craftsman specializing in custom Western and working boots and shoes, has established a profound connection between his art and Montana's culture. With a focus on the integral role of Western boots in the ranching, rodeo, and outdoor work culture of the region, Mike's craftsmanship reflects a tradition dating back to the mid-nineteenth century, contributing significantly to rural communities across Montana. According to Mike Korn, a peer and customer of 40 years, it's Mike's quality work that "sets him apart and is validated by the widespread acceptance within the ranching/rodeo communities and demonstrated through the thousands of orders he has filled for his custom footwear over the years." His boots, ranging from functional workwear to ornate rodeo and dress styles, maintain a consistent use of traditional handcrafting techniques, preserving a cultural legacy. Over his career, marked by building over 5,000 pairs of custom boots, Mike's commitment to quality, durability, and personalized footwear has earned him recognition in local newspapers and magazines, making a substantial contribution to Montana's cultural heritage.

Olivia Rose Williamson, the visionary behind Lady Pompadour Beadwork and Design, is a renowned artist within the Apsáalooké community and the Northern Plains. Specializing in two-needle Apsáalooké beadwork, acrylic on rawhide, and fashion design, Rose's work spans traditional and modern Apsáalooké clothing, horse gear, and fully beaded outfits, reflecting her legacy as a powwow dancer. Notable accolades include the "Best in Show" award for a beaded Crow-style cradleboard and recognition at esteemed events like the Native Peoples Market and the Heard Indian Art Market. Furthermore, Rose's acrylic work has been showcased at the Bozeman Emerson Cultural Center, addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. Affectionately referred to by peer Carrie McCleary as a "bead florist," Rose is stated to possess an unmatched ability to create traditional Apsáalooké florals. Beyond exhibitions, Rose donates to youth causes and utilizes her art for awareness, including a beaded wall hanging for cancer screening. As the creator of "All Native Nations Entrepreneurs" on Facebook, Rose passionately supports Indigenous artists and businesses, embodying her dedication to community empowerment.

A ceremony will be held May of 2025 at the Montana State Capitol in Helena to honor the 2023 and 2024 inductees into the Montana Circle of American Masters. To learn more about the program and to learn about previous inductees, visit https://art.mt.gov/mcam

Performing Arts

Music

The Rich (and generally unknown) history of
Jazz in Montana

By John Arvish
Host of Montana Public Radio's "What I Like About Jazz"

At two o'clock on any given Sunday afternoon you might hear the host of "Dimensions in Jazz" introducing a new album, or maybe a classic tune by Miles Davis, Charles Mingus, John Coltrane or Duke Ellington. Many people immediately recognize the voice of Terry Conrad, the original jazz host on KUFM. Terry started "Dimensions in Jazz," when he was hired at the station in 1973.

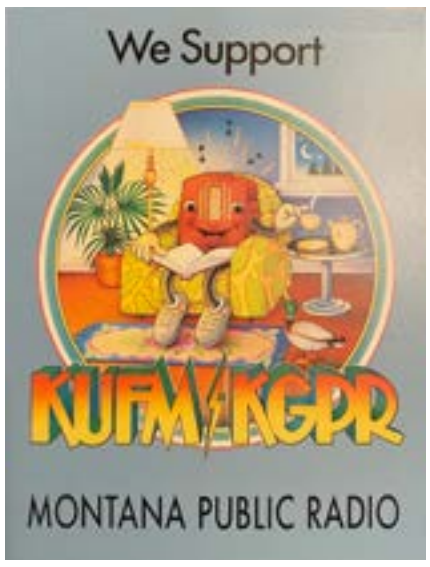
> Montana has a rich history of broadcasting jazz, but also lays claim to a number of jazz artists, societies, house concerts and festivals, dating back at least to the 1970's.

Terry Conrad continues broadcasting weekly after 50 years, occasionally co-hosting with Jon Jackson and recently, J. Bradley. After Conrad, "Dimension in Jazz" was hosted by the oh-so-British Den Morrison, whose articulate anecdotes and carefully programmed shows delighted jazz aficionados. His successor, the encyclopedic Joe Korona, might spend an afternoon on ECM recordings, or dig in the vaults for live recordings of John Coltrane, or maybe enlighten us on the artistry of Duke Ellington.

Joe K. Jazz had a 40-year run at Montana Public Radio. Aside from "Dimensions in Jazz," his programs included the long running "Midnight Jazz," on Friday nights, and the carefully produced historical show "Jazz Archives," which ran on Sunday afternoons.

Since he came to KUFM fifty years ago, Terry Conrad and Montana Public Radio have ensured that jazz continues to be heard on the airwaves—first in Missoula, then slowly spreading across the state via local translators and, finally, streaming online.

William Marcus, both Annie and Larry Garde, Fred Rice, Michael Marsolek, Tom Engelman, and others sometimes include jazz in their programming at MTPR, as well. This author added "Jazz After Hours," to KUFM's late night Fridays beginning in 1995, and since 2008, has produced "What I like About Jazz," on Wednesday nights.



Of course, MTPR is by no means the only station playing jazz. KEMC 91.7 (Yellowstone Public Radio, founded in 1973) had Brad Edwards' long-running and very popular jazz programming. Edwards was also an incredibly talented drummer and played with a number of Montana artists and with visiting jazz dignitaries over the years, both live and recorded.

In 1996, KBGA sprung up on The University of Montana campus, run entirely by students. One long-running jazz program host, the Jazz Junkie (Jon Jackson), recently signed off for his final KBGA show. In Helena, there's KROL, 88.5, and Bozeman has KGLT at 91.9. Butte also has a community radio station that includes jazz among its varied programs, KBMF 102.5. And Missoula has added KFGM 101.5 Community Radio, where several hosts feature jazz as part of their programming.

The airwaves are by no means the only place, nor the premier place, that jazz has been heard across the state. Montana's rich history of jazz performers stretches back at least to the 1940's. Jean Wrobel (Hamilton) played around the state and the country, cut some 78's in the 1940's, and appeared on national airwaves as a teenager. She shared billing with

the great Billie Holiday, as well as helping connect Thad, Hank and Elvin Jones with their first agent. After returning to Montana, Jean helped foster the Bitterroot music scene, and appeared as part of a KUFM Fund raising concert with Chuck Florence, Richard Ostheimer and Donald Maus, back in 1993. Wrobel passed away in 2004.

Montana Public Radio has a long history of live jazz performances from the Big Sky Mudflaps' show in the 1970's, to Sunday Jazz concerts that have long been part of public radio's annual fundraiser, to more recent broadcasts such as "Live from Studio B."

Over the years, a number of nationally and internationally recognized artists have come from Montana, including pianist, singer and composer Hoagy Carmichael, who composed many standards including "Skylark" and "Georgia (On My Mind)." Carmichael spent a small portion of his grade school years in Missoula.

Born in Billings, brass and reed man Bob Enevoldsen moved to the West coast and was a part of the thriving scene there in the 1950's and 60's, recording with many artists, and putting out several albums as a leader.

The 1970's saw the rise of the Big Sky Mudflaps, who toured the state and the country, but who also made their mark on Montana Public Radio via their Armchair Cabaret progam, which also gave title to their debut album. The Mudflaps are still thriving and its members have also been part of the incubation of jazz in the Bitterroot Valley and Missoula. Members over the years have included David Horgan, Beth Lo, Maureen and Steve Powell, Michael Lea, Dexter Payne, Rob Sanders, Judy Roderick, Chuck Florence, and later members Ray Davis, Tom Wogsland, and Bob Packwood. Various other musicians have held down occasional chairs or guest roles in the band as well.

Western Montana had the Mudflaps, and Helena had Cheap Cologne, featuring MJ Williams, Wilbur Rehmann, Ken Nelson, Alexandra Swaney and Bill Long. Wilbur's group (with Ken and the late Blackie Nelson, and Rennan Rieke) is still very active, as is Williams (from Basin) both very much a part of the Helena jazz scene. MJ has also been playing and recording for a number of years with fantastic Manhattan-based pianist Ann Tappan, and either the late Kelly Roberti or Rob Kohler (Great Falls) on bass.

Bozeman included Bob Nell and Kelly Roberti among others, playing piano and bass, and appearing on record and in person with a variety of artists here and across the Northwest. There's also vocalist Jeni Fleming and her trio with Jake Fleming and Chad Langford. Bozeman guitarist and bassist Craig Hall has played with both Fleming and Eden Atwood.

Eden Atwood was born in Memphis, but moved to Butte when she was five. She has recorded with world-class backing bands on several major jazz labels, as well as recording some self-produced works here in Montana.

Born in Butte, trumpet player Jim Rotondi has more than a hundred albums and performances with many jazz artists to his credit including a stint with Ray Charles, as well as being a founding member of the long-running collective "One For All." Both Atwood and Rotondi have had an impact on modern jazz since first recording in the early 1990's.

Out of Garrison Junction came pianist Rex Rieke, who cut an album in 1980 with several other Montanans, and for decades hosted an annual jazz jam that drew people from around Western Montana.

Florida native Jack Walrath, was raised in Edgar, Montana, and became part of the Los Angeles jazz scene, then toured with Ray Charles, and later featured as trumpeter in Charles Mingus' last bands. Jack also cut albums for small and large labels, and continues to play, including the album *Montana Wildcats*, with Philip Aaberg and Kelly Roberti.

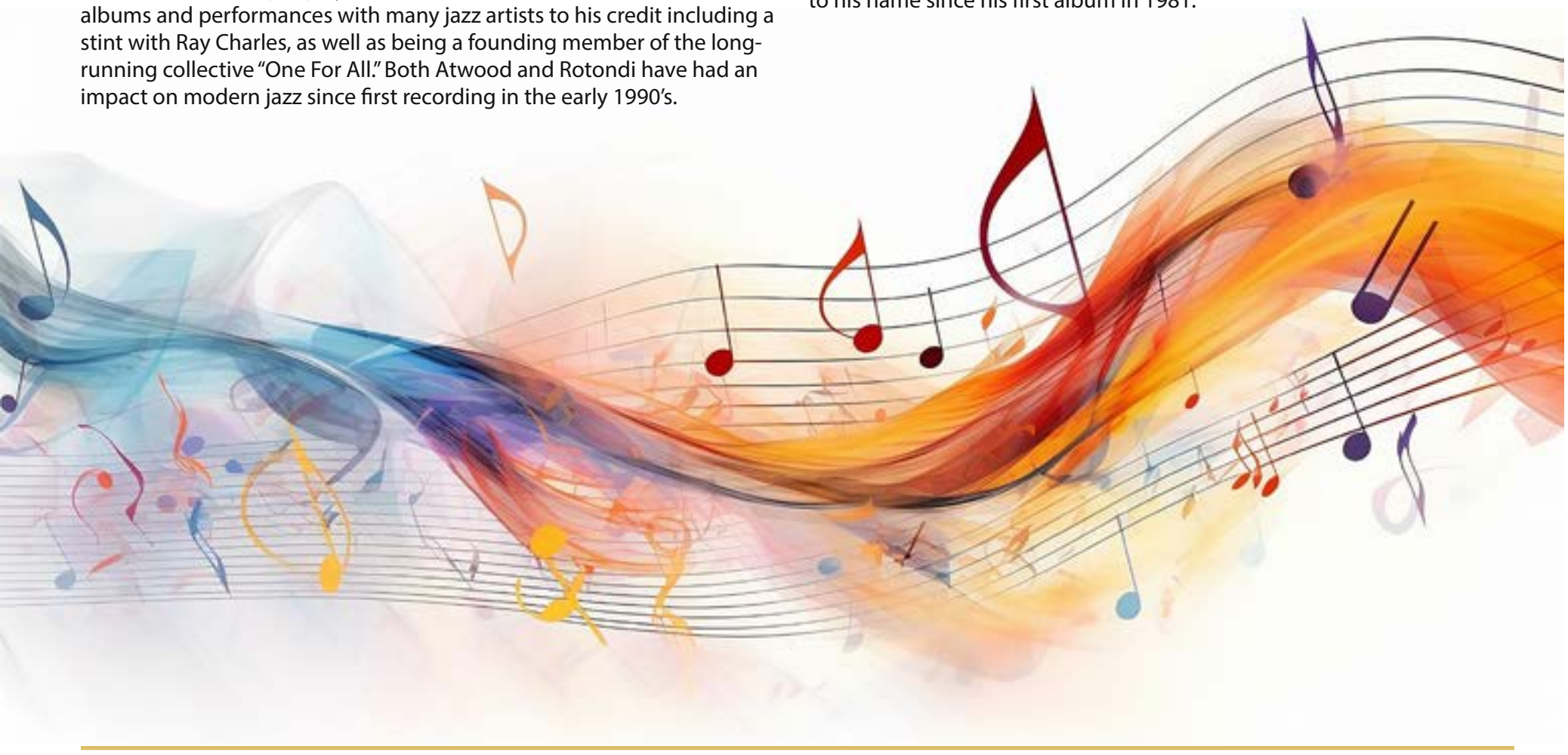
Philip Aaberg was born in Havre and raised in Chester, Montana. He began his professional career playing piano in the Elvin Bishop band in the 1970's, and later gained attention doing a series of piano albums and a few soundtracks and collections on the Windham Hill label. He has his own label and has recorded in a wide variety of settings, from chamber music to jazz.

Big Sky Mudflaps on the NBC TODAY SHOW (with a young Tom Brokaw) 1981.
Photo courtesy of Big Sky Mudflaps.

Pianist George Winston was raised mostly in Miles City and Billings. He drew inspiration from rock, stride jazz, New Orleans rhythm and blues, classical and more. He had a long career playing and recording for Windham Hill Records, including two volumes of the music of jazz pianist and *Peanuts* composer Vince Guaraldi.

Canadian-born Jazz singer Dee Daniels, a U of M alum and part of the Missoula music scene in the late 1960's, before moving to Seattle, continues to tour and record.

Trumpet player Allen Vizzutti was born and raised in Missoula, and has over 150 soundtrack credits as well as both jazz and classical recordings to his name since his first album in 1981.



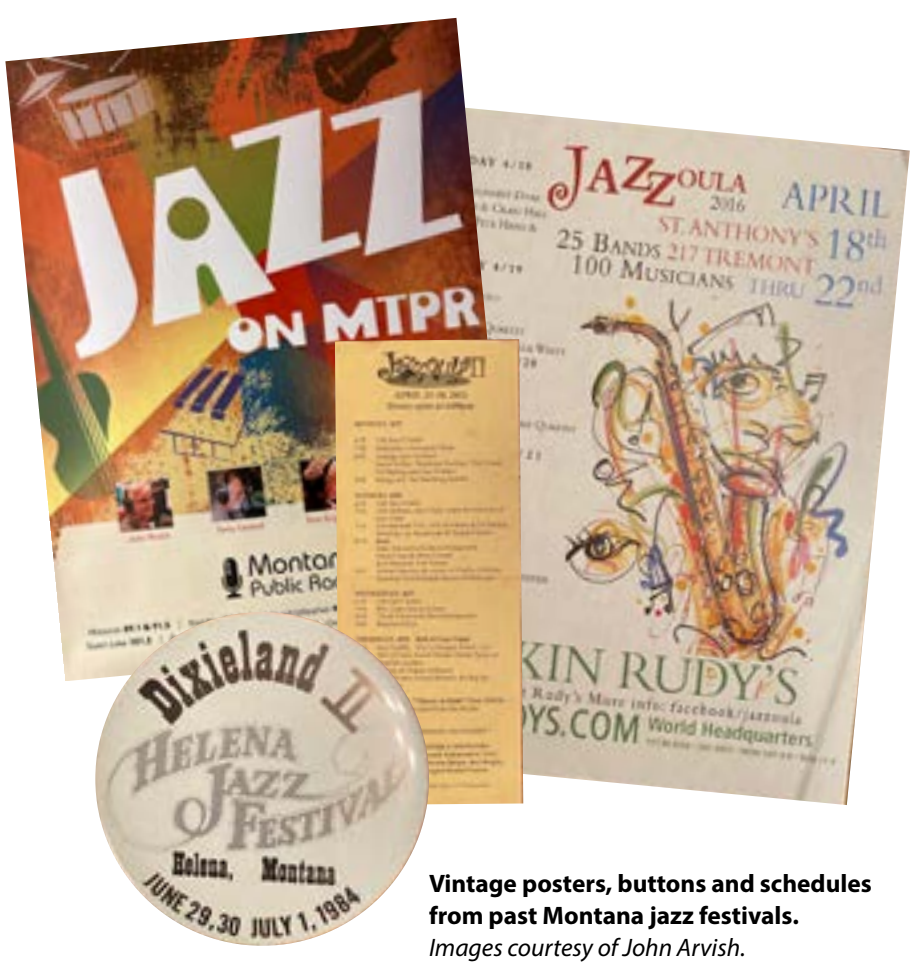
Missoula native Gary Herbig may be one of the most recognized sax players around, with solos on pop songs such as "She's Like the Wind," and "I've Had the Time of My Life," to the theme for the television program *Cheers*, and is credited with more than 1,000 TV shows and records. He's appeared with many jazz artists and played with everyone from Elvis Presley to Tower of Power.

In addition to those mentioned, there are many active bands spread across the state. Billings currently has John Roberts y Pan Blanco. Missoula has Salsa Loca, Canta Brasil, Night Blooming Jasmine, and The Basement Boys, as well as a few musicians who seem to be part of nearly every group, from the late great pianist Jodi Marshall, to stalwarts like Jim Driscoll, Pete Hand, and Ed Stalling. Helena's Steven Gores has become a regular part of the (former) Captain Wilson Conspiracy, now Absent Wilson conspiracy. Also from Helena is the Tim Drackert Group. There are a few bands across the state who mix blues, soul, funk and jazz, such as Joan Zen and Reverend Slanky.

Another recent addition in Missoula is The Montana Jazz Collective (made up of U of M jazz faculty Rob Tapper, Tommy Sciple, Jeff Troxel and John Wicks). Augmented by Johan Ericksson and Bob Ledbetter, they recently composed and recorded an album of original works with assistance from a Montana Arts Council grant. There are numerous other active bands there, due in no small part to the thriving University of Montana Jazz program built up over decades by Lance Boyd, and carried on under the leadership of Rob Tapper.

Living part-time outside West Yellowstone, Kansas City Native and accomplished bassist Bob Bowman is a part of a thriving Bozeman area scene, and still travels the world, as well as sharing his talents here.

London-born Loren Stillman brought his reed prowess and educator credentials to Missoula, to study, play, and pursue a graduate degree. Among his many contributions to the jazz culture was a tour of small towns with Bob Bowman and Mark Ferber last Fall through an Arts Council grant.



Vintage posters, buttons and schedules from past Montana jazz festivals.
Images courtesy of John Arvish.

Trombonist Naomi Siegel moved to Missoula and has played locally, taught, and produced a series of concerts bringing a wide variety of artists to Missoula. She has also been part of a collective playing unique sets of improvised music in a large ensemble.

Terry and Germaine Conrad.

Several cities have had jazz and blues societies supporting live music, often connecting with listeners of radio, and bringing groups from all over the world. Both Bozeman (Cikan House) and Missoula (Daly Jazz) have had a series of house concerts supported by local patrons, bringing world-class musicians to an intimate setting, and exposing people to something you might normally experience only in a major city such as New York, Los Angeles or Seattle.

Starting in the 1980's and early 1990's, Missoula's longstanding Blues and Jazz Society, headed by Bruce Miklus of Rockin' Rudy's, and supported by early members like Terry Conrad, Kathleen Kimble, and Tom Webster, brought visiting artists to small venues and large. Miklus also started the annual "Jazzoula" festival focused solely on Montana artists and including young artists from private studios and area schools, in a multi-day festival, originally coinciding with U of M's Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival (started by Lance Boyd, and now more than 40 years on). Jazzoula moved to a later calendar date in order to expand its offerings, and is still going strong after more than 20 years. It happens in April, with occasional one offs such as the Recent "Jazzoula presents Piano" night this past November.

If you were in Helena, 1983 saw the beginning of Don West's long-running and very popular "Montana Traditional Dixieland Jazz Festival." This brought artists from across the country, as well as Canada, for a multi-day, multi-venue festival with admittance through pre-purchased buttons that got you into everything, including a Jazz Mass at St. Helena Cathedral.

Whether it's a radio broadcast that has spread the gospel of jazz, a favorite artist that was born or raised here, or festivals and house concerts that offer a chance to see world class musicians in a variety of settings, Montana has a rich legacy of jazz that continues to thrive through the support of listeners like you.

The Ozark Club: Where Jazz United in Great Falls

By Tracy Sullivan

The Ozark Club held a remarkable reputation for its top-notch entertainment, featuring some of the finest jazz musicians in the western United States. Many considered it the best west of Chicago.

Originally a "colored" bar, the Ozark Club transformed into a welcoming institution for all during the 1940s, spearheaded by African-American boxer Leo LaMar. It became a gathering place where people of all ages, races, and backgrounds, came together to revel in the joy of jazz. The Ozark Club broke down racial barriers and became the heartbeat of nightlife on the Southside of Great Falls.

Kristi Scott, the director for the Cascade County Historical Society, shared,

> "For over three decades, the Ozark Club showcased some of the country's best jazz right here in Great Falls, Montana. This was significant considering our relatively isolated locations and pre-Civil Rights Movement. People from all walks of life mixed, danced, and celebrated music together."

During World War II, as Great Falls experienced an influx of soldiers and civilian workers, the Ozark Club became a sensation, beloved by a diverse crowd.

The Ozark Club's recipe for success revolved around its exceptional lineup, anchored by a talented house band. The centerpiece of the band was the remarkable tenor saxophonist, Robert Mabane Jr., who emerged from the early days of bebop jazz in Kansas City. Bebop, also known as bop, served as a rebellious movement against the creative restrictions of the swing era. A distinct feature of bebop was its longer and more intricate solos, allowing musicians to express themselves in unique and ever-evolving ways.

A young Bob Mabane, hailing from Memphis, Tennessee, joined the renowned Jay McShann Band in 1940, right as "Hootie" McShann's bebop Kansas City sound was gaining national recognition. Playing alongside the talented alto saxophonist, Charlie "Bird" Parker, until 1942, Mabane left an indelible mark as a soloist known for his eclectic tenor saxophone style, reminiscent of Hershel Evans on slower numbers and blues, and Lester Young on riff numbers. Mabane's tenure continued until the band disbanded two years later.

In 1948, Bob Mabane made his mark on Great Falls, taking charge of the Ozark Club house band, the Ozark Boys. This spirited quartet, which included Chuck Reed on piano, Dick Brown on drums, and Mabane on tenor sax, brought the vibrant world of jazz to Montana like never before.

The Ozark Club quickly earned recognition for hosting a diverse lineup of jazz musicians from all corners of the nation, regardless of race. It became Montana's sole destination for live jazz, captivating audiences six nights a week. With their exceptional talent and unwavering dedication, the Ozark Boys astounded listeners with their unique renditions of cherished jazz classics such as "Jumpin' with Symphony Sid" and "Body and Soul," alongside an array of exciting new compositions. Their performances, devoid of sheet music, brimmed with passion, spontaneity, and a relentless pursuit of artistic expression.

Under Mabane's leadership, the Ozark Club became a magnet for top-notch jazz musicians from across the country. However, its appeal extended far beyond jazz aficionados. Night after night, the stage of the Ozark Club welcomed a variety of talented performers, including traveling musicians, soulful singers, captivating dancers, and the likes of comedian Redd Foxx. Some of these entertainers, such as Oscar Dennard, Stan Turrentine, and Ellsworth Brown, would later attain national recognition, further cementing the club's reputation as a hotbed of rising talent.

Initially established as a hub for the Black community, the Ozark Club demonstrated a progressive spirit by defying racial divisions. Leo LaMar, the proprietor, boldly declared, "All are welcome," ushering in a new era of integration within the club. In an era marred by segregation, this Black-owned jazz haven in Great Falls, Montana proved to be a trailblazer, shattering racial barriers with its inclusive ethos.

The captivating story of the Ozark Club and its impact on the local and national jazz scene is a testament to the power of music, unity, and unwavering determination.

While the actual Ozark Club burned down in 1962, you can experience the legacy of the Ozark Club at The History Museum in Great Falls. Learn more at **www.greatfallshistorymuseum.org**

Theatre

Art directed by Tracy Sullivan.

Improv: The Jazz of Comedy

by Tracy Sullivan

Improvisational comedy, much like jazz, has gained immense popularity over the years, captivating audiences with its ability to bring joy and laughter.

This unique form of comedy involves performers creating scenes, characters, and dialogue on the spot, without any pre-planned scripts or scenarios. The spontaneity and unpredictability of improv comedy mirror the improvisational nature of jazz, making it an engaging experience for both performers and viewers alike.

Similar to jazz musicians, improv comedians rely on thinking on their feet and being fully present in the moment. With their imagination, wit, and comedic timing, they create scenes and stories that range from hilariously absurd to wildly entertaining. Just like jazz musicians who interact with one another and improvise solos, improv comedians actively involve the audience by seeking suggestions or incorporating them into the scenes, making each show a one-of-a-kind interactive experience.

Aside from being an entertaining form of comedy, improv offers numerous benefits. It improves communication skills, as performers must listen and respond to their scene partners in real-time, much like jazz musicians communicating through their instruments. Additionally, it promotes creativity and quick thinking, as performers must come up with ideas and solutions on the spot, just as jazz musicians do during improvisational solos. Moreover, improv comedy serves as a stress-reliever, bringing joy and laughter to both performers and audiences.

The principles of improv comedy extend beyond the stage and can be applied in everyday life, much like the improvisational spirit of jazz. The ability to think quickly, communicate effectively, and adapt to unexpected situations are valuable skills in any situation. Embracing the open-mindedness and spontaneity encouraged by improv can bring more joy and excitement to daily life. So, let's take inspiration from the world of improv comedy and jazz, embracing the unexpected with an open mind and a sense of humor. Whether on stage or in real life, improv comedy, like jazz, is sure to bring laughter and entertainment to all. So, next time you're in need of a good laugh or some spontaneity, consider checking out an improv show or even trying it out for yourself! You never know what joy and entertainment awaits.

On these dark Montana winter days, let some laughter warm your heart. Check out the Montana improv comedy scene:

The Last Best Comedy - Bozeman
The mission of Last Best Comedy is to be a premier place to experience, enjoy and laugh; a place for community, connection, and fun. In the beautiful and historic Bozeman Hotel you will find performances of local and national stand-ups as well as produced improv shows directed by renowned improvisers near and far. You will also be able to pick from a host of classes through our LBC training center including stand-up and improv. www.lastbestcomedy.com

Verge Theater – Bozeman
Whether you're serious about improv, or just need something light-hearted and fun in your life, check out Intro to Improv with Isaac Mills! During this eight week class you'll learn to feel comfortable in performing, as well as how to support, listen, accept and give gifts. Isaac will help the class work on developing cooperative storytelling techniques, including Yes/And, as well as a basic vocabulary and understanding of improv concepts and strategies. You'll walk away from this class with a better understanding of yourself, feeling more confident, with new friends, and having had a great time. Ends in a showcase. Thursdays, 6:30PM-8:00PM January 11th-February 29th $250
www.vergetheater.com/adult-improv-classes

Improv Mining Co. - Helena
Improv Mining Co. performs narrative improv comedy in Helena, Montana, and has been doing so since 2015. Their goal is to create interesting and engaging shows, made up on the spot. Improv Mining Co. also offers improv comedy classes for individuals, team-building workshops and creative consulting for organizations, and private events that include unique shows as well as improv parties, in which friends can learn and play improv games with each other in the safety of a private space. www.improvminingco.com

Revival Improv Workshop - Missoula
The Revival Improv Workshop is a free comedy workshop and meeting place for female-identifying folk, trans folk and non-binary folk. It's an opportunity to play fun games, get creative, explore humor, build confidence, and meet others in the community. This workshop is appropriate for people of all skill levels, from those who have never done improv to those who have done it for years. Whether you're a performer, writer, creative, someone who likes a good brain workout, someone who wants to get comfortable public speaking, or someone who just wants to have fun and connect with their community, this is for you. Just bring a good attitude, a collaborative spirit, and a willingness to try new things.
www.theroxytheater.org/show/revival-improv-workshop

Looks Forward to Another Great Season

NOVA Center for the Performing Arts is a non-profit community theater located at 2317 Montana Ave in Billings MT. Its mission is to enhance the performing arts culture of the greater Billings region through education, development, and performance.

In keeping with its mission NOVA produces 10 shows in a season (3 youth, 2 operas, 1 musical, 1 holiday show, and 3 straight plays) has 3 in-house improv troupes (Venture Improv, Funky Bunch and Funky Bunch, Jr.) and they offer classes and camps through its Youth Conservatory program and in 2024 will be adding adult classes to its season.

This spring NOVA will be producing *Gaslight* by Patrick Hamilton, *The Most Epic Birthday Party Ever* by Denver Casado & Betina Hershey, *Barefoot in the Park* by Neil Simon, *Cinderella,* an opera by Jules Massenet, *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt, and ending the season with *Brigadoon* by Alan Jay Lerner.

Youth Conservatory Classes include:

Tiny Tot Theater (ages 4 to 6)

Creative Drama (Ages 5 to 8)

Intro to Theatre (Ages 9 to 11)

Acting I (Ages 12-14)

Acting II (Ages 13-18)

Musical Theater (Ages 12-18)

Improv (Ages 10-18)

Adult Conservatory Classes include:

Dots, Lines & Squiggles: Reading Music 101

Beginning Acting

Intro to Stage Combat

Tech 101

Improv with a Twist (Ages 21+)

Costuming

Photos courtesy of NOVA Center for the Performing Arts

Film

The Queen's Cartoonists

The Queen's Cartoonists perform music from cartoons! Pulling from over 100 years of animation from around the world, The Queen's Cartoonists bring animated films to life, perfectly synchronizing their performances with the films projected on stage. The band matches the energy of the cartoons, leading the audience through a world of virtuosic musicianship, multi-instrumental mayhem, and comedy.

Photo by Lauren Desberg. Courtesy of The Queen's Cartoonists.

Projections of animated films dazzle the audience, while the band re-creates original soundtracks note-for-note, or writes their own fresh compositions to modern pieces, all the while breathing new life into two uniquely American forms of art: jazz and animation.

Tying everything together is the TQC brand of comedy—anecdotes about the cartoons and their composers, stream-of-consciousness humor, and elements of a musical circus.

Watch your favorite classic cartoon characters interact with the musicians on stage, and expect the unexpected from the Golden Age of Animation, cult cartoon classics, and modern animated films. Inspired by the crossroads of jazz, classical music, and cartoons, TQC features Jazz Age composers like Carl Stalling, Raymond Scott, and John Kirby, alongside classical giants Mozart, Rossini, and Strauss (to name just a few).

McClaren Hall - Kalispell, MT
Wed, February 7, 2024 - 7 p.m.

Hamilton Performing Arts Center - Hamilton, MT
Sat. February 10, 2024 - 8 p.m.

It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing: Riffing in Rough Times

By Jennifer Woodcock-Medicine Horse

Jazz is a fluid medium, a body of music inherently diverse but unified by roots of oppression and struggle. Scott Joplin's irrepressible ragtime has the magnetic draw of an ice cream truck—your feet simply cannot stay still and at the opposite end of the jazz map are the complicated erudite siren sounds of Miles Davis or Thelonius Monk—equally impossible to ignore.

This music, thoughtful, improvisational, drawing both on specific cultural knowledge and popular culture to forge fresh new evolving musical expression was a natural fit for many Native musicians, including jazz legends such as Jim Pepper (Kaw/Creek) and Mildred Bailey (Coeur d'Alene). (Pahn 2016)

Album cover from "Jim Pepper's Powwow". Photo: Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble. **"Native American Heritage Month Essential Artist: Mildred Bailey"** KRCL Radio, Salt Lake City.

Just as these jazz musicians used their improvisational art as a lens to view, interact with and change the world around them, so too have Native artists deployed the alchemy of art to transmogrify the horrific experiences of the COVID pandemic, improvising with materials and methods to produce works ranging across the spectrum from whimsical to breathtaking to haunting. Like a haunting jazz riff, spectacular COVID masks provided an experience and expression of beauty and survivance in the face of desperation.

The COVID pandemic was a brutal experience for almost everyone, but for Native communities it was especially catastrophic. The federal government neglected its treaty mandated duty of care. Protective gear and vaccinations were sent far too little and much too late.

"Get Vaccinated." National Council on Urban Indian Health.

The peccadillos of jurisdictional federal Indian law and policy meant that tribal police lacked authority over non-Native reservation residents, resulting in serious breaches of quarantine or masking protocols. (Barnard 2015) Princeton researchers found that COVID mortality rates were 2.8 times higher for Natives than for non-Natives, and reservation dwellers were particularly susceptible due in part to inadequate healthcare, food insecurity and crowded living conditions. The COVID pandemic was terrifying for everyone, but particularly so for Native communities for whom the ravages of settler borne illnesses had annihilated entire communities. (Williams 2021)

Taalrumiq, originally from Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories, created seal skin masks titled 'Inuvialuit Fortitude', commemorating the "strength and resilience of Inuvialuit". Half of her community died in the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic; her community are descended from the survivors. (Scott 2020) (https://taalrumiq.com)

ABOVE: Taalrumiq's Inuvialuit Fortitude. Seal skin, walrus tusks, fur, cloth, beads, s equins. Model: Isabella King Images: Christina King.

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

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Woodcock-Medicine Horse

LEFT: Carrie Hill (Akwesasne Mohawk) #COVIDCREATION. Black ash splints, braided sweetgrass. 2021. Image: Carrie Hill.

RIGHT: Shayai Lucero (Acoma/Laguna) The Breath of Life. Medical face mask covered with dried juniper leaves and accented with genuine turquoise stones, lily grass ties accented with abalone shells. 2020. Image: Kaweshchima Fry (Acoma/Laguna/Cherokee/Chickasaw)

LEFT: Between Worlds Robe, 2022 Lily Hope (Tlingit/Raven/Seatern Clan) RIGHT: Chilkat Protector Mask, 2020 Lily Hope (Tlingit/Raven/Seatern Clan). Images: @sydneyakagiphoto

LEFT: Flora Weistche (Cree) Bella. 2020 Image: Flora Weitsche (@weistche45)

Shayai Lucero (Acoma/Laguna), notes of her Breath of Life that, "In my Pueblos, juniper (Keres: k'aani) is an important medicinal plant and one of my favorites. I have been studying medicinal plants since I was 13 years old. I wanted to create a piece that integrates my skills as a floral designer and medicinal plant healer. The medicinal properties of juniper are identified as an antimicrobial and antiviral medicine for respiratory illnesses. The scent of the juniper leaves can be smelled through the mask like the cleansing smell of a smudge. Juniper is very special to the Pueblo people in that the tree is an evergreen and never goes to sleep in the winter. They are a plant medicine available year-round. The mask is accented with turquoise stones worn often by the Pueblo people and represent health. Abalone shells are from the ocean and symbolize rain. Pueblo people always pray for rain and moisture in every aspect of our lives and ceremonies. Rain is important because it contributes to the growth of plants which help provide oxygen for breath needed by all living creatures." (Lucero 2020) (@skalucero)

In sharp contrast to Lucero's mask, replete with healthful remedies, is Hill's #COVIDCREATION, porously woven from black ash splints and braided sweetgrass. However, the three-dimensional spiky black ash geometric pattern evokes a feeling of equal and opposite contender to the spiky covid virus. (www.carriehill.com)

Lily Hope, Tlingit master weaver wove her Chilkat Protector Mask from thigh-spun merino and cedar bark weft, merino yarns, ermine tails and tin cones. It took approximately sixty hours to complete. Hope remarks, "When creating our Chilkat blankets, we are the closest to the spirit realm as they serve as a veil between our physical and ethereal realms. We weavers of the Chilkat blankets take this spiritual work quite seriously." (Taylor 2020) Hope's remarkable Chilkat Protector Mask with its black snout and bared teeth manifests this veil between the wearer and the virus threatening to take us to the ethereal realm. (www.lilyhope.com)

Flora Weistche (Cree) with her mask, Bella, has honored the head of the Cree Health Board, Bella Petawabano. The mask beaded on deerskin features ten beaded flowers, each representing Quebec Cree communities, and a COVID virus positioned over the mouth with a "forbidden" symbol superimposed. (Longchap 2020).

These wildly disparate masks, some fully functional on a practical level, others a spiritual howl into the abyss, serve as virtuoso solo performances in a great visual jazz ballad reflecting on the indomitable survivance of Indigenous people in the face of crushing adversity.

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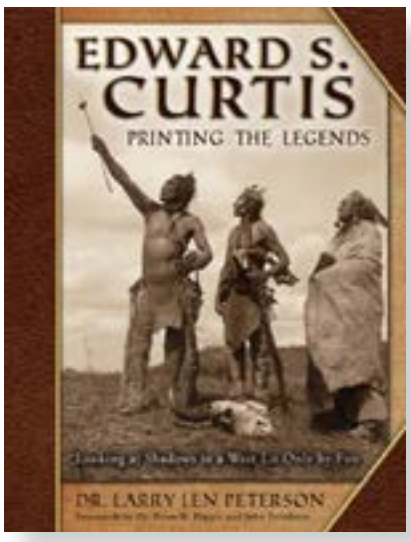
Literary Arts

Books



Edward S. Curtis: Printing The Legends

by Dr. Larry Len Peterson

Brace yourself for a remarkable journey into the life and legacy of Edward Curtis, as Dr. Larry Len Peterson's *Edward S. Curtis, Printing the Legends* challenges long-standing myths and reveals a captivating new perspective on the iconic photographer.

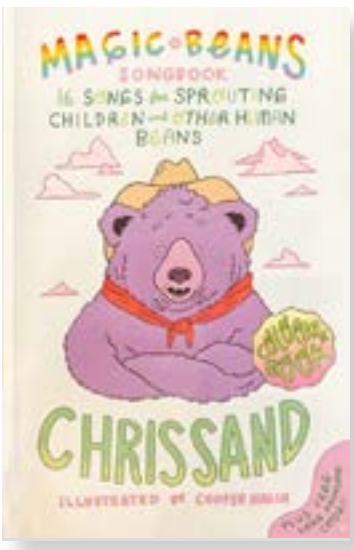
Curtis's story is more than just a biography; it's an intimate exploration of his enduring love for the Native American people and his profound dedication to Pictorialism, a style that turned photographs into art. Dr. Peterson's book reshapes the narrative by shedding new light on Curtis's extraordinary life and work.

Dr. Larry Len Peterson, an acclaimed scientist, physician, and award-winning author of *American Trinity* and other titles, is known for his significant contributions to Western American art history. With *Edward S. Curtis, Printing the Legends*, he solidifies his status as a leading authority on the artists of the American West.

Forbidden Wasteland

by Jim Branger

A blend of Robinson Crusoe and Edgar Rice Burroughs, *Forbidden Wasteland* chronicles the adventures of Jack Carson on a strange and savage planet. Marooned with no way to signal Galaxy command of his whereabouts Jack is eventually captured by evil Rongilian warriors and sold as a slave. With some help from newfound friends in a mining camp, and a beautiful girl from the land of Chuska; Jack leads a slave revolt only to be pursued across land and sea by the vengeful Rongilians. On this bizarre world of flying reptiles, dangerous beasts, and even more dangerous humans only the strong can survive. Of those who have entered the Forbidden Wasteland none have ever returned.

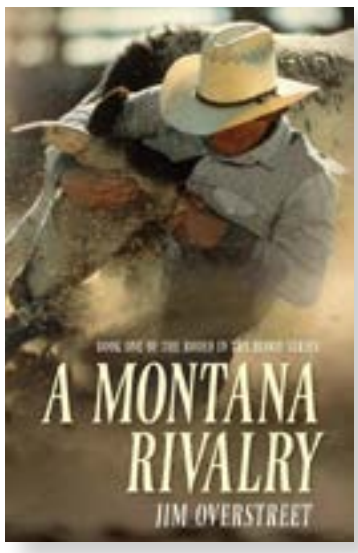


MAGIC BEANS Songbook

by Chris Sand

The MAGIC BEANS Songbook is a 36-page lyric and coloring book featuring 15 dynamic songs by Chris Sand, plus one by his daughter, from his new children's album *MAGIC BEANS: 16 Songs for Sprouting Children & Other Human Beans*. Each song is paired with wonderful illustrations by Cooper Malin. A bookmark featuring a full-album download code (+ Spotify QR-code) is included so you can listen to the songs as you read and/or color along. This book is interactive in more ways than one--it also features a Magic Bean Club beanboard which is like a "picture garden" where you can attach treasures such as stickers, vintage postage stamps, magazine clippings, sketches, etc, and show them off.

The *MAGIC BEANS SONGBOOK* was one of about 43 books accepted into the Montana Book Festival. www.magicbeanclub.com



A Montana Rivalry

by Jim Overstreet

Montana writer Jim Overstreet recently released his first novel, *A Montana Rivalry*. The core of the novel is the rivalry between Rusty Blackston and Warren Weston who meet for the first time at age seven and come to blows. Afterward whenever they meet sparks fly. Warren's family owns a large ranch. His mother idolizes him, but he can never quite live up to his father's demands. Rusty's father is a fiddle-footed cowboy, and his mother works two low-paying jobs to feed her family. Yet Rusty and his sisters grow up without realizing that they are poor. Rusty's father, a former saddle bronc rider, grooms Rusty to ride broncs.

Overstreet expects his second novel, *A Montana Inheritance*, to be out soon. You can order books from Amazon or Barnes and Noble and other national book markets. If you prefer, you can find them at Three Forks Saddlery, The Fort and Crazy Peak Boutique in Big Timber, Connelly's and Western Ranch Supply in Billings.

Poetry

Jazz Music Corrupts Our Youth

from the chorus of "Three Golden Horns" by the mighty Maryland rock band, CLUTCH

By Chris La Tray, Montana Poet Laureate

Even before I was appointed poet laureate I bleated at every opportunity how poetry needs to be delivered back to common, "every person" folks like me and mine. Poetry is an art form that, all too often, seems to have had a bag thrown over its head and been subsequently dragged off to the ivory tower to be tormented into unreadability by pretentious gatekeepers. The academic style is certainly perfect for some folks and I'm happy for them, but I don't think there has been more harm done to a discipline meant for everyone than the idea that poetry should be introduced to school children through the words and stylings of primarily dudes who lived a couple thousand miles away and died a century or two ago. When people say, "I hate poetry!" it usually means they've been bludgeoned by too much "verse" with no relationship to what they can recognize of themselves in.

Recently I've been hoisted on my own petard, and that is in relationship to my feelings toward jazz. I'm on record as "hating it." But that hasn't always been the case. I was reminded so in the aftermath of my triumphant poet laureate party at the Missoula Public Library last November. It was then that Steve White—the man who was not just my band director at Frenchtown from grades 5-12 but was also my mentor in the early days of my rock n' roll apprenticeship and, most importantly, especially for teenagers, a true adult friend outside of my family—presented for my viewing pleasure two photographs from my jazz band days in high school. What a joyful and hilarious trip down memory lane! I was reminded of how I loved blaring away on my trombone back then. The photos also reunited me with the faces and smiles of people I remember loving, including some folks who have already crossed over to the other side far too young.

The jazz we played together was key to this rush of memory. That is what Art does. It connects us in moments and across time and space.

Jazz used to be, and in many places still is, gloriously dangerous. Back in the day the nazi Henry Ford used his fear of Black people playing rambunctious jazz to get us all forced into square dancing in gym class for a few decades. Given the influence of jazz and Black people playing music (and joyously dancing to it!) on today's culture it is clear he failed mightily. We're all better because of it too. I hope Hank is do-si-doing in his bitter, hateful grave.

So the next time you're trapped somewhere in an elevator or some bougie soiree you can't get away from soon enough and that ultra smooth, ultra saccharine version of this wild music is floating along in the background, remember that somewhere, in that moment, someone is blowing into a horn and hearts are racing, souls are being rewired, and lives are being changed. It's quite possible there is some rabble rousing poet out doing the same thing too. Seek them out.

Holy

after the quote, "The poet is the priest of the invisible," from Wallace Stevens

If a poet is a priest then I guess
it is time to quit writing poems,
because I don't aspire to be the leader,
spiritual or otherwise, of anything.

To say nothing of the baggage that
comes attached to such a word,
like a bloated and infected tick
spreading sickness and slow, painful death.

Tell me where any priest has ever gone
where the souls already there
are any better off for it?

I prefer my poems, like my spirit,
to lean more heathen,
away from any notion of
robe wearing devils
preaching salvation from behind
the muzzles of colonial rifles
disguised as scripture.

Justify the missionary's existence
all you want.
But first acknowledge their invisible,
those unmarked graves
left in their wake.

Of course it was some high-minded,
self-important aristocrat
who sought to sanctify
his literary efforts,
but c'mon.

These poems are words.
A spell, certainly for some.
A refuge even, for others.

But my people have no use for
the ivory towers and glossy pages
that vomit forth that brand
of pretentious self-reference.

Go forage for roots on prairie
ploughed over.
Spend a couple days fruitlessly
looking for meat
where once it was abundant.
Watch all of your efforts wither under
the onslaught of a relentless sun.
Tell me then what is holy.

Visual Arts

Painter: *April Werle*

There is one story at the very core of my art practice.

From a young age, I memorized my mother's immigration story. This—the origin story of my little sister and me—has been a story I've heard a million times over the years. Its main storytellers: my mom, my dad, and my auntie.

In 1990, a deal was struck at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Helena.

My auntie and my dad were both members of the church, and she heard he was heading to the Philippines to meet several women that he had been writing to. What happens next is a matter of opinion.

According to my dad, my auntie saw an opportunity to bring my mother to the United States.

According to my auntie, she was trying to offer my dad a practical place to stay—his initial plan was to stay in a tent on the side of the road.

I'm not sure whose telling is most accurate, but at the end of the deal, my auntie offered to let my dad stay at my grandparents' home in the Philippines.

Once there, my dad met my mother in person, who was apparently writing letters to him for months prior. He probably wondered why after their shared letters, she couldn't speak English.

Sometime in my teens, I was looking for something in my mother's basement. I came across all of the letters between my parents. They were written in English. But according to my mom, she didn't write those letters. Apparently my auntie was sending her letters to copy and send to my dad.

I don't think this knowledge would have mattered much to him. He was struck by the beautiful foreign girl, and likely would've still asked for my grandpa's permission to marry her.

Eventually, with the encouragement of my grandpa and uncles, my mother would say yes to the proposal.

She immigrated to Helena, Montana to live with my dad. My mother—a 19-year-old girl, with little to no English—instantly became a stepmom to three children. She had only known about two of them.

My parents had me in 1995, and divorced in 1999. Some of my first memories are of the process of their divorce.

As a narrative painter, I use my practice to make sense of my upbringing which has been heavily informed by my parents' arranged marriage.

What lessons have I learned from their relationship?

Currently in my studio I have the beginnings of a show, *Secret Life of a Multicultural Couple.*

In one sketch, two hands stand in a doorway. The dark hand is "looking" at the light hand who faces forward, inviting the viewer into the home. The painting is titled, *"Come on in and pop your shoes off."*

In another sketch, two hands are tense and facing each other. The hands are sitting in theater seats with a stage in the far background. The painting is titled, "I'm not saying my culture is better than yours!"

Maybe you thought these were moments from my parents' marriage. Although they could be, they're not. They are paintings based on quotes from my own relationship.

As I found myself painting this show, I find myself reliving experiences my parents must have had. And although their marriage ended in divorce, one thing that they excelled at was sharing culture with one another.

Through writing, thumbnailing, assigning titles, I find myself wanting to share only the funny, sweet, and light-hearted moments of how a multicultural couple share their everyday lives. But after having a heartfelt conversation with my partner, I've decided to share the moments of conflict too.

Navigating culture within a multicultural relationship is not easy. Sometimes it feels like it would be smoother if we simply had the same upbringing, same thought patterns, and agreed on everything.

If there's anything that I've learned from my parents' marriage, and my own relationship, it's that sharing culture is an act of love. There may be conflicts, misunderstandings, or opposing viewpoints, but I find the very willingness to share and understand each other beautiful.

——

April Werle is a mixed Filipino American Painter based in Missoula.

In 2022, Werle received a MAC ARPA Grant for her solo exhibition *Mga Hunghong Sa Diwata (Whispers of Spirits)* at the Holter Museum of Art. In 2023, she received a MAC Strategic Investment Grant to exhibit her works at The Other Art Fair Los Angeles.

Secret Life of a Multicultural Couple opens April 5th at Bell Projects in Denver, CO.

Apirl Werle in her studio 2023.
Photo courtesy of April Werle.

I Started Looking in the Mirror and Only Seeing a White Person by April Werle.
Photo courtesy of April Werle.

Hidden Treasure in Montana

Story and photos by Jeffrey Conger

Western Art Week

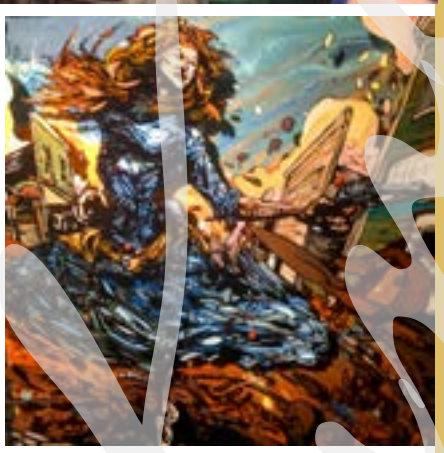
It's bigger than a 10-gallon hat! The Western Art Week in Great Falls is March 14 to 17, 2024. This extravaganza is inspired by the legendary artist and storyteller Charlie M. Russell and is appropriately scheduled near his birthday, March 19.

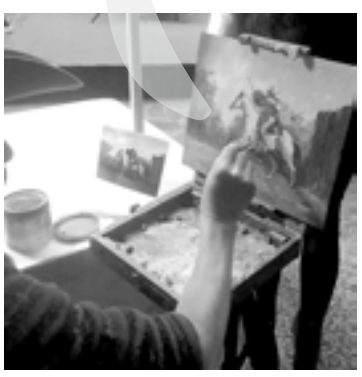
Teeming with Western art from classic style to modern contemporary, the weeklong sale and exhibition boasts hundreds of artists from across the region and around the globe with blended influences. Including drawings, paintings, sculptures, jewelry, furniture, and more, the show is perfect for people of all ages.

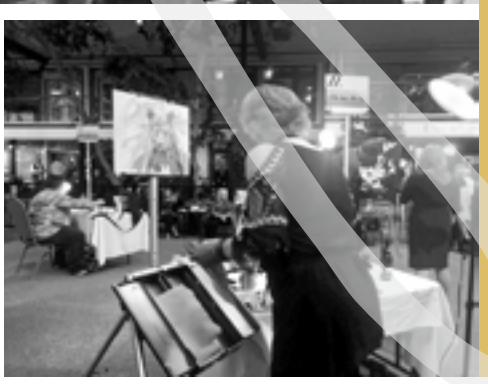
To successfully navigate Western Art Week, the best advice is to grab the daily list and make a plan, as there is so much going on, including live music, quick-draw competitions, artist demonstrations, live auctions, fundraisers, artist receptions, and the opportunity to meet the artists in person.

The event is too big to be held in only one building, so it's hosted at venues and several hotels across Cascade County, including the C.M. Russell Museum, Elks Lodge, Heritage Inn, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Meadow Lark Country Club, Montana ExpoPark, Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, and the Newberry to name a few.

While some premier auctions require a ticket, most Western Art Week events are free to the public and feature artworks for many budgets. To learn more, visit online at **www.westernartweek.com** or check out their Facebook page.







Inspired by the legendary artist Charlie M. Russell, the Western Art Week in Great Falls blends traditional and contemporary art held in mid-spring. This year, March 14 to 17, 2024, is in keeping with tradition as Western Art Week is always scheduled near CMR's birthday of March 19.

The Care and Feeding of Community Arts Development:

Joeann Daley & the Montana Arts Council

By Anna Wilson
Marketing and Communications Manager, Missoula Art Museum

In October 2023, Sister Joeann Daley returned to Montana from her Michigan home to celebrate the Missoula Art Museum exhibition of her prints and collage works in *Montana Remembered*.

The works were originally created between 1969 to 1988, but for the exhibition, many new prints were made from plates Daley etched then. The show celebrates an important career in the state's cultural history—Daley played a formative role in the development of rural arts programs in Montana and has been touted equally for her own artistic practice and for her optimism, enthusiasm, and dedication as a community organizer.

Anaconda print - color, 1970-73. *Image submitted by Anna Wilson.*

Born in 1940, Joeann Daley OP is a sister in the Sinsinawa Dominican order. Daley joined the order in 1962. She earned a bachelor's degree in history and earned her MFA in printmaking from Northern Illinois University in 1981. From a Wisconsin dairy farm, Daley's career of service, teaching, and art has taken her around the world, from the Sinsinawa Mound Center in southwestern Wisconsin to Montana, Italy, Ukraine, and beyond.

Daley moved to Montana in 1968 to teach art at Anaconda Central High School. **While living in Anaconda, she documented the everyday life of the smelter town in a modernist style without nostalgia, capturing an era of change.** Over time Daley formed friendships with the smeltermen, who grew to trust her to portray them and their lives faithfully during the last years of the plant's operation. The Anaconda Company allowed her inside the facility to depict the work there, and sponsored her cover design for *Mountain Arts*, the publication of the Montana Institute of the Arts. The company even fabricated large vats necessary for her printmaking.

On the Hi-Line, 1970-73. *Image submitted by Anna Wilson.*

In 1971, while Anaconda was in the middle of a company strike, Daley helped the community create the Copper Village Museum and Art Center in an abandoned church building. Daley rallied local and regional support, including help from over two hundred volunteers and counsel from Billings architect Robert Fehlberg, Bozeman gallerist Ray Campeau, and Montana Arts Council Director David Nelson. Unions allowed their members to volunteer services and the Anaconda Company along with local businesses contributed materials for necessary renovation and construction.

As the Copper Village project gained momentum, Daley and her collaborators received funding from the county commissioners, the Montana Arts Council, a generous aunt (Mary Zill of South Milwaukee), and 50 new art and museum center members. Against all odds, in a community suffering the strife of strikes and unemployment, the art center thrived, and was dubbed "the Anaconda Miracle." The community elected Daley "Woman of the Year."

Daley likened her efforts to that of one of many weavers of "the Montana tapestry," which is made by "People, taking ordinary stuff of ordinary lives and creating magic with it." The free museum is now located in the Anaconda City Hall Cultural Center.

Daley was so inspired by life in Anaconda that she focused her master's thesis on "copper country," using copper plates that were a product of the smelter to depict the community. The prints were first exhibited in the Copper Village Museum and Art Center.

She said,

> "It is important to me to experience, to look, and feel, then to translate these felt experiences into a visual form which captures the essence rather than a reproduction of reality."

During her years in Montana, Daley undertook the extensive Small Community Arts Resources Survey for the Montana Arts Council. She worked closely with the council's influential second director David Nelson. (Nelson personally sponsored the framing of the artworks for Joeann's current exhibition before his death in October of 2022.) In an article for the journal *Arts in Society*, Nelson described Daley's arrival on the scene, "We had a little 'miracle worker' show up in the state—fondly referred to as 'Super Nun.'" By 1975, Daley had visited more than 50 of the 100-plus communities in Montana with fewer than 3,000 residents at that time. She was invited to each community by an interested individual or group and talked with a wide variety of citizens, from bankers to teachers to artists. Then, according to an Arts Council pamphlet on *The Arts in Montana* from the time, "In a 'town meeting,' she will ask residents to dream of what might be possible in their community and how they might organize to go about making these dreams come true."

As head of the Arts Council's Community Development Program, Daley helped townspeople assess their cultural assets and desires and connected people with each other and with outside resources to assist with growth of the arts unique to each place. She was a true believer in the fundamental value of her work: "Developments in the arts, whether in the form of an arts organization such as the Montana Institute of the Arts, grass roots arts centers, local theater groups, touring performing groups, arts festivals, or other endeavors, have this ability to refresh and renew the lives of the people and the communities involved."

While Daley has worked in a variety of mediums, etching is at the heart of her creative drive and her creative drive has never dwindled. In 2010, she began doodling on a Styrofoam cup; she was intrigued by the way the impression felt similar to etching and began making ever more intricate colored designs in Styrofoam. In more recent years Daley served as an artist in residence, doing metal etchings in a studio at Whitefish Bay Dominican High School until 2015. She currently lives in the company of her Dominican sisters in Muskegon, Wisconsin.

To see Joeann Daley talk about her work, visit https://art.mt.gov/joeann-daley

Arts Learning

Montana Artrepreneur Program
Seeks New Program Candidates

For most working artists their artistic practice is, rightly, their first priority. In many cases, however, the development of artists' careers as fully formed income-generating businesses has taken a back seat to building their body of work. The gap between producing art and marketing, showing and selling their work represents a struggle for many and a MAC priority topic of support for individual working artists.

The Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP) is an art-centered business development program that offers artists across disciplines the opportunity to explore and experience robust, practical tools to support growth of their small business. Simultaneously, MAP engages participants in self-reflection around their personal goals and mission while systematically mapping their future as a full-time artist. Participating artists typically range from recent art school graduates or self-taught artists looking to bolster their career with business skills, to veteran artists with decades-long careers seeking to update their approach. A highlight of the program, as one might expect, is the supportive community built among cohort participants that often extends well beyond the duration of the workshops.

Congratulations are in order for eleven artists in celebration of their completion of fall 2023 MAP cohort activities that included four two-day workshops which culminated November 18 in Helena and numerous virtual meetings held between sessions. Visual artists Cheri Dyk, Meghan Hanson, Tina Larsen, Skye Lindsay, Licia Lucas-Pfadt, Galen "Mac" McAllister, Abby Morical, Sara Orchard and Afton Ray-Rossol, together with writers Sunday Dutro and Tess Fahlgren, will now spend the next few months preparing their "toolboxes" toward becoming Certified MAP Artists. Through curriculum work that walked them, step by step, toward a fully developed business, participants now have a greater understanding of what they hope to achieve in their individualized businesses and have set goals for their artmaking futures.

A next round of applications for a late summer through fall of 2024 cohort will be accepted online February 1 through June 1. To apply, visit art.mt.gov/map. For those MAP artists who are interested in certifying this year, toolboxes may be submitted through May 1, 2024. To discuss either an application to the program or MAP certification, contact Monica Grable at (406) 444-6522 or Monica.Grable@mt.gov.

TOP: Abby Morical and Tess Fahlgren share their work at one of this year's MAP sessions. BOTTOM: The 2023 MAP cohort pays a visit to Robert Harrison's "Aruina" at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena. *Photos by Monica Grable*

23/24 POETRY OUT LOUD MONTANA

Poetry Out Loud 2024

Just as music students may study the works of Mozart, Bach, Beethoven and others to better understand composition, so do students learn about writing poetry from studying and reciting works by noted contemporary poets or those from throughout history. In so doing, students hone their recitation skills, inform their own writing and find their unique expressive voice.

Currently in its 19th year, the Montana Poetry Out Loud program—initiated and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Poetry Foundation—invites high school students to participate in its statewide contest. As of this printing, nearly two dozen Montana high schools have registered their intent to advance students to one of five regional events taking place between February 6 and 15. From each of these regional events, the top 3 – 4 plus one alternate will advance to the state finals.

The Montana Poetry Out Loud State Finals will be at Grandstreet Theatre, 325 N. Park in Helena, from 10 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, March 2.

Two semi-final rounds will take place in the morning followed by the finals round and judges' poetry readings after 1 PM. The event is free of charge and the public is invited and encouraged to attend.

For further information on the events or to express interest in participating with students or as event personnel, please contact us at poetryoutloud@mt.gov or call the MAC office at (406) 444-6430.

Teaching Artists Are Invited to Join MAC's Community of Practice

Teaching artists working as independent contractors, occasional residency artists or full-time arts faculty are invited to join MAC's Teaching Artist Community of Practice (TA CoP) to share interests and introspections, "talk shop," explore collaborations and learn more about work taking place across our state and nationally.

Core activities include a Zoom meet-up the first Wednesday of each month, a planned in-person gathering in late spring, opportunities for professional development and available work offered to engaged members of the community of practice. Included in the latter is a chance to participate in a full-day late May workshop on the field of Creative Aging with subsequent leadership and work opportunities in partnership with Montana arts organizations. The next meeting of the Teaching Artist Community of Practice will take place on February 7 from 4:30 to 5:30 PM.

In additional to inviting participation in the Teaching Artists Community of Practice, the Montana Arts Council is requesting contact information to facilitate better communication with our state's teaching artists and inviting applications to our Teaching Artists Registry, equally designed to serve as a web-based resource for those looking to employ teaching artists in their projects as well as a showcase of the work happening statewide.

Want to join the Community of Practice? Or be listed in the teaching artist database? Contact Monica Grable at Monica.Grable@mt.gov.

MAC's Creative Aging Work Continues

Photos courtesy of Kaylee Parry.

Arts participation, and participation in arts learning experiences in particular, plays a vital role in all our personal development, social and emotional well-being and quality of life. For those of retirement age and beyond, the importance of these outcomes are multiplied, contributing significantly to healthy aging and increased social connection.

In recognition of this, over the past three years MAC staff have engaged in an ongoing initiative centered on the still-emerging field known as Creative Aging.

Specifically designed to meet the unique needs of older adult learners—generally regarded as those over 60—interested in gaining experience in or mastering art forms through robust, sequentially-designed workshops, Creative Aging programs provide access to learning while also combatting ageism and isolation. While regularly provided as peer-group programs, importantly they include multi-generational programming as well, honoring the acquired knowledge and experience of older adults as a community asset and providing older adults the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with youth.

In continuation of its Creative Aging work, the Montana Arts Council is a current participant in the Lifetime Arts-led project entitled *Advancing Creative Aging in the Western States.* Alongside state arts agencies and other state partners in Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming, MAC is working to build partnerships in rural and remote towns across Montana with assistance from the Montana State Library (MSL). Together MSL and MAC, with funding and professional support from Lifetime Arts, are seeding programs through 5 community libraries which will ultimately serve to demonstrate the work and will be documented to benefit all those interested statewide.

Lifetime Arts fosters healthy aging and social connection for older adults by advancing creative aging across sectors. They do this by providing training, consulting, and information resources to organizations, agencies, and teaching artists; developing new and existing national, state, and local-level partnerships; seeding programs, and documenting impact. As articulated by Lifetime Arts Executive Director Heather Ikemire, the project is "…accelerating a collective shift that places arts learning and creative engagement at the core of western states' older adult programming and ensures that all older adults, especially those with the least access, benefit."

As a part of the western states project, for which Lifetime Arts received grant funding through the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, the Montana Arts Council will be hosting a one-day statewide convening on Creative Aging to further build partnerships among Montana entities serving older adults, to collectively develop actionable strategies toward the development of Creative Aging programs and to showcase the outcomes of the 5 seeded projects. The event will take place on Monday, June 3 with details to be announced soon. Paired with participation in the *Advancing Creative Aging in the Western States* project, MAC has separately partnered with Lifetime Arts to provide professional development to interested Montana teaching artists through a one-day workshop scheduled to take place in May. Following participation in the training, teaching artists will be promoted statewide to encourage projects led by arts and non-arts organizations alike, some of which will be awarded MAC funding.

To access resources about the field of Creative Aging, visit **https://art.mt.gov/creativeaging** or contact Monica Grable, Arts Education Director, at Monica.Grable@mt.gov or (406) 444-6522. To learn more about the current work of Lifetime Arts as well as their role as a national leader in Creative Aging over the past 15 years, visit **www.lifetimearts.org.**

AISC grants help connect people with the arts, such as a grant which brought students from surrounding communities to Helena for this year's performance of "The Nutcracker" by the Queen City Ballet. *Photo credit: Eric Heidle.*

Supporting All-Ages Arts Learning with Artists in Schools and Communities Grants

Classroom visits by guest artists engaging youth through hands-on experimentation, dance workshops for adults with disabilities, musicians sharing their artistic process via lecture demonstration, professionally-led field trip experiences to an art museum or sculpture park, ongoing after-school instruction in visual art or theatre.

For more than five decades, the Montana Arts Council has funded arts learning opportunities across our vast landscape, working to reach every county with experiences for learners of every age and ability. Why? Engagement in artistic expression raises our quality of life, both individually and collectively, while honoring the individual needs and creative voices that make up our statewide community.

While Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) awarded grants must be paid to nonprofit entities—arts organizations or other non-arts community-based nonprofits—our history of grantmaking through the AISC program includes a wealth of artist-led projects that have taken place wherein the artist is working in partnership with their sponsoring nonprofit, addressing gaps in arts learning and extending access to opportunities for all.

There are currently two separate opportunities under the AISC program umbrella: AISC Experiences and AISC Residencies. Together they cover a wide need range, serving arts learners of every age and ability across a multitude of disciplines and settings. Both grant programs have refreshed guidelines available on MAC's website at https://art.mt.gov/aisc and are open within MAC's grant management system. Each organization is eligible to receive one of each grant type during the same calendar year.

AISC Experiences applications will be accepted three times in 2024 with deadlines of: April 18, August 15 and December 12, all at 5 PM. Each round will be reviewed by MAC's Arts Education Committee and grantees will be notified of funding decisions 6-8 weeks following each due date.

The AISC Experiences grant program supports arts learning activities in three categories: fees supporting direct engagement with guest artists for a virtual or in-person session that may or may not include hands-on learning; the purchase of tools, supplies and small equipment to support experimentation with new arts media and methods; or transportation to support first-hand experiences with art or artists.

AISC Experiences Highlights:

- Allows for support categories not provided through the Residencies grant
- Provides initial opportunities to engage with artists and/or arts experiences, often serving as launch point for deeper experiences and continued learning
- Provides grants of between $250 and $2500, with no cash match required

AISC Residencies applications will be accepted through a single round, due on March 14 at 5 PM. Requests will be reviewed by an assembled panel of arts and education professionals, with decisions finalized by mid-June for projects taking place between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

AISC Residencies connects learners of all ages and abilities with professional teaching artists through a diversity of learning formats and settings. Residencies range from just a few hours to months-long experiences and may engage one or several guest artists working with a single core group of learners or with multiple groups, all sharing the key components of experiential learning, a depth of knowledge gained and a strong emphasis on the process of art creation. Because of this emphasis, activities under the AISC Residencies grant category must include hands-on learning.

AISC Residencies Highlights:

- Allows for in-depth experiential learning over hours, days, weeks or months in conjunction with a guest or teaching artists visit
- Enhances discipline-specific arts learning, cross-curricular and multidisciplinary learning and arts integration projects
- Provides grants of between $2500 and $10,000 with matching funds required

MAC staff want to assist you throughout the grant process to ensure the greatest likelihood of success. All applicants, particularly those who are new, are invited and strongly encouraged to discuss their projects in advance with Monica Grable, MAC's Arts Education Director. She can be reached at (406) 444.6522 or Monica.Grable@mt.gov.

Recently awarded projects under the Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) grant program, submitted to the August 2023 AISC Experiences round, are:

2023 AISC Experiences Awards | August Submissions

Organization	City	Project Name	Award
Alberta Bair Theater	Billings	Project Hip Hop with the 360 ALLSTARS	$2,500.00
Bigger Sky Kids, Inc.	Wolf Point	Studio Mastery for Beginning & Intermediate Artists	$2,500.00
Billings Symphony Society	Billings	Musical Story Time with the Billings Symphony	$2,500.00
Bozeman Art Museum	Bozeman	Bozeman Art Museum Creative Aging Experience	$2,500.00
East Side School	Livingston	Art Exploration to Understand the Past	$2,495.00
Hockaday Museum of Art	Kalispell	Traveling Medicine Show	$2,469.00
Lame Deer Public School District	Lame Deer	First Fire Ignited	$2,500.00
Missoula Art Museum	Missoula	Museum as Megaphone: Virtual Fifth Grade Art Experience Live Days with Artist Molly Murphy Adams	$2,500.00
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art	Great Falls	Monte Yellowbird, Sr.: Be the Storyteller of Your World, Create a Visual Voice with Art	$2,500.00
Queen City Ballet Company	Helena	Queen City Ballet Company's School Outreach Performance for Helena Area Students	$2,500.00
Western Strings	Lodge Grass+	Crow String Project	$2,500.00
			$27,464.00

Photos provided by Bigger Sky Kids.

Bigger Sky Kids Transforms Lives in Wolf Point

On the windswept plains of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in remote northeastern Montana, Bigger Sky Kids (B!SK) offers Wolf Point children a safe haven to explore their creativity. Launched in 2018, this 501(c)3 grassroots nonprofit is more than an after-school arts program. It is a lifeline for underserved children.

Bigger Sky Kids welcomes children from grades four through eight. Every single child, without regard to ethnicity, gender or means, is eligible to participate.

In this imaginative space, children engage in painting with oils and acrylics. They learn Native American dances and their history. And they participate in sewing, music, cooking, and a variety of seasonal crafts and other activities, such as chess, as local talent permits.

At B!SK, teachers and artists serve as mentors, guiding students through self-discovery, skill building and confidence building. The program extends beyond the traditional arts. With laptops and electronic pens, a student favorite is a class in graphic arts, which at the same time hones their computer skills.

Bigger Sky Kids empowers children. It helps them cope with socio-economic challenges endemic to reservation life. One student, a troubled sixth grader when she joined, described B!SK as a sanctuary in a stressful world. It is, she said,

> "the outlet that makes everything else possible."

Years later, on her own initiative, she enrolled in and attended a summer program, on campus at Harvard University, that prepares Native American students for college.

Bigger Sky Kids is a testament to the power of the arts, compassion and community to forge a brighter horizon for Wolf Point's children. To learn more about the work BSK does or to support their mission, please visit biggerskykids.org.

Winter Calendar 2024

Big Sky

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center	Misc.	Mike Birbiglia: Please Stop the Ride	January 6	5:30 PM & 8:00 PM	https://warrenmillerpaac.org/event/mike-birbiglia/	$47+
	Theatre	Many Happy Returns	January 16-20	2:00 PM, 6:00 PM & 8:00 PM	https://warrenmillerpac.org/event/many-happy-returns/	$22+
	Music	Johnny Cash - The Official Concert Experience	January 31	7:30 PM	https://warrenmillerpac.org/event	$24+
	Music	Danish String Quartet	February 10	7:30 PM	https://warrenmillerpac.org/event	$24+
	Music	International Guitar Night	February 17	7:30 PM	https://warrenmillerpac.org/event	$24+
	Music	The Moth Mainstage	February 24	7:30 PM	https://warrenmillerpac.org/event/the-moth-mainstage/	$24+
	Music	säje	March 2	7:30 PM	https://warrenmillerpac.org/event/saje/	$24+
	Music	Anderson & Roe	March 9	7:30 PM	https://warrenmillerpac.org/event/anderson-roe/	$24+
	Dance	James Sewell Ballet	March 16	7:30 PM	https://warrenmillerpac.org/event	$24+
	Theatre	360 Allstars	March 30	7:30 PM	https://warrenmillerpac.org/event/360-allstars/	$24+
Montage Grand Ballroom	Art	Auction for the Arts	February 22	5:00 PM	https://bigskyarts.org/pages/auction	$200

Big Timber

Big Timber Luthern Church	Music	Somewhere Over the Rainbow	March 1	7:00 PM	https://baroquemusicmontana.org/concert-series	$20

Billings

Alberta Bair Theater	Theatre	The Book of Mormon	January 16 & 17	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$72+
	Music	Billings Symphony 'Strings Attached'	January 20	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$20+
	Music	Billings Symphony 'Family Concert: A Puppet's Plight'	January 20	12:00 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	Free
	Music	Johnny Cash - The Official Concert Experience	February 1	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$60+
	Music	Billings Symphony 'Song for Humanity'	February 10	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$20+
	Theatre	Hairspray	February 17	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows/hairspray/	$72+
	Theatre	DRUMLine Live	February 22	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$55+
	Theatre	Mean Girls	February 27	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows/mean-girls/	$72+
	Theatre	Malevo - Argentinian Dance Company	February 29	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$25+
	Theatre	Malevo - Argentinian Dance Company (Student Mat.)	March 1	9:30 AM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$6
	Music	Amy Grant	March 2	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows/amy-grant/	$62+
	Music	Anderson & Roe	March 5	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$22.50+
	Music	Lúnasa & Eileen Ivers	March 8	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$22.50+
	Theatre	Cat Kid Comic Club, The Musical (Student Matinee)	March 15	9:30 AM & 12:00 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$6
	Theatre	Menopause the Musical 2	March 17	4:00 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$68+
	Music	Billings Symphony 'Cirque'	March 23	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$20+
	Theatre	MANIA: The ABBA Tribute	March 27	7:30 PM	https://www.albertabairtheater.org/shows	$24.50+
The Pub Station	Music	Fracture	January 6	8:00 PM	https://thepubstation.com/event	$15
	Music	Jackson Dean	January 19	8:00 PM	https://thepubstation.com/event	$25
	Misc.	Shrek Rave	January 20	9:00 PM	https://thepubstation.com/event	$17+
	Music	The Tayor Party: The TS Dance Party	February 9	9:00 PM	https://thepubstation.com/event	$15+
	Music	Pinky and the Floyd	March 29	8:00 PM	https://thepubstation.com/event	$25
Yellowstone Art Museum	Art	Will James in Magazines	Jul 6-Jun 1, 2024	Daily	https://www.artmuseum.org/project	Free
	Art	A Couple of Art Lovers	Nov 16-Aug 18	Daily	https://www.artmuseum.org/project	Free
	Art	Yellowstone Art Auction 56	February 2	Daily	https://www.artmuseum.org/engage/special-events/	Free
Billings Symphony in person/online	Music	Wine Down with the Symphony	January 26	7:00 PM	https://billingssymphony.org/shows/special-events	$55+
The Billings Depot	Music	Johnny Gandelsman: This is America	February 15	7:00 PM	https://billingssymphony.org/shows	$25+
	Music	Arkins, Bigley & Coulter: A Celtic Evening	March 7	7:00 PM	https://billingssymphony.org/shows	$25+
Crooked Line Studio	Art	Open Art	Jan. 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29	10:00 AM & 6::00 PM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$8
	Art	Painting 101 with Carolyn Thayer	January 8, 15, 22, 29	6:00 PM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$225
	Art	After School Art for Kids	January 10, 17, 31	2:45 PM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$30+
	Art	Watercolor Wednesday with Dan Granger	January 10, 17, 24, 31	5:30 PM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$8
	Art	Mixed Media Meet Up	January 11, 18, 25	6:00 PM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$10
	Art	Painting 102 with Carolyn Thayer	January 11, 18, 25	6:00 PM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$225

Art · Art & Music · Cultural · Dance · Film · Literary · Misc. · Music · Theatre

Crooked Line Studio		Friday Painters with Carolyn Thayer	January 12, 19, 26	1:00 PM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$225
		Open Oil	January 12, 19, 26	1:00 PM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$10
		Bob Ross "Montana Winter" with Ray Dicken	January 20	9:00 AM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$75
		Snowy Sunrise with Jennifer Plumley	January 20	10:00 AM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$38
		Howling Wolf with Ray Dicken	January 27	1:00 PM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$50
		After School Art for Kids	February 7, 14, 21, 28	2:45 PM	https://crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar	$30+
Bozeman						
Peace of Christ Community Church		Handel's Heroines	February 3	7:30 PM	https://baroquemusicmontana.org/concert-series	$5+
Willson Auditorium		Bozeman Symphony - Fourth Grade Concert	January 19	12:30 PM	https://www.bozemansymphony.org/	Free
		Bozeman Symphony - Peter and the Wolf	January 20	10:30 AM	https://www.bozemansymphony.org/	Free
		Cinderella with Live Orchestra	February 17 & 18	4:00 PM & 7:00 PM	https://montanaballet.org/	$28+
		Bozeman Symphony - Beethoven's Symphony No. 3	February 24 & 25	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	https://www.bozemansymphony.org/	$24+
		Bozeman Symphony - Brahms Symphony No. 1	March 23 & 24	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	https://www.bozemansymphony.org/	$24+
The Emerson		2024 Fly Fishing Film Tour	January 20	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM	https://www.theemerson.org/event-calendar/	$16+
Museum of the Rockies		Conserving America's Wildlands	January 2024	Daily	https://museumoftherockies.org/exhibitions	$10.50+
The Ellen Theatre		Full Circle	January 17	7:00 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$11.50+
		International Guitar Night	February 7	7:30 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$39.00
		Carousel	February 2-11	3:00 PM & 7:00 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$20+
		Pecha Kucha 41	February 13 & 14	6:40 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$5.50+
		Paula Poundstone	February 17	8:00 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$49.50
		MozART Group	February 29	7:30 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$53
		Damn Tall Buildings	March 1	7:30 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$28
		Chabad Lubavitch of Montana Presents Shulem	March 3	6:00 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$37.50+
		Glenn Miller Orchestra	March 22	7:30 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$26
		Skerryvore	March 23	7:30 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$36.75
		Stringfever	March 30	7:30 PM	https://theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket#/events	$37
Rockin' TJ Ranch		Valentine's Day with the Dueling Pianos	February 14	6:30 PM	https://rockingtjranch.com/events	TBD
The Elm		Mikey Lion	January 13	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/mikey-lion-57876/	$25+
		Victor Wooten & The Wooten Brothers	January 14	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$30+
		Dirtwire	January 19	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/dirtwire-57380/	$29+
		The Motet	January 20	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/the-motet-57691/	$27+
		Steve Trevino	February 1	6:30 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/steve-trevino-57983/	$37+
		The Infamous Stringdusters	February 2	7:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$40+
		Backcountry Film Festival	February 3	7:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$18+
		Cold War Kids	February 6	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/cold-war-kids-56516/	$30+
		Lotus	February 7	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/lotus-57377/	$20+
		Big Richard	February 8	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/big-richard-56701/	$25+
		Zoso The Led Zeppelin Experience	February 9	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$28+
		Magic City Hippies	February 12	7:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$25+
		Cory Wong Ft. Monica Martin	February 13	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$35+
		Grace Potter	February 27	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/grace-potter-58033/	$39+
		The Elovaters	March 2	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/the-elovaters-56698/	$30+
Reynolds Recital Hall		Beyond Baroque	March 2	7:30 PM	https://baroquemusicmontana.org/	Free
Bozeman High School Auditorium		Beyond Baroque	March 4	12:00 PM	https://baroquemusicmontana.org/	$5+
Live from the Divide		The Dead & Down	January 12	8:00 PM	https://www.livefromthedivide.com/events	$30
		Laura Cortese & The Dance Cards	January 20	8:00 PM	https://www.livefromthedivide.com/events	$45
		Rachel Baiman	February 29	8:00 PM	https://www.livefromthedivide.com/events	$40
		William Fitzsimmons	March 7	8:00 PM	https://www.livefromthedivide.com/events	$30
		Joshua Ray Walker	March 29 & 30	8:00 PM	https://www.livefromthedivide.com/events	$65

Art Art & Music Cultural Dance Film Literary Misc. Music Theatre

Butte

The Mother Lode Theatre	Theatre	Shimmer: A Winter Cirque Reverie	January 4	7:00 PM	https://buttearts.org/event	$10+
	Misc.	Underground Comedy Series	January 20	8:00 PM	https://buttearts.org/event	$20
	Dance	NIC+DESI: Song, Dance & Romance	February 3	7:00 PM	https://buttearts.org/event	$10+
	Misc.	Underground Comedy Series	February 10	8:00 PM	https://buttearts.org/event	$20
	Music	The Butte Symphony Series: American Made!	February 17	7:30 PM	https://buttearts.org/event/american-made/	$15+
	Music	Divas3	February 19	7:30 PM	https://buttearts.org/event/divas-3/	$15+
	Music	DRUMLine Live	February 29	7:00 PM	https://buttearts.org/event/drumline-live/	$10+
	Theatre	Menopause the Musical 2	March 15	7:00 PM	https://buttearts.org/event/menopause/	$10+
	Misc.	Underground Comedy Series	March 16	8:00 PM	https://buttearts.org/event/underground-comedy-series-7/	$20

Columbus

Columbus Community Congregational Church	Music	Handel's Heroines	February 4	2:00 PM	https://baroquemusicmontana.org/	Free

Dillon

First Presbyterian Church	Music	Somewhere Over the Rainbow	March 3	4:00 PM	https://baroquemusicmontana.org/concert-series	Donation

Eureka

Lincoln County High School	Music	Concert! Champagne Sunday	January 5	7:00 PM	https://www.sunburstarts.org/events	Free
	Theatre	Firebringer: The Musical	January 6 & 7	7:00 PM & 3:00 PM	https://www.sunburstarts.org/events	Free
	Music	Concert! Rebecca Folsom Ensemble	February 15	7:00 PM	https://www.sunburstarts.org/events	Free
	Music	Concert! Cacade Quartet	March 12	7:00 PM	https://www.sunburstarts.org/events	Free

Glasgow

Glasgow High School	Dance	NIC+DESI	February 6	7:00 PM		
	Music	Americana Women	March 12	7:00 PM		

Great Falls

Mansfield Theater	Music	Fireworks	January 20	7:00 PM	https://www.gfsymphony.org/symphony-concerts	$14+
	Music	Love Letters	February 10	7:30 PM	https://www.gfsymphony.org/symphony-concerts	$14+
	Music	Youth Orchestra Spring Time	March 24	3:00 PM	https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=gfs	$5+
Great Falls College MSU Heritage Hall	Music	Symphony Preview with Grant Harville	Jan 19 & Feb 9	12:00 PM	https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=gfs	Free
First Congregational Church UCC	Music	Cascade Quartet: All American	January 14	2:00 PM	https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=gfs	$10+
	Music	Architecture + Music: CMS Sunday Series	February 18	2:00 PM	https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=gfs	$10+
The Historic Mansfield Theater	Music	Kiss Me Once	January 22	7:30 PM	https://greatfallsmt.net/mansfieldcenter	$15+
	Music	Divas3	February 20	7:30 PM	https://greatfallsmt.net/mansfieldcenter	$15+
	Music	Menopause the Musical 2	March 12	7:30 PM	https://greatfallsmt.net/mansfieldcenter	$57.50+
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art	Art	Squared Up Exhibition Reception	January 12	5:30 PM	https://www.the-square.org/events/squared-up	Free
CM Russell Museum	Art	The Russell 2024	March 14-16	Daily	https://cmrussell.org/experience/sale-events/	$60+
Heritage Inn		Outwest Art show	March 14-16	Daily	https://www.owas.online/	Free
The Newberry	Art	Chefs, Champagne, & Art	February 2	6:00 PM	https://www.the-square.org/events/cca2024	$75
	Music	The Waiting	January 5	7:30 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$25.20+
		Chamber Music Series: All American	January 12	7:00 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$39+
	Misc.	John Johnson with Nathan Macintosh	January 13	9:00 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$32.40+
		Jackson Dean	January 18	7:30 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$31.50+
	Music	Martin Sexton	January 23	7:30 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$34.20+
	Music	Preacher Lawson	January 30	7:00 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$36+
	Music	Jackpot Party 2000, featuring Ying Yang Twins, Paul Wall and Petey Pablo	February 10	7:30 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$53.10+
	Music	Chamber Music Series: Architecure + Music	February 16	7:00 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$39+
	Misc.	Winter River Fest	February 17	5:00 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$50
	Music	Eli Young Band	February 22	7:30 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$46.80+
	Music	Black Tie & Blue Jeans	March 1	5:30 PM	https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=gfs	$90
	Music	The Elovaters Endless Summer Tour	March 3	7:30 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$27+
	Music	Joshua Ray Walker	March 27	7:30 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$18+
	Music	Chamber Music Series: Lyrical	March 29	7:00 PM	https://thenewberrymt.com/event	$39+

Hamilton

Art Art & Music Cultural Dance Film Literary Misc. Music Theatre

Hamilton Performing Arts Center	Music	Victor Wooten & The Wooten Brothers Sweat Tour	January 13	8:00 PM	https://bitterrootperformingarts.org/event	$45
	Music	The Queen's Cartoonists	February 10	8:00 PM	https://bitterrootperformingarts.org/event	$49
	Music	Reverie Road	March 1	8:00 PM	https://bitterrootperformingarts.org/event	$33
	Dance	James Sewell Ballet	March 23	8:00 PM	https://bitterrootperformingarts.org/event	$49
Havre						
MSUN/MAT Theatre	Theatre	Hill County Revue Variety Show	Jan 19, 20, 26, 27 & Feb 2, 3	8:00 PM	https://mtactors.com/shows-events/	$10+
		Speakeasy in the Big Easy	February 17	7:00 PM	https://mtactors.com/shows-events/	$25+
	Theatre	24 Hour Play Festival	March 16	8:00 PM	https://mtactors.com/shows-events/	$8+
Helena						
Lewis and Clark Library	Literary	Montana Historical Society Lecture Series	January 4	6:30 PM	https://lclibrary.libcal.com/event/10645169	Free
	Literary	Montana Historical Society Lecture Series	January 18	6:30 PM	https://lclibrary.libcal.com/event/10645178	Free
	Literary	Montana Historical Society Lecture Series	February 1	6:30 PM	https://lclibrary.libcal.com/event/10645170	Free
	Literary	Montana Historical Society Lecture Series	February 15	6:30 PM	https://lclibrary.libcal.com/event/10645179	Free
	Literary	Montana Historical Society Lecture Series	March 7	6:30 PM	https://lclibrary.libcal.com/event/10645171	Free
	Literary	Montana Historical Society Lecture Series	March 21	6:30 PM	https://lclibrary.libcal.com/event/10645180	Free
The Myrna Loy	Music	Night Heron	January 18	7:30 PM	https://themyrnaloy.com/whats-happening/live-performances/	$20
	Music	International Guitar Night	February 8	7:30 PM	https://themyrnaloy.com/whats-happening/live-performances/	$35
	Misc.	Thinq Media Culture Summit	February 23	7:00 PM	https://themyrnaloy.com	$20
	Music	Ellen Ivers	March 7	7:30 PM	https://themyrnaloy.com/whats-happening/live-performances/	$35
Helena Civic Center	Music	Masterworks III: Beethoven's Triple & Mahler's Fifth	January 24	7:30 PM	https://www.helenasymphony.org/event	$20+
	Music	Masterworks IV: Brahms, Dvorak, and the Return of Cellist Amit Peled	February 24	7:30 PM	https://www.helenasymphony.org/event	$20+
	Music	Masterworks V: The Bells of Ecstasy	March 23	7:30 PM	https://www.helenasymphony.org/event	$20+
Saint Paul's United Methodist Church	Music	Symphony Kids III: A Season for Charlotte the Spider	February 3	10:00 AM	https://www.helenasymphony.org/event	Free
The Holter Musuem of Art	Music	Handel's Heroines	February 1	7:30 PM	https://baroquemusicmontana.org/concert-series	$5+
	Art	The Last Glacier	Jan 19-Feb 14	Daily	https://holtermuseum.org/exhibitions/the-last-glacier	$10
	Art	The One Defined to Be No One	Jan 19-Mar 5	Daily	https://holtermuseum.org/exhibitions/sean-chandler	$10
	Art	CoFlourish	Jan 19-Mar 24	Daily	https://holtermuseum.org/exhibitions/coflourish	$10
Grandstreet Theatre	Theatre	Drop in Classes	January 2-11	3:45 PM	https://theatreschool.grandstreettheatre.com	$25
Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds	Misc.	Made in Montana Tradeshow	March 8 & 9	Daily	https://www.madeinmontanausa.com/Tradeshow	Free
Kalispell						
Wachholz College Center	Music	Fleetwood Mac: RUMOURS	January 12	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$42+
	Music	Chanticleer	January 14	3:00 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$39+
	Theatre	Potted Potter: The Unauthorized Harry Potter Exp.	January 21	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$38+
	Literary	WCC Speaker Series: Peter Hillary	January 25	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$25+
	Music	Raelynn	January 26	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$43+
	Theatre	The Queen's Cartoonists	February 7	7:00 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$28+
	Music	Glacier Symphony Orchestra: Rhapsody in Blue	February 17	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/defaulat.asp	$12+
	Music	International Guitar Night	February 18	7:00 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$35+
	Music	Eli Young Band	February 21	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$39+
	Literary	WCC Speaker Series: Kobie Boykins	February 22	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$25+
	Theatre	Dinosaur World Live	February 25	4:00 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$20+
	Music	Joshua Redman: Where Are We Tour	February 28	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$55+
	Misc.	Tom Papa: Good Stuff Tour	March 1	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$40+
	Music	Brett Dennen: 7th Annual Lift Series	March 7	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$32+
	Music	Lunasa	March 10	7:00 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$30+
	Music	Glacier Symphony Orchestra: Back to Back with Jeans 'n Classics	March 16	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$12+
	Music	Time for Three	March 17	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$35+
	Literary	WCC Speaker Series: Min Jin Lee	March 18	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$35+
	Literary	WCC Speaker Series: Lynsey Addario	March 20	7:30 PM	https://wachholzcollegecenter.org/Online/default.asp	$25+
Hockaday Museum of Art	Art	Ace Powell Works & Beadwork from Three Chiefs Cultural Center	Oct 13, 2023 - Sept 1, 2024	Daily	https://hockadaymuseum.com/exhibition	Free

Art · Art & Music · Cultural · Dance · Film · Literary · Misc. · Music · Theatre

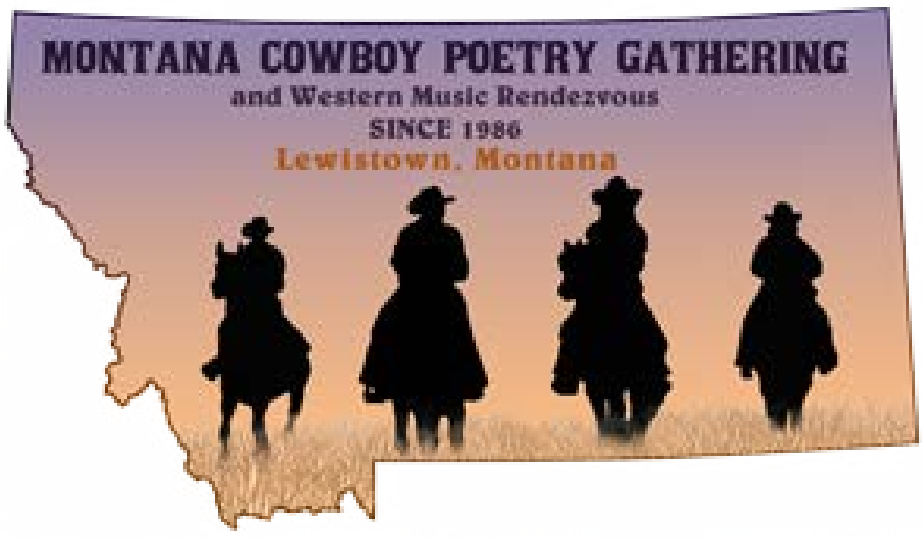
		Members Salon 2024	Jan 12-Feb 24	Daily	https://hockadaymuseum.com/exhibition	Free
		In That Still Moment: DG House, Contemporary Native Artist	Jan 12-Mar 23	Daily	https://hockadaymuseum.com/exhibition	Free
		Totally Terrific Textures! Childrens Art Exhibition	Mar 8-Apr 13	Daily	https://hockadaymuseum.com/exhibition	Free
Livingston						
The Dulcie Theatre		Joe Robinson	February 10	7:00 PM	https://www.theshanecenter.org/all-events	
		Sunday in the Park with George	Feb 23 -Mar 17	8:00 PM	https://www.theshanecenter.org/all-events	TBD
Malta						
Malta High School		NIC+DESI	February 5	7:00 PM		
		Americana Women	March 11	7:00 PM		
Missoula						
Missoula Public Library		College Party	January 26	3:00 PM	https://art4creatives.com/collage-party/	Free
Missoula Art Museum		Mimi Jung: Just Between Us	Jan 2-Apr 13	Daily	https://missoulaartmuseum.org/exhibits	Free
		ɬu X X̱ʷí č X̌est / For The Good Of All Things	Jan 19-Apr 6	Daily	https://missoulaartmuseum.org/exhibits	Free
		Critical Eye: Selections From The Kim and Ruth Reineking Collection	Jan 29-May 11	Daily	https://missoulaartmuseum.org/exhibits	Free
		Terry Karson: Human/Nature	Feb 27-Jul 27	Daily	https://missoulaartmuseum.org/exhibits	Free
The Clay Studio of Missoula		Open Instruction - Multi Level	Jan 9-Mar 12	2:00 PM	https://www.theclaystudioofmissoula.org	$325
		Wednesday Morning Beginning Pottery	Jan 10-Mar 13	10:00 AM	https://www.theclaystudioofmissoula.org	$325
		Handbuilding in Clay - Vessels & Sculpture	Jan 11-Mar 14	10:00 AM	https://www.theclaystudioofmissoula.org	$325
		Soda Firing	Jan 14-Mar 17	5:00 PM	https://www.theclaystudioofmissoula.org	$355
The Artists Shop		Glass Wonderland - Lisa Tate	Dec-Jan 2024	Daily	http://www.missoulaartistsshop.com	Free
Monk's		Local HXCX Debut Show	January 5	8:00 PM	https://www.facebook.com/MonksMissoula/events	$5
		The Selsum Blues + Velvet Handlebars + Donkey Island	January 12	8:00 PM	https://www.facebook.com/MonksMissoula/events	$5
The Top Hat		Mikey Lion	January 12	10:30 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/mikey-lion-57874/	$25+
		MoneyPenny	January 26	10:15 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/moneypenny-58007/	Free
		The Timber Rattlers	February 2	10:15 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	Free
		Ceres	February 10	10:15 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/ceres-57782/	Free
		Brett Dennen: 7th Annual Lift Series	March 10	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/brett-dennen-57635/	$27+
The Wilma		"Rumours"	January 13	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$30+
		The Motet	January 19	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/the-motet-57688/	$27+
		Dirtwire	January 20	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/dirtwire-57385/	$27+
		Backcountry Film Festival	January 26	7:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$18+
		Steve Trevino	February 2	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/steve-trevino-57985/	$35+
		The Infamous Stringdusters	February 3	7:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$35+
		Lotus	February 6	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/lotus-57372/	$20+
		Big Richard	February 9	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/big-richard-56707/	$23+
		Zoso The Led Zeppelin Experience	February 10	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$25+
		Grace Potter	February 28	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/grace-potter-58036/	$36.50+
		The Elovaters	March 1	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/the-elovaters-56689/	$25+
		Kendal Mountain Film Tour	March 2	5:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$15+
		Fly Fishing Film Tour	March 2	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$18+
		Liquid Stranger	March 8	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$32+
		Josh Wolf	March 9	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/josh-wolf-58091/	$29+
		Neko Case	March 13	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/neko-case-57684/	$38+
		Skiitour	March 22	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event/skiitour-57988/	$22+
		Missoula Rock Lotto: "44 Days"	March 23	8:00 PM	https://logjampresents.com/event	$20
Missoula Community Theatre		Rent	January 18-28	2:00 PM, 6:30 PM & 7:30 PM	https://mctinc.org/2023-2024-community-season/	$20+
		The Play That Goes Wrong	March 7-17	2:00 PM, 6:30 PM & 7:30 PM	https://mctinc.org/2023-2024-community-season/	$20+
		Disney Descendants the Musical	February 8-11	4:00 PM & 7:00 PM	https://mctinc.org	$10
		Lights, Camera Action!	March 29	5:00 PM & 7:00 PM	https://mctinc.org	$10
Missoula Symphony		Harry Potter and his Magical Orchestra Journey	January 27	3:00 PM	https://missoulasymphony.org/concerts	$8

Art Art & Music Cultural Dance Film Literary Misc. Music Theatre

		Wine, Whiskey and Wisdom	February 18	6:00 PM	https://missoulasymphony.org/concerts	$150
		In Nature's Realm	March 2 & 3	7:30 PM & 3:00 PM	https://missoulasymphony.org/concerts	$19+
Zootown Arts Community Center		Frenship	February 14	8:00 PM	https://showroom.zootownarts.org/event	$20+
University of Montana Theatre		ACDA Benefit Concert	February 9-10	7:30 PM	https://www.umt.edu/theatre-dance/season	$20
		A Midsummer Night's Dream	Feb 15-25	7:30 PM & 2:00 PM	https://www.umt.edu/theatre-dance/season	$16.50+
Univ. of Montana Music Recital Hall		Handel's Heroines	January 31	7:30 PM	https://baroquemusicmontana.org/concert-series	TBD
		Beethoven's "Grosse Fuge"	February 4	4:00 PM	https://sormt.org/	$12
Polson						
Polson High School		Pollo Loco Country/Western	January 26	7:00 PM	https://missionvalleylive.com/concert/pollo-loco/	$15
		Nic & Desi Broadway Song and Dance	March 1	7:00 PM	https://missionvalleylive.com/concert	$15
Ronan						
Ronan Performing Arts Center		Stringfever String Quartet	March 29	7:00 PM	https://missionvalleylive.com/concert	$15
Red Lodge						
Calvary Episcopal Church		Handel's Heroines	February 5	7:00 PM	https://baroquemusicmontana.org/	$5+
Sidney						
MonDak Heritage Center		NIC+DESI	February 8	7:00 PM		$35+
		Americana Women	March 15	7:00 PM		$35+
Stevensville						
Stevensville Playhouse		The Complete Works of William Shakespeare	February 3-11	7:30 PM & 2:00 PM	http://www.stevensvilleplayhouse.org/	$12+
		Making Good Laugh	March 15-24	7:30 PM & 2:00 PM	http://www.stevensvilleplayhouse.org/	$12+
Whitefish						
Great Northern Bar		John Dunnigan	January 4 & 11	9:30 PM	https://greatnorthernbar.com/music-and-specials/	Free
		Jesse Quandt Band	January 5 & 6	9:30 PM	https://greatnorthernbar.com/music-and-specials/	Free
		K'Niption Fit	January 12	9:30 PM	https://greatnorthernbar.com/music-and-specials/	Free
FoR Fine Art		235 Smaller Works Show	Dec 8-Jan 13, 2024	Daily	https://forfineart.com/235-smaller-works-show/	Free
Whitefish Theatre Co		Witch	January 20 & 21	7:30 PM	https://whitefishtheatreco.org/full-2023-2024-season	$10+
		Bridge & Wolak	January 24	7:30 PM	https://whitefishtheatreco.org/full-2023-2024-season	$20+
		Misery	Feb 22-25, Mar 1-2	4:00 PM & 7:30 PM	https://whitefishtheatreco.org/full-2023-2024-season	$10+
		Eileen Ivers	March 6	7:30 PM	https://whitefishtheatreco.org/full-2023-2024-season	$20+
		The Tin Woman	March 16 & 17	7:30 PM	https://whitefishtheatreco.org/full-2023-2024-season	$10+

Youth Cowboy *Poetry Contest*

The Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Western Music Rendezvous is a 3-day cultural festival, held annually in mid-August in Lewistown, Montana, and dedicated to celebrating and preserving the history, heritage, and values of the cowboy lifestyle of the Upper Rocky Mountain West. About 100 cowboy poets, western musicians, and artists, from all over the United States and Canada, convene to share their talents and perpetuate the traditions of the American West.



For our 2024 gathering, we are encouraging the involvement of youth by sponsoring a YOUTH Cowboy Poetry Contest. Young poets, ages 12-18 are encouraged to write some "cowboy" poetry. First place prize is $100, second place prize is $75, and the winners will recite their poems on the Grand Stage Saturday evening. The theme for the 2024 Gathering is "A Cowboy and His Dog", but any "cowboy" subject will be acceptable.

Access the entry form on MAC's website at:

https://art.mt.gov/pdfs/Youth-poetry-application.pdf and follow the Gathering on Facebook. Please call Charlotte Carroll at 406-538-3058 if you have any questions.

State of the ARTS

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

Winter 2024

January • February • March

This Issue: ***Montana and Jazz***

Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock.

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Winter 2024
January • February • March