phony Orchestras, a statewide consortium represented by the establishment of the Montana Association of State-wide level, M.A. was again instrumental in 1981 in to bring them to rural communities across the state. On a quartet, traveling thousands of miles with the ensemble until 1986 she served as the volunteer manager of the communities.

and provide education and outreach to Montana's rural involved in the community and state as private teachers national level. In the late 1970s M.A. had a dream that supporter of symphonies and the arts on a local, state and was a musician, advo-

lishment of the Great Falls Symphony. From then until history representing 60 years of dedication, involvement passed away on March 18, 2019, she left behind a rich A Remembrance

Mary Agnes Roberts (M.A.):

When Mary Agnes Roberts (fondly known as M.A.), passed away on March 18, 2019, she left behind a rich history representing 60 years of dedication, involvement and love for the Great Falls Symphony and the arts in the state of Montana, and beyond.

In 1959, M.A. was a driving force behind the establish-

In order to foster environments where the innova-

tion and creativity of artists are valued and celebrat-

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How we define innovation

Innovation is the act of introducing something new or different to further an artist’s vision and practice. This can mean new methods, applications, perspectives, elements, forms, materials, technology integration, project concepts and/or processes that result from study, experimentation or experiences. In-

novation can be from any era of an artist's career, and can be a personal evolution, or an evolution for the field, or both. Innovation is applicable to traditional art and contemporary art.

Awards and Application Deadlines

Up to six awards of $5,000 each will be distribut-

ded for this cycle.

The deadline to submit applications is Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019. Learn more at www.art.mt.gov.

Mary Agnes Roberts (M.A.): A Remembrance

By Kristi Niemeyer

Two weeks before she opens the doors of handMADE Montana Retail and Production House to the public, Carol Lynn Lapotka is relaxed and gregarious, even though her to-do list seems insurmountable. A crew of car-

penters is in the attic, repairing broken trusses in her 110-year-old building on Polson’s Main Street. A new employee is painting the inside of drawers and organizing inventory.

At the same time that Lapotka puts finishing touches on the shop/production space, she’s organizing the upcoming Summer MADE Fair, June 23 at Caras Park in Missoula. And buying a house.

“I feel fairly well in intensity,” she says.

More talent than we can contain

For Lapotka, her new 2,000-square-foot space is the logical next step in a business that’s been bustling almost since its inception. She graduated from Edge-

wood College in Madison, WI, with a degree in fine arts, graphic design and environmental studies. Those passions meshed in REcreate Designs as she began "foraging" for fabric in thrift stores and at rummage sales, and crafting unique clothing from her finds.

She worked in her basement until she and her hus-

band moved to Missoula in 2007 so she could attend law school. Then her business occupied the second bedroom of their rental until she found a studio space at Zootown Arts Community Center.

When her husband took a job with the Lake County Attorney’s office and they moved to St. Ignatius in 2010, she worked in a 600-square-foot studio at the end of their driveway. At the same time, the MADE fairs were expanding.

Carol Lynn Lapotka in her new handMADE Montana Retail and Production house, opening July 1 on Polson’s Main Street. (Photo by Thom Bridge/Independent Record)

handMADE Montana opens in Polson

By Marga Lincoln

Prue (Cadence Hatten) is about to lose Baby Mac (Gracie Fay Petersen) to the Wildwood, and embark on an epic journey to retrieve him. (Photo by Thom Bridge/Independent Record)

See Wildwood, page 5

By Marga Lincoln for the Independent Record, June 6, Reprinted with permission

So, what do you do when your baby brother is kidnapped by crows?

Well, if you’re Prue McKeel, you leap into action and go right after them.

Even if it means entering the dreaded Impassable Wilderness.

Thus, unfolds the high adven-
ture tale of “Wildwood.”

The best-selling novel, written by Helena native son Colin Meloy, made its world premiere in an adaptation by Jennifer Schlueter June 6-16 at Grandstreet Theatre in Helena.

Not only is “Wildwood” full of “woods magic,” but the very fact it’s appearing on Grandstreet’s stage is quite the fantastic tale.

Indie rock star Meloy of The Decemberists is a former Grandstreet kid, and thus Grandstreet miraculously got first dibs on staging a production. It appears courtesy of Laika Pictures, which has optioned the novel for the screen.

But back to the baby-saving herioc-
s.

Just as Prue (Cadence Hatten) is plunging into Wild-

wood, classmate Curtis Mehlberg (Kai Moser) follows hot on her heels, admonishing her about assorted rules she’s breaking and homework that’s due. But both aban-

don all caution to save Baby Mac.

They will confront the murder of crows that just stole Mac, but also meet a troop of sarcastic, saber-wielding coyotes in uniform, squirrels in three-piece suits, Wise Owl Reginia, a Dowager Governess, a bevy of blundering bureaucrats and a band of bandits.

They’ll also learn who they really are and what they’re capable of. This is a mere glimpse of the fun oddities in this swash-buckling and witty adventure.

“It’s very whimsical, playful and fun,” says guest di-

corator Sarah Butts. “It’s funny and has moments of great heart.

There’s plenty of mystery and menace as well.

“There are elements of danger,” adds education direc-
tor Marianne Adams, the show’s producer. “It takes place today in a magical world of Wildwood, which is its own magical universe.”

This is a world where kids – nerdy, book-loving kids – take charge.

See M.A. Roberts, page 2

Colin Meloy’s “Wildwood” makes world premiere at Grandstreet Theatre

by Marga Lincoln

See handMADE Montana, page 5

by Marga Lincoln

by Marga Lincoln

See handMADE Montana, page 5
Inspiration abounds in new fiscal year

While Jan. 1 signals the beginning of a new year, July 1 kicks off the Montana Arts Council (MAC) fiscal year. At this writing, we are just back from an engaging Council meeting in Lewistown. With only two years, this meeting was packed with weighty business. The Council approved the FY 2020 budget, acted on grant funding recommendations, and made important decisions for programs and services. With its diverse mix of perspectives, the Council is committed to the mission and dedicated to making the best decisions for the people of Montana.

Heading into the new fiscal year, MAC is inspired. Governor Bullock is considering the recommendations for the next Poet Laureate, and we are anxious for his announcement. The Montana ArtPrepare Program will establish new learning cohorts this summer. Artist's Innovation Awards, accepting applications this fall, will embrace the fluid interaction of artistic fields by moving away from restrictive discipline categories. Folk arts programs, chiefly the Montana Circle of American Masters, will benefit from additional funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Congress's budgetary increase to the NEA translated into an extra 1% in MAC's annual Partnership Agreement. The small uptick makes a big difference in MAC's bottom line. With state funds for next biennium only increasing as required by law, MAC is struggling to keep up with demand. In one grant program, 30% of the applicant pool was first-time submissions. MAC is walking a fine line to maintain consistent funding to established institutions while investing in budding programming.

Gratitude for Montana's robust offerings

As this issue demonstrates, the arts are thriving in Montana. It is especially evident in the glorious summer when we are out enjoying our communities and resources. As you take in the highlighted events, pay attention to who is making them possible. Notice the sponsors and donors that share your values for arts, entertainment and engagement. Appreciation and passage keep the cycle of support viable.

Pay attention to Montana's investments as well. It is through MAC, the Office of Tourism, or Montana State Parks. Communicate to your elected officials when it matches your priorities and why. Most of all, appreciate the staff and volunteers. Much like my Council, they are committed to doing the best for the people of Montana.

Felton & Ferguson Woodworking: A dream realized

Montana Arts Council members and staff toured Felton & Ferguson Woodworking during the council’s June meeting in Lewistown. Harry Felton is a traditional woodworker and Jessica Ferguson has a background in interior design. Together they collaborate on furniture that incorporates contemporary design and traditional craft. Their one-of-a-kind originals have been showcased at the Western Design Conference in Jackson Hole, WY.

Their use of native reclaimed woods of the West, including chokecherry, black hawthorne and red fir, gives a unique geographical flavor to their furniture. They also embrace hand tools instead of machines.

Felton made several points to MAC members during their visit. His eloquent comments could apply to all artistic pursuits:

• Each piece of wood, each work of art, has something to teach me … What does being a working artist have to teach me? That I must have courage to begin and I require integrity to see it through.

• Standing in front of a blank canvas, blanket or slab of wood, can be a crushing pressure. I must take risks and execute them with honesty and skill.

• The history, symbols, tradition and concept of my field must be known to me.

• With each piece I am speaking to an audience: I must challenge them, I must meet them halfway: how much to placate/ how much to inspire?

• Traditional woodworking is a forgotten craft in our world. Our work is functional, by definition. It is also highly sculptural.

Harry Felton and Jessica Ferguson: "Traditional woodworking is a forgotten craft in our world." (Photos by Czelsi Gómez)

Felton noted, and Ferguson agreed, "With each piece I am speaking to an audience: I must challenge them, I must meet them halfway: how much to placate/ how much to inspire?"

Mary Agnes Roberts

Mary Agnes Roberts (from page 1)

She served two terms as president, and received the organization’s Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award in 2000. In 1991, she was recognized and awarded the Montana Governor’s Award for Statewide Service to the Arts. As a result of her impact on symphonic music, M.A. was invited, and served two years on the national board of directors of the League of American Orchestras.

In the early 1990s M.A. took on the demanding challenge to establish and fund a GFSA Endowment. She was chair of the Endowment Committee for a number of years, and during her tenure, over $1 million was raised for the organization.

In 2004, M.A. again had a dream, and was unrelenting in her determination to bring world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma to Great Falls as part of a celebration of the Cascade String Quartet’s 25th anniversary. As a result of her efforts, Yo-Yo Ma became the first of a number of internationally known artists, including Itzak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Midori, Yo-Yo Ma himself, who came to Great Falls in the ensuing years to perform.

M.A. was a performing member of the Great Falls Symphony Orchestra for 50 years. Earning a music education degree from Northwestern University, she was originally trained as a violinist, but studied both viola and cello in later years, in order to move into those sections as the orchestra needed players.

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Felton noted, and Ferguson agreed, "With each piece I am speaking to an audience: I must challenge them, I must meet them halfway: how much to placate/ how much to inspire?"
Ballet student for 17 years, Stanfel was out of action after open-heart surgery. A native of Roundup, whose prize-winning fairytale, "The Princess of Evighet," was transformed into a ballet by the Coastal Ballet Academy of Foley, AL, and staged at the George C. Meyer Performing Arts Center in Gulf Shores May 17-18. Coastal Ballet will be published by Suspense Magazine and in early winter receive an email inviting him to attend a preliminary audition in London on March 14. After the two-hour audition that day, Fisk was handed an envelope that invited him to the final audition the next day, where he competed with boys from all over the world, including London, Tokyo, Sydney and New York. With just two-and-a-half years of ballet under his belt, and no prior dance or gymnastics experience, Fisk was the least experienced candidate – most of the boys had been dancing 5-10 years. According to the school director, more than 500 dancers worldwide applied for a spot. Ultimately, 15 boys and 15 girls were offered a place at the three-year school, Josh among them. While continuing their studies of all the core disciplines, students will also rehearse, perform and manage shows with Emilia Ho-Yon. Students attend for a diploma in professional ballet at Level 5 or 6, validated by Trinity College London. Following graduation, students have the opportunity to convert their diploma into a level 7 or 8 diploma or degree in dance. Josh is directed by Madame Rio Cordy Barlow, a former student at the Royal School of Ballet, London, and soloist with the Miami Ballet.

"Impression & Memory" April 5-June 15. Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, which was selected for a fourth year by MovieMaker magazine for its list of Top 50 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee. The list, created annually to help guide filmmakers contemplating their festival strategy, points out the unique merits of each festival offering to help find and test their next opportunity, such as pitch forums or distribution deals, and to help filmmakers navigate their career trajectory. Industry recognition from this particular publication, independently created and curated by filmmakers, is especially meaningful to us,” said BSDFF director Rachel Gregg. "It is further proof that Big Sky is not just another forum for exhibition, we’re fostering a vital community for documentary filmmakers." Big Sky programs more than 90% of its selections from an open call with discounted entry fees for students, Native filmmakers and Montana-made content. Submissions for the 2020 festival are open now.

Haley Teske

(MSU photo by Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez)

Haley Teske, (MSU) graduated from the Montana State University (MSU) architecture professor Bradford Watson.

Haley Teske is the only single winner in this year’s competition. The other nine winners were group projects. Jurors for the competition said that Teske’s project: “is a compelling urban design proposal that brings a different approach to viewing sustainable living within an existing, and historic, urban fabric. The design promotes public access to cultural heritage and fragile sites, while also acknowledging a dense streetscape and urban scale.”

Members of the Flathead Ellington Project, who took their passion for jazz to New York City May 8-12 to perform at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. The Flathead Ellington Project is the brainchild of multi-instrumentalist Erica von Kleist, a Juilliard graduate who moved from New York City to Montana after an extensive career in jazz. She created it out of a desire to foster more serious study of jazz in the Flathead and to pay-forward some of the gifts she has been given. “My whole life has been a product of studying this music,” said Kleist. "Vivace Daily Inter Lake". "I’ve had so many life experiences because I’ve dived deep into this music and I want to give that to the students here." Participants had to already be part of the jazz ensemble at their respective high schools, had to audition and make a recording, and had to commit to practice every Sunday and to engage a private tutor; the rhythm and horn sections each had to schedule periodic practice sessions. Of the 12 students who were initially accepted, the final number that traveled to New York with von Kleist and three Flathead band directors was nine. The performance on May 10 also featured tap-dance phenom Dewit Fleming Jr., a mentor to the group. Excerpted from the Daily Inter Lake, April 14

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Montana artists and Governor’s Arts Award recipients Deborah Butterfield and John Buck, who were named 2019 Honorary Award Recipients by the Kansas City Art Institute (Buck’s alma mater). Butterfield also displays new sculptures May 17-Aug. 9 at Zolla/Lieberman Gallery in Chicago, which also hosted an exhibit by the Bozeman couple’s son, Hunter Buck, titled “Impression & Memory” April 5-June 15. "I have long had the feeling that we could make one of her sculptures out of any material that you could give her – she is that masterful," writes critic John Vos. Karen Leigh of Kalispell, whose painting, “Hidden Meanings,” was recently awarded for the prestigious Northwest Watercolor Society’s 79th annual International Exhibition. Her mixed media painting inspired by doors and graffiti found in Brassov, Romania. Nationally known watercolor artist and workshop instructor Don Andrews, juror for the exhibition, chose 60 paintings from more than 350 entries submitted from around the world. The exhibition is on display until July 11 at Shoreline City Hall (just north of Seattle) in Shoreline, Washington.

Whitefish artist Shanna Moore, whose encaustic paintings take a part of a group show, “How the West Was Woman,” on display June 28-July 25 at Telluride Gallery of Fine Art in Colorado, alongside works by five other female painters “who’ve come to learn and get in touch with the western landscape.” Gallery MAR in Park City, UT, hosts her most extensive solo show to date, “Wayfarer,” beginning July 26. The artist also teams up Montana artist Michael Haykin for “Time and Place: New Works by Moore and Haykin,” on display July 5-20 at Undercut Art & Gift, in Whitefish, with a reception 6-9 p.m. July 11. The artistic peers and friends, who exchange ideas on art and an occasional studio visit, bring to this exhibition paintings that are autobiographical, with each artist exploring their chosen materials of oil on canvas for Haykin and encaustic on panel for Moore.

More Congrats on next page
Zootown Arts Community Center in Missoula, which recently received a $400,000 grant from the G.M. Murdock Charitable Trust, of which $200,000 is dependent upon a one-to-one match. That means that every donation to the project counts for twice as much. Additionally, due to some cost-saving decisions and in-kind support, Zootown has reduced the project budget for its new building from $5 to $3.5 million over the next 10 successful years in a lessee space on Missoula’s Northside, ZACC plans to move into the Historic Stubledaker Building on West Main Street in September. The larger, more accessible space includes a black-box theater, more classrooms, artist studios and practice rooms, a community art gallery, children’s creative center and a free community arts-supply closet. Visit newzacc.org to learn more about the project.

Helen artist Karen Luckey, whose painting, “Window to the Past” (Bannack State Park), won juri ed in the 69th annual National Exhibition of Traditional Realism, on display June 2-23 in Vernon, CT.

Recipients of the 2019 Montana Tourism Awards, given during the Governor’s Conference on Tourism, held April 14-16 in Butte. Among this year’s honorees: Darby and Hamilton, which were named Film Community of the Year for their roles in supporting the production of “Yellowstone,” a TV series centered on Taylor Sheridan’s John Linson and starring Kevin Costner, that premiered in June 2018; and Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild in Lincoln, which was honored in the Montana Cultural Tourism Award. This rural sculpture park celebrates the industrial, environmental and cultural history of Montana. The park includes 25 sculptures that create site-specific work made of locally harvested material, uniquely inspired by Montana.

The family and friends of Kris Williams of Bozeman. The accomplished cellist passed away peacefully in the loving arms of her husband on March 20 on their 35th Wedding anniversary, after a fierce battle with brain cancer. Williams was born on Oct. 23, 1950, in Seattle, to Gloria (Tilden) and Jim Gunn. She fell in love with music and playing the cello, and at 14 years old began earning college credits while attending the University of Washington’s chamber music program under Emanuel Zetlin. Later she attended UAA as a cello performance major and was awarded the prestigious Brechemin Award Scholarship for excellent performance for two consecutive years. Accepted into a graduate program as a freshman, she married her sweetheart from Deer Lodge, Robert Staffanson, and studied for two years with the Philadelphia String Quartet, performing in concert with them. Williams attended Juilliard in New York, was invited to maintain the Music Academy of the West and became Gabor Rejto’s student at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She formed a string trio, the Trio D’Amore, and was principal cellist of the Deba Orchestra. She also attended the Claremont McKenna Festival and won a national audition for a string quartet residency in New York. She became a member of the Acadia String Quartet, studied chamber music with the Lenox Quartet, was principal cellist with the Tri-Cities Opera Co. and gave a world premiere for solo cello by Michael Convertito. After returning to Seattle, she formed a piano trio with Amy Kandarian, former cello master of the Seattle Symphony, and Beverly Hamway, pianist of the Seattle Symphony. She found a passion for teaching and developed a private studio of students. After breaking her back in a hiking accident, she moved to Bozeman with her husband, and eventually decided to re-teach herself cello. She gave recitals, played with the Billings Symphony, and was a member of the Bozeman Symphony at the time of her death. She also loved playing with the Intermountain Opera Association, the Montana Ballet Company, and for various musicals at the Ellen Theater. She had a 40-year studio and taught students. On March 24, 2018, Williams and pianist Stefan Stern performed at the Cikan residence to a standing-room only crowd, shortly before she was diagnosed with brain cancer.

The family and friends of Great Falls artist and former state legislator Jean Louise Langhedeher. She was born Sept. 13, 1943, in Grand Island, NE, and passed away at the age of 75 on March 25 after a valiant fight with cancer. Her life and legacy were celebrated June 8 with a memorial at Great Falls High School and a memorial art reception at Paris Gibson Square for an exhibit of her work and collection, titled “Jean Price: Heart to Hands.” Price graduated from Hastings College in Nebraska with a bachelor’s in art in 1965. She attended a graduate school at Fort Hays College in Kansas, where she received her masters in sculpture. Price’s Art in Kansas, Oregon, and Montana for 35 years, including a stint at the University of Great Falls. In 1984 she took a sabbatical to attain her MFA in Fiber Arts at Southern Illinois University. Price was elected into the state House of Representatives in 2010 and served four terms. The piece of legislation that she was extremely proud of was her bill that provided grants for towns to acquire accessible playgrounds. She served on the interagency education committee where she fought to ensure that strong arts programs, services for students with special needs (including the gifted and talented), and opportunities linked to greater student success were protected and expanded. Gov. Steve Bullock told the Great Falls Tribune that Price was an inspiration to her students and Great Falls. In the Legislature, she always led with the care of others in mind whether it was making playgrounds more accessible for kids with disabilities or supporting key measures that helped veterans, seniors and students,” he said in an email. “Jean was a good friend and a great servant. Her passion for service and indomitable spirit will be deeply missed.” Price loved art, made and collected art. She launched the Urban Arts Project, and for the past 14 years coordinated three exhibits a year in the windows of a downtown parking garage. She served on the board of the Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art and has donated one of her pieces to the museum. Staffanson worked closely with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe to found the American Indian Arts and Culture. She also worked to develop a cultural center in the Flathead Valley to be near to family. “I’m looking forward to working together with Music Director John Zoltek, the staff and board, and Kayle Kraft of Kraft Hockey� to make the Flathead Valley into a more effective musical organization,” he says, adding that he looks forward to meeting supporters and developing new community relationships. Kraft has been a supporter of the Flathead Valley Symphony for 40 years of non-profit experience that has included positions as CEO, executive director and development director for various non-profit organizations in Minnesota. He and his wife, Peggy, relocated to the Flathead Valley to be near to family. “I’m very excited to make the Flathead Valley our long-term home, meet the members of the community, and work with such a great organization,” she says.
Back in Wisconsin, Lapotka had retail experience, which included helping to organize an event that attracted 20,000 people over three days, and participating in an array of “indie craft fairs.” She, of course, took the process of gathering people and organizing things,” she says.

When she moved to Montana, she found a dearth of holiday fairs. “I’m a starter, so I made the ones I recall.” Eventually the show landed at the Adams Center. It was hard, at first, to envision a market of handcrafted wares occupying a multi-level gymnasium. But she saw the potential, and 12 years later the two-day fair fills all three levels with vendors and shoppers. And still, she says, “we have more talent than we can contain.”

She added a summer show at Caras Park 10 years ago, and in 2017 expanded to Helena with a holiday show at the fairgrounds.

Last year, she added two more: the MADE fair Marketplace during the Western Montana Fair, and a fall fair at the Brock Breeden Fieldhouse in Bozeman.

Organizing the state’s largest art and handcrafters is a natural fit for her, she says, to naturalize Lapotka to stitching together a whimsical skirt. “Most artists aren’t very good at floor plans and roofs,” she says. “My brain is naturally from being creative to being more structural.”

She describes organizing the fairs as “a one-woman show with red - necks.” In particular, she mentions Missoula artist Courtney Blazon, who helps with marketing, communications and reaching out to sponsors.

Still, as Lapotka points out, “A show can only go so far. How do you have the tools to sell stuff and people who want to buy.”

Both converge in the handMADE markets. “We’re preparing for the situation for being lucrative for the artists, well organized and very well attended.”

Last year, when the handMADE fair expanded to Bozeman, Lapotka explored a variety of venues before settling on Montana State University’s fieldhouse. “It was either go bigger or go home,” she says. “That’s pretty gratifying.”

She often asks artists what it would take to turn their art into their career. “The answer is simple, they say. “We get to see kids taking on big challenges and big problems and acting in really dramatic ways. ‘I’m building it for the people who live here day to day.”

She points out that several new businesses “are already doing great things,” and looks forward to adding her personal experience and spirit to the mix. “I see a lot of potential here,” she says. “A slight shift has to happen, but I don’t think it’s gonna take much.”

Connecting to the creators

The Polson store and production house is clearly a labor of love and ingenuity. Her display cases two doors, tipped on their sides, fronting kitchen cabinets, with windows as shelves. Wide flanks that once housed inventory, shelves from the old Kalispell library, a nail bin from a hardware store, an ironing board, metal milk crates, a vintage toolbox — all are put to new use, reinforcing her “recycled aesthetic.”

Big bags stuffed with shirts, skirts, and suitcoats wait to find life again in one of Lapotka’s creations.

As though this isn’t enough — opening a new store and production studio, and organizing five MADE fairs a year — Lapotka also hopes to find time to launch Grove Outdoors, her new line of active wear for adults and kids. Instead of recycled material, Lapotka will create her outdoor adventure wear from “dead stock,” or the fashion industry’s cast-offs — primarily leftover wool and Polartec fleece.

Expanding production “is my January project,” she says. Her store is a popular shoe store, is an expansive warehouse, with retail in the front and production tables in the back where she and a small cadre of seamstresses will make her clothing.

The potential distraction of making art in public and worrying about her much. Lapotka describes herself as “super gabby — I thrive off other people.”

She hopes when customers begin to walk in the front door July 1, “you’ll see something you love, something that makes you happy.”

And that something is sure to have a story behind it, a connection to its maker. “I consider that creative. I consider that art.”

Wildwood

“The writing of the play is really cool because it’s not everyday language,” Flatten says. “There’s a lot of large words young kids say.”

She also likes the fantasy elements using imagination. “There are funny bird-like objects. There are a lot of animals, but they’re sort of half-human.”

Moser, a Helena Middle School seventh grader, loves both the story adventure and the stage magic. “I feel really neat and it’s going to be super cool,” he says.

His character, Curtis, is seen by others as annoying and snobby, but is actually just curious. “He wants to be friends with people but doesn’t know how to do it,” Moser said.

Moser is particularly excited that Colin Meloy was once a Grandstreet kid just like him and that he gave Grandstreet exclusive permission to do the play.

The whole show is an invitation to both kids and adults to use their imagination both on stage and in the audience. And if you use yours, you might just see an 11-year-old Colin Meloy, who is a child loved to don a cape and play superhero, flashing his saber and charging across the stage.

And a few people might spot him one night (in his adult form) actually sitting in the audience to watch. “It’s a great adventure to start your summer,” says Adams. “Who doesn’t dream of going into the woods and... finding a magical place?”

A little whimsy and a lot of work are about to begin at handMADE Montana’s new headquarters, located in a former shoe store.

“Her’s hardworking and creative. She has real positive energy and wants to build the community from within. She’s not necessarily looking for tourists to save us.”

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Wildwood

“We get to see kids taking on big challenges and big problems and acting in really courageous ways,” says Flattum. “It resonates with the current times. ... We’re seeing kids and people with social media and acting in really big problems and acting in really creative ways.”

The silent, live and silent of the brickyard and Benefit Auction’s Brickyard Bash are among the most popular events in Polson.

The tour is an effort to showcase the talent and diversity of community ceramic artists in the Helena area.

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Evolution of a STEAM School
Chief Charlo takes beginning steps in dance integration

By Karen Kaufmann
Director, Creative Pulse Graduate Program
University of Montana

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Supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and State of Montana funds, $150,915 has so far been granted to awardees for the arts and State of Montana funds, $150,915 has so far been granted to awardees for the arts. A VOICE, Pablo: $5,000 for Studio Mastery for Beginners and Intermediate Artists.

Billings Symphony Society: $5,000 for Tutti Behind Walls
Bitterroot Baroque, Inc., Hamilton: $5,000 for artist residencies with the Bitterroot Baroque Chamber Orchestra
Bozeman Art Museum: $5,000 for art for Gallatin and Park county schools and home school students
Cohesion Dance Project, Helena: $4,620 for multi-disciplinary Resonance School
Conservatory ASL, Northwest, Great Falls: $4,755 for ASL CAN Film Camp
Creative Writing Center, Montana State University Billings: $1,800 for writing at Orchard elementary School
Discovery Developmental Center, Kalispell: $3,630 for an artist residency program
East Side School, Livingston: $3,910 for fifth grade artistic field journals
Great Falls Symphony: $5,000 for sound foundations
Helena Presents: Myrna Loy Center, Helena: $5,000 for Isolation and Social Events: A Journey through Taiko
Liberty Place, Inc., Whitehall: $4,985 for collaboration with Jil Collier Warner and Cameron Blake
Lowell School Parent Association, Missoula: $3,900 for World Language art and music education
Missoula County Public Schools: $3,900 for Bare Bait Dance’s Model Dance Education Program
Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation: $3,900 for education programs
Montana Association for Language Arts: $3,900 for World Language Art and Social Events: A Journey through Taiko

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“I am excited to share with others the success the Chief Charlo School community has experienced throughout this process of becoming a STEAM School,” said Robitaille. “We are creating a model for professional learning as well as student and family engagement.”

“At Chief Charlo, I have observed how teachers, students, and families all take pride in, and ownership of, this work, and the positive results in student achievement and school climate are evident,” she added.

The district intends to replicate aspects of this model in all of its nine elementary schools. SPARK! Arts Ignite Learning, Missoula’s Kennedy Center Arts Program Center for Education and the Arts, and SPARK! Arts Ignite Learning, Missoula’s Kennedy Center Arts Program Center for Education and the Arts, have partnered to provide equal access to the arts for all K-8 students. SPARK! Arts works in collaboration with the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Montana’s College of Visual and Performing Arts to expand professional development that provides MCPS educators with strategies to integrate the arts with other content areas.

This arts integration professional development is provided by the 21st Century Learning Grant, funded by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and administered through UM’s College of Education School of Visual & Performing Arts and MCPS. SPARK! Arts professional development committee has developed a long-range plan to build on Charlo’s success, using it as a model for additional arts-integrated schools.

For more on SPARK! Arts, visit www.sparkartslearning.org.

State of the Arts Summer 2019

Arts Education

Evolution of a STEAM School
Chief Charlo takes beginning steps in dance integration

By Karen Kaufmann
Director, Creative Pulse Graduate Program
University of Montana

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Students from MAPS Media Institute won three High School Student Production Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Northwest Chapter with “Browning Rising Voices” and “Art for Survival”. MAPS was one of the top 12 arts social entrepreneurship. In 2017, filmmaking, graphic design, music students from MAPS Media Institute were the crew for “Art for Survival.”

“MAPS is so proud of the students who contributed their hard work and creative skills to these films,” said Carr. He noted that filmmakers from Browning High School were the production crew behind “Browning Rising Voices” and “Aisitsimsta/Imagination” and the teen artists from the Holter Museum in Helena were the crew for “Art for Survival.”

“We want to thank the Northwest Chapter of NATAS for the opportunity to showcase the powerful work MAPS students are producing,” he added. “It’s truly an honor to be part of what they create.”

“Aisitsimsta/Imagination” is a narrative film created from start to finish in five days by Browning Middle and High school students as a part of the MAPS – Montana GEAR Up filmmaking workshop on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

“Our message was to inspire not only ourselves about thinking about our futures but for other students to never stop dreaming,” said director Mecca Bucchill. “In working with MAPS, I learned about all of the different roles in filmmaking – like director, actor, and scriptwriter. My favorite part was learning about the cameras, because I like photography and realized how important they are to making movies, like having the right angles and lighting.”

“Art for Survival” is about an after-school program at the Holter Museum of Art that provides a creative community for teens to engage with visual artists and writers to explore ways that art can help them navigate life. In this short documentary, students express what it’s like to be a teenager in contemporary society, investigate the stresses that can lead to anxiety and depression, and learn how to safely share powerful emotions in a communal setting.

“Browning Rising Voices” tells the story of an extraordinary poetry program at Browning High School on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Students write and perform original spoken-word literary pieces. In this mini-documentary, students filmed their writing process and performances, and directed “vignettes” to accompany their poetry. The film artfully demonstrates the strength and importance of their stories. As student Hailee Henderson wrote for the film, “The Seventh Generation is here, and coming on strong.”

“All of MAPS projects, especially these films awarded by NATAS NW, are a lens into the hearts and minds of the next generation. They have powerful stories to share and MAPS is dedicated to helping Montana’s students build the skills to bring them to life,” said Harff.

For more information, please visit napumedialab.com or MAPS Media Institute’s YouTube channel to view the award-winning films.

The program consists of a week-long residency at the Salish Kootenai College, completion of a field project (including a $300 materials reimbursement for their projects), and a final Capstone weekend in Livingston in April 2020. Funded by an NEA Artworks Grant and a partnership between the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Arts Council, this program is beginning its fourth year of providing high-quality professional learning and leadership for teachers across Montana.

Candidates selected for participation are:
- Kathryn Coyle, Ennis Institute of the Arts
- Heidi Foreman, Capital High School, Helena
- Marianne Filoux, Monforton Elementary, Bozeman
- April Fox, Turner Public Schools
- Katie Knight, Helena School District
- Laurie Latgrive, Cayuse Prairie School District
- Connie Michael, Crow Agency Public School
- Cindie Miller, Thompson Falls (retired)
- Keedy Perkins, Miles City Schools
- Marlene Schumann, Sacajawea Middle School, Bozeman
- Becca Stevens, Chief Middle School, Bozeman
- Christine Tharp, Sunburst Schools
- Jatyn Wilderson, Cohesion Dance Project

MAC & OPI name new MTLA candidates

By Monica Grable

Arts Education Director

Montana Arts Council and Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) recently announced candidates for the upcoming fourth cohort of the Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts (MTLA) program. This incredible year-long program develops teacher leaders who can support other teachers statewide in integrating the arts into their classrooms.

Begun in 2015, the MTLA program trains cohorts of educators to serve as coaches, mentors and advocates in their schools and communities with an arts-integrated approach to teaching and learning through a culturally sensitive lens.
By Eric Tegthopp, Public News Service

Native fashion on display at Yellowstone National Park

Indigenous designers and artists from across the U.S. showcased designs from their communities at the 2019 Crow Fair in Montana, one of the largest powwows in the world. The event, which celebrates Native culture and traditions, includes drumming, dancing, crafts, and food. Vendors offer handmade beadwork, jewelry, clothing, and food, including Indian tacos. Visit www.crowfair.org.

Native News

Wendy Red Star: A Scratch on the Earth

The most comprehensive exhibition of Wendy Red Star’s work to date, and the Montana-raised artist’s first solo museum exhibition on the East Coast, “Wendy Red Star: A Scratch on the Earth” opened Feb. 23 at New Jersey’s Newark Museum, and continued through June 16. This unprecedented show featured 60 works by Red Star, including loans from museum collections throughout the United States, and highlighted 15 years of her studio practice, from 2006-19.

In a story about the exhibition, Vogue praised Red Star as “a smart and ironic but always beautiful multimedia artist, one who is flipping tropes with pictures and annotations and even textiles that often use Crow colors (among others) to converse with the past in a way that is fluent in today’s cultural landscape.”

Bringing the historical details of Crow and contemporary history into the present, the exhibition, “A Scratch on the Earth” is the work of contemporary and indigenous feminism, and contemporary life on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana where she was raised.

An enrolled member of the Apsáalooke (Crow) Tribe who now lives in Portland, OR, Red Star works across disciplines to explore the intersections of Native American identities and colonialist structures, both historically and in contemporary society. Drawing on pop culture, conceptual art, and aspects of reservation life and Crow traditions, she pushes photography in new directions – from self-portraiture to photo-collage and altered historical photographs – often incorporating photography with textiles and fashion as bearers of tradition.

At the heart of the exhibition, visitors experienced a new immersive multimedia installation, co-directed by Red Star and Amelia Wingert-Bearskin, artist and traditional dress maker. Titled “Monsters,” this five-minute video was screened inside a simulated sweat lodge. It documents the Montanas landscape in a 360-degree format, bringing to life aspects of Crow mythology related to the landscape.

The title of the exhibition, “A Scratch on the Earth,” or (Annikauks in Apsáalooke) refers to a period after 1880 when U.S. policy are also matters of people’s lives.”

A review of the exhibit in The New York Times discusses “one of the most engrossing works in the exhibition” - "Um-basax-bilua, ‘Where They Make the Noise’ 1904-2016" (2019), a roughly 130-foot long timeline of photographs from Crow Fair. Jillian Steinhaus writes, “Ms. Red Star turns public history into a personal project, which she then returns to public view. In the process she drives home the timeless lessons that matters of government policy are also matters of people’s lives.”

For more about the artist and her work, visit wendyrедакtor.com.

Standing Arrow Powwow: July 18-21 at the Powwow Grounds in Elmo. The 42nd annual celebration, organized by the Kootenai Culture Committee, brings dancers, drummers, vendors and visitors from across the state, including Canada, to Elmo the third weekend in July. Visit www.ckotchires.org.

Milk River Indian Days: July 26-28 at the Fort Belknap Powwow Arbor. Spirited and colorfully clad Native American dancers are the highlight of this 55th annual celebration, which includes drummers, and music in a spectacular display.

Kodiaq Celebration: Aug. 1-4 in Wold Point. The oldest traditional powwow in Montana includes special ceremonies for naming individuals and honoring family members. It opens Thursday with camping day and a community feast. Saturday brings games, run/walks, and outdoor activities for youngsters. Visit www.fortkodiaktribe.org.

Rocky Boy Powwow: Aug. 2-4 at Rocky Boys Agency in Box Elder. The 54th annual celebration is the largest event hosted by the Chippewa Cree Tribe. For one weekend every August, Rocky Boys Indian Reservation jumps in population while hosting a lively celebration of Native American culture. Visit www.facebook.com/ChippewaCree.

Crow Fair and Rodeo: Aug. 14-19 at Crow Agency. The 101st gathering of the Apsáalooke Nation is considered the largest modern-day American Indian encampment in the U.S. with approximately 1,200 to 1,500 tips, earning it the title of “Tipi Capital of the World.” Many cultural activities take place throughout the celebration, including parades, a four-day powwow, a rodeo and horse races. Visit www.crow-nsn.gov.


Fort Kipp Celebration: Aug. 23-25 in Poplar. Celebration of native culture and traditions includes dancing, food, crafts and fellowship. Call 406-768-2102 for more information.


Designs by Della is the brand of Crow designer Della BigHair-Stump past century.

In addition to BigHair-Stump and McClean, participating artists and designers include Tadunesha “Jo” Wilson, Danetter Old Elk, Joanne Brings Thunder, Samuel Jaxin Bulltail.

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Daniel Kosel: More Than Enough

Minstrel Daniel Kosel of Roberts has a third album out. It’s a solo endeavor, recorded live at Kinclides. It’s an eclectic collection of original songs and great pickup.

Kosel describes his style as “robust vocals within an eclectic blend of countrypunk, rock, and blues,” or “Crues Music.” The poet and songwriter possesses nimble digits and a resonant baritone that is also at home in the deep bass.

He has 15 compositions covering a range of genres. Kosel is at war with himself at times, having overcome life-shattering bereavement along with a gambling addiction, and he sings about the pain he carries from that prior life. He also wants his songs to help people to triumph over their hardships, and treat others well. He feels music can heal.

The first song, “Mississippi Jackson,” is the tale of a man from long ago. You may recognize Wickens as the producer and host of “Live from the Divide” on public radio. The show features American artists, many who have influenced the artist’s songwriting on his own album.

The second, “Knob Hill,” is the story of the protagonist and the humorous “Dish Doin’ Mama” (“you only do them when you wanna”).

In a nutshell, Eve has a feel for thoughtful lyrics and lovely melodies.

Jason Wickens

Bozeman guitarist and songwriter Jason Wickens has his first CD out, recorded live at his studio. It’s an eclectic blend of country, rock, and Americana roots genre—country, rock and blues.

Wickens has his first CD out, an eponymous album. Wickens’ voice has that old-time radio sound, and he trills some acrobatic “oh-lay-yay” phrases. The waltz is spare, with guitar, bass and a nice fiddle break. Jennings’ voice has that old-time radio sound, and he trills some acrobatic “oh-lay-yay” phrases. The waltz is spare, with guitar, bass and a nice fiddle break. Jennings’ voice has that old-time radio sound, and he trills some acrobatic “oh-lay-yay” phrases.

Love Is a Dog from Nebraska: No Excuses

Missoula guitarist Jim Devine leads a cool cadre of music-makers on their second music album, made up of original, rough-hewn roots-rock. Besides Devine on vocals and guitar, the expert crew includes Casey Malkuch, guitar, harmonica and vocals; John Redlin, bass, and married couple Jayson Eslick, drums and percussion, and Katelynne Eslick, vocals. Steve Wil- liams guests on keyboards.

Devine’s bag is on the songs, some co-written with other band members. Influences like the Allman Brothers and Springsteen infuse the music. It’s driven by FX-laden guitar salvos between verses that punctuate-growls and a persistent beat. Lots of dancers and some belt-buckle shiners here – rock out with these folks!

Wailing Aaron Jennings

Missoula guitarist yodeler “Wailing” Aaron Jennings has a self-titled album out, recorded live by Travis Klinke, and also plays bass and drums on it. Jennings says he wanted to create an “audio snapshot” of his music as he knows it would be heard. Other contributors are fiddle player Grace Decker and John Rosell on mandolin and mandola. Besides his own gigs, Jennings plays pedal steel with Tom Carmull.

Amid his original-old-time country style, which is experiencing a resurgence today. He’s been playing for about 15 years, originally dabbling in punk. He took to traditional music after finding inspiration in a book of songs and poetry written by his great-grandpa, his singing cowboy and yodeler Jim Jennings, who entertained across the West in the 20th century. Amid the words “yodel here” in one of the songs, Aaron taught himself to yodel, taking seven years to perfect the difficult technique. Yodeling is executed in the falsetto range, which is hard for anyone to do, but especially so for a man with a deep baritone voice.

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Journal entries, songs about the past, 12 months, with cover art and liner notes. Reviews also welcome.

State of the State of the Arts welcomes CD submissions by Montana artists. Please send submissions to CD reviewer Maris McTacker, P.O. Box 319, Missoula, MT 59831.
About Books

Non-fiction/Memoir

Grain by Grain: A Quest to Revive Ancient Wheat, Rural Jobs, and Healthy Food
By Bob Quinn and Liz Carlisle

When Bob Quinn was a kid, a stranger at a county fair gave him a few kernels of an unusual grain. Little did he know, that grain would change his life.

Years later, after earning a doctorate in plant biochemistry, he returned to his family’s farm in Montana, where he began experimenting with organic wheat. In the beginning, his concern wasn’t health or the environment; he just wanted to make a decent living.

As demands for organic grains grew, so did Quinn’s experiments. He discovered that through regenerative farming practices like cover cropping and crop rotation, he could produce successful yields—without pesticides. He expressed his new knowledge in a report in 1978, and the results were groundbreaking. He learned that the grain he first tasted at the fair was actually a type of ancient wheat, one that was proven to lower inflammation rather than worsening it, as modern wheat does.

Ultimately, the farmer’s forays with organic grains turned into a multimillion-dollar heirloom grain company, Kamut International.

In Grain by Grain, Quinn and co-writer Liz Carlisle (author of Loyal Underground) show how the story can provide the antidote to stagnating rural communities, degraded soil, and poor health.


The Kemptons: Adventures of a Montana Ranch Family, 1860-1964
By Trudy Kempston Dana

In its day, the famed Kempston Ranch of eastern Montana was one of the largest horse and cattle operations in Montana, selling mounts to armies and polo-playing royalty alike. The Kempstons themselves were a storybook family—descended from Mayflower pilgrims, Sioux Indians and the Declaration of Independence. Their own exploits make for a larger-than-life Western epic.

Joe Kempston, a whaling ship captain who became an early Colorado pioneer; JB Kempston, the first to ship cattle on the Northern Pacific Railroad; and his son, Barney, a truck driver with Doc Carver’s Wild West Show, hotelier, and a friend to British earls and President Theodore Roosevelt.

Trudy Kempston Dana mines her family’s lore for salt-of-the-earth true stories of these and many other characters to reveal a family of rare vision, grit and integrity.

“A Guinée book, published by FarCurrency Press, is lavishl illustrated with photographs, artifacts and manuscripts, all contributing to a rich portrait of a fascinating family.

“A quintessential piece of American history as gripping as the Lewiston standoff between Montana ranchers, since dubbed “a conspiracy of silence.”

Dunning dives into the local history of a little known stand-off between Montana ranchers, since dubbed “a conspiracy of silence.”

In mid-November 1900, a herd of sheep crossed a plowed furrow “deadline” that separated cattle and sheep public ranges for many years. Early on the morning of Dec. 28, 1900, a determined group of cattlemen led by a future Wyoming governor and U.S. senator destroyed a band of 2,113 head of sheep that had “invaded” their range.

The story was cloaked by a conspiracy of silence for nearly 75 years, until almost 40 years after the senator’s death. Even then, the facts and motivations remained shrouded.

In his meticulously researched book, Dunning dives into the local history of a little known stand-off between Montana ranchers, since dubbed “a conspiracy of silence.”

Dunning, who lives in Sheridan, WY, was raised in Birney, near the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. He has been a student, cowboy, soldier, financial adviser, rancher and cattle buyer. His love for Montana and Wyoming history and historical fiction are reflected in his new book, and a previous work of fiction, Between Two Tribes.

Poetry

Ragged Anthem
By Chris Dombrowski

Poet, author and fishing guide Chris Dombrowski’s new collection displays the same inimitable voice and unfailing gift that made him a Poetry Foundation bestseller and silver medal winner of Foreword Reviews’ Book of the Year Award in poetry.

As in his previous books, Ragged Anthem authentically evokes the natural world. Written from the speaker’s mouth, the poems depict the transformation of family, childhood tragedies and politics. Dombrowski also lifts the veil on imbecile bureaucracies—those on Capitol Hill and in faculty meetings—that often help shape our fates.

His “borrowings”—allusions to such figures as American painter Mark Rothko and Saint Francis of Assisi, and language from song lyrics—evoke the original source while transforming it into something new.

Fellow poet Kevin Goodan says the book is “starting at the sun and then looking away. Whatever is seen next is informed and haunted by that light. Dombrowski’s are poems that are clear, that powerful.”

Dombrowski is the author of two previous books of poetry, By Cold Waters. Again. His essays and poems have appeared in over 100 publications and his nonfiction debut, Body of Water: A Sage, A Seeker, and the World’s Most Alluring Fish, was praised by The New York Times and received a starred review in Publishers Weekly.

The author lives in Missoula where he works as a fly-fishing guide and directs the Beargrass Writing Retreat.

Ground-truth
By Molly Damm

Bozeman poet Molly Damm’s first collection offers a field guide for the soul, who feels “the loneliness of being tethered here on earth, our island home.”

The Bozeman Chronicle notes that Damm’s book “speaks of love, maps of where the wilderness cannot go,” writing, “a book that captures the fullness of our being.”

The author, a native of Detroit, attended the environmental studies program at the University of Montana before veering toward poetry. She earned an MFA from the University of Virginia, where she was a Henry Hoyns Fellow in Poetry, and secured a second master’s from Montana State University in marriage and family counseling. Her writing has appeared in Colorado Review, Drunken Boat, The Collegiate, Sou’wester, and Western Humanities Review, among others.

Paul Guest, author of Because Everything is Terrible, praises Ground-truth as “a book beautifully devoted to physicality and evocative images” that “burn in the light of the precisely seen and the deeply felt.”

Breathe
By Robert Lee

Missoula writer Robert Lee’s first complete collection of poetry was released by Foothills Press.

“Robert Lee’s poems take us into intimacy between friends and lovers, between love’s sweetness and unavoidable loss,” writes Jennifer Finley. “This collection of poems bravely faces the impermanence we all breathe deeply, ‘until one by one the ones I know and need stop breathing’.”

Lee is the author of Guiding Elliott, published in 1997 by Blue Hen Press, and Trails of Smoke by Montana Press in 2013. His poetry chapbook, Black Bear Holds a Hide in His Paws, was inspired by three autumns spent as winter in residence in Hyaludagas, Alaska for the Missoula Writing Collaborative, which he has taught with for nearly 20 years. His work has appeared in the anthologies New Montana Stories and Poems Across the Big Sky I & II, Montana Magazine, and in numerous literary journals.

“Elegiac, death-defying, hard earned truth in this collection,” writes former Montana Poet Laureate Sheryl Noethe. “All along, a wise as dry as ice: The force of his language comes up behind you and you jump, and you’re glad you did, and feel the better for it.”

A Job You Mostly Won’t Know How to Do
By Pete Fromm

Taz and Marne: Such a pair! He’s good with words, bad with checkbooks. She’s feisty, smart and pregnant. Together they’re building a life for themselves and baby Midge (‘just this tiny thing’), Marne explains of her alluring accessories, and good hands the whole their sacred places emerge as elusive versions of home.

“How to submit a book for State of the Arts

To submit a book published in the past 12 months by a Montana author for inclusion in the About Books section of State of the Arts, email the following information to kristi@livelytimes.com or mac@mgt.gov:

• Title, author, publisher and month/year published;
• A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;
• A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf or jpg format;
• If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks. Books submitted to State of the Arts appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council’s discretion and as space permits, and will not necessarily be reprinted at LivelyTimes.com.

State of the Arts • Summer 2019
The Behavior of Love
By Virginia Reeves

Virginia Reeves turns her prodigious writing talent to a challenging time and place: the 1970s and the Boulder River School and Hospital, a state institution that housed 750 people with disabilities.

Psychiatrist Ed Malinowski was recently hired as superintendent—a responsibility he relishes. He and his wife, Laura, moved to Helena from Michigan, where he’d been involved in transferring people out of institutions into group homes and assisted living facilities. He hopes to oversee the same transformation here, despite stiffening bureaucracy and reluctant legislators.

But aspirations and realities are worlds apart. And so, increasingly, are he and his wife. As the author nimblly switches narratives between the couple, we hear tensions escalating. He’s too devoted to his job, thinks Laura, and to one patient in particular, the lovely and gifted Penelope, whose only wish is to one day marry the man she loves. Laura’s anguished discussions with the behavioral psychiatrist, who seems oddly unable to manage his own life, are part of a larger trend.

The author writes so knowingly about marriage—the intimacy and estrangement that can happen almost simultaneously, how commitment can linger long after divorce. And she intriguingly evokes a time, a half-century ago, when booze and cigarettes were a staple of Montana culture (even for pregnant women) and when developmentally disabled people were housed in institutions, and wayward Rubyann returns from working in Havre’s booming bootlegging and arrests, and finally a marriage that leads her to a hound is in hot pursuit.

The author’s debut, Work Like Any Other, was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize. Esquire.com describes her latest as “even-handed and sensitive in its portrayal of institutions into group homes and assisted living where he’d been involved in transferring people out of their creative and wayward-reading literary programming empowering family reading groups that promote youth literacy, reading series that encourage active engagement with the literary arts, or high school workshops that support student participation.”

Nominations do not have to be non-profits to qualify for the MCB Prize. Any organization with a literary program can be nominated.

The deadline to submit nominating letters is July 15 (only one letter is required). See the list of past winners and get more information about the nomination process at www.humanitiesmontana.org/center forthebook.
Billings & Eastern Montana

Roundup Independence Day Extravaganza (R.I.D.E.) - July 4-7 at Roundup City Park and downtown; fun-four day festival features concerts by The Georgia Satellites and Jason Larson on Thursday, High Country Cowboys on Friday, and Lonestarr on Saturday (all at 7 p.m.). Festivities also include a 5K Run/Walk, parades, rodeos, and kids’ activities. Call 406-234-5215 or visit www.roundupindependencedays.com for details.

Magic City Blues Festival - July 5-7 on the 2500 Block of Montana Ave. in Billings; Montana’s urban music festival attracts thousands from the historic downtown, for two nights of blues and rock. And now in its 18th year, the festival opens at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, with a free, all-ages show on the Stillwater Stage, featuring Chubby Carrier and The Bayou Swamp Band, and on the Budweiser Stage are Hawthorne Roots, Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band, and George Thorogood and The Destroyers; Mudslide Charlie, the Nick Suhnehein Band, Marcia Ball, and George Thorogood perform on Saturday night. Saturday night’s lineup features Grammy Award-winning boogie pianist Marcia Ball, followed by All Stars Band featuring Jerry Lee Lewis and The New Rolling Stones. Sunday’s line-up includes The VezzazSyx Band, The Nebraska Pickers, and a segment of female rock ‘n roll quartet. Earlier that day, local favorites Dammit Lauren and Postmodern Stillwater Stage. The festival continues with a 5K Run/Walk, parades, rodeos and kids’ activities. Call 406-495-2722 or visit bigskybikfest.com.

Montana FolkFestival: Spicy Cuban sounds of Gerardo Contino y Los Habaneros

Montana FolkFestival - July 12-14 in Uptown Whitefish. Days celebrate traditional music, dance, arts and ethnic cuisine offers continuous performances throughout the weekend. More than 20 of the nation’s finest musicians and dancers appear on six stages, including a dance pavilion, a family stage, and the Original Mine Yard. A sampling includes bluesman Eddie Cotton, bluegrass by David Davis and the River Boys, Cuban music by Gerardo Contino y Los Habaneros, dancem Hall by Kyle Havrel and the DOE Ramblers, hip-hop by Rashel, and gospel by Cora Harvey. Rounding out the free festival are dozens of artists, demonstrators, instructors and performers in two Arts Markets, the Family and Kids’ Stage, and Dance Hall. Performers include The Whileaways, Evans and Daly, Blackberry Smoke, Kevn Kinney Band, The Royal City Band, The Wood Brothers, Paul and the Broken Bow, Josh Abbott Band, George Thorogood and The Destroyers, and a slew of other musicians, including Corb Lund, Bones Owens, and Justin Townes Earle. Accompanying the musical programming is a rough stock rodeo, tail riding and food and beverage vendors. Visit www.underthebigskyfest.com.

Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering & Red Ants Pants Festival: Celebrate the Montana Cowboy

Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering - July 25-28 at the Jackson Ranch in White Sulphur Springs; the festival starts downtown on a street dance at 9 p.m. Thursday, featuring Tnis Munsick and Woody Innocents, and runs through Sunday with live music at the festival grounds. Headliners include Patty Griffin, Shuley Graves, Bobby Bare, Colter Wall, Valerie June, Stry Bourgeois, The White Buffalo and Darel Scott. The line-up also includes Mipso, The Steel Wheels, The Waifs and Daishowl Radio, as well as The East Pointers, William Prince, Lilly Hiatt, Brigit DePauw, and many more. The festival is designed to bring people together and support the Red Ants Pants Foundation, which is dedicated to women’s leadership, working families farms and ranches, and rural communities. Offerings also include agriculture and work-skill demonstrations, a yodeling contest and the annual and Montana and Cross-Cut Sawing competitions, plus local food, wine, art, and crafts. Call 406-547-3781 or visit redantspantsfestival.com.

Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering & Western Music Rendezvous - Aug. 15-18 at School in Lewiston, a 5K Run/Walk, parades, rodeos and kids’ activities. Call 406-495-2722 or visit bigskybikfest.com.

Rockin’ the Rivers - Aug. 8-10 at The Bridge in Paradise Montana, a weekend of traditional music, dance, arts and ethnic cuisine offers continuous performances throughout the weekend. More than 20 of the nation’s finest musicians and dancers appear on six stages, including a dance pavilion, a family stage, and the Original Mine Yard. A sampling includes bluesman Eddie Cotton, bluegrass by David Davis and the River Boys, Cuban music by Gerardo Contino y Los Habaneros, dancem Hall by Kyle Havrel and the DOE Ramblers, hip-hop by Rashel, and gospel by Cora Harvey. Rounding out the free festival are dozens of artists, demonstrators, instructors and performers in two Arts Markets, the Family and Kids’ Stage, and Dance Hall. Performers include The Whileaways, Evans and Daly, Blackberry Smoke, Kevn Kinney Band, The Royal City Band, The Wood Brothers, Paul and the Broken Bow, Josh Abbott Band, George Thorogood and The Destroyers, and a slew of other musicians, including Corb Lund, Bones Owens, and Justin Townes Earle. Accompanying the musical programming is a rough stock rodeo, tail riding and food and beverage vendors. Visit www.underthebigskyfest.com.

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS

State of the Arts • Summer 2019
**Festival Amadeus: Violinist Violinist Wagner**

**Festival Amadeus 2019** – Aug. 2-11 at the University of Montana. The festival kicks off Aug. 2 at the O’Shaughnessy Performing Arts Center with “It’s a String Thing,” featuring the cascade String Quartet from Great Falls, and continues Aug. 5 with “A Gala Evening ofVoices,” featuring the sixteen member cast of Mozart’s “Così Fan Tutte.” The Virtuosi, featuring violinist Violinist Wagner, perform a program of Beethoven and Haydn.

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**Riverfront Blues Festival** – Aug. 9-10 at Riverfront Park in Libby, 11th annual blues band showcase on the Columbia, showcasing top-name talent from the region. Includes most of top-notch entertainment that spans a wide range of blues styles. The festival kicks off Friday morning with a free TD Woodrow Wilson, the Bobbie Patterson Band, the Zach Cooper Band, the Michelle Taylor Band, and Andy Butch Ross. Visit flatheadlakebluesfestival.com.

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**Flathead Lake Blues and Music Festival** – July 3-6 in Polebridge, on the banks of the Flathead River, a three-day music festival with live bands, the event boasts an adventure hike, dinner, silent and live auctions and a raffle. The art guild also hosts a Labor Day Picnic on Monday, Aug. 5 – 4 p.m. Sept. 2, which showcases the art and fine craft of more than 90 artists. Call 406-466-1370 or visit www.carbonconutdepot.org.

**Summerfair 41 – July 12-14 at Rimrock Mall in Billings, the Yellowstone Art Museum’s event features nearly 300 of top-notch best artists and crafters, plus community groups and food vendors. Summerfair Eve launches the 41st annual event Friday at its new venue with a concert in the parking lot. The event typically attracts more than 10,000 people over three days. Vendors offer painting, pottery, art from nature, glass, wood, metal, fiber art, photography, body products and artist foods. Call 406-258-6804 or visit www.artmuseum.org.

**Sunrise Festival of the Arts** – 8 a.m. July 13 at Veterans Memorial Park in Sidney; the festival connects local and regional artists, crafters, and authors with shoppers and artists and enthusiasts. Call 406-433-1916 for details.

**Mexican Fiesta** – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 20 at South Park in Billings; Mary Queen of Peace Parish sponsors the 64th annual event, featuring dozens of fine art and fine craft vendors, plus community groups and food vendors. Call 406-258-6804 or visit www.artmuseum.org.

**Chateau Summer Festival – 9 a.m. July 3 in the Choteau City Park, annual art in-the-park affair, sponsored by the Choteau Soroptimists, features dozens of fine art and fine craft vendors, along with lively entertainment and a duck race. Call 406-486-2706 for details.

**Canoe Biennial Sidewalk Chalk Art Event** – 9 a.m.-3 p.m. July 30 at the Trolley Hill in Polson; the 11th annual event benefits the Helena Public Art Committee. Call 406-443-8495 or visit www.helenapublicarts.com.

**Flathead & Mission Valleys Summerfest at Whitefish** – June 30 to July 9 in downtown Whitefish, single with artists from across the West, watch a live Quick Draw, listen to panel discussions and participate in a live auction of paintings and drawings. The festival kicks off on July 18 at the Black during the inaugural event. Call 406-755-2727 for information.

**Artists and Craftsmen of the Flathead Summer Show** – July 5-7 at the Flathead County Fairgrounds in Kalispell; local artists and crafters join cohorts from western states in the 36th annual show. Call 406-881-4288 or visit www.artistscraftsmen.org.

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Southwest Montana

“Newslines” – 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, July 6-28; at the Flathead Lake Performing Arts Center in Polson. The Polson’s historic 1930s Theatre on the Lake. Go to PortPolsonPlayers.com or call 406-883-9212 for reservations.

Dare to Dream: The Road to Broadway – 8 p.m. – 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays, Aug. 14-24; at the O’Ryan Theatre Center in Whitefish, it’s the 1960s, and swinging back to the music and fashion that made the Summer of Love in Paris and three generous financiers, all flight attendants who he managed to separately juggle with a well-planned schedule and a management assistant of his housekeeper. But Bernd’s perfect life begins to crumble when he learns that his lady friend comes to stay and a new speeder Boeing jet throws off all of his careful planning. Call 406-862-5371 or visit www.theellentheatre.com.

Central Montana

“Footloose” – 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays, July 24-27; at the Miles City High School’s Performing Arts Center, Theatre Project’s one-night-only concert on July 20. Call 406-855-0037 or visit www.montanarep.com.

Missoula & Bitterroot Valley

“Little Prince” – 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, June 28-29; at the Sunshine Theatre at the Bozeman Playhouse. For reservations call 406-543-4288 or visit www. missoulaplayhouse.com.

International Choral Festival

Sweet Pea Festival: Music, theatre, dance and art in the shady environs of Lindley Park.

Arts Festivals (cont.)

and wine gardens, and over 100 arts and crafts vendors. Pre-festival events include chalk on the Walk July 30 and Bite of Bozeman July 28 at the Taber Park Amphitheater in downtown Bozeman. Summer SLAM Festival – Aug. 3-4 at Bogert Park. The free event features many arts and crafts vendors that exhibit their work while performers grace the stage at the ninth annual family-friendly event. Visit slamfestivals.org.

Madison Valley Arts Festival – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Aug. 10 at Peter’s T in Ennis, the Ennis Arts Association’s 24th annual event features 48 juried artist booths, live music; food; face painting and an art raffle. Learn more at ennisarts.org.

Summer TheaTre compiled by livelyTimeS.com

The illustrious Virginia City Players celebrate 70 years with another sea- son of melodrama and vaudeville.

Music festivals (cont.)

Symes Hot Springs Blues Festival - July 26-27 at the Symes Hotel in Hot Springs, the tenth annual festival features music by Kevin Van Tassell and the Bar D Cowboys and the Pleasure Kings and Midslyde Charlie on Saturday. Call 406-741-2361 or visit www. sy民警都hotspingsbluesfestival.com.

Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival - July 26-28 at 163 Forest Hill Road in Hamilton, celebrate the sounds of traditional bluegrass music at the 11th annual event with concerts, competitions and lots of jamming. This year’s roster includes 10 bands and five featured performers. Call 406- 821-3777 or visit hardtimesbluegrass.com.

Big Sky Blues Festival - August 2-4 at Pilgrim Creek Park in Noxon; the 10th annual festival kicks off Aug. 3 with a pro-party on the big stage at the festival site. The weekend line-up includes Amanda Fish, Stacy Jones, Franco Paletta and The Stingers, Stephen Brothers Band, Bryan Warhall, Randal McAllister, Dean Haitani, Mark Dufresne, Robin Barrett with Tiptop Dames and Coyote Kings, Ciro, Jimmy D. Lane, and L.A. Smith. Call 406-827-4210 or visit www.blueys.com.

Bitterroot Celtic Games and Gathering - Aug. 17-19 at the Daly Mansion in Hamilton; the 10th annual gathering is filled with Highland games, dancers, music and pipe and drum bands. Festivities also include dog-breeding and hurling demonstrations, kid’s activities, a clan gathering, history and cultural displays, and a concert over 600 years of Scottish history. Call 406-589-2708 or visit www.bitterrootchamber.com.

River City Roots Festival - Aug. 23-24 in downtown Missoula; the community’s signature celebration draws more than 15,000 people to the festival each year. The event includes fun activities and exceptional mainlining. Friday night’s line-up is the Honey Island Swamp Band, delivering “Bayou Americana.” Saturday’s Music on Main, “The Sunshine Boys” opening with “Sister Act.” Hosted by Simon & Garfunkel, the Simon & Garfunkel show for the summer season is also a recording of the album “The Ides of March.” Local attorney and playwright John Mercer wrote the musical comedy 18 years ago and passed away last August. The Polson Players, Local attorney and playwright John Mercer wrote the musical comedy 18 years ago and passed away last August. The Polson Players, local attorney and playwright John Mercer, has updated the dialogue and added a few new songs. The show, staged July 18-24, honors Polson’s late Jean Tintman and Ronald MacDonald from Butte, who worked together to make Flathead Lake’s largest island a state park. The show wraps up Aug. 4-5, in the “Savannah Sipping Society” which centers on four middle-aged single Southern women, drawn together by fate, a little yoga, and the occasional liquid refreshment. The Players perform at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Call 406-883-9212 for reservations.

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Bozeman, Bozeman – 8 p.m. – 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays, Aug. 14-24; at the O’Ryan Theatre Center in Whitefish, it’s the 1960s, and swinging back to the music and fashion that made the Summer of Love in Paris and three generous financiers, all flight attendants who he managed to separately juggle with a well-planned schedule and a management assistant of his housekeeper. But Bernd’s perfect life begins to crumble when he learns that his lady friend comes to stay and a new speeder Boeing jet throws off all of his careful planning. Call 406-862-5371 or visit www.theellentheatre.com.

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International Choral Festival

The International Choral Festival July 17-20 in Missoula, features more than 400 singers from around the world.

Choirs are coming from Germany, Indone- sia, Estonia, Catalo- gia, Lithuania, Hunga- ry, Finland, Paraguay, Indonesia and China. These international choral festivals will be joined by three U.S. ensembles – a girls’ choir from Arizona, an adult choir from California, and the University of Mont- tana’s own premier vocal group, the UM Chamber Chorale.

The festival opens July 17 during Out to Lunch at Caras Park, with free performances by many of the guest choirs; five youth choirs perform that evening at Bonner Park with the Missoula City Band. Both events are free.

A conductors’ symposium, a “choir crawl” and a massed- choir finale (over 600 voices) are among the offerings Thursday- Saturday.

Festival buttons cost $20 and are available at several locations. For details, call 406-721- 7965 or visit www. choralfestival.org.

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International Choral Festival: Moololi Magagula of South Africa leads the Kocopelli Choir from Edmonton. (Photo by Tom Bauer/Missoulaos).
Alumni gather for Fort Peck’s anniversary salute

Fort Peck Summer Theatre celebrates 50 seasons this summer, and alumni from far and wide are gathering to pay homage to “The Jewel of the Prairies.”

Fort Peck alumni Neil and Karen Lewing of the Fort Polson Players were asked to orchestrate the anniversary show, “50 Years of Fort Peck Summer Theatre,” 7:30 p.m. June 29. The show, a two-act, 80-minute version of “Oklahoma!” According to Karen, “many of the people who performed 50 years ago will be back in the saddle again.”

Andy Meyers, the current artistic director, wanted as many of the alumni as possible to be a part of the company’s first major musical to return to the stage. “We’ve been researching and digging up memories,” he says. “It’s truly going to be an amazing tribute.”

First of all, Dave Buness, who played Curly, the romantic lead, is playing the same role again. He’s now 81. And his wife, Fay, 75, plays Laurey. “They are both from Helena and are still pitching hard on the performing arts scene,” says Lewing.

Cathy Larish who played opposite Buness in “Oklahoma!” according to Karen, played opposite Buness in “Oklahoma!” According to Karen, “many of the people who performed 50 years ago will be back in the saddle again.”

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First of all, Dave Buness, who played Curly, the romantic lead, is playing the same role again. He’s now 81. And his wife, Fay, 75, plays Laurey. “They are both from Helena and are still pitching hard on the performing arts scene,” says Lewing.

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Bill Bowers is All Over the Map

Missoula native and Helgeland High School graduate Bill Bowers has been known to “places so unbelievable, they could only be true.” An award-winning actor, writer, teacher and mime, Bowers will share those adventures at the MCT Center for the Performing Arts, Tuesday, July 2, at 7:30 p.m. with his original show, “All Over The Map.”

The hour-long performance recounts Bowers’s international adventures that include “50 states, 30 years on the road, 2 hookers, 1 bunny, and a mime.” It’s a PG-13 performance that The New York Times praised as “zesty and entertaining.”

“All Over The Map” colorfully illustrates how alike we all are, no matter where we are, or who we are. “The only thing that makes us different,” says Bowers, “is how we treat each other.”

“All Over The Map” is a fundraiser for scholarships to MCT’s Next Step Prep, a summer music theatre training program for high school students.

Tickets are available at MCTInC.org or by calling 406-728-PLAY (7529).

North by Northwest: 11 days of Billings cultural events

The Billings Cultural Partnership (BCP) will highlight 11 days of cultural events Sept. 12-22 with North by Northwest.

According to Bryan W. Knicely, executive director of the Yellowstone Art Museum, the inaugural event offers a “sampling of the outstanding cultural programs and events that the BCP organizations have to offer each year,” ranging from art to film and music to theatre.

BCP was founded in 1997 and is a future-focused consortium of cultural organizations in the greater Billings area. With more than 30 members, including schools, government agencies, and organizations serving the arts, history and natural science, BCP’s goal is to strengthen each of the partners through the power of collaboration, marketing and annual community projects such as North by Northwest.

“The collaboration is a strong one between BCP partner organizations and has been for 20 years,” Knicely notes.

While, North by Northwest, represents both the geographic location of Billings as well as the BCP’s position as “the cultural center of the northern high plains” region, says Knicely. It’s also the title of an inaugural juried art exhibit at the YAM featuring 55 artists from a pool of nearly 300 entries from 43 states. The works chosen by juror Julie Andrews, director of the Cor al Springs Museum of Art, ran the gamut from traditional oil on canvas paintings to avant-garde interactive sculptural pieces. The public is invited to vote for their favorite piece in the exhibition through Sept. 11 with the winner receiving the People’s Choice Award at the reception, 5-8 p.m. Sept. 12; the Juror’s Choice and Purchase Award winners will also be named. The exhibit is on display July 18-Oct. 10.

Other North by Northwest events include: the Billings Symphony’s Whiskey and Wine, 6-9 p.m. Sept. 12 at Henry’s Garage, and an orchestra rehearsal, master class and concert, Sept. 18-20 at the Lincoln Center; “The Other Mozart,” the first show in the Alberta Bair’s season, 2 and 8 p.m. Sept. 14 at MSU-Billings Petro Theater; Evening Under the Big Sky, a fundraising dinner and auction, Sept. 14 at the Montana Audubon Center; the SCRAP in Billings Art Show and Sell, Sept. 13-14; and the Mint Film Festival, Sept. 19-22. Films at Art House Cinema, nature journaling at the Audubon Center, a lecture at the Western Heritage Center, and the “Stories in Stained Glass” exhibition at the Moss Mansion are also among the offerings.

The event is an invitation to the community and the rest of the region “to join in” the cultural cornucopia. For more information on the BCP, visit billingsculturalpartners.org.

The show must go on: ABT finds other venues for season

“The show must go on,” says Ron Bates, incoming chair of the Alberta Bair Theater board. “We are committed to our mission of bringing the excitement of the performing arts to Big Sky Country – even while our beloved historic theater is under construction.”

The theater, which closed in April to undergo a $13.6 million expansion and renovation, is taking the 2019-2020 season to a variety of venues, including Petro Theatre on the campus of MSU Billings, Babcock Theatre, Lincoln Center, and First Interstate Arena. The Valley Credit Union Student Matinee Series will be held at Lincoln Center and will serve more than 15,000 students.

“The upcoming season has been thoughtfully programmed to showcase the artistry that is the cornerstone of the Bair. ‘Finding Neverland,’” says programming director Jody Grant. “With a show nearly each month from September to April, we’ve got something to inspire everyone.”

In addition to the Broadway musical "Finding Neverland," productions include Montana Repertory Theatre’s “The War of the Worlds,” dance by Chicago-based Hiplet Ballet, operas, and music by masters of their crafts. The ABT will also launch a premier speaker series by National Geographic Live.

The season kicks off Sept. 14 with two performances of “The Other Mozart,” the true and untold story of Nannerl Mozart, the sister of Amadeus – a prodigy, key composer and innovator who performed throughout Europe with her brother to equal acclaim. “Strikingly beautiful,” writes The New York Times of the play.

The National Geographic Live! series begins Oct. 15 with Steve Winter’s “The On Trail of Big Cats,” and continues with lectures in January and March. “Finding Neverland,” which tells the moving story behind one of the world’s most beloved characters, Peter Pan, comes to the First Interstate Arena at MetraPark April 2.

This year’s concerts include International Guitar Night Feb. 15, and the Joe Alterman Trio April 25. “Pianist Joe Alterman pulls off one of the rarer feats in musical history,” says Downbeat Magazine, “he swings – hard.”

Tickets for all shows go on sale Saturday, July 13 at www.albertabairtheater.org, and by phone, 406-256-6052.
Carol Hartman, “Defying the Odds”  
Aug. 1-31 at MontDak Heritage Center in Sidney  
Artist’s website: www.carolhartmanart.com

Large, colorful oil landscape paintings by Carol Hartman depict the overland and waterway trails taken by settlers of the MontDak region of Eastern Montana. “I am quite proud of the early history of the region and of the many pioneers involved in its development,” says Hartman, who was born and raised in Sidney. “This exhibition is created to honor that history and that incredibly beautiful and remote landscape.” The artist received her formal art training from Montana State University in Bozeman and California State University, Fresno. After teaching at CSU and exhibiting both nationally and internationally for many years, she returned to Montana 10 years ago to paint full time. She has spent the last few years searching for various overland and steamboat trails that Montana settlers used more than a century ago. She took a painting excursion in May and June along the Oregon Trail from western Wyoming to Independence, MO, where she attended the Paul Artspace artist residency, and returned along the Missouri River to Fort Union. Hartman says her recent purchase and retrofitting of a camper trailer enables her to camp next to significant markers along the route, wake up early in the morning, and paint as the sun spreads across the landscape. “As an artist, I am driven by the spirit of discovery and find deep satisfaction and unlimited potential in the creative process.”

She grew up in Southern California and lived in New York City for a decade, where she earned a BFA in textile/surface design from the Fashion Institute of Technology/SUNY, graduating Magna Cum Laude. Since moving to Montana in 2002, she has continued her education, studying a diverse range of visual arts. Locally, she attended the graphic design program at Flathead Valley Community College, and studied with Hamilton artist Pamela Caughey. For many years, she has worked professionally as an independent designer in Whitefish, helping local businesses develop their branding and marketing materials. Currently, she is transitioning to a career in fine art and has shown her work in Whitefish and Missoula galleries.

Heidi Marie Faessel: Sensing the Wild  
Aug. 1-31 at Walking Man Frame Shop and Gallery in Whitefish  
Artist’s website: www.heidimariafaessel.com

Heidi Marie Faessel’s organic arrangements weave together her background in textile and graphic design with a passion for nature and her deep curiosity about the experience of life. “I see the world we live in, filled with mystery, magic and higher intelligence. My work is born from this place of deep reverence,” says the Whitefish artist. By synthesizing organic shapes, energetic brushwork, expressive line and movement, she strives to “reflect the life-force energy that I experience in nature.” Faessel unites experimentation, imperfection and exploration with deliberate editing. “I am driven by the spirit of discovery and find deep satisfaction and unlimited potential in the creative process.”

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Ann Franke, “More Than Words”  
Sept. 1-30 at the Artists’ Shop in Missoula  
Artist’s website: annfranke.com

Ann Franke was introduced to the lettering arts 12 years ago while studying graphic design in college and was immediately hooked. She continues to study with many national and international calligraphers. “There is so much to explore in the world of contemporary calligraphy – creating new letterform variations and experimenting with different writing tools, mediums and surfaces,” she says. Her exhibit at the Artists’ Shop showcases contemporary calligraphic artwork using ink, gouache and watercolor on a variety of papers and fabric. “When I tell people I’m a calligrapher, a common response is ‘Isn’t that a dying art?’” says Franke. “Quite the contrary – lettering artists all over the world are passionately creating unique, modern works of fine art based on the letters of the alphabet.”

Franke strives to make her lettering feel traditional and contemporary at the same time. When designing her work she may combine lettering with collage, silk painting, or paint on paper backgrounds or make a collage. They letters mainly with metal pen nibs, flat and pointed brushes, and occasionally natural and halsam wood.

Her work has appeared in exhibitions in Missoula, Helena, Butte and Billings. She also offers calligraphy and hand-lettering services for private and corporate clients, teaches calligraphy classes and produces work for retail sale.

About Visual Artists is compiled by Kristi Niemeyer.
New Tax Incentive helps tell Montana stories in Montana

By Allison Whitmer

The Montana Film Commissioner, State of the Arts • Summer 2019

The film industry produces something different every day. Movies and TV shows represent all varieties of genres and styles. Some are the nine-hour epics, while others may be only a few minutes. They’re distributed through different methods, from major theater releases to YouTube uploads. Regardless of the differences, one thing you’ll always see in sequence to credit the people, and indeed the places, responsible for their creation. Credits sequences are determined by contracts, unions, and tradition. As a result of financial incentives, the filming location is often represented too.

If you’re a fan of the Marvel films, then you’re probably used to waiting until the end of the credits to see a teaser scene for the next sequel. You might also be used to seeing the logos of various state film offices, often one of the last things before the credits stop rolling. States with financial incentives attract hundreds of productions, although the filming location is often different from the setting of the movie or TV show. That’s why a project like “Wilderlife,” which is set in Great Falls, filmed in Oklahoma instead of the Electric City. During the 2019 Legislature, lawmakers passed and Governor Bullock signed House Bill 239 to establish the Montana Economic Advancement (MEDIA) Act, Montana’s first film tax incentive since the Big Sky on the Big Screen Act sunset in 2015.

With the MEDIA Act, the state has a tool to help get Montana stories told in Montana – and to help get the economic impact as well. Film is a powerful tool for promoting Montana. Filming movies, TV shows and commercials in Montana elevates the awareness about our state and pumps outside dollars into our stores, hotels, and to 600 or more industry professionals.

The MEDIA Act provides for a 20 percent production expenditure tax credit, with additional components that can increase the transferable credit to a maximum of 35 percent of total base film production. These add-on incentives can include:

- 25% of compensation for Montana resident crews
- 15% of compensation for non-Montana resident crew
- 5% of compensation paid to students
- 20% of above-the-line compensation per production or television series season, with ceiling
- 15% of compensation paid to independent directors
- 10% of payments to Montana colleges or universities
- 10% of state facility and equipment rental expenditures
- 5% of expenditures in a high-poverty county
- 25% of post-production wages (not effective until 2021)
- 7.5% of MEDIA screen credit

The incentive will become effective July 1, 2019. Watch for updates at our website, montanafilm.com.

Montana is already the unique location for filming movies, TV shows and commercials. This incentive will allow companies to shoot in Montana with other states and countries. We’re excited to see the Montana logo appearing more often at the end of films and TV shows!

“Under the Big Sky” wins regional Emmy Awards


“Under the Big Sky” is a Montana Public Broadcast System series. It all started when Dark Sevier — who was then a DJ and music director of KBMF, Butte radio, low-power radio station — received a curious email from the other side of the world. The emailer declared that he was a Zulu prince and that he operated an independent radio station in his country.

He said that when he set out on his journey, his first concern was that he would be cold in the northern part of Montana. His second concern was what the people would be like. He wasn’t used to being a minority (everyone’s black in his hometown), and he had heard that Montana was a conservative state.

But more than anything else, he was looking forward to the trip. “I was very excited. It was my first time out of the country, my first time in America,” he said.

He added that his favorite parts of the trip were those times he got to sit down and talk with locals.

“I think the people of Butte, they are really my highlight,” said Malope.

Schrader was unsure of what kind of story he and Litzinger were going to tell, or even if it was a story worth telling. But when Prince Sho, Msomi, and Malope stopped off the plane, they knew and he declared himself a Montana resident.

He and Litzinger heard about the visit from their colleague, Havva Eisenbaum, who had attended the Covellite International Film Festival in Butte.

Today, Eisenbaum is a producer on the documentary. Don Arangio is also a producer. When he first heard of the story, Schrader thought it was “too crazy to even fathom” — so naturally, he was interested.

The two were actually working on another documentary at the time, but when they heard with the Standard via Facebook from Tembisa, South Africa. Malope described the reception at the airport as “overwhelming” and “humbling.”

“Zulu Summer”: A quirky cultural exchange

By Annie Pentilla

Reprinted with permission from the Montana Standard, May 17

“When you speak with anyone who’s been involved in the making of ‘Zulu Summer,’ they all tend to say the same thing: The story that an emissary from South Africa visited Butte, Montana, was something they’ll never forget.

It was a summer of cultural exchange, they say, but more than that, it was proof that curiosity and people’s innate sense of humanity can thrive even during politically tumultuous times.

‘Zulu Summer,’ which had its hometown premiere May 18 at the Mother Lode Theatre, is a documentary that depicts the Zulu prince’s summer vacation.

It’s a pleasurable movie that gives hope,” Schrader said.

And his colleagues Nkokhelo Msomi and Mokai Malope spent several weeks in Butte.

For filmmakers Eric Schrader and Joseph Litzinger, who co-directed the documentary, the film is far from a reel of the prince’s summer vacation.

“The idea was to create a film that was unique and different from anything that had been done before,” Schrader said.

But more than anything else, he was looking forward to the trip.

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Montana Book Festival returns in September
The fifth annual Montana Book Festival is Sept. 12-15 in downtown Missoula. The confab of lit-lovers includes panels, workshops, parties and readings with authors of the American West, including Shonda T. Buchanan, author of the memoir Black Indian; Chris Dombrowski with his new poetry collection Rugged Anthems; and Stephanie Land, author of New York Times bestseller Maid. Many, many more writers add their voices to the event. Admission is $15 for a festival button (with discounts to local stores, breweries and coffee shops) and $100 for an exhibitor table. For more information or to volunteer, check montanabookfestival.com.
Two Montana organizations and a University of Montana professor received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

The Ninemipes Museum of Early Montana in Charlie was awarded a “Preservation Assistance for Small Institutions” grant in the amount of $5,775. This grant will span an 18-month period and allow the museum to contract with Pat Manus of Specialty Museum Services out of Kalispell, to conduct a general preservation assessment of the institution’s collection of more than 2,000 objects. “We have artifacts of local and national significance and we want to ensure we have the highest standards of care that future generations can continue to enjoy these treasures,” says Amy Webster, project director and collections manager at the museum. The assessment will address the short- and long-term needs of objects in the museum’s care and include a five-year preservation plan. The grant will also fund some storage and monitoring materials and equipment with a training and conference to share findings with board and staff, local museums and tribal members. “This is a rare opportunity for me,” said Todd Buffalo, an intern at the museum and Salish Kootenai College Tribal Historic Preservation student. “It’s huge because preservation is my passion and this will be a great learning experience for my future career.”

Ninemipes Museum of Early Montana is located on the Flathead Indian Reservation just 10 minutes south of Ronan on Hwy. 93. It was founded in 1997 by Laurel and Bud Cheff, Jr. who had a strong desire to preserve the history and culture of early Montana and the Salish, Flathead and Pend d’Oreille Tribes, although the museum holds Native objects from across the nation. Bud Cheff, who was born and raised in the valley, shares Native and historic objects collected over a lifetime. Many other Mission Valley residents have donated items over the last 20 years to make the museum a national treasure. Jo Cheff, executive director of the museum, said the NEH grant “is one important step needed to ensure good stewardship of our collections as we work toward our goal of becoming a nationally accredited museum.”

Other NEH grants

Eric Schlussel, an assistant professor of Chinese history and politics at the University of Montana, received a $60,000 fellowship from the NEH for an edition and translation of Tarikh-i Hamidi, a 19th-century Uyghur history of Eurasia. The Tarikh-i Hamidi was written by a scholar known as the “crossroads of Eurasia.” Its author Mullah Musa Sayyami (1836-1917) belonged to what is now called the Uyghur people, the Turkic-speaking, Sunni Muslim majority of China’s Xinjiang region.

This project will produce a first-ever scholarly edition and English translation of this celebrated work and Uyghur history, which reveals the sociocultural changes that took place in this Muslim society at the turn of the century. The edition will facilitate research on this difficult text, and the translation will bring an eminent E. Uyghur writer’s work to a global audience.

Ellen Crain, director of the Montana State University Archives, received $12,000, for All Nations: Preserving the Ethnic Heritage of Butte, Montana. The grant helps fund four two-day digitization workshops to collect local history materials from the Hispanic, German, Finnish, and Jewish communities of Butte.

The archives hosts a series of “All Nations” exhibits to honor the ethnic diversity that has shaped Montana’s history since its founding as a mining camp in the 1860s. In partnership with the Montana Preservation Alliance, the workshops would combine digitization of cultural heritage materials with oral history collection and public programming, to include presentations by a local author and faculty from the University of Montana, Rocky Mountain College, and the Montana State University.

The “All Nations” digital collection would be made available for research on the BSB Public Archives website. For more on NEH programs visit www.neh.gov.

With its new exhibit, “Return to Calgary: Charles M. Russell and the 1919 Victory Stampede,” the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls reaches into the Canadian borderlands to examine a period of history when the city of Calgary sought to promote its own brand of western heritage. The year 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of Calgary’s 1919 “Victory” Stampede, which billed itself as the world’s championship contest and victory celebration, marking the end of the Great War. While the event was inspired by a string of Allied celebrations taking place across the globe, the spirit that undergirded it was undoubtedly western American. Taking place Aug. 25–30, 1919, the Stampede wasbrace=embraced by businesses and residents alike across Calgary and became a means to deliver the West and its cowboys – bronco riders, ropers and steer wrestlers – to audiences across western Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

All by the apex of his career, Charles M. Russell was invited by rodeo showman and Stampede manager Guy Weadick to mount a fine art exhibition of his paintings and sculptures at Stampede Park, then known as Victoria Park. It would be the artist’s second time to do so, as he had exhibited in Calgary at the 1912 Stampede.

Charles and Nancy Russell shipped north 24 paintings and eight bronzes for the show, nine of which sold before year’s end – indicative of the strength of Russell’s subject matter and execution during his artistic prime. With “Return to Calgary” the C.M. Russell Museum extends its reach as a chronicler of western history and American art. The accompanying catalogue, edited by Russell scholar Brian Dippie, serves as a lasting visual record of Russell’s 1919 special exhibition at the Calgary Victory Stampede and underscores the Stampede’s importance to the successful marketing and sale of Russell’s art abroad.

The seed of inspiration for this project was sown in 2012 at the Glenbow Museum of Art in Calgary, where Russell’s exhibition at the first Calgary Stampede, in 1912, was restaged. Seven years hence, the Russell Museum is leading the effort to produce this major show, celebrating the artist’s return to Calgary in 1919. One of the most important works from the 1912 Stampede was “Zulu Summer” by C.M. Russell, a nightly performance at the Western Oasis at Stampede Park throughout the 10-day run of the event, July 5-14, 2019.

For more information, visit cmrussell.org.

“Zulu Summer” (from page 18)

They also got to sit as grand marshals of Butte’s Fourth of July parade, which Schrader called “super” “story-book parade.” They did mundane things too, such as break bread with people in their homes. But Sevier said the best part of the trip was just connecting with people and finding out about each other’s cultures — the “quiet moments,” he said.

“Zulu Summer” had its world premiere in February at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, where it was received by a crowd of over 500 during its first screening. Its second screening, at a smaller venue, sold out. Since then, the film has been picked up by distribution company Gravitas Ventures and will become available on iTunes and Amazon in July.

Sevier saw the film for the first time at the world premiere. “I think it took me a question and-answer session on stage.

“For him, the film bucks the national narrative about division and strife. “Because this is possible, it makes me wonder what else is possible,” he said.
NEA News

Montana awards nearly $1 million to Montana organizations

The National Endowment for the Arts recently awarded $1 million to 11 new arts awards across the state. Including 31 states, the Montana Endowment continues to serve as the only arts funder reaching 80% of the state's communities, providing creative opportunities for all ages and backgrounds.

The awards from this round of funding come from four categories: Art Works, Big Read, Our Town, and Art Works in Partnership.

The Montana Endowment for the Arts has a long history of funding arts and cultural activities in rural communities, said the Endowment’s Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. "This is a people-powered state grant program that private dollars routinely bypass rural America. The National Endowment for the Arts, with its state and regional partners, provide funding in 25 percent of the counties across the nation that the top 1,000 private foundations do not."

This round of funding comes in addition to the National Endowment for the Arts’ second major grant announcement of fiscal year 2019, and these awards continue the Endowment’s commitment as an only arts funder reaching the entire country.

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The 3 Rs at work in Montana

Public Value Partnerships between Montana nonprofit arts organizations and the Montana Arts Council champion the fact that the arts are of benefit to all the citizens of Montana and are worthy of state and federal investment.

Public Value Partnerships utilize three tools we call “The Three Rs” to expand the public value of the work being done by Montana’s non-profit arts organizations:

- Building relationships;
- Creating greater relevance and meaning; and
- Establishing return on investment (measured both as economic vitality and impact on people’s lives).

The FAC believes that using “The Three Rs” strengthens participation, understanding and support from audiences, donors and funders. We’d like to share some of the best examples of these stories:

Building Relationships

The Clay Studio of Missoula: We continue to build stronger relationships by including members in our committees and facility improvement projects. Key decisions in how our space functions and what we offer to our community is largely based on input from our general membership and everyday users of the space.

This past year, we entered the final stages in the rehabilitation of an outdoor garden space. A number of members have been directly responsible for, and involved in, key planning decisions and development of this native garden area. In the autumn of 2017, one of our members dug up multiple perennials from her garden and worked with a team of members and interns to transplant the plants into our new garden beds. In addition, many individuals in our community donated Carus Buck, which are used for discounted purchases from a local nursery. With those donated discounts, we were able to purchase young trees at a reduced rate.

Members and residents also contributed stones, gravel and large vessels to install around the garden, bringing a unique artistic quality to this outdoor area. In Spring 2018, we witnessed for the first time the garden coming to life, with new blooms and growth continuing well into the late summer. Due to a collaborative team effort, this former overgrown storage yard is now transformed into an attractive and pleasant publicly visible area that all members and visitors can enjoy.

Other member-initiated efforts this past year have included working with staff to create seasonal full studio cleanup days, a thorough cleaning and organization of our outdoor kiln yard, and improvements to our FAC facilities with new welcoming door signage on our classroom entry. There are additional projects that our staff and members will be collaborating on in the upcoming year. The Clay Studio is truly a member-driven organization. Over the years, decisions that have been made based on member input have been the most constructive in making us more effective. By directly involving members in coming to their needs in order to make improvements and grow, we have succeeded in providing a space that truly serves our community.

Creating Relevance

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Great Falls: Last year, PGS partnered with a local fledgling group named The Storytellers. The Storytellers wanted to produce a show with a cast of children and teach them all aspects of theater. They choose the script “Eurydice.”

During the course of the production, many artistic elements were used and taught. PGS’s 2017-2018 Artist in Residence, Sam Krahm, has a doctorate in music. He worked with members of the theater to create pre-recorded sound to be used during the productions, thus allowing the cast to expand with a solo artist (someone who reproduces sound effects that are added to film, video, and other media). The artist chosen for the production was a 15-year-old male, who was autistic and unable to read. Four teenagers recorded a variety of sounds, including dripping water, bangs and clangs from the boiler, and birds. This sound was transferred to audio files and other sound was developed by set props.

The cast received lessons in theatrical makeup-up design and its application as well as costume design and manufacturing. The set was also built and decorated.

The lead in the play was a talented 17-year-old actress with extensive theatrical background. She was given the task of being a director in this production.

PGS education director Sarah Justice, program coordinator Keern Hulem and executive director Tracy Houck all worked with the cast to develop the artistic skill set needed for this production and future productions. The entire production was a learning experience in marketing, ticket sales, rehearsals, tech specs, costumes, make-up and more. The youth were very successful in their project and the show had multiple performances.

Return on Investment

Alberta Bair Theater, Billings: Beartooth Elementary School Principal Travis Niemeyer says there are a multitude of examples of the types of outreach ABT is implementing to create a greater connection within the community to engage a variety of audiences.

He believes Project Hip-Hop is one of the most effective outreach programs in Yellowstone County.

The programs consist of local dance teachers and school fitness instructors conducting workout sessions in the school gymnasiums of six Title One schools. Along with the benefits of making regular exercise part of the students’ school routine, the students have the opportunity to train with nationally known teaching artists and renowned urban street dancing companies such as Houston-based Soul Street Dance Company.

Project Hip-Hop is aimed at students in schools with larger amounts of poverty in Billings and the surrounding community who have had little exposure to urban-themed music, dance, exercise, and ideals of living a healthy lifestyle. Dance and music set the stage for students to create, imagine and explore ways in which they can move their bodies to create a mood, evoke emotion, make music, act, work collaboratively and collectively, and prepare for learning through physical movement, musicality and cultural awareness across curricular boundaries.

Prior to Project Hip-Hop, specifically at Beartooth Elementary School, Niemeyer saw students build relationships that had never been considered by the students themselves.

“We have seen students that do not play together on the playground and/or wouldn’t interact in an academic setting, plan, rehearse, and harmoniously dance together in front of all other participants – followed by cheering and jubilation for their combined efforts and achievement.”

The most dramatic of Niemeyer’s examples includes two Newman Elementary students who were from two different Billings gangs. Niemeyer said by the time the Project Hip-Hop classes concluded for the season, the students were talking to each other.

“Even those who wouldn’t speak to each other began to come together on the dance floor and experience budding friendships that last beyond our sessions of hip-hop. Project Hip-Hop has given the students at Beartooth an experience that moves beyond dance, beyond exercise, and beyond expectation to create a community of students, together, learning, moving, and experiencing the joy of school. It is this program that gets some of our students that are consistently tardy to get up in the morning and run into school in order to get to hip-hop on time each day. Of course, learning can then begin not only on time but with a fresh spring in their step and the rhythm of community in their heart.”
STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

SIG funding helps support new dance work, “The Things”

This May a Strategic Investment Grant from the Montana Arts Council helped support a new production of “The Things” by Katie Jordan and Bruno Augusto of Missoula-based Arts & Above.

The dance and visual piece, created and performed by Jordan and Augusto, was enhanced by costumes designed by fiber artist Susan Gilmore, and lighting designed by artist Katie Thompson. The soundscape, created by Augusto, and the light projections focused on the newly-installed technical capacities at MASC Theatre on Missoula’s westside.

Outreach efforts to meet that neighborhood’s underserved audience and students across the city were supported by targeted marketing efforts of MASC’s director/owner SJ Beck. The diverse audience of more than 50 included students from the Susan Talbot Home for Girls, members of Missoula’s multiple performing and visual arts communities, including faculty and students, and members of the general public.

“The Things” is a provocative piece performed as a duet with colorful green milk-crates props, configured and repositioned in various combinations during the 40-minute performance. Augusto’s soundscape of unusual techno features, mixed with texts as mantras, enhanced the mood of inquiry, possibility and interrogation of the intentions of the dancers.

The performance asked the audience to contemplate the concepts and thoughts that we may collect, build, destroy, hoard, or choose to use in different ways. It asked, “How much is enough? Too much? Isolating? Liberating?” The performance ended with a tower and the humans looking up, leaving the audience with the questions “Is it good? Will it harm? How should I react?”

IMTour: Opportunities for musicians

WESTAF’s Independent Music on Tour (IMTour) program was created by musicians for musicians and offers underappreciated artists support in the areas of professional development, exposure to new audiences, opportunities to play shows at new venues, and, most importantly, money. It also offers fresh financial opportunities for nonprofit presenters to book performers.

With the ability to cycle grant money and artists application fees through the web application, IMTour offers a multitude of financial incentives for both musicians and presenters. And there are many of these opportunities are linked to, and qualify for, subsidies.

For Presenters

Nonprofit presenters ((501(c)(3) or the equivalent) in the West can set up a profile, send out calls for bands, and then apply for funding to offset the artistic fees. Presenting IMTour roster artists is a way to bridge the gap between the for-profit and nonprofit worlds, as well as engage with new and developing audiences.

For Artists

Set up and store a robust and eye-catching electronic press kit (EPK) that allows you to present your music and visual worlds, as well as engage with new and developing audiences.

Public Value Partnerships and grants to Statewide Service Organizations

Public Value Partnerships (PVP) provide operating support for the artistic and educational mission of Montana arts organizations. The program recognizes strong operations, stable management, ongoing engagement, and high-quality programming for the communities being served.

Recipients for 2020–23 are:
- Albert Bair Theater, Billings: $9,000
- Alpine Artisans, Inc., Seeley Lake: $2,000
- Alpine Theatre Project, Whitefish: $8,300
- Archie Bray Foundation, Helena: $9,000
- Art Mobile of Montana, Dillon: $2,000
- Arts Missoula: $5,200
- Billings Studio Theatre, Billings: $6,400
- Billings Symphony Society, Billings: $9,000
- Butte Ballet and Performing Arts, Council, Montana: $5,800
- Butte Symphony Society: $3,700
- C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls: $6,000
- Carbon County Arts Guild & Depot Gallery, Red Lodge: $2,400
- Clay Studio of Missoula: $3,300
- Cohesion Dance Project, Helena: $4,600
- Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman: $7,000
- Fort Peck Fine Arts Council, Inc., Fort Peck: $4,600
- Glacier Symphony and Chorale, Kalispell: $7,000
- Grandstreet Broadwater Productions, Helena: $9,000
- Great Falls Symphony: $9,800
- Helena Presents/Myma Loyal Center, Helena: $9,300
- Helena Symphony: $7,000
- Hockaday Museum of Art, Kalispell: $5,200
- Holter Museum of Art, Helena: $7,200
- Intermountain Opera Association, Bozeman: $6,300
- Living Art of Montana, Missoula: $3,300
- Livingston Center for Art and Culture, Inc.: $2,000
- MAPS Media Institute, Hamilton: $3,400
- MCT, Inc., Missoula: $10,000
- Missoula Art Museum: $9,000
- Missoula Writing Collaborative: $3,500
- Montana Actors’ Theatre, Havre: $3,400
- Montana Ballet Company, Bozeman: $4,100
- Montana Ballet Theatre, Hamilton: $2,600
- Montana Repertory Theatre, Missoula: $6,400
- Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Bozeman: $9,000
- Montana State University Music School, Whitefish: $3,300
- Northeast Steele Gallery, MSU Billings: $2,000
- Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Great Falls: $5,000
- Pondera Arts Council, Conrad: $3,800
- Southwest Montana Arts Council, Dillon: $2,500
- Stumptown Art Studio, Whitefish: $2,400
- Sunburst Foundation, Eureka: $2,000
- Verge Theater, Bozeman: $6,300
- WaterWorks Art Museum, Miles City: $5,600
- Whitefish Theatre Co.: $6,400
- Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings: $8,000
- Zootown Arts Community Center, Missoula: $4,200

Statewide Service Organizations

The following organizations each received $24,000 from the Arts Council for the 2020-21: the Montana Performing Arts Consortium, Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras, Montana Art Gallery Directors Association (MAGDA), and the Montana Dance Arts Association.

The audience was invited to discuss their questions with the artists at the conclusion of the performance.

“Where the Wild Things Move”

“The Things” is the touchstone for Arts & Above’s in-school residency program, available for bookings across the state. Titled “Where the Wild Things Move,” this residency offers schools an interdisciplinary weeklong program with Jordan and Augusto. It exposes students to creative practices and physical training through the use of multi-colored milk crates.

Students engage in group movement assignments with the props, and other experiences intended to build teamwork and problem-solving skills. Each school residency culminates with an informal presentation by the students, showcasing their explorations. This process provides an opportunity for students to tell their stories, develop their individuality, and become comfortable in front of a peer audience.

For information on “The Things” or a school residency of “Where the Wild Things Move” contact team@artsandabove.org or call 406-880-7968.

Grant funds available

Strategic Investment Grant (SIG) funds are still available for summer and fall projects and professional development. These grants provide up to $1,000 in matching funds for professional artists, nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations and Preschool-Grade 12 teachers in Montana, and are available in four categories:

- Professional development grants help build individual art skills and knowledge, arts careers and/or arts businesses.
- Market expansion grants help increase exposure and improve marketing or promotion, opportunities for exhibition, performance and/or sales to a wider or new audience.
- Grants for public outreach activities fund ongoing or one-time activities that are designed to reach a new or expanded audience.
- Challenges and emergencies grants provide resources for artists or arts organizations experiencing challenges or emergencies that impede the ability to continue work.

The application deadline is the 15th of the month. For guidelines and more information visit art.mt.gov/sig; contact Kristin Han Burgoyne (kburg- goyne@mt.gov or 406-444-6449) for more information.
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1 “Wildwood” Premiere; handMADE Montana; Artist’s Innovation Award; Remembering M.A. Roberts
2 From the Director: Felton & Ferguson Woodworking; M.A. Roberts (cont.)
3-4 Congrats, Transitions, Condolences
5 handMADE Montana and “Wildwood” (cont.)
6 Evolution of a STEAM School; Artists in Schools and Communities Grants
7 MAPS Students Win Emmy Awards; New MTLA Candidates
8 Wendy Red Star Exhibit; Native Fashion at Yellowstone Park; Powwow Calendar
9-11 About Music; About Books
12-14 Summer Music, Arts Festivals & Theatre
15 Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Tour; Bigfork Playhouse’s 60th Season; Alumni Gather for Fort Peck Tribute
16 North by Northwest; Alberta Bair Season; Ballet Beyond Borders
17 About Visual Artists
18 Tax Incentive for Montana Films; “Zulu Summer”
19 Writing the West; Montana Poet Laureate
20 NEH Grants; Return to Calgary Exhibit; “Zulu Summer” (cont.)
21 Montana Ranks 10th for Arts & Cultural Growth; NEA Grants; Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design
22 The Three Rs at Work in Montana
23 SIG: “The Things”; IMTour; PVP Grants

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