



LANESBORO ARTS

2019 Annual Report



Community growth is a long-term commitment and process; each year is an opportunity to reflect and learn while looking forward to the future collective goal. Lanesboro Arts has the long-term vision of utilizing the arts to activate the places and people of Lanesboro through high-quality, innovative programming. 2019 was yet another year of programs aimed at integrating the arts into the fabric of the town by placing art in accessible public spaces and creating artistic opportunities for artists and community members that feel welcoming to all.

Through the 2019 Performing Artist Engagement Program, troubadour Larry Long spent a week in Lanesboro writing a song with the community. Alluding to the fabric of Lanesboro's public spaces, a few of the lyrics are as follows: "Where Buffalo Bill got his start, where beauty fills the streets with art, when that noon whistle blows, out from the past it calls us home... Lanesboro is the town for me."

These lyrics capture some of what makes this community a vibrant place to live and grow within. Walking down the streets of Lanesboro, the products of this collective vision are easily seen in Lanesboro's dynamic business district, public art, plethora of trails, and of course, its people. Harder to see is the work behind this process, work that asks for sustained effort and long-term vision. This process of digging in to do the work is what Lanesboro Arts dedicates itself to through programs, partnerships, and community building.

Part of this work in 2019 can be seen through deep, genuine partnerships with local arts groups & downtown business owners. Thanks to the generous support and participation from community stakeholders, collaborations such as the Spring into Art festival and the Theatre District Mural were made possible. Lanesboro Arts also held community stakeholder meetings to help inform the St. Mane Theatre rehabilitation project, and supported the City-led comprehensive plan initiative.

The cumulative impact of these community collaborations is an incredible legacy for the Lanesboro area as a creative, inclusive and resilient community. Lanesboro Arts believes that together, the Lanesboro community can build toward rural equity that lifts up more nuanced narratives and create future opportunities for continued leadership and community development efforts.

Onward,

  
Robbie Brokken Kara Maloney Adam Wiltgen

Co-Directors of Lanesboro Arts



Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2019

ASSETS

Current Cash & Other Assets	\$76,160
Restricted Arts Campus Cash	\$352,929
Property & Equipment	\$604,536
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,033,625

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Payables & Other Liabilities	\$66,749
Net Assets	\$966,876
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$1,033,625

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2019

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Foundations & Government	\$176,681
Art Sales	\$142,254
Memberships & Contributions	\$ 52,985
Fundraising Activities & Other Programs	\$ 46,166
St. Mane Theatre	\$ 17,722
Art Loft Rental Income	\$ 12,792
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$448,600

EXPENSES

Program Expense	\$332,998
Management & General Expense	\$ 83,491
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 31,271
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$447,760

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$ 840

Figures above include exit & transfer payments to 2019 fiscal grantee Lanesboro Community Theater; now an independent 501(c)3 organization.

Mission Statement

LANESBORO ARTS serves as a regional catalyst for artistic excellence and educational development in providing diverse art experiences for people of all ages.

Staff *as of March 2, 2020*

Robbie Brokken, Gallery Director // Co-Director
Kara Maloney, Advancement Director // Co-Director
Adam Wiltgen, Program Director // Co-Director
Melissa Wray, Program Associate
Anastasia Hongerholt, Bookkeeper
Jo Anne Agrimson, Gallery Sales Associate
Betsy Holbrook, Gallery Sales Associate
Anne Flynn, Gallery Sales Associate
E. Fran Sauer, Gallery Sales Associate

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as of March 2, 2020

"...this residency [at Lanesboro Arts] has restored my confidence in people's capacity to give of themselves, to listen and reflect, and to be open with someone who could easily be considered as 'other.' My experience in Lanesboro showed me what I suspected all along: when people are approached with respect, patience, and genuine interest, more often than not, one is greeted with equal measures of respect and a desire to be helpful."

— Cecilia Cornejo, 2019 artist in residence



2019

Year in Review

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Lanesboro Arts hosted two groundbreaking emerging artists as part of the 2019 residency program. Filmmaker Cecilia Cornejo and composer Eric Carranza. The program's place-based and community-engaged focus is geared toward emerging artists who are driven to explore ways their work can be applied to the community and how Lanesboro's rural community can inform their work.

Cecilia's residency centered on notions of home and belonging through "The Wandering House," a former ice fishing house retrofitted as a mobile audio recording studio. As an immigrant woman of color who has lived in the Midwest for the past twenty years, Cecilia invited community members to record their oral testimonies as they reflected on the significance of home, a concept that some of us may take for granted, but is in flux for displaced communities around the globe. Cecilia's project gathered 32 local oral testimonies for a total of six hours of recording. The project continues to evolve beyond its time in Lanesboro.

Saint Paul based composer, multi-instrumentalist and teacher Eric Carranza created "Root River Vibes", a collection of musical accounts asking the question, "What does Lanesboro sound like?" With a location-based focus and a mobile rig of music making tools, Eric invited community members of all backgrounds and musical abilities to create "Root River Vibes," a series of musical vignettes inspired by the people, landscape and energy of Lanesboro. 17 local storytellers and four local musicians joined in on this project.



EDUCATION

Our beloved youth education programs continue to thrive! Youth ages 10-18 participated in free art making Open Studio hours where they used our space and materials to create whatever they wanted.

During 6 weeks in the summer, more than 150 rural youth and adults participated in Surprise Sculpture to make large scale sculptures for public spaces using upcycled, recycled, and fine art materials. Project highlights from this year included a larger than life nest in Poetry Parking Lot, colorful stepping stones in Sylvan Park, whimsical pie tin creatures along the bike trail, and more!

In December, a new youth program, Learn to Paint, was launched! Four classes for ages 10-14 were offered. Participating young artists learned techniques with oil pastels, water colors, acrylics, and more. This class was an opportunity to explore new mediums with a professional artist as the instructor.



SPRING INTO ART

Spring Into Art was an interactive two-weekend celebration of creativity and community co-presented by Commonweal Theatre and Lanesboro Arts featuring an Art Crawl, Canvas Clash, and Art Exhibition. The goal was to foster vibrancy and activity in the downtown district during the tourism off season. It definitely met that goal, thanks to a strong community response and excellent attendance! The Art Crawl was hosted at eight different downtown businesses, each having a different medium for participants to experiment with. A highlight of the weekend for many was the Canvas Clash, a live painting tournament between eight artists with attendees voting for a champion. There was also an art exhibition that featured artwork created during the art making crawl, canvas clash, and by open studio students during Spring Into Art.



COMMUNITY MURAL

Adding to our vibrant arts campus, the community came together to create a large scale mural in 2019! More than 200 community members of all ages helped paint the large scale theatre district mural with artist Erik Pearson in October. The design was first painted onto parachute cloth indoors and will be installed at its final location on the south wall of the building at 204 Parkway Ave. N. in May of 2020. The design celebrates the rich history of the performing arts and theater in Lanesboro's heritage.



GALLERY

The Lanesboro Arts exhibition gallery continues to be a catalyst for regional artistic development. New this year, an after-hours gallery artist meet-and-greet with demonstrations debuted in September. The annual juried High School Art Show was a local draw once again, providing opportunities for young artists in development to have their work displayed in a professional gallery setting.

The Lanesboro Arts Gallery presented a variety of other thematic exhibitions, including “Under Pressure”, a group printmaking exhibition featuring 27 diverse artists. “Spitting Image”, a self portrait group exhibition, showcased 41 artists working in a variety of mediums. We were honored to have a retrospective exhibition of surreal and contemplative oil paintings by Marvin Messing. This exhibition, “The Ride of Your Life”, raised social, political, and religious questions in a playful and satirical way.



ST. MANE THEATRE

The St. Mane was once again home to many vibrant events throughout 2019. One such highlight was Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre, which brought the art and passion of Flamenco to Lanesboro once more, this time joined by singer José Cortés Fernández and dancer Jesús Muñoz. A workshop was offered beforehand where participants learned the movements and rhythms of traditional Spanish dance.



Musician, poet, and bicycle advocate Ben Weaver, along with ceramic artist Anna Metcalfe, led a group ride on the Root River Trail. The riders stopped for a musical performance by Ben, morning tea by Anna, and stories shared by all. A screening of Ben's film, “Music for Free on the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route”, was also shown in conjunction with his concert that night. The film followed his journey as he pedaled 3,000 miles from Canada to New Mexico, giving free concerts along the way.



Other 2019 highlights included concerts with Jillian Rae, The American Roots Revue and folk rock band Lehto & Wright. And, of course, returning programs such as Catherine Glynn's Audacious Raw Theater, the 25th season of “Over the Back Fence,” the Rhubarb Sisters, Frozen River Film Festival, productions by the Lanesboro Community Theater, and the annual Holiday Sing-Along with Dan Chouinard each contributed to the St. Mane Theater's mission of celebrating culture and nurturing community.

PERFORMING ARTIST ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Thanks to continued generous support from SEMAC, the Performance Artist Engagement Program blossomed in its second year. The program makes St Mane programming more accessible and relevant to underserved populations by bringing performing artists directly to community spaces and non-traditional venues.

Jillian Rae, an established singer-songwriter and fiddle player from the Twin Cities, lent her talent for a week in July. She participated in a public songwriting workshop and led artmaking projects for seniors and youth, including collaborations with the local daycare and Surprise Sculpture participants. She rounded out her week with an Over the Back Fence performance and a rockin' concert for a full St. Mane Theatre crowd.



In May, American singer-songwriter Larry Long led music and storytelling circles with Lanesboro residents that resulted in a community song. The song, called “Lanesboro the Town for Me”, was later performed by Larry and the American Roots Revue at a concert at the St. Mane Theatre. This performance was documented in a professional video that is available to view on YouTube or Facebook. The uplifting, energetic show also featured covers of classic gospel, rock and R&B songs, as well as Larry's original songs.



2019

Donors

PROGRAM SPONSORS

ST. MANE THEATRE

Commonweal Theatre, Granny's Liquor, High Court Pub, Inspire(d) Magazine and Wisconsin Public Radio

EXHIBITION GALLERY

Commonweal Theatre, F & M Community Bank, Inspire(d) Magazine and KTTC Television

ART IN THE PARK

The Rudolf E. Wilhelm Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan,
The City of Lanesboro, Walter Bradley - Thrivent Financial and Wisconsin Public Radio

FALL GALA

F & M Community Bank, Krage Insurance Agency & Preble Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Co.,
KTTC Television, Merchants Bank, POET Biorefining, The City of Lanesboro and Manion Law Office

OVER THE BACK FENCE

Batstone CPA, The Bite Restaurant, Bluff Country Computer Works, Cedar Valley Resort, E2 Boutique,
Estelle's Eatery & Bar, F & M Community Bank, Granny's Liquor, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Green
Gables Inn, High Court Pub, Lanesboro Area Community Foundation, Lanesboro Arts, Lanesboro Public
Library, Manion Law Office, Merchants Bank, Niagara Cave, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Old Barn Resort, Pedal
Pushers Cafe, Randy Schultz Drywall, Rushford – Preston – Harmony Foods IGA, SMG Web Design, Thrivent
Financial – Walter Bradley

SURPRISE SCULPTURE

MiEnergy

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GOVERNMENT & FOUNDATION



Lanesboro Arts programs are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



