



LANESBORO ARTS

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



The year 2021 brought adaptation and renewal to Lanesboro Arts and our many programs. Although the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact our work, Lanesboro Arts both reinstated beloved traditions and cultivated new community experiences. Throughout the year we were able to grow our programs, deepen our impact, and renew our dedication to art and community.

We navigated staffing changes in 2021. In June, we bid a fond farewell to longtime Gallery Director Robbie Brokken as she retired. Departing from the previous shared leadership model, the board promoted Kara Maloney as sole Executive Director, and promoted Melissa Wray to Program Director. We welcomed Kris Viesselman in November as Gallery & Communications Director.

In response to the ever-shifting pandemic, we invested in both outdoor and digital spaces, continuing our goal of arts outreach beyond the walls of our buildings. After a year hiatus for the Lanesboro Artist Residency program, we welcomed artists-in-residence Wen-Li Chen and Mary Prescott, through both in-person and digital engagement. Annual favorite Art in the Park returned to Sylvan Park with enthusiastic response. We celebrated the reimagined downtown lot Parkway Place, complete with outdoor seating, verdant planters, and a lively mural created by our Administrative Intern Kiara Hohn.

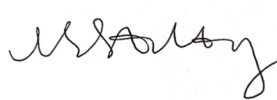
With appropriate precautions in place, we continued to offer excellent art experiences in our facilities. We hosted Gallery exhibitions celebrating the talents of local artists and investigating important themes such as remembrance, nature, and storytelling. We also offered the widest range of youth art activities ever during the summer, with the return of our usual studio-based classes along with outdoor art classes. Much of our St. Mane Theatre programming was postponed or transformed due to social distancing. We took stock of our beautiful environment and introduced new possibilities for community spaces, including Gateway Park where we launched a new summer concert series Rhythms on the Root. Catie Glynn's Audacious Raw Theater happened at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in a new collaboration.

We are so grateful to our community, members, board, and staff for leaning into abundance and navigating change with dexterity, creativity, and community care. We couldn't do any of this without your active participation, generous support, and belief in our work. We can't wait to see what 2022 will bring!

Joyfully,



Kara Maloney



Melissa Wray



Kris Viesselman

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current Cash & Other Assets	\$216,023
Restricted Arts Campus Cash	\$263,387
Property & Equipment	\$490,573
TOTAL ASSETS	\$969,983

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Payables & Other Liabilities	\$11,652
Net Assets	\$958,331
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$969,983

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2021

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Foundations & Government	\$285,146
Art Sales	\$133,468
Memberships & Contributions	\$15,750
Fundraising Activities & Other Programs	\$37,298
St. Mane Theatre	\$5,095
Art Loft Rental Income	\$17,834
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$494,591

EXPENSES

Program Expense	\$296,147
Management & General Expense	\$67,015
Fundraising Expenses	\$29,985
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$393,147

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$101,444

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 December 31, 2021

Kara Maloney, Executive Director

Kris Viesselman, Gallery & Communications Director

Melissa Wray, Program Director

Anastasia Hongerholt, Bookkeeper

JoAnne Agrimson, Gallery Sales Associate

Anne Flynn, Gallery Sales Associate

Board of Directors

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Al Nettles, Vice Chair

Eric Miehlisch, Treasurer

Nick Gudmundson, Secretary

Renee Bergstrom

Cecilia Cornejo

Elaine Edwards

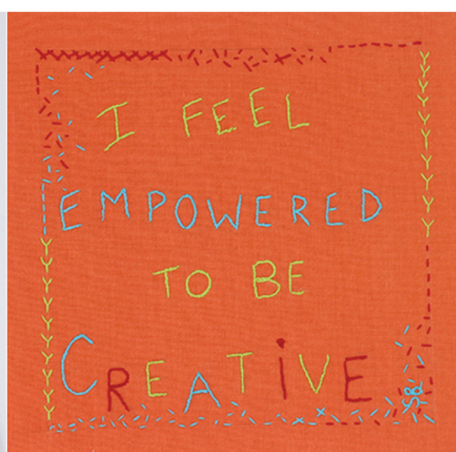
Steve Harris

Jennifer Johnson

Stena Lieb

Sue Pariseau

as of December 31, 2021



2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

GALLERY

The Lanesboro Arts exhibition gallery continues to be a catalyst for regional artistic development. Our annual Juried High School Show celebrated the artistic talents of students from Chatfield, Fillmore Central, Lanesboro, and Rushford-Peterson High Schools, providing opportunities for young artists to have their work displayed in a professional gallery setting. This opportunity was especially impactful during a year of problem solving and hybrid learning. Fillmore Central Student Adrik Nevalainen said of the show, "It's nice to know that even in times like these, we can all come together and share our art with each other. Thank you to the Lanesboro Art Gallery for making this all possible."

The Lanesboro Arts Exhibition Gallery presented five other shows that featured beautiful, complicated, and thought provoking artwork all year long. In February and March, Lanesboro Arts presented the national juried exhibition, "Gone But Never Forgotten: Remembering Those Lost to Police Brutality," as a part of our ongoing initiative to portray diverse voices through local programming. This show featured 21 quilts curated by Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi as a part of the Textile Center and Women of Color Quilters Network's "We are the Story" initiative. This compelling and timely exhibition was followed by a series of solo exhibitions. First, we presented "Divided Light," showcasing oil and stained glass paintings by Adam Reef. Next, we hosted "Heartbeats," featuring the figurative work of the Wisconsin-based painter, Kathie Wheeler, and "My Wild and Precious Life," an exhibition of paintings by Kat Corrigan inspired by the everyday beauty of animals, objects, and our natural surroundings. Finally, Lanesboro Arts presented "Dappled: Growing Up with Shadow and Light," featuring the contemplative ceramic work of Kordula Coleman.



EDUCATION

This year we offered the largest group of education classes Lanesboro Arts has ever had! With the help of early childhood teacher Alayna Sobieniak and her passionate expertise in supporting children's social and emotional health, we continued our outdoor programming with "Making art in Nature" classes for kids ages 5-9, "Young Artists" Classes for kids ages 2-5, and "Yoga + Art + Nature" Classes in the spring. We also celebrated the return of our usual summer "Open Studio," "Surprise Sculpture," and "Learn to Paint" classes! In Learn to Paint, young artists ages 10-14 worked with professional artists to create paintings in acrylic, tempura, and pastels. In Surprise Sculpture, students worked together on projects like colorful weavings on outdoor looms and brightly painted bird houses. We are thrilled to continue to offer these beloved opportunities for rural youth to flex their creativity, learn new materials and techniques, and find joy in collaborative and individual art making.



ART IN THE PARK

After 2020's hiatus, Lanesboro Arts was thrilled to host Art in the Park 2021, the beloved annual fine arts festival. We welcomed over 80 artists and thousands of visitors to the lovely green space of Sylvan Park. Lanesboro Arts responded to pandemic needs with infrastructure to support social distancing, hand sanitization, and optional masking to provide a safe and enjoyable return to this beloved outdoor tradition. With the local music, great food, regional brews, and fantastic artwork, this celebration of art and community was an altogether wonderful event.



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

After having to reschedule their 2020 residencies, we were pleased to finally welcome Wen-Li Chen and Mary Prescott to our Lanesboro Artist Residency program in 2021. 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. In 2021, we embraced a hybrid approach that allowed the artists to engage with the community while adapting to the continued effects of the pandemic.

Mary Prescott elaborated on her interdisciplinary performance piece, "Mother Me," through research, interviews, and conversations with Lanesboro residents about their varying, community-informed experiences about motherhood. "Mother Me" grapples with Prescott's personal experiences as the childless daughter of a Thai immigrant mother. She shared her developing work with the community in a virtual capstone performance, followed by reflective conversation on its themes.

In August, Wen-Li Chen explored generational tension and exchange during her residency through the creation of her artist book and installation. In this work, she combined her own experiences as a Taiwanese national residing in St. Paul with Lanesboro's community and context. Using language, literature, photography, documentation, and archival materials, Wen-Li explored "what is lost or omitted during generational exchange." Voices, artifacts and context for her work were gathered through virtual workshops with local residents and an in-person visit to Lanesboro, which was reflective of Wen-Li's desire to continue dialogues between individuals, families, communities, and generations.



PERFORMING ARTIST ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Lanesboro Arts welcomed Annie Mack in late March as a part of our Performing Artist Engagement Program. Mack is a celebrated blues and gospel vocalist who believes in the importance of inspiring others by sharing her story of perseverance, purpose, and joy through music and outreach. She visited Lanesboro Public Schools to share her experiences as an artist and lead songwriting workshops with local students. Mack also hosted a free public Songwriting Workshop on Zoom, where participants were encouraged to write about anything that had been 'on their heart, in their spirit, or getting on their very last nerve.' Mack concluded her week-long residency with a virtual concert streamed live from the Lanesboro Arts Facebook page! This virtual residency continued the program's goals of bringing performing artists directly to community spaces and non-traditional venues, by bringing Annie Mack's incredible wisdom and talents to the classroom and the virtual realm.



PUBLIC ART

Lanesboro Arts celebrated the completion of two public art projects this year: the Parkway Place Mural Project and launched the Little Free Art Lending Library. The Little Free Art Lending Library was created by the Lanesboro Girl Scouts as a place where community members can find and share art making materials. Both of these projects sought to inject art, inspiration, and opportunity into a central hub of the Lanesboro community. We partnered with the Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce, Lanesboro Economic Development Authority, and private property owner Andy Bunge to carry out the Parkway Place Mural project, transforming a previously vacant space into an outdoor seating destination. The mural design was created by Lanesboro Arts Administrative Intern Kiara Hohn.



2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

ST. MANE THEATRE

Although the pandemic continued to limit indoor gathering, Lanesboro Arts nevertheless offered engaging theatrical, musical, and artistic performances at the St. Mane Theatre and beyond.

In collaboration with Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Lanesboro Arts and Catherine Glynn's Audacious Raw Theater presented A.R.T. Year 5: "Simple Gifts" outdoors at the North Campfire Ring at Eagle Bluff. The performing artists collaborated in July to create seven new works in seven days, culminating in a one-of-a-kind theatrical experience.

Bob Bovee & Pop Wagner performed traditional folk and roots music for a live audience at the St. Mane Theatre, our first indoor event in that space since the start of the pandemic, limited to half capacity! These stewards of traditional American folk music offered up cowboy songs, square dance tunes, country blues, and a tall tale or two.

In December, Dan Chouinard returned to the St Mane Theatre to host the half-capacity 15th Annual Old-Fashioned Holiday Show. Dan was joined by special guest singer, teacher, and longtime feature on A Prairie Home Companion Prudence Johnston. The show featured a compilation of heart-and-hearth warming songs, poems, and stories. Although the usual sing-along element was discouraged due to masks and COVID-19 precautions, audiences (in person and virtual!) welcomed in the new year with cheer, gratitude, and neighborly spirit.



RHYTHMS ON THE ROOT

In 2021, Lanesboro Arts launched Rhythms on the Root, a summer outdoor concert series that encourages the Lanesboro community and visitors to gather together and enjoy regionally acclaimed musicians. With indoor gatherings not feasible at that stage of the pandemic, this event series was a great way to be in community. In June, we kicked off the series with the rising "newgrass" group Barbaro. In July, we welcomed Annie Mack back to Lanesboro to perform her brand of soulful songwriting in person. In August, blues musician PK Mayo wowed the crowd. We capped off the series with lyrical folk singer Pieta Brown in early September. This event activated the green space of Gateway Park, uniting music, community, and nature in celebration. We look forward to continuing this new tradition!



DISRUPTING THE BINDING

In October, Lanesboro Arts partnered with poet and musician Ben Weaver, in collaboration with Strong Buffalo and Laura LeBlanc, to host a free workshop series called "Disrupting the Binding: Building Anti-Racist Culture." This was a series focused on how white privilege shows up in our daily lives, inviting community members to get curious about rural communities and how their strengths can be used to support and reach the place where healing and growth can begin. This will be done through discussion of ancestor history, discussing the process of reparations with the land, as well as gaining an understanding of whiteness and our systemic bonds to it.



FALL FINE ART AUCTION

Continuing last year's innovative alternative to the fall Annual Gala, Lanesboro Arts hosted our second online Fall Online Auction fundraising event in November. Talented regional artists, and generous local businesses donated over 125 one-of-a-kind artworks or experiences to auction off. The funds raised from this auction helped support Lanesboro Arts' nationally-acclaimed year-round arts programming with the ease and safety of participating from home. We are so grateful for the generosity and support of all of our contributing artists, as well as the participation of our Auction buyers.



The auction also launched us into our Reach for the Arts year end campaign, which allows us to continue to engage the community in 2022 through public art, education programs, concerts, artist residencies, and more. In 2021 we raised over \$10,000 dollars to support our mission.

STAFF

In June, we wished Gallery Director Robbie Brokken well as she began her retirement. In her 17 years with Lanesboro Arts, Brokken expanded the Gallery from 20 artists to over 90, created the Gallery internship program and annual regional high school art exhibition, and launched the Lanesboro Arts Emerging Artist Exhibition program! Community members gathered on Zoom to toast her years of dedication and to congratulate her on this milestone.

We welcomed our new Gallery & Communications Director Kris Viesselman in November. Kris will curate the Lanesboro Arts Juried Sales Gallery and the Exhibition Gallery, and manage related marketing and communications.

This year also saw the return to a sole executive director leadership structure, with Kara Maloney at the helm as executive director. Additionally, Melissa Wray was promoted to program director in July! Lanesboro Arts Board Chair Mike Augustin said of these shifts, "Lanesboro Arts has navigated an unprecedented pandemic with healthy financial standing and continued the vital role as community arts connector, thanks to the dedication and leadership of Kara Maloney and Melissa Wray. With these recent staffing changes for Maloney and Wray and with the recent hiring of Kris Viesselman, we are thrilled to see how the organization will continue to grow and serve artists and community."



2021

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, Frozen River Film Festival, and KTTC Television

ART IN THE PARK

The City of Lanesboro, Walter Bradley - Thrivent Financial, KTTC Television, and Wisconsin Public Radio

FALL FINE ART AUCTION

F & M Community Bank, Krage Insurance Agency & Preble Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Merchants Bank, and POET Biorefining

RHYTHMS ON THE ROOT

MiEnergy Cooperative, F & M Community Bank, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Pedal Pushers Cafe, Wisconsin Public Radio, Batstone CPA, Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Granny's Liquor, Green Gables Inn, High Court Pub, Preston Foods IGA, and Root River Unwined

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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.



Additional pandemic relief funds were provided by: the Fillmore County's CARES Act Grant, the Lanesboro EDA Small Business Stay Safe Grant, and the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program.

