

Lanesboro Arts (LA) Annual Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024, 6:00pm
Location: Hybrid - Zoom & Lanesboro Community Center

I. Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm and began with introductions by attendees:

1. Board members present - Nick Gudmundson, Jennifer Johnson, John Torgrimson, Michael Augustin, Tianna DeGarmo, Cecelia Cornejo, Elaine Edwards, Renee Bergstrom, Stena Lieb, Akiko Ostlund, Rebecca Damron
2. Staff present - Melissa Wray, Leah Steding, Kara Maloney
3. Community members present - Joan Finnegan, Jim Bergstrom, John Gaddo, Marlene Maloney, Steve Maloney, Ryan and Allie Palmer, Gene Bergstrom, Lynn and David Susag, Delia Bell, John Nicol

II. Toast/poetry reflection shared by Renee Bergstrom & Elaine Edwards.

III. Agenda for this meeting and Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting held February 9, 2023, were approved upon motion by John Torgrimson with second by Tianna DeGarmo.

IV. Year in Review - Highlights:

A. Program Coordinator Leah Steding reported on LA programming and offered thanks to the community:

1. 2023 was a strong year for LA arts education, fostering community creativity. Art Club was expanded to include grades 7 through 12 in Lanesboro Schools. Also 2023 was the first year of the Visual Arts Classic team led by artist, art teacher, and Board member Stena Lieb. Twelve students worked hard to produce art for regional competition.
2. Leveraging a grant from the Acentek Foundation, LA staff and regional artists offered 25 art classes with wide ranging content for Kindergarteners to senior citizens this past summer.
3. 42nd Annual Art in the Park was a success with good weather, strong attendance, and 97 artist booths, food, live music, and activities. Applications for this year's Art in the Park, scheduled for June 15, 2024 are now open.
4. LA Sales and Exhibition Gallery highlights included a full year of shows, artist gallery demonstrations, 30th Anniversary activities, and December holiday shopping weekend events.
5. The LA 30th Anniversary celebration marked the milestone of three decades since the Gallery space at 103 Parkway Ave opened its doors in 1993 to host area artists. Gallery events included a juried show, reception, live music, artist demonstrations, sharing of memories and poetry reading. Elsewhere in town Canvas Clash was held at Sylvan Brewing and an after-hours reception at High Court Pub, all contributing to a July filled with gratitude, nostalgia, and fun.
6. LA's Fall Fundraiser had an online auction with 132 items and a Fundraiser happy hour at Sylvan Brewing with live music by Sarah Peterson and live painting by Alan Wiltgen. The auction plus live fundraiser event raised over \$10,000.

B. Program Director Melissa Wray shared gratitude and reported:

1. 2023 was a strong year for performing arts as LA hosted live music, dance, variety shows, theater, and film screenings at the St Mane Theatre and outdoor summer concert series Rhythms on the Root.
2. Following building improvements and covid delays the long-awaited theater district mural by Erik Pearson and local volunteers was installed.
3. Several artists in residence were hosted by LA, some via funding from the Jerome Foundation, others for the first year of the BIPOC Artists residency which hosts artists for one and two week stays.
4. Seeking additional grants both large and small in 2023 was a reality. LA is one of many nonprofits who face financial headwinds, but staff did so with an eye toward abundance and gratitude.

C. Executive Director Kara Maloney shared her thanks to staff, community, and board, reporting:

1. 2023 was a year of change and challenge, including staff changes. Kara thanked all for their leaning in on support for the organization. She highlighted the trust shared by the community, staff, artists, and board who together helped LA grow this past year.
2. Kara explained that LA logo's felt very relevant and accurate for 2023: three overlapping circles/water ripples symbolizing our local, regional, and national outreach and impact.
3. LA remains committed to supporting artists directly. In 2023 over \$126,000 or 27% of our budget was paid out directly to artists.
4. LA continues its mission weaving art into the community and working to plant seeds of change. The fruits of this labor take time to manifest but can be seen in ways large and small: activities like the poetry group, individual artist grants, and BIPOC Residency represent this growth and change.
5. Sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the major undertaking of the gallery floor restoration as a springboard into 2024. With community help, steps are being made to recognize the goal of diversifying the gallery space and making it more welcoming to everyone.

V. Financials for 2023:

- A. Report by Treasurer John Torgrimson. The board recognizes and commends LA staff for the amount of work accomplished despite short staffing. John highlighted the challenges faced in 2023 by nonprofits, especially arts nonprofits. LA registered a financial shortfall for the calendar year 2023. While cash assets did decrease, LA remained stable, debt free, and holding cash asset reserves.

VI. Election of New Board Members and Farewell to Outgoing Members:

- A. Kara and the full board acknowledged and thanked outgoing board members Renee Bergstrom and Elaine Edwards for their time and service to the board and community.
- B. The slate of candidates: (renewing board members Michael Augustin & Cecelia Cornejo and new candidates Becky Damron & Akiko Ostlund) were approved on motion to approve by Renee with second by John Gaddo.

VII. Meeting adjourned at John Torgrimson, Second by Elaine Edwards, 7:01 pm.