Lanesboro Arts (LA) Annual Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2025, 6:00 pm
Location: Hybrid - Zoom & Upstairs Studio of the St. Mane Theatre

I. Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm and began with introductions by attendees:
   A. Board members present - Nick Gudmundson, Jennifer Johnson, John Torgrimson, Michael Augustin, Tianna DeGarmo, Cecelia Cornejo, Stena Lieb, Akiko Ostlund, Rebecca Damron.
   B. Staff present - Melissa Wray, Leah Steding, Kara Maloney, Maggie Schwarz, Z Kaplan, Delia Bell.
   C. A large number of community members present.

II. Toast by Jennifer Johnson.

III. Agenda for this meeting and Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting held on February 8, 2024, were approved upon motion by John Torgrimson and seconded by Rebecca Damron.

IV. Year in Review:
   A. Executive Director Kara Maloney welcomed everyone to the Lanesboro Arts annual meeting. This year, the staff navigated significant changes with flexibility, bringing in new team members like Maggie as Gallery Manager and promoting Leah to Program Director and Melissa to Artistic Director. We also hired part-time staff, including a Program Coordinator, Performing Arts Coordinator, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, and a Gallery sales associate. Thanks to grants and member support, we had a strong year, investing in our programs, artists, and historic buildings.
   B. Leah Steding, the new Program Director at Lanesboro Arts, highlighted several successful events from 2024, including Art in the Park and various youth education programs. The Art in the Park festival featured 109 artist booths and received positive feedback from participants. Youth education programs included Surprise Sculpture and the Middle and High School Art Club, which had a successful year with field trips and competitions. Additionally, the gallery reconnected with former artists-in-residence for workshops, and the Canvas Clash Fundraiser raised over $7,000.
   C. Gallery Manager Maggie Schwarz shared her experience starting at Lanesboro Arts and the multiple exhibits the gallery hosted. In 2024, the gallery hosted five exhibitions, including the Annual Juried High School Show and "How I See Now" by Eddie Hamilton. Special events included artist talks, demonstrations, and successful Holiday Shopping Days. The gallery also participated in the Bluff Country Studio Art Tour and the Lanesboro Area Art Trail. Sales for the year totaled $98,942.51, with ceramics, jewelry, and woodworking being the most popular categories.
   D. Melissa Wray, Artistic Director at Lanesboro Arts, highlighted the success of the Rural Arts Production Training Program and various performing arts events in 2024. The gallery also had a strong year with artist residencies, including the Early Career Artist Residency and the BIPOC Artist Residency Program. A new initiative, the Equitable Gallery Systems Review Project, was launched to align gallery practices with equitable standards. Melissa transitioned to a part-time role as Artistic Director, with Leah Steding and Delia Bell taking on new positions to support the organization's growth.

V. Financials:
   A. Report of 2025 budget strategic priorities by Executive Director Kara Maloney
      1. The Lanesboro Arts aims to thoughtfully expand funding and programming, enhance storytelling through strategic communication, invest in team growth, and responsibly maintain our historic buildings.
   B. Report of 2024 financials by Treasurer John Torgrimson.
      1. In 2024, we achieved a profit of approximately $50,000.00, with total support and revenue amounting to $428,849.00. Due to our organizational structure and dependencies on external grant funders, income variability remains high and difficult to predict.

a) 2024 financials were approved upon motion by Jason Reeseman and seconded by Rebecca Damron.

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

A. Kara and the full board acknowledged and thanked outgoing board members Cecelia Cornejo, Jennifer Johnson, and Nick Gudmundson for their time and service to the board and community.

B. The slate of candidates: Jason Reeseman and Molly Gage (renewing board member for two-year term John Torgrimson) were approved on motion to approve by Renee Bergstrom second by Rebecca Damron.

VII. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.