Arts Center of Saint Peter
2018 ANNUAL REPORT
From the President

At our final board meeting of the year, and my last as president, we voted to support the realization of a longtime dream—to move the Arts Center’s administrative offices to the upper level of 315 S. Minnesota Ave. Like a lot of great things that happen at the Arts Center, it was a combination of planning (this had been part of our long-term plan for many years) and turning an unexpected challenge into an opportunity (upper level renter Bryan Holland Arts purchased a studio building of his own, leaving us with open space to fill). So while I can’t claim credit for having made this happen, I can proudly say I was part of the leadership team that allowed staff and volunteers to think creatively, aim high, and turn a surprise situation into the best possible next step in our organizational growth.

As of January 2019, not only are staff offices upstairs, but the room that was formerly a shared office is now a cozy, inviting, and thriving fiber arts studio. I’m not a knitter myself but I’m planning to spend time there, enjoying complimentary tea and watching people weave, knit, crochet, embroider, and sew. In addition, KMSU, the public radio station based at Minnesota State University, Mankato, is a new tenant. We’ve partnered with KMSU for going on five years now to produce live music and literary events. We knew KMSU was in search of a St. Peter studio to better serve volunteers, so we offered, they accepted, and beginning in 2019 we’ll have the capacity to offer classes in broadcast arts, as well as to record and live-broadcast some of our performances.

Thank you, fellow supporters and friends, for being a part of this exciting growth. And thank you for allowing me to lead such a dynamic and vital organization. See you in the fiber studio.

Tammy Bohlke
BOARD PRESIDENT

From the Executive Director

Community outreach was a particular focus of our work in 2018. And when I say “work,” I mean the joy of telling families “it’s free” and then watching them dive into a sea of art materials to create whatever they wanted, for as long as they wanted. We did this with paint and paper at St. Peter’s Old Fashioned Fourth of July, with torn-up t-shirts at Rock Bend Folk Festival, and with chalk, paint, and pumpkins at St. Peter’s Oktoberfest. We did it with more formal art materials and tools for patients at St. Peter’s Regional Treatment Center, clients at the Harry Meyering Center, clients at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program, and participants in the PowerUp Clubhouse for adults with mental illness. For many participants, those encounters were their first experiences of being seen, first and foremost, as artists. For the staff and volunteers who hosted (and hauled materials to, and cleaned up after) those events, it was the best possible use of our mission, vision, and values. All year, we were out in the community validating creative work, encouraging growth, and letting some otherwise-overlooked artists know their expressions and experiments mattered.

Our financial statements help tell this story: Direct public support was up 17% over 2017, due in part to more and larger gifts on the condition that we provide free art instruction to underserved groups and at community events. We still offer traditional classes and private lessons, in part to make more and larger gifts on the condition that we provide free art instruction to underserved groups and at community events. We still offer traditional classes and private lessons, in part to make.

Thank you, donors and friends, for making it possible for us to put our mission, vision, and values to work. We’re grateful for your support and we’re excited to have so much momentum for the year ahead.

Ann Rosenquist Fee by Pam Bidelman, from a sketch at the Arts Center’s Monday morning drawing group.
Gallery Exhibitions

January 5-28 | Restoration: Installation by Mary Beth Magyar
February 2-25 | Karen Kovel, Landscapes of the Mind | Humero Mendez D’Alvai, Geometric Abstract Paintings
March 3-30 | Nathalie Dauzat, Korean Dreams | April Malphurs, Reflection or Refraction: Capturing Joy Through Glass
April 6-29 | Studies in Steel: New work by David Hyuke
May 4-27 | Changing Minds II: Work by patients at St. Peter Regional Treatment Center
June 6-29 | 50 Years of Art & Marriage: Ceramics, drawings, & prints by Joel Moline
July 6-29 | Annual Membership Show: Work by members of the Arts Center of Saint Peter
August 3-September 1 | Beyond Basket: A transition to sculptural weaving by Patricia Bielke | Personal Magic: Drawings by Danielle Wedeking
August 25 | Relationships Between Body & Nature: A pop-up exhibition of new work by Gustavus Adolphus College art students
September 7-29 | Man-Made: Photography by Keith Bridges | A Lens on work by Gustavus Adolphus College art students
October 5-27 | Nathalie Daoust, Korean Dreams | April Malphurs, Humerio Mendez D’Vaval, Geometric Abstract Paintings
February 2-25 | Keren Kroul, Landscapes of the Mind | April Malphurs, Humerio Mendez D’Vaval, Geometric Abstract Paintings

Performances

LIVE MUSIC & LITERATURE
Tony Rock Band
Jesus Christ Super Star Pageant & Singalong Reprise, co-hosted & sponsored by KMSU Radio, performed at Patrick’s on Third
An Evening of Experimental Sound with KMSU’s Dave Pemon
HOT JAZZ for DECENT PEOPLE, hosted by KMSU’s Gary Campbell
Open Clay Studio, monthly
Bill & Kate Isles
Holiday Music for People Who Are Sick of Holiday Music

DANCE
Rural Route Dance Ensemble
Site-specific movement by Gustavus Adolphus College dance students, in response to Studies in Steel: New work by David Hyuke

STORYTELLING
Tell Me A Story: New Beginnings
Tell Me A Story: The Mother Puzzle
Tell Me A Story: Chance
Tell Me A Story: Animals
Sequels: Stories about the Delayed Consequences of a Life, a Marriage, Cancer, & a Death by Jennifer Hildebrandt
New work by Ronda Redmond, Jessica Server, & members of the Arts Center writing group

Outreach & Partnerships

OUTREACH
All- Ages Art Activities at Rock Bend Folk Festival
Arts Center Book Club
Arts Center Drawing Group
Holiday Fare at the Treaty Site History Center
KiddoBooFest in conjunction with St. Peter’s Oktoberfest, with the Nicollet County Historical Society
Open Clay Studio, monthly
Pre-Souper Bowl Throw-A-Thons & Trim-A-Thons
Red, White & Blue Art Making at St. Peter’s Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration, Sponsed by the American Legion Post 37
Souper Bowl at the Arts Center
Writer’s Critique Group, monthly
Writing About Art with Erin Donney, monthly

PARTNERSHIPS
City of Saint Peter
At the invitation of City officials, the Arts Center launched the research and development of a sculpture garden to honor the artistic legacy of longtime Gustavus Adolphus College sculptor-in-residence Paul Granlund, a project with a target completion of summer 2020.

Harry Meyering Center
Clay Studio Manager Juana Arias provided monthly private instruction for clients of the Harry Meyering Center. Clients were able to work creatively to build social skills and produce finished pieces of pottery.

Minnesota Security Hospital
Changing Minds II was the culmination of two years of classes in painting, drawing, creative writing and songwriting, designed to provide a creative outlet for patients of the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center. This was the second artist showcase to emerge as a result of this creative partnership.

Nicollet County Community Work Service Program & Saint Peter Volunteers in the Park Program
In partnership with Nicollet County, the Arts Center was a work site for youth assigned to community service. And in partnership with the City of Saint Peter, the Arts Center was a site for youth selected for the summer VIP program. Participants were encouraged to view the exhibitions on display and talk about their interest in the arts.

Nicollet County Historical Society
The Arts Center partnered with NCHS for KiddoBooFest, free activities at St. Peter’s Oktoberfest, and for our annual artisan sale, Holiday Fare, at the Treaty Site History Center — drawing more than 600 buyers of fresh fish, baked goods, and work by 25 regional artisans.

Middle School Art Club
Throughout the school year, the Arts Center provides wages and materials for this extracurricular art program that gives many middle-schoolers a sense of belonging and encouragement. Made possible by funding from the Thalia & Larry Taylor Arts Scholarship Fund.

Morgan Creek Vineyards & Patrick’s on Third
Morgan Creek Vineyards and Patrick’s on Third provide catering services at all Arts Center performances, creating a festive and welcoming environment for new and longtime patrons.

Outreach & Partnerships

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Classes & Scholarships

CLASSES
Explorations in Printmaking with Joel Moline
Family Music for Toddlers with Anja Scheidel
Art Adventure Week with Eva Hendrickson
Family Music for Toddlers with Anja Scheidel
Explorations in Printmaking with Joel Moline
Holiday Clay Days
We also delivered more than 30 hours of private instruction for homeschoolers and adults interested in expanding their clay skills.

SCHOLARSHIPS
The Thalia & Larry Taylor Arts Scholarship fund provided scholarships for St. Peter students, allowing them to take art classes they would not have otherwise experienced. St. Peter Family and Community Education works closely with school counselors, teachers and social workers to identify potential recipients and encourage their participation.

ARTS CENTER-AS-VENUE
Arja Scheidel’s Musikgarten
Celebration of Life for Kathryn Cullen
Singer/songwriter Chris Bertrand’s EP recording
Electric Frye rehearsal
Poet and musician Jill Niebuhr
Pioneer Spinners & Fiber Artists Guild
Schlissel Family Gathering
Wednesday Night Tribal Dance Troupe
Mission, Vision, Values

Mission

Based on a conviction that the arts play an essential role in vibrant communities, the Arts Center of Saint Peter embraces a mission that stimulates and supports a broad range of artistic activity throughout Southern Minnesota. We accomplish this by providing inspiring exhibits, engaging performances, important education and meaningful community outreach.

Vision

The strategies in service to each vision are developed by the board and the executive director each year, and presented at the annual membership meeting. The director is held accountable for progress on those strategies via discussions at monthly board meetings.

Vision Statement 1: Deepen the presence of the arts and the Arts Center as an essential part of community life in Southern Minnesota.

Vision Statement 2: Maximize our local involvement such that Southern Minnesota residents, businesses, and city officials seek out the Arts Center to participate in community initiatives.

Vision Statement 3: Continue to support a changing and diverse community through engaging diversity in artists, performances, and participants in Arts Center activities.

Vision Statement 4: Strengthen our ability to foster the development of visionary, skilled, and enthusiastic artistic creators and advocates.

Values

We believe in inclusion, creativity, honesty, fiscal responsibility, and the value of all who work here, staff and volunteers. We show this in our programming as well as our management.

We believe that we have a role to play in making our community better by mirroring the values we hold and seeking partnerships that will further these values.

We believe in the diversity of ideas and cultural norms, and will never discriminate against any person on the basis of race, skin color, creed, gender, age, sexual orientation, or national origin. This too will show in our programming as well as our outreach and our management.

We value learning for our staff, our board, and our volunteers and seek every opportunity to facilitate that learning.

We value teaching and fostering creativity, discovery, and innovation in our staff, our volunteers, our students and all who walk through our doors.

Adopted December 2018 by the Board of Directors, Arts Center of Saint Peter, Inc.

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS. SHOP. CLAY STUDIO. FIBER STUDIO. CLASSES. PARTIES. RETREATS. LIVE MUSIC & LITERATURE.

315 S. Minnesota Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082
Hours: T1-6, W1-6, Th1-6, F1-5, Sa10-5, Su1-5
Facebook: Arts Center of Saint Peter
Instagram: artscenterofsaintpeter
artscentersp.org | 507-931-3630
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