Lead Docent Teresa Saum's masked self portraits with exhibitions are an art form unto themselves. With Malia Wiley's “Preparing the Den” from STORIES IN PAINTING & CROCHET, Nov. 6-Dec. 23, 2020.
Hot Jazz for Decent People, our summer series hosted by Gary “Maverick Slim” Campbell, moved to Minnesota Square Park—a change planned long ago, fortuitous just as large indoor gatherings were prohibited in the interest of public health. Our usual audience of 30-40 people expanded to 125-200 listeners per show, safely distanced throughout the park. Photo by Emily Stark.
From the Executive Director

The Arts Center of Saint Peter’s present-day resilience can be traced back to 1998, in the wake of the tornado that destroyed the Arts and Heritage Center. Day by day and piece by piece, as members rebuilt and re-homed the organization, they created a culture of strength, flexibility, and connectedness. It became the keystone of our story, our legacy. And it’s our go-to guide for weathering this new storm, with a few simple tenets: Do what we can do well, and let the rest go. Cultivate new ideas where there’s suddenly time and space for new growth. And trust that if we’re living our mission, support and stability will follow.

Where all that led us, in 2020, was to robust enrollment in our fiber and writing classes via Zoom—the highest enrollment and most repeat students in recent history. We saw record participation in our member exhibition, and record attendance (masked and distanced) at the outdoor debut of our summer jazz series. We christened our parking lot as a new social distance-friendly venue, made use of our partnership with KMSU 89.7FM for in-depth chats with artists in lieu of in-person receptions, and conducted massive behind-the-scenes data cleanup which led to measurable increases in communication and support from members. All of that, together, led to fiscal stability at year-end. To the members who showed the way circa 1998 and to those who stuck close to the Arts Center this past year, thank you. We’re grateful, and we’re proud to be navigating this together.

From the President

My four years as a board member of the Arts Center of Saint Peter, including two as president, have flown by! Even though this past year wasn’t what any of us thought or hoped it would be, a few good experiences stand out for me:

• The embroidery course I took via Zoom, which was far easier and more engaging than I expected. I hadn’t stitched anything in at least 20 years, but with a patient instructor (thanks, Reese!) I learned new stitches and completed a project near and dear to my heart.
• The fabulous audience reception for our Hot Jazz series in its new venue, the Minnesota Square Park pavilion. The weather couldn’t have been better (it is called Hot Jazz!) and all the performances were top-notch. The appreciative crowd at each show reminded me how a main function of the arts in general, and the Arts Center in particular, is to provide opportunities for connection. We certainly succeeded at that goal even while social distancing.
• A new series of videos showcasing our Souper Bowls playing football in the parking lot—one of many projects I pursued while on sabbatical from my job as a professor at MSU, Mankato, and a legacy I’m proud to leave the Arts Center! I highly recommend taking a professional sabbatical and surrounding yourself with creative people, if possible. Over the last four months I’ve learned how to make a range of horrible Jell-O salads and share videos of me trying the results; I’ve had my first photography show at The 410 Project in Mankato; I’ve taken about a thousand pictures of creepy doll heads around town; and I started an award-winning tap dance company, among many other projects. This has all been possible because of so many of you who responded to all my random ideas with excitement, encouragement, and support, and I cannot thank you enough.

It’s been a privilege to watch the Arts Center respond with grace, flexibility, and creativity to the challenges of the pandemic—from virtual courses, to a parking lot book reading, to beautifully designed hand-crafted mask lanyards in the gallery shop, and everything in between. I want to express my utmost appreciation to the staff, volunteers, and members who inspire me with their commitment to the arts in this community. I’m so grateful for the chance to get to know and work with you, and I can’t wait to see what the future holds!

EMILY STARK
BOARD PRESIDENT

Executive Director Ann Rosenquist Fee in the Arts Center’s KMSU studio.

Executive Director Ann Rosenquist Fee in the Arts Center’s KMSU studio.

Emily Stark, Board President & creator of the YouTube series *Fork This*. Her stop-motion Souper Bowl films are on the Arts Center of Saint Peter’s YouTube channel.

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From the Executive Director

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ANN ROSENQUIST FEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
**Gallery Exhibitions & Events**

January 17-26 | WHAT’S YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE: WORK BY ST. PETER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

January 31-February 29 | 10 YEARS OF SUMMER: PAINTINGS BY WILLIAM BUKOWSKI

March 6-April 26 (suspended March 17 due to the statewide shutdown) | GRAFTWORKS: FIBER & MIXED MEDIA BY LARISSA MCCONNELL

*The gallery was closed to the public beginning March 17. We re-opened June 17 with new cleaning and safety protocols, and began collecting work for what became the largest member exhibition in recent history.*

July 3-August 29 | NEW WORK BY MEMBERS OF THE ARTS CENTER

September 4-October 31 | PERSONAL SPACE: NEW WORK BY CHARLIE PUTNAM

November 6-December 23 | STORIES IN PAINTING AND CROCHET: NEW WORK BY MALIA WILEY

October 30-December 23 | HOLIDAY MARKET: A multi-week, multi-artisan, COVID-safe art sale

**Live Music & Literature**

SONGSHARE: A singer-songwriter series hosted by COLIN SCHARF & LAURA SCHULTZ, with JENN MELBY-KELLEY

VALENTINE’S DAY with THE ERICKSONS

HOT JAZZ for DECENT PEOPLE, hosted by KMSU’s GARY CAMPBELL

LARRY MCDONOUGH: Bill Evans Time Remembered

SNAPPDRAGON: Doug Snapp and the Twin Cities Jazz All-Stars

EZ JAZZ TRIO

TONI WOLFF’S DREAM WEDDING

SOUNDCLASH: A socially distant KMSU DJ showdown

Pageant & Singalong Nation DRIVE-IN SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

*Said The Old Widow To The New* by RONDA REDMOND: A parking lot book launch/drop

Notes from the Alley by KATHRYN A. CULLEN: An all-day book launch to raise funds for the Kathryn A. Cullen Gas and Groceries Scholarship Fund

Pottery by AJ ABURTO in the new North Window Gallery.
Community Partnerships

CITY OF SAINT PETER
In partnership with City officials, the Arts Center continued development of a sculpture garden to honor the legacy of longtime Gustavus Adolphus College sculptor-in-residence Paul Granlund, a project with potential to draw locals and visitors to this new destination showcasing St. Peter’s location on the Minnesota River.

KMSU RADIO
KMSU’s studio at the Arts Center is in frequent use by volunteer hosts, and is home to Live from the Arts Center of Saint Peter hosted by Executive Director Ann Rosenquist Fee, featuring local artists, writers, and musicians every Thursday 1-2 p.m. on KMSU 89.7FM (streaming and archived for two weeks at kmsu.org). In 2020, the show became the means for exhibiting artists to talk about their work in lieu of in-person receptions, beginning with Charlie Putnam’s two-month radio residency during the course of his exhibition.

SAINT PETER RECREATION AND LEISURE SERVICES
In partnership with Saint Peter Recreation and Leisure Services, the Arts Center provided demonstrations and conversation at St. Peter’s bimonthly East African Elder Meal program (suspended in March due to the statewide shutdown). Recreation and Leisure Services also provided free family activities at all four Hot Jazz for Decent People shows in Minnesota Square Park Pavilion, and provided youth volunteers to collect donations to the Arts Center from concert-goers.

PATRICK’S ON THIRD
Patrick’s on Third provided catering services at Hot Jazz for Decent People in Minnesota Square Park Pavilion, creating a festive and welcoming atmosphere while maintaining health and safety protocols.

ST. PETER REGIONAL TREATMENT CENTER
While our classes in drawing, creative writing, and mixed media were suspended in March, we conducted two virtual gallery tours for groups of patients and ongoing conversations about creating new visual art and writing for inclusion in CHANGING MINDS III: WORK BY PATIENTS AT ST. PETER REGIONAL TREATMENT CENTER, planned for May 2021.

Classes & Enrichment

CLAY
Open Clay Studio and private instruction were suspended in March due to the statewide shutdown, but the 15 potters who rent space continued to use the studio (masked and distanced, with limited occupancy and an advance signup system). A new Facebook group, “Clay Studio Renters,” helped maintain communication and a sense of mutual support. A.J. Aburto, a Clay Studio potter from Nicaragua, created three new how-to videos in Spanish (on our YouTube channel, “Arts Center of Saint Peter”) and we’re currently working with St. Peter Public School art and ESL staff to share the videos and project supplies with local Latinx families. Funding for the video project was provided by the Thalia & Larry Taylor Arts Scholarship Fund.

All other classes were conducted via Zoom, or outdoors when weather permitted:

FIBER ARTS
Intro to Weaving on a Table Loom with Caitlin Heyer
Skill Building for Knitters with Reese Damiani
Beginning Embroidery with Reese Damiani
Monogram Embroidery with Reese Damiani
Scandinavian Knitting with Reese Damiani
Double Knitting with Reese Damiani

GENERAL INSPIRATION
Julia Cameron’s The Artist’s Way with Ronda Redmond
Drop-In Art Critique with Amber Rahe
Drop-In Art Studio with Amber Rahe
Intro to Tarot for Artists & Writers with Ann Rosenquist Fee

WRITING
Grant & Proposal Writing with Ann Rosenquist Fee
Intro to Poetry: The Rights of Writing with Jenn Wartmann
Self Portraits in Poetry with Deanna Larsen-Quinn
Writing Like a Reader: A 12-Week Course in Herman Melville with Nate LaBouilli
Writing Like a Reader: A 12-Week Course in Toni Morrison with Nate LaBouilli

GROUPS & MEET-UPS
Arts Center Book Group
Arts Center Drawing Group
Open Knitting

When indoor gatherings were prohibited, we improvised, using our fire escape as a stage and parking lot for BYO audience seating. Poet Ronda Redmond launched the lot-as-venue in September, with an evening of readings from her 2020 chapbook Said The Old Widow To The New, as well as unpublished pieces from her larger collection.
Supporters

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Marie Laizure
Margie Larson
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Jane Leverenz
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Barbara Wilkinson
Judy Saye-Williams & Tom Willis
Bianca Wilson
Amada Wirig
Randy Wood
Warren & Lynn Wunderlich
Kat Young

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The Keyhole Studio
Lime Valley Advertising, Inc.
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Morgan Creek Vineyards
Nelson Printing Co.
 Nicollet County Historical Society
Patrick's on Third
Riley-Tanis & Associates, PLLC
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River Valley Birth Center
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SMZ Accounting Services
St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce
Wellspring Woolens

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Thalia & Larry Taylor

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Janet Anthony
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CORPORATE & FOUNDATION DONORS

Building Good Properties LLC
City of Saint Peter
Comfort Systems, Inc.
Jim & Jennie Ward Fund of the Mankato Area Foundation
KMSU Radio
KwikTrip, Inc.
Mankato Area Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Minnesota State Arts Board
Morgan Creek Vineyards
Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council
The Carl and Verna Schmidt Council
The Car and Verna Schmidt Foundation
SMZ Accounting Services
Wealth Management Solutions: A private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
### Financial Statements

#### PROFIT & LOSS

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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Jan.-Dec. 2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Public Support</td>
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<td>Gross Profit</td>
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<table>
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<td>Payroll Expenses</td>
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| Net Ordinary Income                         | 59,960.13     |

<table>
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<th>Other Income</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Gain/Loss on Ameriprise</td>
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| Total Other Income                           | 36,098.03     |

| NET INCOME                                   | 96,058.16     |

*Includes a one-time gift of real estate (409 & 411 S. Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter) valued at $85,000.

#### BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan.-Dec. 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Checking/Savings</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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<table>
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<td>Total Equity</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</th>
<th>Jan.-Dec. 2020</th>
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<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<td>520,303.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>633,851.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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In order to actively engage pedestrians and provide more opportunities for local artists to exhibit, we created two new public art spaces. South Window exhibiting artists in 2020: ABBY DALEKI (pictured), BRIAN FRINK, LIZ MILLER. North Window exhibiting artists in 2020: AJ ABURTO, THOMAS PRAHL.
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.

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 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.

Vision statements and past annual reports are at artscentersp.org/about.