
Biography of The Arts Partnership

The Arts Partnership is a dynamic umbrella arts organization devoted to ensuring that the arts and culture in our community are being communicated about, funded, advocated for and spread across many sectors, including the business community, educational centers, government, and the general public. Representing over 150 arts nonprofits, artists and arts-related businesses in Cass and Clay counties, primarily Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo, we are truly living out our mission to cultivate the arts in our community.

1970: The Lake Agassiz Arts Council was founded

1970s and 80s: Produced various outdoor art festivals

1990: Started the funding relationship with the City of Fargo to re-grant City dollars to arts nonprofits

Mid 1990s: Added the City of Moorhead to the re-granting relationship

Early 2000s: Added the City of West Fargo to the re-granting relationship

2006: Produced Herd About the Prairie—Bison painted by artists ended up all over the metro and beyond

2007: Led an Arts Center Feasibility Study for the metro

2007: Participated in the Americans for the Arts Economic Study of the Arts III

2008: Invested with three other Arts Councils in the state in Culture Pulse, an online calendar

2009:

- Accepted into the ArtsLab 3-year cohort
- Changed the name from the Lake Agassiz Arts Council to The Arts Partnership
- Branded the city grants to City Arts Partnership grant program with the three Cities. Awarded \$68,500 in grants to 28 organizations

2010:

- Hired the first fulltime Executive Director Dayna Del Val
- 60 Primary Artist Partners

2012:

- Created a second fulltime staff position, the Digital Media Producer, to create a weekly e-newsletter and handled day to day communications and transitioned away from a 6x/year newspaper publication run by mostly volunteers
- Started the Community Supported Art Program, modeled on Community Supported Agriculture, 50 shares of 9 pieces, experiences and tastes of art are sold to the community

2013:

- Began a weekly content relationship with *The Forum* to create articles and columns about the art
- Created the first ChalkFest, a free art-making event in the metro
- Began the Corporate Artist in Residence Program, bringing in artists to corporations to hang art and engage with employees to inspire and promote creativity in the workplace
- Created the Individual Arts Partnership grants: awarded \$2,500 to 5 artists

2014:

- Began a weekly arts radio program called The Metro Arts Scene with KFGO AM 790
- Began Unplugged with Dayna Del Val, a monthly radio program devoted to arts conversation
- Joined Giving Hearts Day: made \$6,000

2015:

- Moved the 3rd ChalkFest to the Red River Zoo, had more than 3,000 people in attendance
- Hired consultant Tania Blanich to review and make recommendations for strengthening the City Arts Partnership grant programs

2016:

- Created the Grants and Programs Coordinator position and hired a 3rd fulltime staff person
- TAP is awarded the Pineapple Award for promoting the metro through the arts from the FMWF Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Participated in the Americans for the Arts Economic Study of the Arts V
- 3rd annual Giving Hearts Day: made \$140,000+
- 4th annual ChalkFest had more than 5,500 people in attendance. Brought in visiting chalk artist Marcus Dunn from Savannah College of Art and Design. Now the largest free art-making event in the metro
- Held the first State of the Arts event open to the business and arts communities as well as the public
- TAP awarded \$18,678 in Individual Arts Partnership grants to 16 artists
- TAP entered into a 2-year relationship with Kilbourne Group to create APT, an arts incubator in December
 - As of 1/10/17, apt is filled with 14 artists and scheduled workshops, performances and seminars

2017:

- TAP will award \$108,000 in City Arts Partnership grants to between 30-35 organizations
- TAP has more than 150 Primary Artist Partners
- Secured a Signature Sponsor for ChalkFest
- Completing an eight-month tactical planning process to create a new tactical and strategic plan with Jim Clark of Lexington, KY