

The Arts Partnership
2022-2023 Annual Report



Anna Nani
Executive Director
The Arts Partnership

Letter from the Executive Director

If I had to choose a single word to describe our community's arts sector this past year, it would be "transition." Six of our larger arts organizations are transitioning from long-time leaders. Despite all of this behind-the-scenes change, the sector has continued producing plays for us to experience, art exhibits to see, music to listen to and more.

Creative people think creatively, which is why the arts can survive and even thrive when faced with challenges. As the arts continue to recover from COVID, with audiences generally below pre-pandemic levels, the sector has found creative ways to establish new precedents and explore new boundaries and new frontiers.

As the local arts council for the Metro area, The Arts Partnership's role is to provide a steady presence for the arts. The work we do — through grant programs, communications and advocacy — helps provide stability to allow the sector to take advantage of opportunities and to surmount challenges.

And there are challenges, now and going forward. COVID has had a lingering effect on the arts. Our local experience echoes the consensus nationwide: there don't seem to be easy or quick solutions for rebuilding arts audiences and support.

Yet our arts colleagues continue to move forward, producing invaluable art experiences for our community.

The past year was a time of transition for the arts. And certainly the year ahead will be eventful for the sector — and for audiences and consumers as they take part in arts experiences that excite, challenge, delight, teach and transport us to new places in our imaginations.

The Arts Partnership will be there, supporting our partners in the arts and the community at large.

Mission

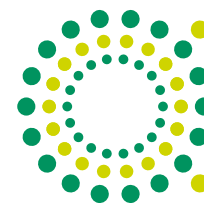
Cultivating community through the arts.

Vision

We envision a community that wholeheartedly embraces and supports the arts as a valuable piece of our social and economic success.

Core Values

- Support Local Art and the artists who make it.
- Advocate the arts' role in a vibrant economy.
- Promote a creatively enriched community.



The Year in Review

Aptitude

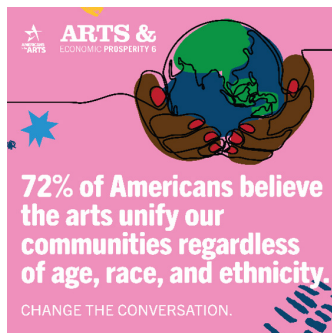
The 19 artist studios we manage inside West Acres Mall, provide a nurturing, shared, safe and inspired environment in which creativity can thrive. Open studio events and occasional art markets allow the public to get to know the artists and their work in an informal setting — and perhaps buy that perfectly unique gift of art. But at its heart, Aptitude's primary role is to provide a creative and collaborative place for artists to grow their own artistry and be part of a communal artistic practice.

Current studio artists can be found at:

www.theartspartnership.net/arts-hub/aptitude-creative-arts-studios



This quote from French artist Henri Matisse resonates with the artists who create in their Aptitude studios.



Arts & Economic Prosperity Survey 6

Over 12 months, TAP led our community's response to the sixth national arts and economic study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry in the U.S., conducted by Americans for the Arts. We partnered with local arts organizations to collect information about their spending and event-related spending by their audiences. The AEP6 study looks at both localized and national numbers about the economic impact of local arts spending on jobs, household income and government revenue. Preliminary research results indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting recession had and will continue to have a devastating impact on the arts and culture sector. The study will be available Fall 2024.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access

We believe that the arts can lead the way to making all in our community feel welcome and valued. Over the course of two years, an internal TAP committee explored issues around diversity, equity and inclusion. This is not work that can or should be rushed. However, we can take action now to be more equitable and just in all our messaging and programs. TAP is committed to thoughtfully fostering relationships with the leaders of diverse organizations and groups in the Metro and with artists.



Art is a universal language. It acts as a vessel to share stories, bring awareness and celebrate all cultures.

ArtWORKS

ArtWORKS provides a unique opportunity to bring art into the public realm. Its focus is to cultivate work environments that enhance the lives of staff and clients. In its most simple iteration, ArtWORKS installs rotating art exhibits in business, nonprofit and university locations over the course of a year. From July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, ArtWORKS featured more than 30 local artists in the 100+ exhibits we installed in 25 locations. Together, the participating artists received \$12,000 in stipends the past year, and the work on exhibit is available for purchase, with 100% of the proceeds going to the artist. At Hector International Airport, we also curate 12 mini-concerts a year.

www.theartspartnership.net/programs/artworks




The Matthew Patnode Trio's jazz performance entertained travelers and TSA agents alike during a performance at Hector International Airport.



Installing art at a Marvin distribution facility in north Fargo.


52 X 3,000
ARTICLES READERS
= 156,000
READS/YEAR

4 FACEBOOK POSTS X 52 WEEKS
= 208 POSTS
 **5,600 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS**

Communications

We amplify the work being done by our local arts community through both traditional media and social media outlets. We write a weekly *Forum* article on the arts and have an active social media presence that connects with arts enthusiasts through the Metro and beyond. Our communications efforts translate to arts advocacy on a grand scale. We reach hundreds of thousands over the course of the year through the full range of our communications outlets.

Community Supported Arts

For 12 seasons, TAP's CSA program has connected participants to artists, performers and local chefs. Each year, up to 50 shares are sold, entitling the shareholders and their guests to three events in May, July and September where they receive on-site performances and take-home artwork. The Arts Partnership purchased the Community Supported Art template from Springboard for the Arts in St. Paul and adapted it to best fit our community. Since its inception, the program has featured more than 70 artists, performers and groups. Participating artists and performers have found the CSA experience has allowed them to explore new artistic subject matter or techniques or to compose new music for the event — none of which would be possible without the significant stipends provided. www.theartspartnership.net/programs/community-supported-art



More than 210 unique shareholders and their guests have enjoyed CSA; here, CSA shareholders delight in take-home art created by Ellen Diederich.



The Silver Winds Flute Quartet presented a world premier they commissioned from local composer Russ Peterson at the May 2023 CSA event, held at Gallery4 in downtown Fargo.



The number of Partners has more than doubled in the past 15 years, from 61 in 2009 to 145 as of June 30, 2023

Primary Arts Partners

Our Partners represent our local arts and culture community and are TAP's boots-on-the-ground arts contingent. They are nonprofit art and cultural organizations, individual artists, other nonprofits using art to further their missions, and arts-related businesses — all contributing to creative placemaking in Cass and Clay Counties. We turn to our Partners to help sustain and nurture a community where creativity thrives and enhances the lives of our citizens. In return, we advocate for and communicate about them, and provide resources, from direct financial support through grants to consulting with them about projects or administrative infrastructure. For a list of current Partners visit www.theartspartnership.net/partners/organizations

Grant Programs

Through its grant programs, TAP invests in the overall health and success of our arts sector and ultimately, the health and success of our community. It has successfully grown its grant programs over the years, establishing the Individual Arts Partnership grants in 2012 and the Art for All grants in 2022.

In Fiscal 2023, TAP awarded \$121,940 (26% of its budget) in grants to nonprofits and artists. While most of the grant awards are relatively modest, they have impact in our community. Grant review panels comprised of administrators, artists and arts advocates review the grant applications and make recommendations for funding to the TAP Board of Directors.

City Arts Partnership (CAP) Grants \$92,000 to 23 Organizations

The CAP grants support local arts-and-culture organizations. Funded by the Cities of Fargo and West Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN, the program has slowly grown over the years: in 2001, \$38,250 was awarded compared to \$92,000 in 2023. Some of those grantees received Community Cultivation Grants, awarded to organizations that make a deep impact with their work.

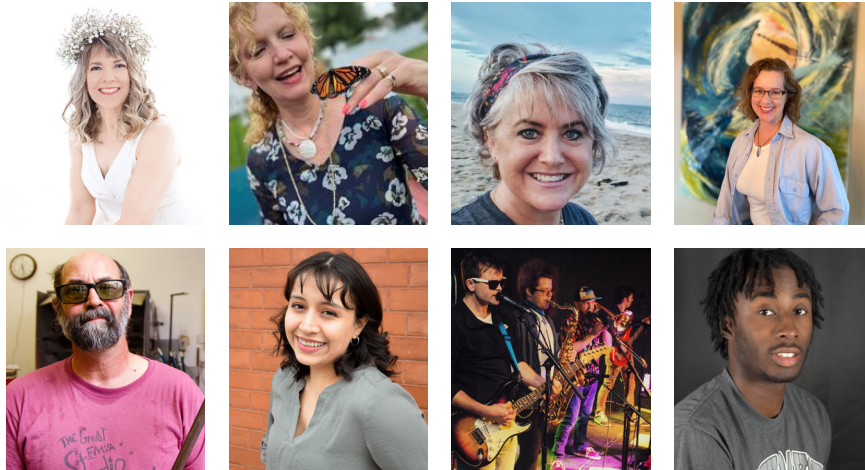


The CAP Grant awardees were announced at TAP’s State of the Arts event in June 2023.

Angels of the Muse.....	\$250*
Fargo Theatre	\$5,500
FM Area Youth Symphonies.....	\$3,250
FM Choral Artists	\$3,000
FM Opera Company	\$5,500
FM Symphony.....	\$8,500
FM Visual Artists.....	\$3,250
FM Youth Choir	\$2,000*
Gooseberry Park Players.....	\$3,750
Historical & Cultural Society of Clay Co.....	\$5,500
Kicks Band of FM	\$4,800
Learning Bank	\$2,500*
Master Chorale	\$2,000*
Memorial Union Gallery	\$750*
Plains Art Museum.....	\$9,250
Prairie Public Broadcasting.....	\$1,500
Rourke Art Museum	\$3,250
Spirit Room	\$3,750
Stage West	\$4,000*
The Human Family	\$4,500
Theatre B.....	\$5,500
Theatre NDSU.....	\$1,200
Trollwood Performing Art School.....	\$8,500

*Indicates Community Cultivation Grant Recipient

Individual Arts Partnership (IAP) Grants | \$16,600 to 8 Artists/Artist Groups



2023 Individual Arts Partnership Grantees:

Top row, L-R: Annie Hough, Anne Kaese, Sarah Morrau, Karena Ness

Bottom row, L-R: Jon Offutt, Yvette Reyes, The Wicked Bees, Richard Worae

The IAP grants support local artists in realizing their artistic visions. Grantees come from the full range of artistic disciplines, from musicians to writers to visual artists and more. They also range from emerging artists to those well established in their careers. Since the program was launched in 2012, TAP has awarded 132 grants totaling \$187,024. The Fiscal 2023 grants were funded by individual donors, the Moorhead PEO Chapters and the Susie Yakowicz Creative Arts Scholarship Fund of the FM Area Foundation.

Annie Hough.....	\$2,500
Anne Kaese.....	\$1,000
Sarah Morrau.....	\$2,500
Karena Ness.....	\$2,100
Jon Offutt.....	\$2,000
Yvette Reyes	\$2,500
The Wicked Bees.....	\$1,500
Richard Worae.....	\$2,500

Art for All Grants \$13,340 to 8 Organizations

In Fall 2021, TAP launched a pilot grant program, developed with and funded by Choice Bank, to encourage health and human services sector nonprofits to incorporate the arts into their mission-related work. These grants are an investment in organizations and projects that will use the arts to make a valuable commitment to and impact on primarily underserved constituencies. In 2022, the grants were rebranded as the Art for All Grants, to pave the way for additional corporate funders.

Epic Charities Foundation	\$1,750
Fraser, Ltd	\$1,750
Indigenous Legacy	\$1,750
Immigrant Development Center.....	\$1,750
Jasmin Child Care and Preschool	\$1,750
Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity	\$1,750
Red River Human Services Foundation.....	\$1,200
Soul Solutions Recovery Center.....	\$1,750

Art for All Grantee Highlight

Indigenous Legacy builds and retains connection to unique traditions and beliefs for urban indigenous people, particularly youth. The organization received a second Art for All grant in Fiscal 2023 to continue to provide indigenous youth the opportunity to learn to create traditional items, such as Jingle dresses and hand drums, from indigenous elders.



Three generations of jingle dress dancers at a presentation hosted by Ingenious Legacy at the Hjemkomst Interpretive Center in Moorhead, MN.

Director Christy Goulet notes that gathering to make the dresses and to rehearse the dance creates a comradery that is critical to the participants. But attendees also benefit: "This is so important for the culture and the community to keep this tradition alive!"

Fiscal 2023 Financials

The Arts Partnership benefits from a healthy mix of revenue to support its work.

Fiscal 2023 Financial Overview

July 2022 through June 2023 (unaudited)

Revenue

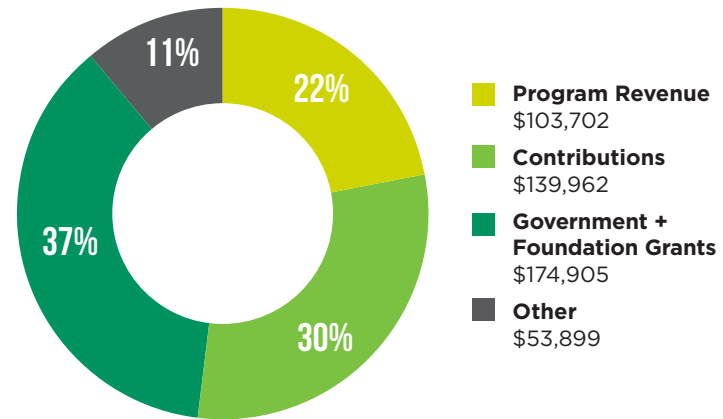
Grants and Government Funding	
Tri-Cities	\$125,000
State Government	\$17,405
Foundations	\$32,500
Total	\$174,905
Contributions	
Business Donations	\$48,729
Individuals	\$91,233
Total	\$139,962
Program, Event and Earned Revenue	
	\$103,702
Other	\$53,899
Total Revenue	\$472,468

Expense

by TAP's Core Values

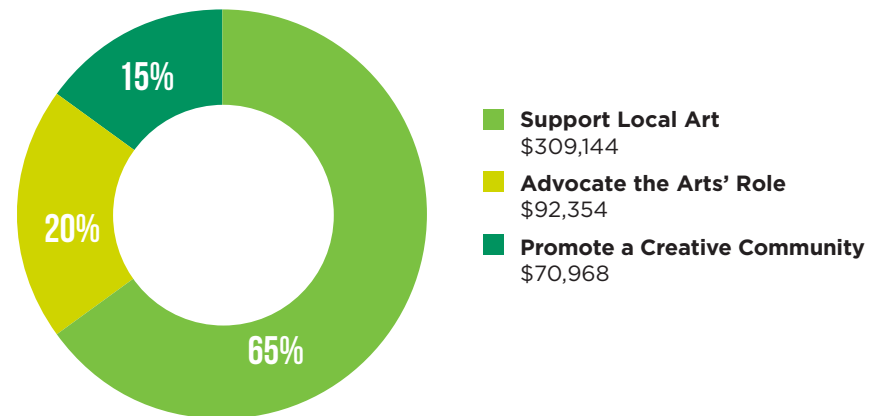
Support Local Art	\$309,144
Advocate the Arts' Role	\$92,354
Promote a Creative Community	\$70,968
Total Expense	\$472,467

Where Our Income Comes From



What it Supports

By TAP'S Core Values



Thank You to Our Supporters

Government Support



Business and Foundation Donors



702 Communications | Alex Stern Family Foundation | Bell Bank | FM Area Foundation
FM Convention & Visitors Bureau | Microsoft - Employee Matching Funds
Susie Yakowicz Creative Arts Scholarship Fund of the FM Area Foundation | Xcel Energy Foundation

Alerus | Bernie's Wines and Liquors* | Dakota Carrier Network | Marvin
Moorhead PEO Chapters | Sandy's Tax Services *

Donor List

July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

\$7,500 - \$10,000

Julie Blehm

\$2,000 - \$5,000

David Hasbargen and
Wayne Zimmerman
Dan Leeaphon and
Laura Fulop
Sally McCravey and
Philip Henry
Shirley Nelson
Gina Sandgren
Carol and Brad Schlossman
Shyla and Josh Thompson

\$1,000 - \$1,999

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Tom and Georgia Dawson
Samantha de Silva, in
memory of Milton Yergens
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Mazz Marry
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Roger Grimm
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\$250 - \$499

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Barry Scribner
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Karin Rudd
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Peter Van Eerden
Kay Schwartzwalter
and Paul Gleye
Erica Serquina
Sandy Thiel
Jeff Walkinshaw

Under \$250

Ken and Rose Andersen
Valerie Axt
Matt and Bridgette
Bitzegaio
Mary Bjerke
Eloise Breikjern
Alyson and Mark Bjornstad
Joshua Boschee
Monika Browne-Ecker
Pamela Burns
Jane Capistran
Susan and Reid Curtis
Virginia Dambach
Marcy Dronen
Rose Dunn, in memory of
Travis Dunn

Genevieve Eidem
Sue and Clay Ellingson
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Rebecca Fisher
Noah Ford-Dunker
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Rick Gion
Nikkie Gullickson
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Virginia and Rick Johnson
Maureen and Martin
Jonason
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Diane Szudera
Carl Wichman
Anne Thurmer
Lynn Tkachuk
Rooth Varland and
Sigurd Johnsons
Anne Zarlring
John Wheeler and
Emily Williams-Wheeler

* In-Kind Donation

Board Members

TAP's work could not happen without dedicated board members who adopt sound, ethical and legal governance and financial management policies and make sure the nonprofit has adequate resources to advance its mission.

*An * indicates a Primary Arts Partner.*

2023 – 2024 Board Members

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Cairn Reisch, Vice Chair
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Razor, Artist and Gallery 4

Jillain Veil-Ehnert*, Secretary
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Aaron Hill
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Artist

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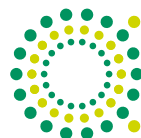
Dr. Marsha Weber
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Staff

Tania Blanich
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1104 2nd Ave S, Suite 315
Fargo, ND 58103
701.237.6133
theartspartnership.net