

The Arts Partnership Fiscal 2024 Annual Report

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Agnes Blawie".

Executive Director
The Arts Partnership

Message from the Executive Director

Annual reports may seem somewhat old fashioned, but at The Arts Partnership, we feel they provide an excellent summary that succinctly illustrates what we've accomplished in the past year and where we're headed.

We also hope this report helps donors see the impact of their contributions — and, more importantly, to know that their generosity is appreciated.

The process of compiling this report each year allows TAP's staff and board to take stock of the past year and to evaluate the effectiveness of our work, so that we can adjust and improve.

One accomplishment from the past year stands out: the Board's adoption of a fourth core value. That value — *advance equitable access to and inclusion through the arts* — reflects our belief that the arts can lead the way to making all in our community feel welcome and valued. It also will serve as an ongoing reminder to the board and staff to work consciously and deliberately to make our programs equitable and inclusive — and to encourage our Primary Arts Partners and other colleagues in the arts sector to do the same.

Thank you to our Partners, donors, funders and participating businesses for supporting local art and encouraging The Arts Partnership to continue cultivating community through the arts.

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.
- Advance equitable access to and inclusion through the arts.



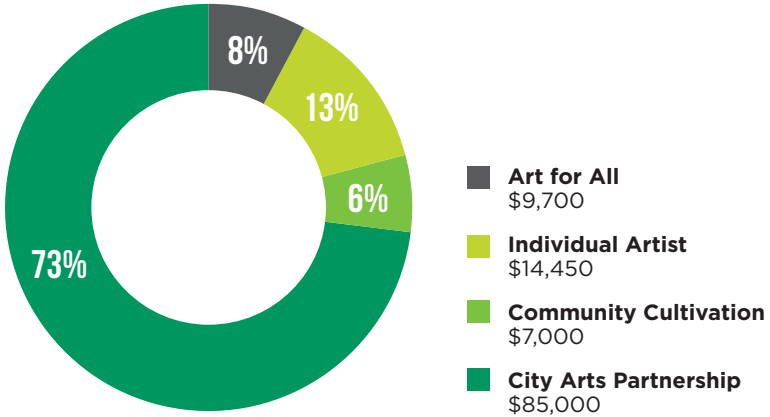
The Year in Review

The following highlights the work of The Arts Partnership for Fiscal 2024, from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Grants

Through our grant programs, TAP invests in the overall health and success of the local arts sector and, ultimately, the health and success of our community. In addition to awarding grants to arts nonprofits, over the years we have established grants to individual artists (in 2012) and health-and-human services organizations wishing to incorporate the arts into their mission-related work (in 2022). During the past year, we convened former panelists, grantees, arts advocates and board members to review each of the grant programs. That review resulted in simplifying the application process while maintaining its rigor. The 2024 Grantees are listed on pages 8 and 9. theartspartnership.net/programs/grants

\$116,150 IN FY24 GRANTS



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

Aptitude

The artist studios and kiln room housed at West Acres provide a nurturing, inspired and collaborative art space. Aptitude primarily functions as a creative space, but the artists open their studios to the public during occasional art markets. The artists represent a wide range of artistic and creative genres, from painters to printmakers, photographers, ceramicists and jewelry makers. Dedicated studios provide quiet, less chaotic space for artists to tap into their creativity - and keeping the studios reasonably priced means that even artists starting out in their careers can afford them. The lack of other, affordably priced studios in our community means that there is always a waiting list for Aptitude. Current studio artists can be found at theartspartnership.net/arts-hub/aptitude-creative-arts-studios

**CREATING
SPACE FOR
INSPIRATION**

6,191
Square feet
of creative space

18
Artist studios

5
Years housed at
West Acres

ArtWORKS

ArtWORKS provides a unique opportunity to bring art into the public realm. Its focus: cultivate work environments where creativity thrives and enhances the lives of staff, clients and customers. ArtWORKS installs 4 rotating art exhibits in each participating venue on an annual basis. Employers appreciate that the exhibits spark conversation — and connection — among employees. Participating artists receive a stipend (totaling \$11,500 in Fiscal 2024). They also have the opportunity to sell their work, receiving 100% of the sale.

theartspartnership.net/programs/artworks



A painting by Kim Bromley installed in a family office.

CULTIVATING APPRECIATION FOR ART IN THE WORKPLACE

21

Participating venues

26

local artists featured in ArtWORKS exhibits

12

Number of public mini-concerts at Hector International Airport

\$45,000+

In art sales/commissions since 2014

CONNECTING THE ARTS AND THE COMMUNITY



365

NUMBER OF DAYS TAP PUBLICLY COMMUNICATED ABOUT LOCAL ART



15,000

ESTIMATED REGULAR READERS, SUBSCRIBERS AND SOCIAL FOLLOWERS OF TAP



52

ARTS ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THE FORUM

Communications

TAP promotes a creatively enriched community through our communication efforts. Those efforts translate to arts advocacy on a grand scale. We reach tens of thousands over the course of the year through a wide array of mediums. Those include providing a weekly article on the arts for *The Forum*, producing the *Connecting the Dots* e-newsletter, blogs, videos and maintaining an active social media presence.

Community Supported Art (CSA)

The CSA program introduces arts supporters to local artists and helps build audiences and consumers for their work. Those who purchase a season share receive custom-created pieces of art and performances ranging from harpists to ska bands, plus outstanding culinary experiences over three events held in May, July and September. Artists and performers receive a substantial stipend for their participation, which often has allowed them the freedom to explore new subject matter or techniques. In 13 CSA seasons, featured artists, performers and artist groups have earned stipends totaling \$116,000.

theartspartnership.net/programs/community-supported-art



Russ Peterson, saxophone; Eduard Teregulov, cello; and Albina Khaliapova, piano perform for the shareholders at the Rourke Art Museum in May 2024.



Shareholders of all ages enjoy the events — Leah Thompson and her grandmother Debra Thompson with an encaustic artwork by CSA artist Karena Ness.

GROWING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ART

41

Season 2024 shareholders

13

Seasons of CSA — the longest-running arts CSA in the country

93+

Artists, artisans and performers over 13 seasons

Fiscal Sponsorship

The Arts Partnership offers artists and arts groups the opportunity to share our nonprofit status for an arts-related project or to work towards arts nonprofit status of their own. This opportunity allows those being fiscally sponsored to receive grants and tax-exempt donations. Fiscal sponsorship is not meant to be a permanent solution for the sponsoree; most agreements are for 1-2 years. TAP takes a modest fee to manage the funds.

COLORED CAPITAL ENTERTAINMENT

Colored Capital Entertainment, a content creation-based organization, became a fiscal sponsoree this past year. Colored Capital was created to provide young people with training and an introduction into the vast world of opportunities presented by the media arts. It also provides an outlet for telling stories from within our community that may not otherwise be heard. The organization is making a documentary about the Liberian civil war and how years after the war in this small country ended, it continues to affect those who participated in it and the next generation.



Participants in the two-day Videos in Color workshop. Photo courtesy Colored Capital Entertainment.

Primary Arts Partners

The *Partnership* part of TAP's name reflects the dozens of nonprofit arts and culture organizations, individual artists and others that serve as representatives of our local arts and culture community and are TAP's boots-on-the-ground arts contingent. Each of our Partners contributes to creative placemaking in Cass and Clay Counties. Our Partners sustain and nurture a community where creativity thrives and enhances the lives of our citizens. That is why we advocate for and communicate about them, and provide financial and advisory resources to them. Current Partners are listed on page 7. theartspartnership.net/partners



Some of TAP's Primary Arts Partners gathered at the State of the Arts Event. Photo courtesy of Anna Paige, *The Forum*



State of the Arts

The State of the Arts, hosted by TAP in June, celebrated the arts within our community — and the vital role they play in the economic strength of our community. For the 2024 event, we invited colleagues from the business and academic sectors to participate in a panel discussion about the value of business and the arts working together. The panel, moderated by Charley Johnson, President & CEO of the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau, featured: Kathryn Birkeland, Dean of the NDSU Business School; Cairn Reish, community liaison for Marvin; and Shelley Szudera, AVP Marketing & Branding for Choice.



Caption: Katherine Birkeland (left) and Cairn Reisch (right) during the panel. Photo courtesy of Anna Paige, *The Forum*

“Culture is in the middle of a healthy workplace experience, and culture is synonymous with art.”

— Cairn Reisch, Marvin

Fiscal 2024 Financials

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

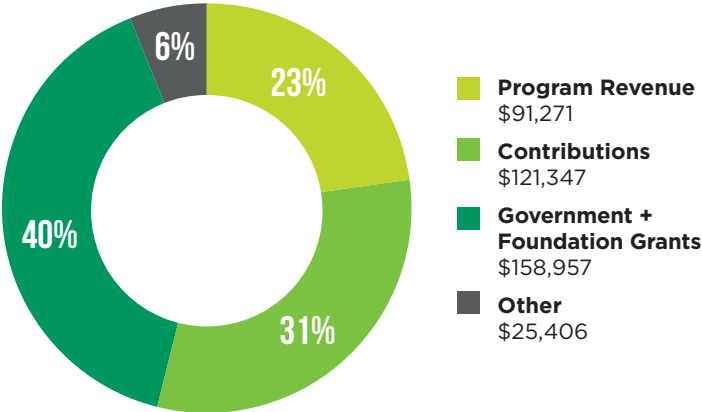
Revenue

Grants and Government Funding	
Tri-Cities	\$125,000
State Government	\$9,547
Foundations	\$24,500
Total	\$158,957
Contributions	
Business Donations	\$33,406
Individuals	\$87,941
Total	\$121,347
Program, Event and Earned Revenue	\$91,271
Other	\$25,406
Total Revenue	\$396,981

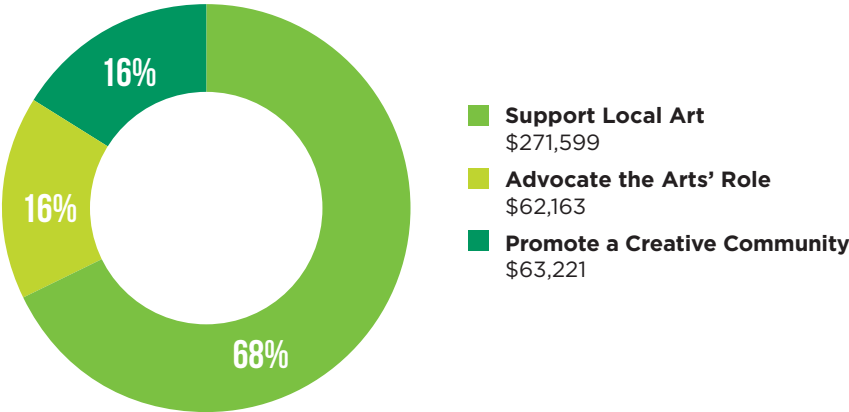
Expense

Support Local Art	\$271,599
Advocate the Arts' Role	\$62,163
Promote a Creative Community	\$63,221
Total Expense	\$396,981

Where Our Income Comes From



What it Supports



Primary Arts Partners

For more information about our current Partners visit theartspartnership.net/partners.

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Act Up Theatre
Angels of the Muse
Cass Co ND Historical Society
City of Fargo
Colored Capital Entertainment
CreativeMornings
Crooked Lane Farm Folk School
Dakota Fine Art
Fargo Theatre
Fiber Arts Festival
FM Area Music Club
FM Area Youth Symphonies
FM Ballet
FM Choral Artists
FM Community Theatre
FM Opera
FM Quilters
FM Symphony
FM Visual Artists
FM Youth Choir
Gallery 4, Ltd
Gooseberry Park Players
Historical and Cultural Society
of Clay County
Kicks Jazz Band of FM
Lake Agassiz Development Group
Learning Bank
Memorial Union Gallery - NDSU
Moorhead Friends Writers Group
MSUM College of Arts and
Humanities
NDSU College of Arts and Sciences
NDSU College of Business
New Horizons Band
Nordic Culture Clubs
NP Botanic Garden Society
Plains Art Museum
Prairie Public Broadcasting

Red River Valley Woodcarvers
Red River Watercolor Society
Rourke Art Gallery Museum
Theatre B
Trollwood Performing Arts School

ARTISTS

Alicia Hauff Studio
Amanda Frost Creations
Amber Dreamcatcher/Amber
Mattson
Amanda Heidt
Andersen Studio/Kenneth Andersen
Anna Johnson
Annie G. Photography
Annie Hough
Ashley Kunz
Bachmeier Pottery/Brad Bachmeier
Biblio Trek/Mark Elton
Billie Jean Kitzman
Bob Schlomann
Brandi Malarky/It's All Malarky
Callie Stadem
Cameron Peterson
Carol Schlossman
Caw & Claw/Steph Norton
Christina Johnson
Crystal Gilson
Dakota Brass Ensemble/
Golden Blend
Dan Christianson
Dan Koeck Photography
Dandelions & Dice/Nicole Nistler
Dayna Del Val
Delia Touché
Emily Vieweg
Eric A. Johnson/Big Oak Press
Fermie Studios/Tara Fermoyle
Hope Thier Art

Isaiah Johns Fine Art &
Photography
Jacqueline Anderson
jemstone junkie/Megan Theisen
Jennifer Paulsrud
Jenny Sue/Jennifer Nelson
John Paulsen
Jon Solinger
Karena Ness
Kari del Rio
Karman Rheault - SnowFire Studio
Kary Janousek/Old School Collodian
Kathy Freese
Kent Kapplinger
Kevin Carollo
KT Fine Arts/Kayla Due
Lacey Gilles/Artistic Adventure
Company
Linda Boyd Artworks
Lonna Whiting
Lowell Wolff/Dreamcatcher Images
Lynn Fundingsland
Marcella Rose/Rose Gallery
Marjorie Schlossman
Mark Holter/Atomic Luchador
Studio
Matthew Patnode/Boreas Trio
Max Johnk
Meg Spielman Studio
Megan Johnson
Michael Dunn/Studio D
Mitchel Hoffart Art
Nancy Baier
Oakies' Art & Photography
Rachel Brandt
Richard Worae
Ricot Aladin
Rising Dawn Ceramics/Kelsey
Williams

Rogne Fine Art
Ryan Clancy
Sarah Morrau
Scott Seiler Photography
Silver Winds Flute Quartet
Solsaa/Bridget Solsaa
Stephanie Manesis
Steve Revland
Steven Hammer
Tea Made/Emily Brooks
The Wicked Bees
Tim Lamey Studios
Trudy Stubson/Living Art Gallery
Tylar Frame
W. Scott Olsen
Yellow Chair Press/Jenny Junker

BUSINESSES AND OTHERS

Choice Bank
Chris Hahn Illustration, LLC
Element Fargo
FBS
Forum Communications Co
Hector International Airport
Luna Restaurant
Marvin
Red River Valley Design, LLC
Fargo Park District
FM Convention & Visitors Bureau

**COLLABORATING FOR
EVERYONE'S GROWTH
AND SUCCESS**

2024 Grantees

2024 City Arts Partnership (CAP) Grants \$85,000 to 17 Organizations

CAP Grants provide general operating support to our community's mid-sized to largest arts-and-culture nonprofits. We know how challenging it is to find general operating support, so The Arts Partnership provides unrestricted grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000 to the community's pillar arts organizations. Funded by the Cities of Fargo and West Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN.

Fargo Theatre.....	\$ 10,000
FM Area Youth Symphonies.....	\$4,500
FM Choral Artists	\$4,500
FM Opera Company	\$5,000
FM Symphony Orchestra	\$6,500
FM Visual Artists.....	\$3,250
FM Youth Choir	\$3,750
Gooseberry Park Players.....	\$3,500
Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County.....	\$7,500
Kicks Band of Fargo Moorhead.....	\$4,750
Master Chorale of Fargo Moorhead.....	\$3,000
Plains Art Museum.....	\$5,500
Rourke Art Gallery and Museum.....	\$3,500
Spirit Room	\$3,000
Stage West	\$7,000
Theatre B.....	\$4,750
Trollwood Performing Art School.....	\$5,000

**Funding for
creative growth
and inspiration**

2024 Community Cultivation Grants \$7,000 to 7 Organizations

The Community Cultivation Grants provide program and project support to arts-and-culture nonprofits in our community. The grant awards range from \$500 to \$2,500 and support arts nonprofits or entities that are part of a larger organization, for example, a university art department. Funded by the Cities of Fargo and West Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN.

Angels of the Muse.....	\$500
Concordia College Vocal Jazz	\$1,500
Edvard Grieg Society of North Dakota.....	\$500
Learning Bank	\$1,500
Memorial Union Gallery, North Dakota State University	\$1,500
Prairie Public Broadcasting.....	\$1,000
Sing from Your Heart.....	\$500

Art for All Grants \$9,750 to 6 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 invest 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.

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley.....	\$1,750
ESHARA.....	\$1,750
Indigenous Legacy	\$1,750
Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity	\$1,750
New American Consortium for Wellness and Empowerment	\$1,750
Red River Human Services Foundation.....	\$950

Individual Artist Grants | \$14,450 to 10 Artists

These grants assist artists in realizing their artistic visions. Grantees represent a range of career stages, from emerging to well-established artists, and artistic disciplines, from musicians to writers to visual artists and more. We hope these grants serve as the rock dropped in a pond, with the ripples extending well beyond the specific project into the artist’s future practice. Funded by individual donors, the Susie Yakowicz Creative Arts Scholarship Fund of the FM Area Foundation, a Moorhead PEO Chapter and the Erin Koffler Memorial Fund.

Ryan Clancy, filmmaker.....	\$1,600
Kari Del Rio, musician.....	\$2,000
Dayna Del Val, writer	\$1,500
Tylar Frame, photographer	\$1,250
Kathy Freese, ceramicist	\$1,600
Stephen Hammer, musician.....	\$1,250
Amanda Heidt, printmaker/weaver	\$1,250
Stephanie Manesis, filmmaker	\$1,000
W. Scott Olsen, writer/photographer.....	\$1,000
Delia Touché, visual artist	\$2,000

**\$1.835 million to
#supportlocalart
in the past 20
years**

555
grants to
arts-and-culture
organizations

142
grants to artists

31
grants for
art projects



2024 Individual Arts Partnership Grantees:

Top row, L-R: Ryan Clancy, Kari Del Rio, Dayna Del Val, Tylar Frame, Kathy Freese
Bottom row, L-R: Stephen Hammer, Amanda Heidt, Stephanie Manesis, W. Scott Olsen, Delia Touché

Our Funders

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Government Support



Business and Foundation Donors



Bell Bank | Rustic Oaks* | Sandy's Tax Services

**Bernie's Wine's and Liquors | Moorhead PEO | Eide Balley Employee Matching Gifts
Off Color Productions | Sir Speedy***

*Indicates an in-kind donation

Our Donors

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

\$5,000 — \$20,000

Julie Blehm
David Hasbargen and
Wayne Zimmerman
Shirley and Bob
Montgomery
Kendra and Matt O'Brien

\$2,000 — \$4,999

Mark and Gwen Halaas
Sally McCravey and
Philip Henry
Shirley Nelson
Shyla and Josh Thompson
Susie Yakowicz Creative
Arts Scholarship Fund

\$1,000 — \$1,999

Jane and Thomas Ahlin
Steve and Amy Baenen
Tania Blanich
Tracey and Richard
Moorhead
Kathleen Neugebauer
Cairn Reisch
Karman and Mark Rheault
Muriel and Joe Richardson
Carol and Brad Schlossman
Scott Seiler
Melissa Tomlinson and
Rachel Asleson
Jane Winston and Roger
Grimm

\$500 — \$999

Julie Burgum
Betsy and Jon Ewen
Noah Ford-Dunker
Joan Justesen
Austin and Laura Morris

Marcia and Ken Retzer
William Roden
Carol and Kent Rogne
Gina Sandgren
Karen Stoker
Shelley Szudera and Kurt
Kopperud
Jillain Veil-Ehnert

\$250 — \$499

Jennifer and Jeff Anderson
Anonymous
Margie and Richard Bailly
Cynthia and David
Baumgardner
Patricia and Burton Belknap
Melissa Burkland
Barbara and Jim Call
Shelly and Ron Carlson
Rose Dunn
Deb and Scott Johnson
Maureen and Martin
Jonason
Angelique Kube and
Barry Scribner
Barry and Sandra Kutzer
Karin and Jim Luchsinger
Roger Minch
Martha Moore
Gene and Rennitta
Okerlund
Susan and Daniel Pederson
Eric Peterson
Nelson and Denis Richardson
Charitable Fund
Sandy Thiel
Rooth Varland and Sigurd
Johnson
Ene and Nick Vogel
Jeff Walkinshaw

\$150 — \$249

Valerie Axt
Brad and Sue Bachmeier
Emily and Bill Brooks
Susan and Reid Curtis
Mary Dahl
Louise and Bernie Dardis
Dayna Del Val and
Mazz Marry
Barbara and Robert Deraas
Nikkie Gullickson
David Hamilton and
Bernie Erickson
Roy and Peggy Hammerling
Aaron Hill
Gwen Hoberg and Bruce
Ringstrom, Jr.
Charley and Mary Johnson
Virginia and Rick Johnson
Tim and Nancy Kelly
Michal and Chuck Lang
Don Larew
Tim and Anne McLarnan
Michael Olson
Jennifer Paulsrud
Larry Peterson and Mary
Struck
Robert and Nancy
Schlomann
Marjorie Schlossman and
Ivan Weir
Anne Thurmer
Anne Zarling

Under \$150

Kim and John Baird
Carmen and Bill Biddle
Alyson and Mark Bjornstad
Tamara Blanich
Joshua Boschec

Ann Braaten
John Britton and Linda
Winters
Pamela Burns
Jim and Cheri Buus
Jane Linde Capistran
Patty Corwin
Maddie and Zach Craig
Virginia Dambach
Marcy Dronen
Paula Eckman
Genevieve Eidem
Sue and Clay Ellingson
Jay Evans
Chelsey and Michael Ewen
Tyler Fischbach
Rebecca Fisher
Erin Gillette +
Danielle Gravon
Zhimin Guan
Debra Haarsager
Paul Harris and LuAnn
Hagel
Mitch Hoffarth and Karen
Olson
Stanley Hogleund
Darren Huber ++
Thomas Jefferson
Amy and Tim Johnson
Anna and Susan Johnson
Jo and Don Kilander
Theodore Kleiman
Jeff Knight and Crystal
Cosette Knight
Cathy Knutson +++
Lori and Hardy Koenig
Stephanie Kost
Shirley Leiphon
Paul and Kathy Lindquist
John and Jeanine Machacek

Dan Mahli
Stephanie Manesis
Danica McDonald
Christi McGeorge
Dwight Mickelson
Pamela O'Leary
Sara Owens-Granger
Sandra and Joseph Payne
Joni Janz Peterson
Jill and Greg Post
Beth and James Postema
Ann and Tom Riley
Ron and Nancy Saeger
Sheri and James Schrock
Kay Schwartzwalter and
Paul Gleye
John and Sherri Stern
Jen and Derek Swenson
Diane Szudera
Lynn Tkachuk
Lonna Whiting and Kevin
Carollo
Carl Wichman

+ In memory of Patricia Fillmore
++ In memory of Sharon Huber
+++ In memory of Nelson Richardson

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

Shyla Thompson, Chair
Microsoft

Tyler Fischbach
FMWF Chamber

Cairn Reisch, Vice Chair
Marvin

Dr. Danielle Gravon*
Plains Art Museum

Scott Seiler*, Treasurer
Razor, Artist and Gallery 4

Aaron Hill
Goldmark Commercial Real Estate

Jillain Veil-Ehnert*, Secretary
Concordia College

Anna Johnson*
Artist

Shelley Szudera, Past Chair
Choice Financial

Dr. Christi McGeorge
North Dakota State University

Melissa Burkland
United States Attorney's Office

2024 — 2025 Board Members

Cairn Reisch*, Chair
Marvin

Anna Johnson*
Artist

Scott Seiler*, Vice-Chair
and Secretary
Razor, Artist and Gallery 4

Shelley Szudera*
Choice Financial

Tyler Fischbach
FMWF Chamber

Shyla Thompson
Microsoft

Dr. Danielle Gravon*
Plains Art Museum

Jack Yakowicz
AdShark

Staff

Tania Blanich
Executive Director

Christina Johnson
Project Manager

Lonna Whiting
Communications



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