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Arts, culture and creativity make us stronger—as individuals, families, communities and as a state. State funding for arts, culture and creativity is a high return investment that benefits every Michigander, forming a backbone for innovation, prosperity and thriving people and places.

Arts, culture and creativity also strengthen the fabric of Michigan’s communities, from rural towns to big cities. They help us celebrate both cherished and new traditions, telling stories of people and places. They promote connection and cohesion. They foster the entrepreneurial spirit communities need to thrive and create the kinds of communities where young and old want to build their lives. And at all stages of life, they foster people’s creativity, enabling them to find innovative solutions to problems and generate new ideas in every field.

Organizations across the state provide experiences that make living together a source of pleasure and inspiration. Every day I feel fortunate to be a part of the amazing team at the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, supporting the arts, culture and creativity in our communities.

Alison Watson
Director
Michigan Arts & Culture Council
ABOUT MACC
Since 1966, the State of Michigan has recognized the value and importance of a vibrant arts and cultural sector. The Michigan Arts and Culture Council was established to maintain and nurture its cultural and artistic riches.

The Council reaffirms and believes in our enabling doctrine:

- Arts and culture enrich our lives and are vital to the well-being of our society.
- Arts and culture bring important benefits to Michigan’s economy, to our efforts to attract business to this state and to our tourism industry.
- Arts education is a critical part of the education of our youth in that it opens new worlds to them, encourages creativity and presents opportunities for careers.
VISION
The Council envisions a Michigan where communities celebrate creative expression and every person has access to, or participates in, arts and cultural experiences.

MISSION
The Council guides the distribution of resources to ensure that Michigan communities thrive from the civic, economic, and educational benefits of arts and culture.

BELIEFS
The Council believes that government has a responsibility to ensure public access to arts and culture through the state, and because of that belief:

• The Council’s work will be rooted in equity, diversity, access and inclusion because all should have the opportunity to engage and feel welcome.
• The Council’s work to champion arts, culture and creative expression is public and belongs to every person who lives in and visits our state.
• The Council’s work will be transparent, fair and ethical.
• The Council will work in the spirit of collaboration and build strong alliances; greater impact is made when we work together.

While arts and culture are woven throughout all aspects of life, the Council will focus its primary efforts on four core activities:

• Civic Engagement
• Economic Development
• Education
• Council Engagement
COUNCIL MEMBERS/STAFF

Council Members:
- Gretchen Gonzales Davidson, Chair, Birmingham
- Darryl Brown, St. Ignace
- Cezanne Charles, Detroit
- Julie Egan, Detroit
- Nheena Ittner, Marquette
- Jooi Jung, Detroit
- Anessa Kramer, Bloomfield Hills
- Deborah Mikula, Howell
- Jessica Care Moore, Detroit
- Amy Spadafore, Saginaw
- Ara Topouzian, Farmington Hills
- Esther Triggs, Interlochen
- Rhonda Welsh, Troy
- Germaine Williams, Detroit
- Kate Yancho, Kalamazoo

Council Staff:
- Alison Watson, Director
- Alex Flannery, Program Manager
- Jeff Garrett, Program Manager, Accessibility Coordinator
- Jackie Lillis-Warwick, Program Manager
- Ashley Minarik, Finance and Compliance
- Chad Swan-Badgero, Program Manager
- Adam Wheater, Finance and Compliance
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We believe that sharing creative experiences and expressing creativity builds powerful connections with others, our community, our world and ourselves.

Success Story: Ewen – Trout Creek School
Grant Awarded: Minigrant Arts Project $4,000

Every year since 2014, the Visitor Center Artist Camp (VCAC) in Ewen, Michigan, accepts artists from around the country for a two-week Artist in Residency. The purpose of this residency is to live and work simply and collectively and to create artwork in close relationship with the natural environment. An annual feature of this Residency, and a MACC-funded Minigrant Project, is a free, public, drop-in pottery workshop and mini art festival titled “A Day in Clay” held at the Ewen-Trout Creek School.

The Residency clay artists prepare locally sourced clay before the event and then assist VCAC staff in teaching the public to make their own custom piece of pottery. “A Day in Clay” brings people of all ages and backgrounds together for an experience full of joy and cultivates relationships within the community as well as between locals and artists from around the country. Participants are led through a series of stations where they observe in real life or via video the Residency artists complete the pottery making process from start to finish. Participants can hand build their own functional mug or bowl complete with their choice of patterns, stamps and/or textured surfaces. At the final station, participants choose a glaze color and then leave their piece for drying and firing to be picked up the following week.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We believe investing in the creative ecosystem and raising public awareness of its impact on our collective well-being stimulates Michigan’s economy, cultivates community vitality and enhances quality of life.

Success Story: City of Flint
Total grant investment: $333,185

Arts and culture are a positive economic driver and cultural hub for the city of Flint and the surrounding area, due in large part to state funding provided by the Council to local organizations, colleges, schools and municipal partners. The community is collaboratively working together to enrich the quality of life for the residents in the region through the development of high-quality productions, educational programming for all ages and a wide range of art exhibitions and cultural events.

With a history including lumbering, carriage manufacturing and the birthplace of General Motors, Flint is also known for its robust cultural center. The Flint Cultural Center Campus consists of several organizations serving not only the community, but organizations within Flint, Genesee County and beyond. The campus is home to the Flint Public Library, Flint Institute of Arts, Flint Institute of Music, The Whiting, Buick Gallery and Longway Planetarium.

On July 16, 2022, the newly renovated and expanded Sloan Museum Discovery Center opened to the public. The new Sloan Museum of Discovery and Longway Planetarium are overseen by the Flint Institute of Science and History (FISH). Nearly twice as large as the former space at 107,000 square feet, the new Sloan Museum has four primary hands-on learning galleries and an additional space for traveling exhibitions. It has been completely rebuilt into a state-of-the-art, hands-on science and history museum and reimagined as an inclusive center for education and history engaging communities.
Success Story: City of Flint
Total grant investment: $333,185

- 7th Judicial Circuit Court – Family Division: $16,000
- African Drum & Dance Parents Association: $15,000
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint: $10,000
- Buckham Fine Arts Project: $14,030
- El Ballet Folklórico Estudiantil: $16,530
- Flint Children’s Museum: $20,780
- Flint Cultural Center Corporation: $80,000
- Flint Handmade: $1,495
- Flint Institute of Arts: $20,780
- Flint Institute of Music: $1,750
- Flint Institute of Science & History: $20,780
- Flint Jewish Federation: $4,000
- Floyd J McCree Theatre: $16,280
- Genesee Area Focus Fund: $1,495
- Genesee District Library: $23,850
- Grand Blanc Choral Society: $4,000
- Greater Flint Arts Council: $22,280
- iMichigan Productions: $16,530
- Red Ink Flint: $22,280
- United Way of Genesee County: $2,000
- Vista Center: $3,325

We believe a lifelong education in music, visual arts, theatre, dance, literature and media empowers us to be well-rounded citizens, expands our ability to effectively communicate and provides us with 21st century job skills.

Success Story: Parchment School District, Kalamazoo
Grant awarded: Arts in Education, $16,000

Parchment Central Elementary successfully piloted the Focus on Aesthetic Education initiative in the 2021-22 school year, partnering with Kalamazoo RESA’s Education for the Arts program (KRESA-EFA) whose professional Teaching Artists led 24 hands-on AE lessons with all 12 classrooms at the school, preparing students to fully experience four performing and visual artworks throughout the 2021-22 school year.

In addition to KRESA, other community organizations involved and benefited from the program, including Miller Auditorium, Comstock Community Auditorium, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music.

This pilot was so much of a success that the district decided to implement this same program model at the district’s two other elementary schools next year. This means that every student across the entire district will receive this kind of in-depth education, from Young-5s to the 5th grade.

Teachers reported that students increased their ability to make connections to other content area and create meaning from their experiences with works of art. Principal Julie Kaemming noticed that over the year, students became more able to work cooperatively, solve conflicts more easily and articulate what they were learning through reflective thinking.
NEW LEADERS

Success Story: Northwest Michigan Arts and Culture Network, Traverse City
Grant Awarded: New Leaders, $4,000

Northwest Michigan Arts & Culture Network received an FY22 New Leaders grant award to create a new young leaders group that is led by and for young arts administrators, artists, creatives and culture bearers in northwest lower Michigan. This project included convening and forming young leaders as well as initiatives such as: monthly gatherings, exhibition/performance opportunities, targeted communications and opportunities to collaborate.

Targeted communications and opportunities to build relationships aid in collaboration, resource sharing and professional development while also giving voice and leadership representative of their age group.
RISING LEADERS

Rising Leaders is a rigorous and highly interactive leadership development initiative committed to the advancement of Michigan’s arts and cultural leaders. The program is designed and facilitated by the Council and Partners in Performance, the nation’s preeminent designer and facilitator of leadership development initiatives for the arts and culture sector.

“The connections facilitated between other young leaders in the state, the commitment by the arts council to invest in young leaders in the arts and the space to share insights, experiences and ideas for new ways of working with peers were truly the most valuable aspects of this program. More than anything I think the experience of participating in the program was as valuable as the content itself. Unlike other workshops and conferences, the small intimate size of the participant group did indeed lend itself to a richer learning environment.” – 2021-22 Rising Leader Alum

POETRY OUTLOUD

Poetry Out Loud (POL) is a national poetry recitation competition for high school students. Youth learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. Students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and cultivate a love for poetry. Participating high schools host their own competitions and select a student to represent their schools at the state finals.

A total of 19 schools took part in the 2021-2022 POL state finals. POL is a partnership with Michigan Humanities, the Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional support is provided by Meijer and the Liesel Litzenburger Meijer Fund.
GRANT AWARDS (FY22)

MACC used its state and federal appropriation to make 842 grant awards* in 72 of Michigan's 83 counties. *when regranting is included

Grants Awarded Directly: 516
Total Awarded: $11,708,825

Operational Support: 323, $6,578,258
Capital Improvement: 68 grants, $2,266,615
Services to the Field: 10 grants, $595,000
Project Support: 70, $1,130,418
Regional Partners: 16 grants, $883,350
New Leaders: 12 grants, $38,164
Arts in Education: 17 grants, $217,020

Working with our Regional Partners throughout the state, we were able to fund:

Touring Arts Program: 79 awards, $81,000 in 31 counties
Arts Equipment/Supplies Program: 17 awards, $23,315 in nine counties
Professional and Organizational Development Program: 67 awards, $81,618 in 25 counties
Field Trip Transportation Program: 10 awards, $4,060 in seven counties
Minigrant Arts Projects Program: 153 awards, $489,272 in 57 counties
Arts and culture – an essential part of the creative industries – contribute powerfully to the vibrancy of Michigan cities and communities, creating great places to live, work and visit, and destinations that attract talent and business investment.

Nonprofit arts and cultural organizations are vital contributors to the state’s economic, civic and educational fabric. They create jobs, stimulate dialogue and improve quality of life. This collection of data represents 368 nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, that have also applied for MACC funding for FY2023.

Financial Support breakdown:

- Private Foundation: $76,880,303
- Corporate Sector: $21,886,359
- Total Government Support: $122,272,377

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production accounts for $13,429,280,000 and 2.6% of the Michigan economy, contributing 106,003 jobs in 2020.

An interactive dashboard can be found here: https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/creative-economy-state-profiles/
To get involved or for more information on how the Council is impacting Michigan communities, visit Michigan.gov/arts

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov