The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs has, for more than 50 years, encouraged artists, organizations and communities to find their voice, to share their passion and to express themselves. Yet we have not taken our own advice. We haven’t done a good job of telling our own story. We have been quiet stewards of public funding, working to reach the four corners of the state.

I believe that arts, culture and creativity connect us, it is part of every person. It is essential to our foundation as a person, a community and a society. This is a message we should celebrate. As a Council, our desire is to work with you to ensure every citizen in Michigan is empowered to use his/her creativity in arts and culture to not only enrich their own lives, but ours as well.

In the coming years, the Council will spend more time building relationships, strengthening our role as a leader in the arts and cultural sector and telling our story differently. We want to ensure every community understands who we are, what we do and why we are doing it. Our priorities will be on strengthening our network and aligning ourselves with the people, organizations and sectors that have similar goals to ours.

Most importantly, the Council will be looking for ways to talk about the role that arts and culture plays in every area of our lives. Art is for art’s sake, yet the benefits of arts and culture are felt through our civic, economic and educational lives. We hope you will work with us as we all learn together how to navigate this new direction.

We encourage you to stay engaged. Share your stories on our social media channels using the hashtags #creatingconnectionmi and #mcacaarts. Ensure all people feel welcomed at your events, inside your walls, and that you are including their story in your own.

We have a fantastic future ahead of us.

Alison Watson
Director
About MCACA

Since 1966 with the creation of the Michigan Council for the Arts, the State of Michigan has recognized the value and importance of a vibrant arts and cultural sector. On August 28, 1991 the Governor by Executive Order created The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (the Council) to maintain and nurture its cultural and artistic riches. Today, 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 every citizen celebrates the state’s cultural treasures and arts and cultural experiences are accessible to all its citizens.

Mission

From our historic monuments and museums to traditional practices and contemporary arts, the Council is dedicated to ensuring that every citizen and community in Michigan enjoys the civic, economic and educational benefits of arts and culture.

Beliefs/Values

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

- The benefit of the Council’s activity is public, belonging to every citizen as we champion arts and cultural organizations, initiatives and artists in the state.
- Council programs will be rooted in equity, access and inclusion, because all should have the opportunity to engage in programming and feel welcomed.
- The work of the Council will be transparent, fair and ethical.

Core Pillars

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

1. Civic Engagement
2. Economic Development
3. Education

The Council has highlighted a success story of a 2019 grant recipient that most aligns with each of the core pillars on the following pages.
Civic Engagement

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

Success story: Living Arts Detroit

Grant awarded: Operational Support $24,000

Living Arts is a nonprofit organization that engages Detroit youth, teachers and families in transformative experiences in the performing, visual, literary and media arts. Through artist residencies in schools across Detroit and robust out-of-school offerings focused in Southwest Detroit, Living Arts increases youth’s academic achievement, develops their leadership and artistic skills, and strengthens schools and communities.

The Living Arts’ team of 40 professional teaching artists served 3,180 students (up 600 over the previous year), 398 educators and 430 parents/caregivers. Public performances reached more than 850 additional community members.

Our gifted teaching artists brought Detroit’s youth arts experiences that cultivated critical and creative thinking, improved their social-emotional skills, and prepared them to better meet the academic and societal issues they face each day in school and in life.

— Alissa Novoselick, Executive Director
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 the quality of life.

Success story: City of Alpena

Total grant investment: $116,980

- Alpena High School - $12,750
- Besser Male Chorus of Alpena, Inc. - $2,460
- Boys and Girls Club of Alpena - $5,148
- Northeast Michigan Center for Fine Arts, Inc. (Art in the Loft) - $31,500
- Thunder Bay Arts Council, Inc. - $12,500
- Thunder Bay Theatre, Inc. - $52,622

Art in the Loft’s R.E.A.C.H. (Recognize Everyone’s Abilities and Creative Hearts) program partners with Alpena High School as part of a MCACA grant to provide a hands-on experience in the visual and culinary arts for students with special needs. The 15-week series culminates with the creation of a student published cookbook that teaches skills such as photography, graphic design and creative writing.

One of the students put their R.E.A.C.H. programming on their resume and got a job. This program helped this student gain more independence so he could move into the next chapter of his life.

- Justin Christensen-Cooper, Executive Director, Art in the Loft.

Arts and culture have become an economic driver for the city of Alpena and the surrounding area due in large part to state funding provided by MCACA to local arts organizations. The arts 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 exhibits and cultural events.

Alpena has a rich heritage as an industrial town. Yet with a growing arts and cultural sector, Alpena is diversifying its economy, building a vibrant community, creating jobs and attracting professional talent into the area.

Alpena’s arts and cultural organizations:

- Welcomed 21,032 visitors
- Programmed 723 events
- Had 139 volunteers or served on their boards
- Employed and/or contracted with 64 people
- Had annual revenues of $575,727
- Had annual expenses of $522,501

Source: DataArts, FY17, compiled from data profiles for Northeast Michigan Center for Fine Arts, Inc. (Art in the Loft), Thunder Bay Theatre and Thunder Bay Arts Council
It’s an honor to receive this grant. This residency is an opportunity for students to learn about world cultures through music, and it helps me refine my teaching skills.

- Lorne Watson, professional percussionist and music educator

**Education**

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: Gladstone Area Public Schools**

Grant awarded: Arts in Education: $8,194

The World Music and Percussion residency program brought professional percussionist and music educator Lorne Watson into Gladstone Area Public Schools for two months. Watson provided more than 100 hands-on music activities introducing students to the traditions from Cuba, Africa and Brazil.

The program engaged more than 1,500 students in the pre-K through 12th grade music classes across the school district.
Grant Awards
(FY 2019)

MCACA used its general fund appropriation* to make 1,053 grant awards in 76 counties out of Michigan’s 83 counties.

*when regranting is included

Grants awarded directly: 508 out of 600 applications
Total awarded: $10,815,000
Total requested: $18,713,653

Regranting Partners

Regional Regrantors
244 grants in 63 counties

Michigan Humanities Council
Touring Arts Program:
152 grants in 35 counties

Michigan Youth Arts Association
Art Equipment/Supplies Program:
51 awards in 26 counties
14,181 students impacted

Bus Trek Program:
98 awards in 44 counties
8,424 students took a field trip

Programs Receiving Grants

Operational Support
$5,403,797

Capital Improvement program
$2,906,722

Project Support
$980,848

Regional Regrantors
$702,000
SV: $193,845
RR: $508,155

Services to the Field
$560,000

Arts in Education
$261,633

14/14
Congressional Districts reached

38/38
Senate Districts reached

107/110
House Districts reached
Poetry Out Loud

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 learn about their literary heritage.

Participating high schools host their own competitions and select a student to represent their school at the state finals. A total of 33 schools took part in the 2018-19 POL state finals.

POL is a partnership with Michigan Humanities, MCACA, 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.

Rising Leaders

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

Over a six month period, 15 participants are chosen to participate in a series of activities that includes three intensives focusing on self-awareness and self-management, mutual influence and gaining tools to create communities and a state where everyone can experience and express creativity in their daily lives. The 15 participants chosen for the program come from all over the state and represent a wide variety of arts and culture organizations.

“Of the most impactful trainings I’ve ever attended; I feel like I’ve created lifelong, professional bonds with a cohort of people that I would never have found otherwise.”

- 2018-19 Rising Leaders Participant

Tajah-Rayne Davise of Calumet High School was named the 2019 Poetry Out Loud State Champion for Michigan
Creating Connection

Creating Connection is a national movement to change social norms so creative expression, arts and culture are embraced as a recognized, valued and expected part of everyday life. Read the data, access resources, share success stories or just get connected by visiting www.creatingconnection.org

At its core, art, culture and creativity is about connecting with other people whether that’s in a historical museum, concert hall, hometown festival or an afterschool program. MCACA, inspired by the tools offered by Creating Connection, has developed intimate, first-person stories about how creative expression brings us closer to other people, the community around us, and to ourselves.

Here are a few examples of the inspirational stories featured on www.michigan.gov/arts

Success Stories

Water Street Glassworks: Otis
African-American student from Benton Harbor makes stained glass art, friends and pocket money, while learning to take pride in himself and his hometown.

"It taught me leadership, that if I take the initiative and I apply myself that I can get those opportunities out there."

CultureWorks: Kat
Holland teen struggling with serious mental health issues uses her art to cope and to help others.

"I feel a lot more wanted when I’m here. People care about me. So I definitely have a lot more self-worth."

Girls Rock Detroit: Penny
Detroit girl, who has never touched a musical instrument, forms a band and performs for her community during a one-week summer camp.

"I found out that you could write songs that were about how you felt inside, that you could really express yourself."

Check out more unique and inspiring stories at www.michigan.gov/arts or using #creatingconnectionmi
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.

This collection of data represents 409 nonprofit arts and cultural organizations that have completed the cultural data profile in DataArts and have applied for and/or received MCACA funding in fiscal year 2017.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production accounts for $13,957,755,000 and 2.8 percent of the Michigan economy, contributing 130,040 jobs.

An interactive dashboard can be found at https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/creative-economy-state-profiles/

The Creative Sector: Statewide Snapshot (FY 2017)

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.

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These organizations:

- Engaged 685,855 youth in arts education based programs
- Have $696,205,998 in annual direct expenditures
- Provided 4,491,223 people with free admission
- Welcomed 19,159,805 visitors
- Have 5,189 people serving on their boards
- Programmed 171,324 events
- Provided 4,491,223 people with free admission
- Employed 31,197 people
- Had 58,852 volunteers

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production accounts for $13,957,755,000 and 2.8 percent of the Michigan economy, contributing 130,040 jobs.

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To get involved or for more information on how the Council is impacting Michigan communities, visit Michigan.gov/arts