

Madison Arts Commission



Untitled (2020) by Monique Karlen and La Follette and Middleton High School Students
Photo: Hedi LaMarr Photography

Projects, Programs, and Partnerships 2020 – 2022



The Madison Arts Commission (MAC) encourages artistic activities and initiates cultural programs that integrate, support, and advance arts and culture as an essential part of life in Madison. Working closely with arts and culture organizations, MAC supports the creative economy by providing grant funding, exhibition and performance opportunities, and organizing events where the public can experience Madison’s diverse arts and culture

To support a full creative life for all, the Madison Arts Commission commits to championing policies and practices of cultural equity that empower a just, inclusive, equitable city.



How Lovely Are Thy Branches by Lilian Sizemore;
Photo: Craig Wilson

“

The arts have always created space for civic conversation, and the job of public art is to unflinchingly tell the truths of the times we live in, in all its beauty, pain, injustice, joy, and hope for a better day. As trying as the past three years have been, let us continue to embrace the deeper understanding that public art is critical to – and an indicator of – our community’s well-being. With this report we will celebrate the tremendous drive and resilience of Madison Arts Commission’s members, city staff, and numerous local artists, who work to make Madison a vibrant and dynamic place to work and live.

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-Anna January, Chair, Madison Arts Commission

Letter from the Arts & Culture Administrator

We've always accomplished a lot together, but this time around, we outdid ourselves. Anna January, the Madison Arts Commission Chairperson said it perfectly, but on behalf of the City, as your Madison Arts & Culture Administrator, I want to add my thanks for everything our community has achieved in the last three years.

Everyone included in this report plays a vital part in Madison's striving, thriving, and ever-changing cultural ecology. You make our City better with every gig, exhibition, study, project, performance, screening, and story. Thank you to those who found the resources to keep going during a global pandemic; who took the show on the road and inspired us to keep our chins up during the wild scary

unknown; who transformed threats to our democratic values of equality and justice into meaningful expressions that gave us hope for a more inclusive and just future; who ran capital campaigns for more brick and mortar spaces for arts education, exhibitions, music, and making. Together we weave a fabric strong enough to hold our community's hopes, fears, grief, and celebrations.

I would like to offer a special shout out to those who directly support the work of the Madison Arts Commission (MAC). Thank you to the commissioners (past and present) who give a great deal of their "free" time to fulfill MAC's mission. The fundraising support of the Friends of the Madison Arts Commission (FoMAC), and the Silver Lining Awards they hosted, were an incredible boost to the work of MAC, and we cannot remember what we did without you. To my newest colleagues in arts and culture, Angela Puerta leading all things music, and Meri Rose Ekberg, the City's Community & Cultural Resources Planner – if Sisyphus had you two on his team that rock would be over the mountain already.

Thank you to all of our close colleagues: Bill Fruhling (the Boss), Mark Fitzgerald (Design & Photography), Rebecca Cnare (Placemaking & Urban Design), Lauren Heiser-Ertel & recently retired Ruth Ethington (right hands), and the numerous other City staff who reach out in partnership and support. It goes without saying that this job is a lot more fun with a Mayoral Administration and Common Council that support the arts. It means so much to me to be able to help create positive social change through the arts and I am endlessly grateful to work with all of you to serve the arts needs of this strong and energetic City.

Let's keep up the momentum until we are the cultural capital of the Midwest.



Karin Wolf
Arts & Culture Administrator
City of Madison



Silver Lining Awards 2022. Pictured from left to right: Meri Rose Ekberg, Karin Wolf, Angela Puerta;
Photo: Jane Quall



FRIENDS OF MADISON ARTS COMMISSION

The Friends of the Madison Arts Commission (FoMAC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2020 to support the Madison Arts Commission’s efforts to integrate and advance arts and culture as an essential part of life in Madison. FoMAC helps MAC overcome constraints that limit their ability to fulfill their mission, such as limited budgets, restrictions on fundraising, and prohibited spending on certain expenses.

The organization consists of a volunteer Board of Directors who contribute financially at various levels and who take an active part in MAC events. Founding board members include Leslee Nelson, Barb Schrank, and Nick Schweitzer. The current chair and co-chair of the Board are Cedric Johnson and Sarah Warner. Other current board members are Tim Gruber (secretary), Deja Mason, Kia Karlen (former chair), Maria Sobrido, and Donna Vance (treasurer).

Social Justice & Racial Equity Fund

Friends of the Madison Arts Commission created for art projects with an emphasis on racial equity and social justice. They will use these funds to create artistic opportunities for artists of color in the City of Madison. Support this effort at friendsofmadisonarts.org/social-justice-fund



A group of 2022 Silver Lining Award recipients.



Kia Karlen, former Co-Chair of FoMAC.
Photos: Jane Quall

Silver Lining Awards

Creativity was pushed to new lengths throughout 2020 & 2021. In May of 2022 the Madison Arts Commission partnered with FoMAC to host the Silver Lining Awards at Garver Feed Mill. The event honored 20 organizations for their creativity, dedication, and perseverance that brought silver linings to our city during the COVID-19 pandemic. Organization across the categories of Arts, Hospitality, and Community were honored with limited edition sculptures by artist TetraPAKMAN.

Utility Box Program

Utility Box Fund

Neighborhood demand to wrap utility boxes exceeds available resources. The Friends of Madison Arts Commission has supported many of the existing works through private fundraising. Interested in supporting the program? Donate at: friendsofmadisonarts.org

In 2016, the Madison Art Commission and the Downtown Coordinating Committee authorized a pilot to wrap City owned utility boxes with artwork. The highlights, encourages, and promotes local artists by giving them exposure in the public realm. There are currently more than 60 boxes wrapped throughout the city. Artists are paid a licensing fee for each artwork. Friends of the Madison Arts Commission raises funds to keep this popular program growing. In 2021 & 2022, they specifically supported adding 22 images from artists who participated in the 2020 State Street Mural Project. Learn more at friendsofmadisonarts.org/utility-boxes

2020 – 2022 Utility Box Artists

Terrence Adeyanju
Audifax
Melana Bass
Duane Bohlman
Bree Bregman
Nic Brown
Tony Catteruccia
Shiloah Symone Coley
Charlotte Cummins
Anwar Floyd-Pruitt
Lilada Gee
Mike Lroy
Keysha Mabra
Stefan Matioc
Richie Morales
Ciara Nash
Batenga Obuseh
Salt Rock
Sapphina Roller
Alice Traore
Triangulador
Xizhou Xie



In Bloom by Lilada Gee – Park & Johnson

Public Art &

Through the Public Art Program, the Madison Arts Commission facilitates and supports the work of artists to explore new ideas, foster dialog, and celebrate civic life.

MAC integrates public art into city infrastructure, while also stewarding historic works, and commissioning new works. MAC is committed to expanding the public art program to achieve a more equitable geographic distribution throughout the City and ensuring a diversity of artists and art forms are represented in Madison's visual landscape.

MAC builds the Madison Public Art Program through direct commissions for capital projects by way of the Percent for Art Ordinance and Capital Budget, and supports additional neighborhood based public art initiatives through the Art in Public Places Program (AIPP) and BLINK (temporary art projects).



CommuniTree illuminated in memory of artist Aaron Howard; Photo: Christopher Murphy



Fern Family by Sonia Valle

Percent for Art

The Percent for Art ordinance, passed in October of 2017, officially created a mechanism to increase the rate of our investment in public art. One percent of the city funds committed to any capital project exceeding \$5,000,000 are designated for public art.

In 2020 Madison's Percent for Art ordinance initiated its first projects for the Metro Transit Maintenance Facility project on East Washington Avenue and the Parking Structure for Village on Park.

2020 – 2022 Public Art & Placemaking Projects

Henrique Nardi, Triangulador, & Megan Wigton created *Madison For All* in 2020, a mural located at 2526 Monroe Street (with additional funding provided by property owner Liz Lauer)

Pinney Library Public Art, was completed in 2020, featuring works by Emily Balsley, Yeohnee Cheong, Tom Loeser and Jay Pascoe, and Michael Velliquette

Tony Catteruccia created the mural *Glimps* for address in Lisa Link Peace Park

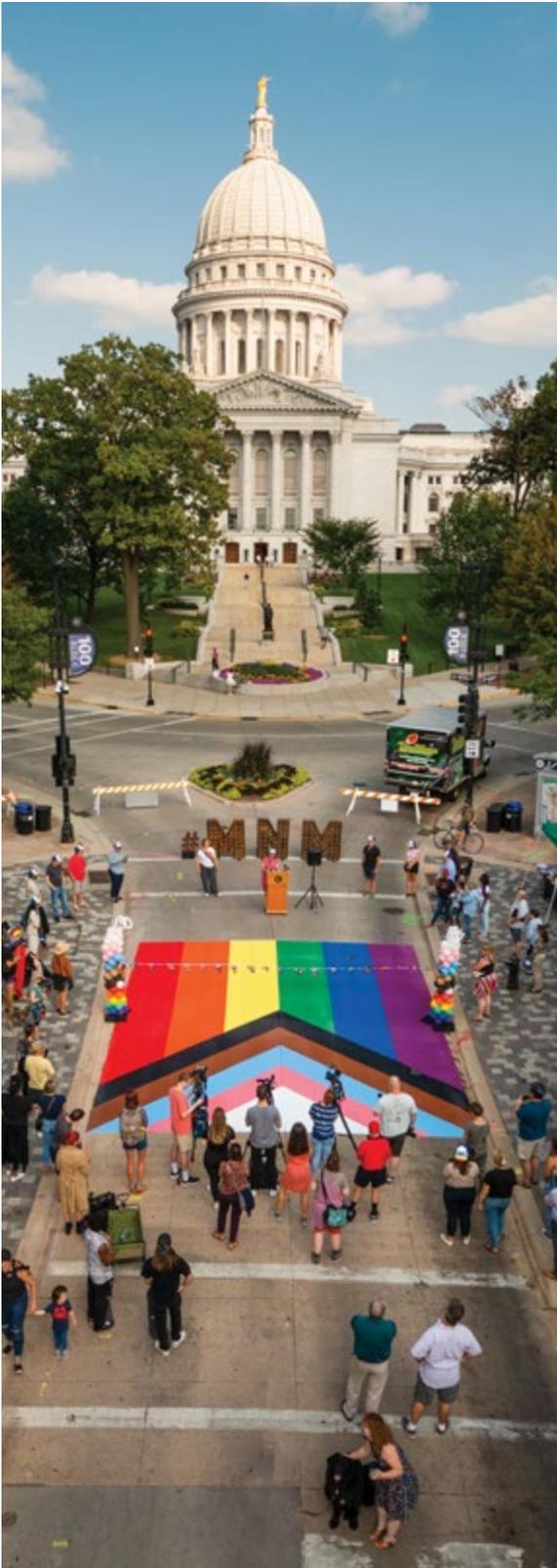
Shift by Julia Schilling was installed in 2021 along the Highland Avenue underpass below Campus Drive

Sonia Valle's *Fern Family* (2021), fabricated by Mike Burns (and landscaped in 2022 with funding from AARP)

CommuniTree (2014) by Erika Koivunen & Aaron Howard (1978–2021) was temporarily illuminated in October 2021 to commemorate Aaron's life and work

Madison's first intersectional pride rainbow street crossing, proposed by Alders Patrick Heck and former alder Lindsay Lemmer, was installed at the top of State Street in August 2022 (fully funded by private community donations via Friends of the Madison Arts Commission)

Placemaking



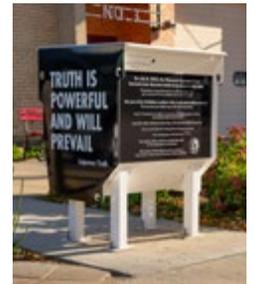
Ribbon cutting for Madison's first Rainbow Crossing, September 8, 2022; Photo by Ian DeGraff for *Our Lives* magazine.

Ballot Box

Following the Wisconsin Supreme Court's July 8, 2022 decision banning most ballot drop boxes in the state, the City of Madison quickly posted notices on its 14 absentee ballot drop boxes noting the closure and detailed instructions on how voters can return their absentee ballots under the new ruling. In the face of the erosion of voting rights, the City of Madison shrouded the defunct ballot drop boxes in the artwork of internationally known artist Jenny Holzer, who quoted Sojourner Truth's words "Truth is powerful and will prevail" to offer a hopeful message to our community.



Ballot Box 2020



Ballot Box 2022, artwork by Jenny Holzer



Madison For All (2020) by Henrique Nardi, Triangulador, & Megan Wigton; Photo: Jim Escalante

Conservation

MAC uses funds from the Capital Budget, grants, and other sources to conserve and maintain the municipal collection. Recent projects by conservator Craig Deller include the Capitol Square Fountains (2005) by Sven Schuneman and Heidi Natura, *People's Pronouns* (2019) by Ray Chi, *Timekeeper* (1983) by Robert Curtis and *Madison Gateway* (2004) by Stephen Fischer.

In 2022 consultants, Andrzej Dajnowski and Jamie Morris, of Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studio (CSOS) worked with residents to explore options for conserving the Annie Stewart Fountain. MAC looks forwards to stewarding community conversations around what should happen with this iconic Vilas Park sculpture.



Full Body Spectrum by Ryan Hartman; Photo by artist.

Blink is an opportunity for experimental, ad hoc, temporary works of art to sprout up in the community – and vanish – leaving residents and visitors eager to see what Madison artists are going to do next. Madison neighborhoods are open canvases for temporary public art commissions.

2020 – 2022 Blink Projects

Garver Feed Mill, *Outside Looking In*, drive-by art exhibit
 Erika Koivunen/Acme Ironworks, *Birds*, sculptures in the Darbo-Worthington Neighborhood
 Keysha Mabra, *A Wish For Change*, mural located at 1944 E Washington Ave
 Anwar Floyd-Pruitt, *We Are Wisconsin*, installation in Worm Farm Institute's Farm/Art D'Tour
 YWCA Madison & Alicia Walters, *Black Thought Wall*, interactive community art installation & restorative space
 Jay Ramirez & Ryan Hartman, *Full Human Spectrum*, life-size sculpture representing all of humanity and celebrating the LGBTQ community
 Jenny Holzer's VOTE Campaign, text-based installations by world-renowned artist Jenny Holzer, in partnership with Curator Leah Kolb and UW-Madison design students (Instructor Henrique Nardi)
 Tim Cordon & Richard Jones/WI Network for Peace & Justice, *Votemobile*, social practice project to encourage voter registration and participation
 Darwin Black, *Salve*, pop-up dance & music performances

Matthew Vivirito, *Withdrawn*, sculpture made of local ash wood, temporary installation at Garver Feed Mill
 Lilian Sizemore, *How Lovely Are Thy Branches*, labyrinth constructed of discarded Christmas trees at Olbrich Park
 Angèle Nyberg, *To Hold You*, woven hammock sculpture at James Madison Park
 Helen Lee, *The Circular*, mobile public art space on a bike trailer
 Angela Johnson, *Moving through time and space: Nature is Healing*, installation of cyanotype fabric prints at Olbrich Gardens
 Madison Ballet, *Nutcracker Performance @ Fort McCoy*, special performances of *The Nutcracker* for Afghan refugees
 Aabaabikaawikwe, *Thrival Tools: On Indigenous Winter Survival and Brilliance*, a space for sharing cultural practices amongst Native peoples
 Latinos Organizing for Understanding and Development (LOUD), Latino Arts Strings, pop-up performances at 2022 Latino Art Fair

Black Women Artists Speak Panel Discussion

On September 20, 2022, the Madison Arts Commission presented the Black Women Artists Speak Panel Discussion at Madison College Goodman South campus.

The panel invited five Black women, creative artists to share their true experiences in Madison and what should be done to ensure equity and fairness in the Madison art scene. The discussion centered on ways in which art institutions, funders and philanthropic communities can be supportive. Panelists & Organizers included Poet Fabu, Prenicia Clifton, Charlotte Cummins, Annik Dupaty, Lilada Gee, Grace Rua, Catrina Sparkman, and Sonia Valle, and was sponsored in part by the Friends of the Madison Arts Commission.

The discussion was recorded and can be viewed at https://youtu.be/Sf_DmlKm314. Additional events to continue the discussion are forthcoming.

Poet
Fabu
Lilada
Gee
Grace
Ruo
Catrina
Sparkman
Sonia
Valle

Black Women Artists Speak

Supporting Madison Creatives



Moving through time and space: Nature is Healing (2022) by Angela Johnson

Art in Public Places Looks Forward

In early 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the City of Madison quickly mobilized to shift funds to support neighborhood based temporary public art projects. These projects, which were supported both by AIPP and BLINK funds, included *Sidewalk Surprises* by multiple artists for the Madison Children's Museum, *Look Forward* promotional campaign by Art & Sons, Meri Rose Ekberg, *Website for Incarcerated Artist*, website to raise awareness of the work of an incarcerated visual artist, *Winter is Alive! A Cooler World Carnival*, the Downtown Street Art & Mural Project, and more.



Failed Mascots (2020) by Actual Size Artworks, in the exhibit Outside Looking In at Garver Feed Mill

Thurber Park Artist Residency

Ash Armenta
3325 Thurber Ave



Ash Armenta, 2022 – 23 Thurber Artist-in-Residence
Photo: Kale Chesney.



Eric Adjetej Anang, the first
Thurber Artist-in-Residence

The Madison Arts Commission and the Bubbler at Madison Public Library, coordinated with the Town of Blooming Grove to launch the Thurber Residency in 2019 out of a dedicated studio at Thurber Park. The Artist-in-Residence has access to a rent-free studio space for 11-months, receives a stipend, and has the opportunity to apply to MAC for a public art commission. The Artist-in-Residence works with staff from The Bubbler to engage the local community through open studio days and community workshops. Eric Adjetej Anang was the first Artist-in-Residence and served in this role until 2022. The 2022 – 23 Artist-in-Residence is Ash Armenta, a print media artist from the Bay Area of California and a 2022 MFA graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Artists At Work

Grant Program



The Artists At Work grant program was designed by MAC to encourage non-profit organizations to generate, reinstate, and create arts industry jobs. In 2022 MAC offered \$450,000 in grant awards to local arts organizations across the creative sector. Artists at Work subgrants were made possible by an American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) with the purpose of helping the arts and cultural sector recover from the pandemic.



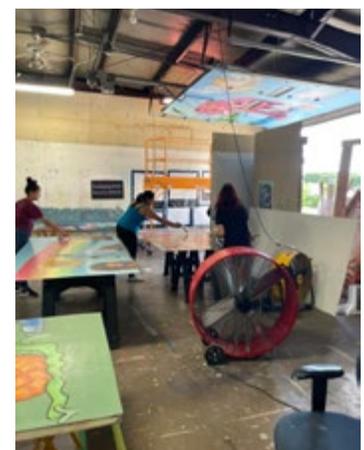
Preschool of the Arts

Grants of \$10,000, \$15,000, or \$25,000 were awarded to the following organizations and positions:

- Arts & Literature Laboratory Inc – Public Programs Coordinator
- Bayview Foundation Inc – Placemaking and Community Arts Specialist
- UW Madison [UW Community Arts Collaboratory Teaching Artist] – Arts Collab Teaching Artist
- Center for Black Excellence and Culture Inc – Director of Visual and Performing Arts
- Dane Arts Mural Arts Inc – Executive Director
- GEEEX Inc – Social Media Intern
- IP Ministries Inc – Arts Administration Assistant
- Kanopy Dance Theatre Inc – Company Dancer and Outreach Teacher
- LunART Inc – Operations Manager
- Madison Ballet Inc – Artistic Director
- Madison Children’s Museum Inc – Summer Outreach Coordinator
- Madison Circus Space Inc – Circus Arts Programs Coordinator
- Madison College, School of Business and Applied Arts – Exhibition Coordinator
- Madison Contemporary Dance Inc – Artistic Director
- Madison Public Library Foundation Inc – Wisconsin Book Festival Communications Creative
- Madison Youth Choirs Inc – Director of Education & Community Programs
- Make Music Madison Inc – Musician-in-Residence
- Overture Center Foundation Inc – Lullaby Project Lead Teaching Artist & Community Facilitator
- Preschool of the Arts Inc – Art Specialist
- Synergy Ventures Foundation Inc – Artist at Synergy
- Urban Community Arts Network Ltd – Artistic Innovation Coordinator
- Wisconsin Academy of Sciences Arts & Letters Inc – Exhibitions Coordinator



Corey Whitmore at Mad Lit on State Street, August 13, 2021
Photo: Hedi LaMarr Photography



Dane Arts Mural Arts Inc

Annual Grant Program



Africa Fest at McPike Park, August 21, 2021
Photo: Ray Kumapayi

Annual grants provide support to individuals and non-profits for projects that enrich the cultural landscape of the City of Madison. Funding amounts range from \$500 up to \$3,000.

MAC Community Endorsements

In addition to providing direct support through annual grants, throughout the year MAC reviews community projects from organizations seeking partnership, feedback, professional support, or stamp of approval to demonstrate civic and community support for their project. If you have a program proposal you would like MAC to consider for endorsement, email a one-page proposal to madisonarts@cityofmadison.com at least two months prior to your event.



Dancer Sarah Minton in the film *La vie en... (Ode to Serendipity)* (2021), from Madison Ballet "Lift Every Voice" film series; Photo: Darren Lee



Teens Open Art Studio workshop on paper-making at Communication Madison.
Photo: Communication Madison



Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra Concerts on the Square at Breese Stevens Field, September 1, 2020; Photo: Kathleen Callaghan

2020 – 2022 Recipients

Adriana Barrios
Aedan Gardill
African Association of Madison, Inc.
Anders Svanoe
Anthony DiSanza
Araceli Esparza
Arts & Literature Laboratory, Inc.
Arts for ALL Wisconsin
Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society
of Wisconsin, Inc.
Backyard Mosaic Women's Project
BlueStem Jazz, Ltd.
Borealis
Bruce Crownover
Capitol Chordsmen Chorus
Capitol City Band Association
Children's Film Academy of
Madison, Inc.
Communication Madison, Inc.
Culinary Ladies Collective
Cultural Connections, Inc.
Cycropia Aerial Dance, Inc.
Disability Pride Madison
Doyenne Group, Inc.
Duane Bohlman
East Madison Community Center, Inc.
Emily Balsley & Pajarita Charles
Fermat's Last Theater Company
Forward Theater Company
Four Lakes Traditional Music
Collective
Friends of Allen Centennial
Garden, Inc.
Girls Rock Camp Madison, Inc.
Grace Presents
Greater Madison Jazz Consortium
Guest House Theatre
Handel Aria Competition, Inc.
Jacquelin Bradley
James Kreul
Jenie Gao
Jennifer Bastian and Luisa

Garcia-Gomez
Jennifer Rubin and Takeyla Benton
Just Bach, LLC
Kanopy Dance Theatre, Inc.
Kel Mur, Victoria Maidhof, & Noël Ash
Kelly Parks Snider
Latinos Organized for Development
(LOUD)
Laurie Beth Clark & Michael Peterson
Lelia Bryon
Li Chiao-Ping Dance, Inc.
LunART, Inc.
Lussier Community Education
Center, Inc.
Madison Area Music Association, Inc.
Madison Bach Musicians, Inc.
Madison Ballet, Inc.
Madison Children's Museum, Inc.
21Madison Choral Project, Inc.
Madison Classical Guitar Society
Madison Contemporary Dance, Inc.
Madison Flute Club, Inc.
Madison Jazz, Inc.
Madison Marimba Quartet
Madison Museum of
Contemporary Art
Madison Music Collective, Inc.
Madison New Music Ensemble
Madison New Music Festival
Madison Opera, Inc.
Madison Public Library
Foundation, Inc.
Madison Savoyards, Ltd.
Madison Symphony
Orchestra, Inc.

Madison Youth
Choirs, Inc.
Max Puchalsky
Meara Sweetnam
Monroe Street Arts Center, Inc.
Music Theatre of Madison, Inc.
Natalia Hildner Armacanqui &
Richie Morales
NewBridge Madison, Inc.
Opera for the Young, Inc. (OFTY)
People Building Opportunity
Through Grace and Action, Inc.
Performing Ourselves
Rachel Werner
Rob Dz
Sara Meredith
Sarah Stankey
Sessions at McPike Park, Inc.
Simpson Street Free Press, Inc.
TNW Ensemble Theater,, Inc.
Urban Community Arts Network, Ltd.
William Turnbull
Willy Street Chamber Players, LLC
Wisconsin Academy of Sciences
Arts & Letters, Inc.
Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Inc.
Wisconsin Youth Symphony
Orchestra, Inc. (WYSO)



The Madison Arts Commission (MAC) awarded 2022 grant funding to an individual who falsely claimed indigenous heritage and used aliases to support their impostering. MAC is working to repair the damage caused by this extreme example of cultural appropriation, and following best practices, has sought guidance from partners within indigenous communities.

Downtown Street Art & Mural Project



Black Sisterhood (2020) by Danielle Mielke and Amira Caire
Photo: Hedi LaMarr Photography

For about two weeks in June 2020, the City of Madison partnered with Central Madison Business Improvement District to commission dozens of artists to create artistic responses to the social reckoning that followed the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement. The artists painted murals on boarded windows throughout the State Street corridor and the surrounding area, providing an opportunity for our community to process their emotions and connect with one another.

The artists carried the pain and tension that was rampant in our city at this time. Much of their work was challenging and raw, inducing the deep thinking necessary to create fundamental change. Others created work that included cries for the peace, empathy, and understanding necessary to allow for change. Dozens of professional artists over the age of 18 were paid modest stipends through the Madison Arts Commission's Art in Public Places Looks Forward program. Funding was specifically allocated to artists who had lost income due to COVID-19 and who have been directly impacted by racialized violence.

The project was intended to be ephemeral. As businesses re-opened, the City worked with the BID to collect as many of the boards as possible and securely store them until the artists can provide input on their next destination. We are thankful our partners at the Central Business Improvement District, especially Director Tiffany Kenney and Michelle Morris the businesses who availed their storefronts, for the project, and the artists who made history with their powerful creativity. We will always remain in awe of the strength and courage it took for these artists to put themselves in harm's way to transform broken glass and broken hearts into something powerful and beautiful.



Untitled (2020) by Tony Catteruccia and Lincoln Rust
Photo: Hedi LaMarr Photography



Downtown Street Art & Mural Project Artists:

Terrence Adeyanju
Darius Agard
Melana Bass
Sharon Bjyrd
Bree Bregman
Nic Brown
Amira Caire
Isha Camara
Rodrigo Carapia
Lature
Tony Catteruccia
Kenneth Cole
Shiloah Symone Coley
The Artist
Charlotte Cummins
Brooklyn Denae Doby
Daniella Echeverria
Silvan Flemming Jr
Sirena Flores
Anwar Floyd-Pruitt
Michael Ford
Sonya Forsythe
Rob Dz
Lilada Gee
Shanice Grimsled
Ryan Hartman
135 Youth Directed by
SJ Hemmerich

Freida High W.
Tefagiorgis
Sharon Irwin
Jerry Jordan
Paulina Kababie
Monique Karlen
Shady Kilfof-Flores
Synovia Knox
Audifax
Rodney Lambright II
Yorel Lashley
Simone Lawrence
Chris Lewis
Mike Lroy
Edgardo Lugo
TL Luke
Keysha Mabra
Cassy Marzette
Stefan Matic
Taj Matumbi
Danielle Mielke
RR Moore
Richie Morales
DarRen Morris
Ciara Nash
Lauden Nute
Batenga & Kiyem
Obuseh

Maia Pearson
Cassie Pierce
Jay Ramirez
Duowan Rimson
Dane Arts Mural Arts
Salt Rock
Sapphina Roller
Hedi Rudd
Lincoln Rust
Philip Salamone
Warren Speleos
Triangulador
Jan Lin
Alica Traore
Kenechi Unachukwa
Faleshuh Walker
Kati Walsh
Michael Ward
Comfort Wasikhongo
Odalo Wasikhongo
Carrie Morgan
Alexandra Lewis
Ava Stevenson
Evan Douglas
Lauren Benson
Urban Triage Youth

Project Impact

This project empowered people who were feeling powerless, gave hope to people feeling hopeless, and brought a beat back to the heart of our City, lessening the demoralizing effects of political divisiveness and the COVID-19 pandemic we were all experiencing. The work shifted the focus from the property damage caused by looters to the justified anger of protesters furious about the unremitting systemic racism and brutality that leads to extrajudicial killings of black people in our nation. The creative energy this project attracted to State Street was unprecedented, and this project drove a resurgence of State Street that some business owners claim helped save their business.

Some ancillary benefits of this project are evident in the increase of murals across the community, the exhibitions and opportunities highlighting the work of the artists who participated, and the growing awareness of the power of public art and desire to bring more to our community. Several publications celebrated the project, including a special edition of *Umoja* magazine, *Let's Talk About It* published by American Family Insurance Institute for Social & Corporate Impact, and websites produced by PBS Wisconsin, Siftr, and more.

Thank you for your support:





Actual Size Artworks, *Sad Yeti* (2021)

Winter is Alive!

Winter is Alive! A Cooler World Carnival

was a multi-disciplinary event fusing art and spectacle to revision climate change and activate global relationships. Uniting us during late winter 2021 during the physical separations caused by COVID-19, Winter is Alive! gathered diverse local and global perspectives to reawaken a positive vision of the future.

Tamsie Ringler and Mark LaPointe were the primary organizers, as well as their web designer Anna Orbovich, but dozens of City staff, community partners, volunteers, and funders cooperated to create this large-scale outdoor temporary public art project. For a full list of the artists, crew, collaborators, and financial supporters, go to winterisalive.org

Thank you to the landscapes and lakes
and the communities of this place.
Thank you to the plants and animals
the sky and water-bound
and to the people that call this place home.
Thank you to the climate that supports our lives.

Thank you for watching and listening
and speaking and making—change.

The narrative of here goes beyond our present
there is a story from before
and there will be a story after.

Thank you for your action
and discussion
today
and tomorrow
to mend the climate crisis.

With appreciation from all of us at
Winter is Alive! a cooler world carnival

Marc La Pointe — Tamsie Ringler — Anna Orbovich



Volunteers assembling *Dying Iceberg* (Ojars Feldbergs, 2021) on Lake Wingra



North (Elizabeth Wadium, dir., 2018), presented by Wisconsin Film Festival



Winter Is Alive: A Sustainability Workbook

As a part of a broader effort to bring environmental awareness to elementary students, and to feature local artists' work, UnderBelly Creative produced a workbook exploring some of the artworks and themes of the Winter is Alive festival. Printed copies were made available for free to 3rd – 5th grade MMSD educators.

A digital copy can be accessed here:
<https://bit.ly/3SxiPsz>

Cover of *Winter Is Alive: A Sustainability Workbook*
 Image: UnderBelly Creative

Tamsie Ringler, explained “Part of this project is making everyone see what a wonderful, beautiful world we live in, so that we start taking care of it. It is very important that everybody participate. This is why this carnival is important. We tried to create a project that has something in it for everybody from snow sculptures to conceptual art.”

Winter is Alive! created venues for personal reflection, environmental dialog, and provocative inspiration. From the frozen lakes of Madison, Wisconsin, to downtown event kiosks on Madison’s Isthmus, visually and conceptually compelling installations inspired us to collaborate to reduce climate change and create an inclusive community between people and nature.

**Explore the artists and sponsors who made this project possible,
 and view the documentary at winterisalive.org**

Winter Is Alive: Documentary Video

Filmmakers Aaron Granat and Gracie Wallner produced a documentary video celebrating the impact of Winter Is Alive! The video incorporates in depth interviews with participating artists and organizers and scenes of many of the projects. The video premiered at the Silver Lining Awards at Garver Feed Mill on May 12, 2022.



Madison Music City

Task Force on Equity in Music and Entertainment (TFEME) Report

The TFEME report accepted by the Common Council in 2019 included 31 recommendations aimed to increase access to Hip Hop and all genres of music, build our music infrastructure, and support artists. In accordance with these recommendations, an Economic Impact Analysis was completed in 2021. Currently the consultant firm Sound Diplomacy is undertaking regulatory assessment, comparative analysis, and producing an action plan to build an inclusive music ecosystem. Additionally and despite the pandemic, the City has been continuously funding music festivals that support the work of local artists from a wide range of genres to diversify music audience and performers. Among other recommendations, the City Department of Civil Rights is currently working on developing an anti-bias, bi-cultural, and cross-cultural training for all music venues to improve their services and hiring practices.

Greater Madison Music City Project (GMMC)



After two years of intense work, the Greater Madison Music City (GMMC) team released the Madison Music Recovery Framework by Sound Diplomacy. The report outlines 17 recommendations that offers a roadmap to strengthen our music ecosystem. The City will work collaboratively with GMMC and the music community to address key findings and potentially implement some of the recommendations.

Recent projects include finalizing the Music Tourism Recovery Plan for COVID-19 that will offer intentional strategies and a set of actions to ensure music tourism is part of Madison's growth for years to come. The Tourism Work Group of GMMC conducted a survey of Madison-area residents and asked respondents to consider what events they enjoy most, what draws people to the city, and what draws them to other cities. Concerts on the Square were identified as the number one music-related events that people enjoy and the Farmer's Market, Art Fair on the Square and other arts-related events were noted as favorites not focused on music. The survey results support the idea that arts, music, and culture are highly valued by Madison-area residents.



Harmonica Hour performs at the Madison Senior Center for Make Music Madison

GMMC is funded by an Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support provided by Better Dash Faster Consulting, Create Wisconsin, Dane Arts, Evjue Foundation, Fried & Associates, SOSONIC, and others. Additional support is provided by the Madison Arts Commission, Madison Public Libraries, and the Urban Community Arts Network.



Music Education

The Madison Arts Commission reserves about a quarter of its annual arts grants funding to provide curricular and co-curricular arts and music education to Madison youth (see Annual Arts Grants Recipients, pages 12–13). In addition, we are a leading partner in the collective impact initiative, Any Given Child, which strives to increase access to music and arts education throughout the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Any Given Child Madison

Any Given Child Madison (AGC Madison) is a member of the Any Given Child program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. AGC Madison is a collective impact project seeking to provide equity and access to arts education for all students. Partners include the City of Madison, Madison Metropolitan School District, Overture Center for the Arts, Arts for All Wisconsin, and UW-Madison Community Arts Collaboratory. Throughout the COVID pandemic, the Any Given Child Madison leadership team has worked to support MMSD art education initiatives through virtual and in person residencies with local teaching artists.



Initiatives

Live Music During the Pandemic

Cities around the world were forced to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and re-examine the way people could safely interact and appreciate the arts. Madison had to reinvent itself by reshaping the way we support musicians and also offer highly needed emotional relief to residents through performances. In 2020, the annual event Make Music Madison was performed virtually by 60 diverse artists from all over the city offering a variety of musical styles, and reached an audience of over 7,000 people. In 2021 Make Music Madison went back to in-person but socially distanced performances, and in 2022 they returned to their full programming of live music, presenting 474 shows at 172 locations. In 2021 & 2022 Mad Lit host music throughout the summer on the 100 block of State Street. Mad Lit is a free concert series featuring live music and highlighting local artists, and businesses of color.



Mad Lit concert on State Street, October 8, 2021
Photo: Hedi LaMarr Photography

Music venues were the most affected businesses within our arts ecosystem. Many local and national shows were canceled regulations heavily limited these events throughout 2020–2022. The City introduced an innovated solution called the “Streatery” program that allows restaurants and taverns to expand outdoor seating even during winter. Although music is no longer allowed in the official streatery spaces, the City’s new outdoor music guide for venues and musicians explains how live performances can successfully be done across the city.

Room Tax Commission funded music

The City’s largest investment in an arts organization is the annual 2.3 million dollar grant to Overture Center for the Arts (www.overture.org) funded through the City’s Room Taxes.

Music tourism generates substantial economic and cultural benefit to our City. Enjoying live music all summer is one of the payoffs of enduring a long Madison winter and also attracts regional visitors. Through room tax revenue, the City has funded summer concert grants for decades. Room tax funds helped sustain the live music economy through annual grants to organizations like Dane Dances and Make Music Madison or project grants to the Urban Community Arts Network’s “For the Love of Hip Hop” and “Mad Lit” summer concerts, Madison Opera’s “Opera in the Park”, Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society’s chamber music festival, New-

Bridge Madison’s summer concerts at Warner Park, The Sessions at McPike Park, Africafest, Disability Pride, and the many others (see Annual Grant Program pages). To support professional musicians, room tax funds also contributed to Between the Waves, a conference and music festival intended to provide working musicians with the tools needed to earn a living making music.



The Eddie Butts Band performing at Dane Dances on August 13, 2021

Poet Laureate Program

Angela Trudell Vasquez (Poet Laureate, Jan. 20, 2020–Jan. 14, 2024): Ms. Trudell Vasquez is a poet, writer, editor and publisher. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in poetry from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her latest collection of poetry, *My People Redux* was published in January 2022 from Finishing Line Press; they also published her chapbook, *In Light, Always Light*, in May 2019. In late 2020, under her own press, Art Night Books, she co-edited an anthology of Wisconsin poetry with Margaret Rozga, then poet laureate for the state of Wisconsin, and published *Through This Door*. In June 2021, she became the Chair of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission. During the summer of 2021 she attended the esteemed Macondo Writers Workshop started by Sandra Cisneros, and became a fellow, also known as a Macondista. Ms. Trudell Vasquez continues to write and publish individual poems and this year one of her poems found a home on the renowned Poem-A-Day program through the Academy of American Poets. In late 2021 she received a 2021 Creative Community Champion Award along with other poets from Arts Wisconsin and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

On December 7, 2021, the Madison Common Council reappointed Ms. Trudell Vasquez to a second two-year term as Poet Laureate, and approved her plan to establish a Youth Poet Laureate program for the City of Madison in 2022. Projects of the Poet Laureate in addition to attending and reading poetry at numerous community events, each Poet Laureate creates their own projects and builds on initiatives of previous Poets Laureate, including John Tuschen, Andrea Musher, Fabu, Sarah Busse, Wendy Vardaman, and Oscar Mireles.

Projects of the Poet Laureate

Established projects include: public readings and occasional poems; the Bus Lines Poetry Project, a collaborative project between Metro Transit, design students at Edgewood College and the Madison Poet Laureate; quarterly poetry readings at Common Council meetings; and Poetry on Sidewalks, poems of Madison Poets Laureate placed in sidewalk pavement during reconstruction projects (inspired by Marcus Young’s *Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk* initiative in St. Paul, MN), and Madison’s new Youth Poet Laureate Program.



Angela Trudell Vasquez



2022 Bus Lines Poetry Celebration at Pinney Library; Photo: Sonia Villalobos

Youth Poet Laureate

In 2022 the City of Madison, the Madison Arts Commission, and Madison Poet Laureate Angela Trudell Vasquez established a Youth Poet Laureate Program to recognize a youth under the age of twenty for their literary achievements. With this initiative, Madison became a member of the National Youth Poet Laureate program, operated by Urban Word. Inaugural Madison Youth Poet Laureate Madeleine Bohn, aged 14, entered the 9th grade at West High School in the Fall of 2022. Over the course of her year of service as the Madison Youth Poet Laureate, Madeleine will give three public readings, will have the opportunity to publish her poems in the National Youth Poet Laureate annual anthology, and may apply for the National Youth Poet Laureate role in the Fall.



Poetry at Common Council, 2020 – 2022

Angie Trudell Vasquez, "What and That"
I.S. Jones, "The Garden"
Dana Maya, "Pandemic 1: Close call (March 2020)"
Nathan J. Reid, "We the Firefly"
Angie Trudell Vasquez, "Dispatches from Radar Hill"
Ronnie Hess, "The Martyrdom"
Jodi Vander Molen, "Ring"
Angie Trudell Vasquez, "Tree Friends"
Rita Mae Reese, "The Bridging Ceremony"
Richard Vargas, "i am waiting for a peace"
Araceli Esparza, "Sidewalks"
Madeleine Bohn, "Teakettle"
Angie Trudell Vasquez, "The Land Speaks"

Dispatches from Radar Hill

By Angela Trudell Vasquez

For the bus driver on his shift who left and never came back.
For the nurse who beat breast cancer but not Covid.

For her colleagues who remember that every time a Billy Joel song came on she'd pump her fist in the air and scream "Billy" with joy and pure fan fury, for the receptionist who carries on with the fist pumping and shouts in her name. For her co-worker who told the story to us at her virtual funeral.

For our elders in nursing homes who gave and gave to their friends and family, their community buying all the Girl Scout cookies on the block, saving money for their grandkids' birthdays – who will miss their own in 2021.

For the teachers who taught until they could not,
for their students who struggled to learn with them online.

For the parents who remain after, after so hard without your best friend, ally, accomplice there with you by your side an island snoring each night.

For those who lost their best friend and never got to say goodbye, or goodbye was a 2x4 inch screen, this the last time you saw them alive. For the widows who take poetry workshops three days after their love dies.

For those who remain carry the name, the people who remember their words, wit, wisdom, how they were scratch cooks, made chicken curry and rice, fry bread and pinto beans, sweet potato pie, peach cobbler, took turns driving the kids to practice, stomped puddles in rain...

Remember, remember, light a candle, say a prayer, a blessing some funny thing they said when alive when you laughed so hard you cried, but you didn't, that was a road trip a family vacation when the back seat smelled less than fresh after a drive through the desert without air conditioning.

These are the days of our lives and to those who loved and lost. This poem is for you, for me.

Let us mourn all those we loved who no longer breathe this spring air or get to see their first Robin this season. The world is a lovely place when you care and have skin in the game and harbor a secret love in your heart for all things full of color, sound and feathers, soft sheets, chocolate ice cream, puppy breath, baby chuckles, your face in the morning, in the mirror smiling back so alive.

Municipal Art

The Municipal Exhibition Program is a service to the Madison arts community and the general public that includes exhibitions in the Madison Municipal Building (MMB) and portions of the City-County Building (CCB). The Madison Arts Commission determines exhibitions through either competitive open calls or invited guest curators. The unique setting, outside of a traditional gallery, brings the work of artists to a new audience in public facilities where local government works to enhance the quality of life for the community. There are no application or space rental fees, and artists interested in learning more should email madisonarts@cityofmadison.com



Wildfire series by Darcy Padilla

February, 2020 – February, 2022 | *Art & Nature: The Year of the Environment* | MMB

Art & Nature: The Year of the Environment celebrated the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and UW Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. The exhibition was curated by Dakota Mace, a Diné (Navajo) interdisciplinary artist, whose work focuses on translating the language of Diné history and beliefs. Mace received her MA and MFA degrees in Photography and Textile Design at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her BFA in Photography from the Institute of American Indian Arts.

Art & Nature exhibited Madison artists whose work addressed the natural environment, including: Eric Adjetey Anang, Adriana Barrios, Derrick Buisch, Yeonhee Cheong, Thomas Ferrella, John Hitchcock, Romano Johnson, Barbara Justice, Aaron Laux, Roberto Torres Mata, Lianne Milton, Darcy Padilla, Beth Racette, Katherine Rosing, TetraPAKMAN, Matthew Vivirito, Daniella Willet-Rabin, Jeremy Wineberg, Maria Amalia Wood, Derick Wycherly as well as artists from the permanent collection.

UnderBelly Creative Food Waste Campaign



A campaign produced for the City of Madison as part of their work with the Natural Resources Defense Council's Food Matters Regional Initiative in 2021. Commissioned by Recycling Coordinator Bryan Johnson & Sustainability Coordinator Stacie Reece

Exhibitions

February, 2022 – February, 2024

***Imprinted in Madison: Artists Making Their Mark* | MMB**

Imprinted in Madison: Artists Making Their Mark features prints by contemporary artists whose paths brought them to or through Madison. To celebrate the importance of printmaking within our local arts ecology and honor some of the printmakers who have made or are making their mark on Madison, the 2022 Municipal Building Exhibition showcases a wide variety of prints and printmaking processes from internationally exhibited artists and locally celebrated printmakers alike, including Chuck Bauer, Tyanna Buie, Barry Carlsen, Rachel Durfee, Anwar Floyd Pruitt, John Hitchcock, Barbara Justice, Amos Paul Kennedy, Sara Meredith, Henry Obeng, Merikay Payne, Yvette Pino, Benjamin Pollock, and Roberto Torres Mata.

June, 2022 – December, 2022

***Portraits with a Purpose* | CCB**



Dick Wagner (2022) by Transpainter

Portraits With a Purpose celebrated unapologetic portraiture of vibrant transgender and non-binary power and joy. Madison, WI based artist Rae Senarighi, aka Transpainter, is a champion of storytelling through art, as a fine artist, designer, muralist, cancer survivor working towards accurate and celebratory representation of the Trans community. Although Rae's work typically centers on representations of Trans artists, activists, and leaders, included in the exhibition was a portrait

of beloved gay rights activist, community leader, and public servant, Dick Wagner who passed away on December 13, 2021. Rae was commissioned by *Our Lives* magazine to paint his portrait for their cover. Art Collectors Rodney Schreiner and Mark Blank and a few of their friends funded the Mayor's Purchase Award for that painting, which will be permanently installed outside of the City Council/County Board Chambers. Rae then donated the proceeds from the sale of his work towards the City's first Intersectional Pride Rainbow Crossing.

Jayden Riley (2017), *Tiq* (2017), *Jennicet* (2018), *Chris* (2017), and *Vuyisani* (2017) by Rae Senarighi, aka Transpainter



Mugshot Profile #3 (2016) and *Mugshot Profile #1* (2016) by Tyanna Buie



Paa tsa numumaina (*Water is Life in Comanche*) (2018) by John Hitchcock



Thank You!

Thank you to Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Deputy Mayor Linda Vakunta (mayoral liaison for arts and culture), and all the Deputy Mayors and City staff who have championed arts and culture in the City of Madison.

2020 – 2022 City of Madison Alders

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Rae Senarighi

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Many members of Team City and Departments support the arts program, too many to list in fact. We want to thank every single City Employee whose work intersects with the City's Arts & Culture efforts. Your contributions help make Madison an internationally known Art City.

Report designed by Anica Marie Graney and Brooke Messaye of the UW-Madison Digital Studies Certificate Program, guided by Mark Fitzgerald, DPCED Graphics Technician.