Piecing Together Communities
One Tile At A Time

Like all passionate creators, our love for art spans far and wide. It seemed appropriate, therefore, to unveil the Art for All mosaics on the day of love, February 14th. COMPAS teaching artist and staff member Mica Lee Anders worked with Greater Twin Cities United Way members to make this vision happen.

Rise, Inc., one of the member organizations that participated in creating mosaics, revealed their part of the project at their Spring Lake Park location. Their five large-scale hot air balloon mosaics were pieced together by 180 community volunteers - people Rise serves, and Rise employees and supporters - who dedicated over 300 hours in the past few months. This collaboration made something truly spectacular. Check out a video of the process.

Join COMPAS On Arts Advocacy Day Feb. 28!

Arts Advocacy Day is your chance to make a difference. Our decision makers need to know about the strong arts community in Minnesota. Minnesota Citizens for the Arts works to increase arts funding by bringing advocates to the State Capitol to talk to their legislators about the importance of the arts to our lives and our economy.

Want to help ensure a positive future for the arts in MN? Join us! Click here for more information and to register.

Creative Conversations

Artist Spotlight: Introspective Poet, Rachel Moritz

"With younger kids-the mechanics of spelling and the effort of handwriting can get in the way of pleasure. For older adults with dementia or physical limitations, writing by hand is not always possible. In both cases, focusing on the orality of poetry makes its original delight accessible to all. Respect and love matter in both settings, also imagination and reverie."

How can you be a poet at any age? Rachel tells us in her full interview.
A huge congratulations to the following COMPAS artists who were awarded Artist Initiative Grants this year by the Minnesota State Arts Board:

- **Kimber Olson**: Olson will create a series of large-scale, wool felt sculptures referencing symbiotic relationships, as part of a collaborative public exhibition at the American Association of Woodturners gallery in Saint Paul.
- **Laura MacKenzie**: MacKenzie will research, arrange, and score the repertoire for a ten piece, cross genre ensemble that combines Celtic instrumentation with horn and rhythm sections. A public concert will be given in Saint Paul.
- **Rachel Moritz**: Moritz will complete research and writing toward a new book of lyric prose, *Light Machine*. In late 2017, she will host a reading and discussion on lyric prose and other hybrid forms.
- **Taous Khazem**: Khazem will create a new play using movement, music, and text. Based on three Berber/North African folktales, the play will challenge a singular view of the Middle East. There will be three performances in the Twin Cities.

Interested in working with one of these artists? Let’s talk about creative programs you can have at your location. Call us at 651.292.3249 or fill out an online form.

If you’re reading this - way down at the bottom - then you are one of us: a person who knows creative education is essential for every age.

In 2016 close to 58,000 people experienced the life-changing POWER of creativity. Your donation connects all Minnesotans with creativity and helps them to thrive.

Will you help us connect even more people with the power of creativity this year?

COMPAS, Art for Life’s Sake

COMPAS.org

Tell the world about COMPAS!