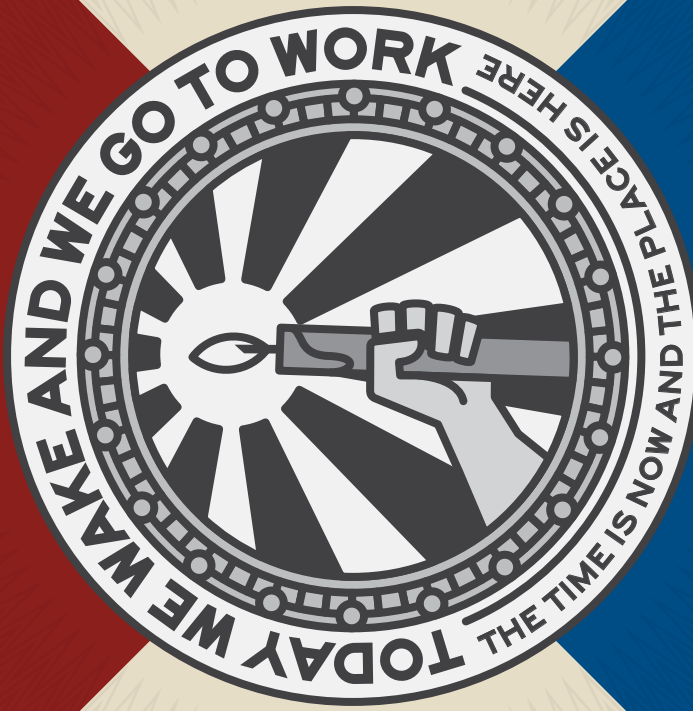


CROSSHATCH CENTER FOR ART AND ECOLOGY



A MANIFESTO FOR LOCAL CULTURE

CALL FOR SUPPORT + ANNUAL REPORT 2016

"And we pray, not for new earth or heaven, but to be quiet in heart, and in eye, clear. What we need is here." -Wendell Berry, excerpted from "The Wild Geese"

*Crosshatch envisions communities that are **grounded in place**: where people connect through stories, music, art, shared work, and food, and where the economy and culture are **rooted in restoration of the earth and its people**.*

Staff

(clockwise from beard)

Brad Kik, co founder and director

Amanda Kik, co founder and director

Mollie Thomas

Jeannie Voller

Jen Schaap



Directors

Rolf von Walthausen

Nicco Pandolfi

Erin Anderson Whiting

Melissa Johnson

Barb Tholin

Michelle Ferrarese

Brian Bourdages

Heather Ratliff

Advisors

Stephanie Mills

Corie Pierce

Holly Spaulding

Caitlin Strokosch

Sally Van Vleck

Mari von Walthausen

Joshua Davis

Susan Fawcett

A BRIEF MANIFESTO FOR LOCAL CULTURE

Unmoored. Unbalanced. No matter who you voted for this November, the national election process, from beginning to end, has left us feeling as though gravity has shifted—as though we can't trust our neighbors, and we need to retreat from engagement with the world.

But here, in this place, there is an re-anchoring and re-balancing. Here, locally, there is work to be done, side by side with our neighbors, deeply engaging with the places we call home.

Those of us who don't wear power suits and drive in motorcades, those of us who know our neighbors, those of us who can name the flora and fauna, those of us who read and write and live for holy poetry, those of us who grieve and hope and burn and take deep gasping breaths of autumn air, who warm our hands in the hands of our friends, who dance, who bravely dare, who pause in momentary blessings, who read soil and sun and great old books, who meet the eyes of our fellow men and women, who love our children and our elders—tomorrow we are going to work.

Local work is binding. It draws us to one another and to the land. It begins re-stitching the frayed edges of community (and man oh man are those edges frayed right now). At Crosshatch we invest in resilience; in restoration and regeneration; in re-inhabitation, re-localizing, re-connecting, re-skilling.

No matter who your candidate or what your party, no matter what your take on the most contentious national political issues—there is work to be done. Here, in this place, now.

At Crosshatch, we invest in audacious acts of reweaving people to the land. Please join us.

*Crosshatch Center for Art & Ecology
builds strong communities through the
intersections of art, farming, ecology
and economy.*

**“Every
bioregion
should be so
fortunate in its
organizers.”**

—*Stephanie Mills, author
of In Service of the Wild and
Epicurean Simplicity*



The “today we wake” logo was inspired by the work (and the logo) of our friends at Earthwork Music, who embody this manifesto. Learn more at www.earthworkmusic.com

FOOD & FARMING: THE W

TO RESTORE THE
LAND ONE MUST
LIVE AND WORK IN
A PLACE.

TO WORK IN A
PLACE IS TO
WORK WITH
OTHERS.

PEOPLE WHO
WORK TOGETHER
IN A PLACE
BECOME A
COMMUNITY, AND
A COMMUNITY, IN
TIME, GROWS A
CULTURE.

TO WORK ON
BEHALF OF THE
WILD IS TO
RESTORE
CULTURE.



Gary Snyder

NMSFC

The **Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference** serves as a vehicle to promote and build a local vibrant agricultural community, to equip the small farm community with the tools to be successful, and to be a forum for the open exchange of ideas within the small farm community. Crosshatch has been facilitating the conference since 2012.

MOBILE RESOURCES

The **Chicken Coupe** is a portable, MDA certified poultry processing trailer that small farmers raising pastured poultry can use to bypass expensive processing facilities and sell direct to their customers. The **Preservation Station** (aka "Blanch") is a canning kitchen on wheels. Blanch allows people to learn a new skill, sharpen their techniques, and join friends or family to make food preservation a fun, new tradition in their community. After a busy 2016 season and a brand new makeover, Blanch is ready to book up her summer 2017 calendar with parties and events.

MICRO-LENDING

With the help of our friends at **Grain Train**, we were able to administer micro-loans to three area farmers. We gave out a total of \$6,000 to fund new ideas, revive old land, set up infrastructure, and more. With low interest and longer repayment terms, these micro-loans are helping our region's farmers grow and diversify, which in turn helps the whole community. More to come in 2017!

WORK OF THESE SEASONS

GUILDS

The Crosshatch Guilds aim to provide mutual support for skill-building and networking for homeowners, homesteaders and farmers through peer-to-peer learning, mentorship, demonstrations, workshops, and conferences. Guild gatherings include farm tours, potlucks, farmer-buyer networking events, and informal workshops. Guilds are open to anyone.

Other guild functions include swapping and bartering, sharing work and celebrating community. Crosshatch supports eight guilds:

- Small Farm Guild
- Beekeepers Guild
- Mushroom Growers Guild
- Orchard Guild
- Fiber Guild
- Grain Guild
- Green Building Guild
- Herb Guild

Guilds are particularly valuable for building relationships, observing a wide variety of management styles and finding support from a peer network.

"You are such a great connector! I really appreciate having the hub that you provide for information sharing. It is crucial! I don't think our society values the role of the person who keeps it all together and keeps us all in touch. I feel good about things growing along organically but it will move at a glacial pace if we don't have a facilitator. Thanks!"

- guild member

2015-16
BY THE
NUMBERS

25

guild events in
the last year

400

active guild
participants

100

new beehives
installed by guild
members

2M+

(two million+)
new bees in our
region last year

8

twilight farm
tours

1500

total attendees
at Farm School
+ Foods Farm &
Health + NMSFC

100+

hours of farm
education

645

birds processed
via the Chicken
Coupe



Bob Sutherland

*founder and owner of **Cherry Republic***

On why farming is important

I am in the local food industry and it all starts with farmers. If we want to strengthen our local food economy, it really is about helping to give the financial resources, tools, education, training, and freedom to the farmers: those who want to take a risk, grow things, find the land, find the market.

On giving back

The money that comes to Crosshatch is from what we call a “Refundable Tarriff” on our customers. It’s only 1% and the average customer spends about \$25, so 25¢ per person. We save that up and give it directly to farmland programs around northern Michigan.

On why Cherry Republic donates to Crosshatch

We like donating to people with vision—and the Kiks have vision. It’s nice to be able to give this early money to Crosshatch and to see what the organization is growing into—good people doing good things with passion and vision.

On what makes Crosshatch different

Their ability to recognize farming and honor it as a business and a worthy occupation. It’s going to be tough for us to grow our middle and large farms... those are either going to be flat or they’re going to shrink. But there’s lots of opportunity to grow these small farms. More and more of our focus has to be on trying to help those farmers. Crosshatch—more than other organizations—is trying to help diversify. The more diverse crops we can grow, the more opportunity there will be for more farmers to come in.

On what Bob is excited about

I like these small, start-up ideas that Crosshatch has. They’re willing to try anything, then learn from it and grow from it. They’re able to follow the interests and the needs of the farmers. And for a lot of farmers, it can be a lonely enterprise. Crosshatch gives them a chance to use their networks and the guilds.

On something that people may not know about Crosshatch

I think the biggest thing is that people don’t know of Crosshatch itself, and how supporting Crosshatch can make a difference in their own lives. That support will come back in more variety at the farm market, or more artists and art enriching our lives, and a richer, more defined culture in northern Michigan.

Bernie Ware

co-owner of **Ware Farm**, former
**Northern Michigan Small Farm
Conference** committee member



On his first impression of Crosshatch

We were on a mailing list fairly early and I remember a mailer when they just hired Yvonne Stephens. Brad commented that he always liked to hire women that are smarter than him and I thought that was a really good idea. And then formulating the Small Farm Conference, and being on that planning committee for many years with Brad, Amanda, Jen, Jeannie and others—that has been a very positive and productive experience for me.

On what Bernie is excited about

I like the guilds—I like the integration of people getting together at Farmer After Hours or beekeeping events, I'm most excited about that. I bumped into a person in Lansing at an event for Michigan Organic Food and Farming Alliance. He was a farmer that I hadn't met before, but he was from Big Rapids, and was going to travel up to a guild event in Traverse City. To me, that speaks volumes to fulfilling a need for farmer networking and support.

On a new generation

After my accident this summer, I wasn't doing anything with the farm conference planning, but it was really satisfying to see the others maintain it and keep it going — like the volunteers and Jeannie. As I get older, I'm recognizing that there are going to be times for me to step back, but also that there are eager qualified people that can maintain and keep it going. That speaks to the quality of the organization, that others are willing to give, to volunteer, and to serve.



“Crosshatch drives toward the essential work of a community - the work of the world, the work of the wild, the work of membership.”

Crosshatch co-founder Brad Kik shares a vision for the future at the 2016 Garlic Auction

ROOM FOR RISK & PATIENCE: CROSSHATCH'S WORK IN ART



THE HILL HOUSE

The Hill House provides time and space to support excellence in art. We host writers, visual artists, musicians and performing artists from around Michigan and the world. Artists choose to stay for 2, 3 or 4 weeks, and are greeted with a fully stocked kitchen of healthy and locally grown food.

The Hill House application is currently so competitive that fewer than 10% of the artists who apply are accepted. There are no constraints on how artists spend their time, though many opt-in for some kind of community engagement. Others find that they can achieve feats of art-making that they otherwise couldn't complete in a year.

Artists supported in FY16: **23**

Artists supported forever: **111**

Cost per year: **\$35,300**

Cost per artist: **~\$1500**

Special thanks to Providence Farm and Eden Foods for their sponsorship of the Hill House through food donations.

"Being a resident artist at the Hill House gave me the opportunity to make music in a more focused way than ever before in my life."

-past musician in residence

Maryann Lesert

Writer, **Hill House** Alumnus

Maryann came to the Hill House to begin work on a novel that she is just now finishing. The Hill House was Maryann's first experience with an official artist residency.

On what the Hill House means to her

[The Hill House is] everything that I've always wished—as a writer and as an arts supporter—that I could somehow do. It's kind of a common dream among artists of doing something to help support other artists—writers, musicians, dancers—because economically art is a tough choice. What Crosshatch is doing matches my belief of what artists really need: space, time and a supply of healthy food.



On the gift of time and space

Every piece of my work, whether it was a novel or a play, has always begun with some kind of time away, some kind of retreat. A place where all the other responsibilities of your life can't get to you. There's something about space that opens up a world of time.

On the setting of the Hill House

We (my collaborators and I) wrote all day, and then everyday around 3:00 or 4:00 we would suit up and go out. For me, being outdoors in the physical world, in the natural setting, is a huge part of my work and it's a huge part of my process. I'm a much better writer when I'm in contact with the outside world.

On what Maryann is excited about

The Hill House really inspires. It's such a place-centered feel for your art. That's something that Crosshatch does really well. You're all connecting people to place.

ARTIST AFTER HOURS

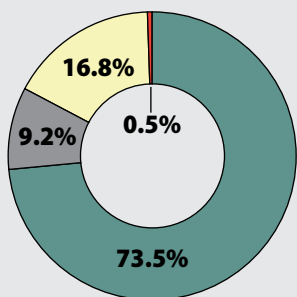
Artist After Hours are designed to provide a no-charge, agenda-free meeting for emerging and established artists to connect, problem-solve and find inspiration with one another. Co-hosted with Blackbird Arts, Artist After Hours happen regularly throughout the winter.

Artists After Hours held in FY16: 5

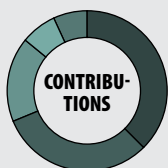
Artists connected: >100

JUST THE NUMBERS

INCOME BY SOURCE

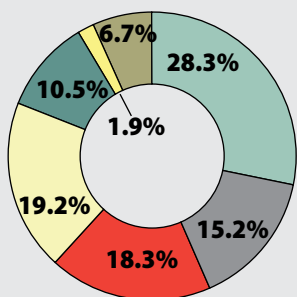


- contributions \$364.7K
- earned income \$83.1K
- fiduciary \$45.8K
- miscellaneous \$2.6K



- sponsorships - \$25K (6.9%)
- fundraising events - \$26K (7.2%)
- individual giving - \$63K (17.1%)
- private grants - \$114K (31.3%)
- public grants - \$137K (37.5%)

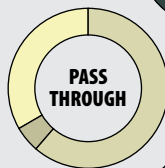
EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



- artist residency \$35.3K
- fundraising events \$9.8K
- farm programs \$55.5K
- pass-through \$101.9K
- small farm conference \$97.2K
- workshops and events \$80.9K
- overhead and general \$149.9K



- chicken coupe \$3K
- guilds \$12K
- farmer residency \$31K
- on farm grants \$2K
- preservation station \$7K



- grant partnerships \$34K
- edible trails project \$5K
- on stage for kids \$62K



- arts programming \$8K
- farm school \$43K
- all other workshops \$30K

HOW TO GIVE

Crosshatch donors are among the smartest and best looking people in the history of humanity. Here's how to become one!

Visit our website at www.crosshatch.org/donate and follow the prompts. Or, call us at (231) 622-5252, or email donate@crosshatch.org and we'll gladly help. It's easy!

MANY HANDS = LIGHT WORK

(the crosshatch strategic plan in a nutshell)

Crosshatch was built from the ground up by founders Brad and Amanda Kik. In the last eleven years, Crosshatch programs have grown in scope and depth toward becoming a vital and forward-looking part of our communities' work. Here's a snapshot of our biggest challenges and opportunities in 2017 and beyond.

STEP ONE: Rebuild the Foundation (process development)

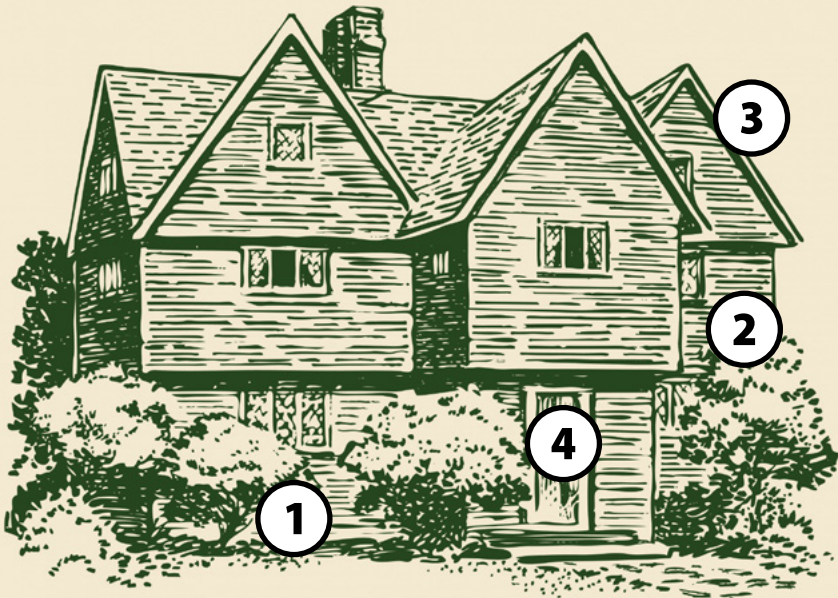
Already well underway, this task is to revisit all the foundational pieces, to ensure that we work as well as the best non-profits and small businesses out there. **We're building our board, investing in our staff, and reworking lots of internal processes** to make our work both efficient and resilient. The most important piece fell into place last year, when we hired our first-ever development coordinator.

STEP TWO: Bump out the Wings (program development)

We're proud of our programs (and we hope you are too). We also see lots of ways for **current programs to expand, and for new programs to take shape**. For 2017, keep an eye out for enhanced guild offerings, a deeper focus on local economy, and the launch of the artist-residency driven *Long Memory Project*.

STEP THREE: Shout from the Rooftops (marketing development)

We're also learning that, on the national stage, Crosshatch is growing in recognition and respect as an leading example of a *new kind of organization* that breaks down the walls between disciplines. We continue to find ways to **present our work, teach our techniques and build collaborations** that amplify this important message.



STEP FOUR: Keep the Doors Open (fundraising)

Of course, none of this happens without **you**. Big grant money has helped us grow, but in order for us to survive and thrive, we need to rebalance our income by creating a larger and more stable base of donors from our community—**you**.

 *island* is now
CROSSHATCH
Center for Art and Ecology
PO Box 929, Bellaire, MI 49615
www.crosshatch.org

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Dear TKTKT,

The place is here. Never before in Crosshatch's eleven years have we felt called to double down and dig deeper into our efforts to strengthen this community. Presidential politics are seductive—we pin lots of hopes on one powerful human, to the extent that we start to forget about **the power in our own hands, and in the hands of our neighbors.**

The time is now to remember that power. The essential, audacious work of Crosshatch is simply this: to build the world we desire by getting to work in our own communities, side by side with our neighbors. That work evolves as we experiment and learn about what this community needs, in this time and place.

Here, in a nutshell, is what we've learned from eleven years of doing this work:

1. The restoration of the land is fundamentally a human endeavor. **That's why we support the work of farmers** through workshops, guilds and the Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference/Farm School.
2. The restoration of community and culture is a human endeavor, with artists at the core. **That's why we support artists of all kinds** and at all stages of their careers, both through the Hill House artist residency program and the burgeoning artists network in northwest lower Michigan.
3. **"What we need is here."** That's a powerful idea taken from the poem "The Wild Geese" by Wendell Berry. That means y'all. It means the fields and forests, lakes and landscapes, and the promise in every seed. **It means that we need not wait one single moment to begin improving the world** (said with a nod to Anne Frank).

Please join us in continuing this essential, audacious work. More than ever, your dollars grow the base that keeps this work grounded and stable. We can only go so far on grants. Your donation is the key!

Your contribution means re-creating communities that honor connection to small places. Communities that honor working directly with the land through smart, resilient agriculture. Communities that honor the tools and traditions of the past, while forging our own path forward; and that honor the voices of our most creative makers and thinkers.

Help us strengthen the bonds of our communities and move, in slow, small, endlessly creative ways, to reshape our ways of living in place.

Consider a donation today.

All my best,