# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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25 VISUAL ART EXHIBITS 2017 in our Main and Community Galleries

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

5,000 patrons come through our doors annually seeking to expand their hearts and minds by engaging in classes, performances, and art exhibits.

7 Resident Artists creating out of the arts center

220 members from 21 Downriver communities
Premiered a series in 2016 from the Dearborn Symphony Orchestra, providing the local community with access to one of the region’s most highly esteemed symphony orchestra groups.

Provided an array of performances in our theater, provided by local bands and community theatre groups.

Brought Art-O-Mat to Downriver in 2016 (A converted cigarette machine that vends art from artists all over the world.)

Involvement with other Downriver communities to provide satellite art exhibits in their public spaces so patrons can access art in a non-gallery environment.

Expanded our popular summer creative camp series for children ages 6-15.

Connected the community to annual events like the Downriver Indie Craft Fair and Chestnut Art Fair, which also provided access and opportunities for artists in vibrant non-traditional events.

Continued partnerships with the DIA on engagements such as: “Wayne County Days”, offering free bus transportation to and from the Center to the DIA; “Behind the Seen” lectures, providing free speakers to educate on the art in the DIA; and assisting other Downriver cities with their involvement with the DIA Inside/Out program.

Partnered with the Michigan Philharmonic, based in Plymouth, to promote their events at Wayne County Community College District.

Partnered with numerous other non-profit organizations, school and education institutions and socially conscious community groups to provide events and meeting spaces for groups such as Josephine Ford Cancer Center, TechShop Detroit, Rotary, Downriver Delta CDC, CultureSource, ARC, and many others.

The DCA has executed toward our goal of providing multi-uses, multi-generational experiences that will contribute to the Downriver area’s arts and cultural diversity.
Founded in 1978, the Downriver Council for the Arts (DCA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) arts and cultural organization that proudly serve nearly 400,000 residents in 21 Downriver communities. Downriver is the area in Michigan comprised of cities south of Detroit. In historic times, these cities were accessible by traveling down the Detroit River. Downriver overall is known as a suburban Detroit region with working-class residential neighborhoods and includes Allen Park, Belleville, Brownstown, Ecorse, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Huron, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, River Rouge, Riverview, Rockwood, Romulus, Southgate, Sumpter Twp, Taylor, Trenton, Van Buren, Woodhaven and Wyandotte.

The Downriver Council for the Arts began its existence in 1978 as a division of the Downriver Community Conference (DCC). The DCC had been founded by cities and townships in the Downriver area as a cooperative organization that believed it was advantageous to work together on major projects that were best served by mutual efforts. They recognized that the arts were a vital component of the quality of life in the entire area and that Downriver lacked a comprehensive organization that could oversee the arts and stimulate artistic development. A board of directors was formed out of persons belonging to several Downriver cultural groups who established goals and tasks that this new arts organization could accomplish. The mayors and supervisors of the DCC Board approved the new arts office in August of 1978 “to promote, stimulate and encourage throughout the
Downriver community the study and presentation of the performing and fine arts and public interest therein.”

The DCA operates out of the James R. DeSana Center for Arts and Culture (the Center), a three-story, 20,000 SF historic building located at 81 Chestnut Street in downtown Wyandotte. The Center became the home of the DCA in 2010 through a partnership with the City and the DDA. We are excited to report that in late 2016 the City of Wyandotte and DDA extended our lease for a 10-year commitment. We feel this partnership will solidify our place and home as a regional arts and cultural center. Our goal for the James R. DeSana Center for Arts and Culture is to be a multi-use, multi-generational, and multi-cultural destination arts facility that contributes to the expansion of the area’s economic development initiatives and provides educational opportunities for the communities into the future. The Center serves the community in three ways: it creates opportunities for community artists to showcase their skills, it serves as a cultural resource for the community, and it serves as an educational facility.
ELROY GRANDY
Clay, DCA Gift Shop
MEET OUR TEAM

“...seeking. I am striving. I am in it with all my heart.”
Vincent van Gogh

OUR MISSION
To enrich the quality of life in the Downriver communities by advocating and promoting the arts and providing opportunities for involvement and participation in arts and cultural activities.

ERIN SUESS
Executive Director
esuess@downriverarts.org
Erin has been a lifelong downriver resident, growing up in Lincoln Park, MI. Having completed degrees in Fine Art from Henry Ford Community College and Wayne State University, Erin began working as a graphic designer for Detroit metro-area design agencies. Following some time with The Detroit News and Free Press, she advanced her career to art director with a Dearborn agency. Throughout that time, Erin served on the Board of Directors for the Downriver Council for the Arts (DCA) for 6 years and volunteered services for their website, graphic design and social communication. She now has acted as Executive Director with the DCA since the summer of 2016. In this capacity, she uses her board experience to take a more proactive and direct role in achieving the goals and maintaining the mission of the DCA.

LYNN CAMPBELL
Office Manager lcampbell@downriverarts.org
Lynn is a retired Executive Assistant with years of office management experience working for high-level senior management in the chemical and automotive industries. Lynn leads by coordinating, managing and facilitating membership in classes, programs, and camps, and the DCA general membership. She acts as the organization’s primary liaison with the public in matters of building maintenance and reporting information to the city. In addition to coordinating the rental of our artist studios and event spaces, she manages the Artisan Gift Shop inventory, sales and display. Lynn also has a creative side, helping to create fliers, decorating for events, and donating and creating raffle baskets for fundraisers. Her hours of donated time, talent and money to assist the DCA help to round out her involvement.

GARRETT BURKE
Internship garrettburke.rn@gmail.com
Garrett is a non-traditional art and design student at Wayne State University. He has worked for the last 10 years in the nightlife industry planning and hosting events, performing as a DJ, designing promotional materials, and constructing innovative business models that aid venues in reaching their financial goals. He is now combining these experiences by bringing his administrative experience to his original passion in art with aspirations of running an arts organization or design firm. Through his internship with the DCA, he has been shadowing the Executive Director while working on projects which help to enhance his design portfolio and inform his administrative curiosity of how the DCA is run.
MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

JOAN BROPHY
President
Fund Development
Director, Wayne Metro Action Agency

DALE COOK
Past President
Vice President PNC Bank, Allen Park

LINDA SOULES
Treasurer
President, Seaway Chorale & Orchestra

PAULA BOASE
Secretary
Director Economic Development, Downriver Community Conference

EVELYN CAIRNS
Member at large
Columnist Dearborn Times-Herald & Grosse Ile Grand Multi-Media News Magazine

JAMES R. DESANA
Member at large
Past Mayor, City of Wyandotte, MI Past State Senator

MAUREEN KEAST
Member at large
Retired Teacher/President, Downriver Arts & Crafts Guild/Vice President, Art Ambience

Cheryl Alt
Instructor, WCCCD Downriver Campus

Dee Howey
Retired Professional

Donna Jackson
Owner DMJ Studio, Detroit

Judy Nelms
Retired Professional

Joy Squire
Director, Ballet Americana

Delores Elswick
Retired High School Principal

Joseph G. Kuspa
Mayor of Southgate, Owner Lockus Investments

Mary Ann Perttunen
Retired High School Principal

Faye Tabor
Retired Professional

Krista Ewbank
Artistic Director, Open Book Theatre Company

Phillipa Matakas
Self Employed Real Estate Mgmt.

Waltraud Prechter
Founder, Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund

Steve Wildern
Theatre Operations Dean, WCCCD

Karen Ranka
Owner/Manger Country Manor, Grosse Ile

Norma Wurmlinger
Former Mayor, City of Southgate

“Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time”
Thomas Merton
Mike completed a BFA from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan where he focused on skills in drawing and printmaking. His craft today is realized through the relief process in printmaking where an image is drawn, transferred to a block of wood or linoleum, and carved by hand to create depth. The block is then placed onto and printed from an 1891 Chandler & Price letterpress custom restored by Mike. He works as a freelance art director and in addition to his graphic and fine art work, Mike is a musician playing guitar, mountain dulcimer and Celtic harp. Mike’s love for traditional American music lead to a series of four limited-edition letterpress prints dedicated to the music and tradition of its performance entitled, Tuned to Tradition.

Scott is an award winning independent filmmaker and a retired Detroit/Downriver police detective. His long-term commitment to coaching & mentoring at-risk and disadvantaged youth, in combination with his work as a writer, director and producer is directly reflected in the kaleidoscope of personality conveyed through the dark, the humane and the comical sides of life in his films. In 2009 Galeski founded Ring of Fire Entertainment which has produced over 30 independent films and music videos that have screened throughout the world. In 2016 he founded the Downriver Detroit Student Film Consortium diversely consisting of students from Detroit and Downriver area high schools.

Born and raised in Lincoln Park, Michigan, Jamie creates hand-crafted, artisan chocolates in the kitchen at the Art Center and distributes them throughout Southeast Michigan. As a Muslim-American woman, she spent nearly 20 years abroad perfecting her craft and opened her first boutique chocolate production facility and group of retail stores in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Podbros Network has been creating and producing podcasts since 2013. Through their podcasts, they have been able to promote and help many of the local creators of the Downriver Area. When they are not podcasting, they are covering local events, helping charities and organizations, and educating everyone on how to listen to podcasts.
MEET OUR RESIDENT ARTISTS

MARTINE MACDONALD

Martine explores notions of place and time by distilling observed land and skylines into oil paintings. Complementing the paintings are intimate mix media pieces constructed with copper, bones, wood, found, and crafted objects. Their themes of home and identity have a foundation in Classical and Roman Catholic mythology, literature and poetry, and the natural world. As she refines life experiences, dreams and memories into a visual essence, Martine strives to move her work towards a spirituality that reconciles issues of mothering, home, place and identity. Perhaps this pursuit has its foundation in her own childhood, or perhaps it is just the very human need to know home and belonging.

DONNA HINSON

Donna teaches classes through the DCA for children and adults, including the DCA's Youth Art classes and the DCA's Youth Summer Art Camps. Previously Donna was the owner/operator of a gallery and studio on Grosse Ile, and now focuses her paintings on relationships between people, self and the larger society. She is interested in what makes us who we are and how we interact with one another, how the larger world influences us and how we influence the world. Many of her pieces rely on nuanced balance and simplicity, and can be described best as intimate looks at ideas and feelings.

JOE HOSLER

Joseph is an up and coming mural artist who has spent the last 5 years creating artworks that deliver an impact and have a story to tell. He works in various mediums and is not limited to aerosol paints, airbrush, acrylics, pencil, and ink.

“Creativity Takes Courage”
Henri Matisse

We provide artists with an incubator space to create their art in a dynamic environment.
INCOME STATEMENT 2016

HOW THE DCA IS FUNDED
Memberships, grants, foundation support, corporate support, sponsorships, fundraisers and special events, gallery sales, an annual giving campaign, classes, workshop fees and donations

PROGRAMMING
$65,700

MEMBERSHIPS
$12,805

FUNDRAISERS
$8,898

DONATIONS
$7,919

TOTAL INCOME
$95,322

TOTAL EXPENSES
$107,378

Thank you for your donations

City of Wyandotte: $25,000
The State of Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs: $12,500
World Heritage Foundation - Prechter Family Fund: $3,000
Wyandotte Rotary: $2,500
BASF: $1,000
Joe and Carol Caruso: $1,000
Karen Smithbauer-Wilson: $500
THANK YOU for an amazing year

DCA COMMUNITIES
Allen Park, Belleville, Brownstown, Ecorse, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Huron, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, River Rouge, Riverview, Rockwood, Romulus, Southgate, Sumpter Twp, Taylor, Trenton, Van Buren, Woodhaven, Wyandotte