Dear Friends,

(Is it too cliche to start an annual report letter with “Wow, what a year it has been!”? Because it’s particularly true in this case.)

**Wow, what a year it’s been!**

We started new programs, we moved to a new office, we celebrated our 10th Anniversary. Oh, and we changed our name.

This was not a decision anyone took lightly. It was first suggested when I started at Omaha Creative Institute in the fall of 2016, but I put my foot down instantly. I wasn’t going to be the guy that came into the organization and immediately make huge, sweeping changes. During the first few months of my tenure, I met with artists, donors, and supporters, and it was clear that this was an organization many people cared deeply about. I didn’t take that lightly. Over the course of a year, the topic continued to come up again and again. Was our name a good representation of who we were? Who we wanted to be? Was it worth the risk to change it? After months of conversations, the board and I decided yes, and that our 10th Anniversary was the perfect time.

The Board of Directors and staff engaged in a number of strategic exercises to identify the right name, and ultimately chose *Amplify Arts*. It communicates our vision for the community perfectly. Amplify means to magnify, intensify, increase, boost. For over 10 years, we have been amplifying working artists from across the Omaha Metro. From “Come Create it Workshops” to our Artist Grants program, Amplify Arts has a strong track record of using our platform to support artists.

We also took the opportunity to craft a new mission statement to match our new identity, which is to **promote unity, innovation, and progress in the arts to build strong and vibrant communities.**

Our core focus remains the same - to support strong artists of all disciplines. But we’ve realized that can’t happen through education and grants alone. We have to look at the big picture systems and barriers that are holding artists back from success here in Omaha. By adopting a macro approach and addressing larger systemic issues, while simultaneously maintaining our micro approach in education/professional development and grantmaking, the arts community (and Omaha as a whole) will emerge stronger.

Thank you for continuing to support Amplify Arts as we embark on this exciting new journey. Here’s to the next 10 Years!

In partnership,

Andy

*Executive Director*
Amplify Arts served 380 local artists and hosted 27 professional development workshops/programs in 2018, giving artists of all disciplines the opportunity to build skills in areas such as writing, marketing, finance, technology, and more. Three professional development programs are offered throughout the year. Working Artist Wednesdays (WAW) offers a monthly workshop on a range of topics, perfect for an artist looking to gain or refresh knowledge in specific areas. Summer School, presented in partnership with the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts and the Union for Contemporary Art, provides a more in-depth experience through a half-day seminar. Artists commit to 8 weeks of learning and mentorship in Artist INC. Each program, in addition to the knowledge gained, also provides artists with connections to peers and professional contacts, building community at the same time.

At a glance:

**ARTIST INC**

21 artists completed the program, which now has 110 alumni over 5 years

**Sessions**

- Strategic Planning & Goal Setting
- Marketing Your Art
- Financial Planning & Budgeting
- Writing About Your Work
- Legal Issues in the Arts
- Raising Funds
- Technology
- Delivering an Artist Talk

**WORKING ARTIST WEDNESDAYS**

170 artists attended 18 sessions with 11 local expert facilitators

**Sessions**

- Self-Organizing
- Hard Bargains
- Documenting Your Work
- Work Samples
- Tax Tips
- Budgets
- Critical Conversations pt. 1 & 2
- Building a Better Website
- Social Media Marketing
- Creating an Archive
- Insuring Your Work
- Artist Talks
- Teaching with Artist Know-How
- Nonprofit vs. Commercial Spaces
- Copyright, Licensing, & Fair Use
- Wellness for Artists
- Demystifying the Application Process

**SUMMER SCHOOL**

33 artists attended the half-day conference featuring 3 workshops

**Workshops**

- Professional Access Panel with Beaufield Berry-Fisher, Nicole Caruth, C.J. Olson, & Tessa Wedberg
- Accessing Opportunities via Social Media with Matt Carlson & Dan Crane
- Artist Talks with conference attendees

**Professional Development Sponsors**

Adah and Leon Millard Foundation, Iowa West Foundation, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Peter Kiewit Foundation

**Professional Development Partners**

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Gallery 1516, Omaha Public Libraries, Union for Contemporary Art
ARTIST GRANTS

In the first full year of the Artist Grants program, Amplify Arts awarded a total of $40,022 to 20 local artists and 1 artist collective to give them a platform to implement their creative projects and support their practices. By eliminating the financial barriers that many artists face in producing creative works, Amplify Arts helps to move artists of all disciplines closer to sustainability in their careers.

At a glance:
- $40,022 awarded
- 210 grant applications
- 2 public projects
- 4 artist support grants
- 12 micro grants
- 1 emergency grant
- 1 client project
- 6 artist-led public programs
- Awarded across 5 disciplines:
  - literary, music, participatory, theatre, visual

2018 ROUND 1

Angie Seykora
$3,500 Artist Support Grant

Topher Booth
$3,500 Working Parent Artist Support Grant

Marie Amthor-Schuett
$5,000 Public Project Grant

2018 ROUND 2

Amanda Smith
$3,500 Artist Support Grant

Dieudonne Manirakiza
$3,500 New American Artist Support Grant

The Study
$5,000 Public Project Grant

MICRO GRANTS

Corson Androski // $120
Travis Apel // $452
Pamela Conyers-Hinson // $350
Dan Crane & Angie Seykora // $450
J.R. Dawson // $250
Anna Jordan // $350
Holly Kranker // $500
Ashley Laverty // $250
Torrey Smith // $300
Molly Toberer // $250
Ian Tredway // $250
Ella Weber // $500

OMAHA STORMCHASERS 50TH SEASON MURAL

Hugo Zamorano // $10,000
FORMING CONNECTIONS

Over 500 patrons connected with 86 local artists through our public-facing programs. Community Supported Art (CSArt) connects local artists directly to patrons, cultivating long-term relationships. With the same buy-direct, buy-local spirit found in co-ops and farmer’s markets, where consumers buy produce straight from local farms, CSArt brings original, affordable, and high quality artwork directly to interested buyers. Generator Grants put funds into artists’ pockets, and guide them through the entire process of organizing marketing, and presenting a curated exhibition or performance. The public programming connected with the exhibition or performance facilitates new relationships with local patrons.

At a glance:

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART

Artists

Events
Artist Talks // Collector 101 // Studio Visits // Harvest

GENERATOR GRANTS

8 exhibitions presented by 9 artist-curators and 62 participating artists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Exhibition</th>
<th>Curator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB 9</td>
<td>Chumley</td>
<td>curated by Erin Foley</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 16</td>
<td>Medium Green</td>
<td>curated by Andrew Tatreau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 13</td>
<td>I Like Your Work</td>
<td>curated by Sarah Hummel Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 11</td>
<td>Art Furniture</td>
<td>curated by Christopher Prinz</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUN 8</td>
<td>Lauren Conrad is Crying</td>
<td>curated by Slushie Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUG 10</td>
<td>Y'all 20</td>
<td>curated by Dan Crane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 14</td>
<td>Silk</td>
<td>curated by Alajia McKizia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 12</td>
<td>In Thicket</td>
<td>curated by Alexis Maine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Supported Art Sponsors
Dundee Bank, Lincoln Financial Group, Mutual of Omaha

Generator Grants Partners and Sponsors
Big Muddy Urban Farm, Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment

photo by Debra S. Kaplan
10TH ANNIVERSARY

2018 was Amplify Arts’ 10th year of service to the local arts community. We started off the year moving to our new home on 13th Street in Little Bohemia. We celebrated this milestone with our friends and supporters throughout the year, with fun events and the announcement of our new name and programs, all with intention of creating even more positive impact for local artists.

On Saturday, October 6th, over 100 of our friends joined us at GRAVE 2018, our first ever major fundraiser. All proceeds went directly back to local artists through our programming. GRAVE included a pop-up exhibition curated by the founders of Project Project, Joel Damon and Josh Powell, as well as performances throughout the night. The event featured over 30 local visual and performing artists who have participated in one or more of our programs.

Artists

AMPLIFY ARTS

On November 12, 2018 Omaha Creative Institute officially became Amplify Arts. Amplify means to magnify, intensify, increase, boost. That’s exactly what we want to do. We want to take the amazing talent and energy that exists in Greater Omaha and help it grow bigger, stronger, and reach farther. Becoming Amplify Arts enables us to live that mission fully.

GRAVE 2018 Partners
40th Street Theatre, OnPxl, and Upstream Brewing Company
PEOPLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Cynthia Buettner
president
Jennifer Barry
treasurer
Denise Powell
secretary
Wendy Hamilton
JoAnna LeFlore
John McIntyre
Robert O’Neil
Jonathan Tvrdik
Watie White

STAFF
Andrew Saladino
executive director
Peter Fankhauser
program director
Caitlin Osborn
communications director

FINANCIALS

Contributions (94%)
- Individuals $52,121
- Corporations $18,705
- Foundations $125,740
- Government Grants $81,976

Earned Income (6%)
- Program Fees $17,095

TOTAL REVENUES $295,637
- Programs $152,530
- Management $98,725
- Fundraising $35,131

TOTAL EXPENSES $286,386

2018 HIGHLIGHTS
Found a new home in Little Bohemia
Launched Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts-Nebraska
Awarded over $40,000 in grants to local artists
Showcased 71 emerging artists through Generator Grants
Served 380 artists
Hosted 27 professional development workshops
Changed our name to Amplify Arts
## FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

### $20,000+

Anonymous  
Douglas County Commissioners-Visitor Improvement Fund  
Pape Family Foundation  
Peter Kiewit Foundation

### $10,000 - $19,999

Carol Gendler  
Mid-America Arts Alliance  
The Sherwood Foundation

### $5,000 - $9,999

Laura & Michael Alley  
Adah and Leon Millard Foundation  
Mutual of Omaha  
Dori Settles  
Annette & Paul Smith

### $2,500 - $4,999

Nebraska Arts Council  
Jill & Dutch Van Denburg

### $1,000 - $2,499

Cynthia Buettner  
Dundee Bank  
Steve Hutchinson & Susan Thomas  
Iowa West Foundation  
Lincoln Financial Group  
Sharee & Murray Newman  
Robert & Sara O’Neil  
Denise & Hobson Powell  
Adam & Megan Sitzmann-Russ & Lisa Rupiper Family Foundation  
Watie White

### $250 - $999

Beverly & Randall Greer  
Husch Blackwell  
Katie & Justin Kemelerling  
James Luyten & Meredith Fuller  
Rosie Meegan  
Hannah Mirmiran  
P.J. Morgan Real Estate  
Louisa & Peter Saladino-Kuhl  
Andy Saladino & Jennifer Ettinger  
Aaron & Robin Shaddy  
Jonathan Tvardik & Sarah Lorsung Tvardik  
Emily Andersen  
Tracy & Claire Baker  
Jennifer & Ryan Barry  
Bob Benzol & Gerry Sullivan  
Terri Blase  
Karín Campbell  
Marsha Congdon  
Dr. Debra Ann Reilly & Bob Culver  
Joel Damon  
Janet Farber & Michael Krainak  
Maria Fernandez  
Steven Hendrickson  
Bekah Jerde  
Patrick Kilcoyne  
Jason & Melissa Kulbel  
Dr. Cheryl Manasil & Dr. Todd Robinson  
John McIntyre & Laura Vranes  
Emily & Craig Moody  
Dave & Sara Nelson  
Jill Odens  
Elizabeth & Ryan Pozzi  
Jill Rizzo & Brian Wetjen  
Mary Talen  
Monte & Duane Thompson  
Molly Toberer  
Beverly Todd  
Dorothy Tuma  
Bart Vargas  
Mary Zicafoose  
Rhonda Bruggeman  
Sarah Brumfield  
David Burton  
Alexandra Cardon  
Susan Clement & Dan Toberer  
Jana Coburn  
Dan Crane  
Drew Cratsenberg  
Amanda DeBoer-Bartlett  
Paige Dempsey  
Geoff DeOld  
Julie DeWitt  
John & Lori Elliott-Bartle  
Abby Estes-Queal  
Emily Flom  
Abby Fogle  
Erin Foley  
Krista Freimuth  
Tammie Gebers  
Daniel Gilbert  
Jeffrey Hahn  
Wendy Hamilton  
Amy Haney  
Madison Haugland & Scott Smith  
Heidi Hermanson  
John Herzinger  
Karen Hickman  
Chris Hochstetler  
Peggy Holloway  
Maher & Nisha Jafari  
Christi Janssen  
Debra Kaplan  
Dan Klima & Nancy Lepo  
Sarah Kolar  
Melinda Kozel  
Mark Kresl  
Shea Kuhl  
Josephine & Brian Langbehn  
JoAnna LeFlore  
Shawnequa Linder  
Emily Lowndes-Prauner  
Quentin Lueninghoener  
Michael Lyon  
Marjorie & Preston Maas  
Caitlin Mabon  
Grace Manley  
Matt Mason & Sarah McKinstry-Brown  
Amy Mather  
Matthew Mcgee  
Todd McCollister  
Clifton McEvoy  
Mary McHale  
Brigitte McQueen Shew  
Emily & Craig Moody  
Seraphim & David Mullins  
Tiffany Nigro  
Holly Olson  
Christopher Olson  
Joni Osborn  
David Pantos  
Michael Pray  
Cristina Prentice  
Leanne Prewitt  
Reagan Pufall  
Gabriella Quiroz-Leavitt  
Alydia Radicia  
Paige Reitz  
Evelyn Render-Katz  
Penney Ruma  
Erin Sample  
Joan Sangimino  
Nancy Schrack  
Angie Seykora  
Jennifer Shannon  
Nadia Shinkunas  
Francis Sillau  
Sarah Sjolie  
Jill Slupe  
Dawn Smith  
Julie & Don Stavneak  
David Steadman & Sara McClure  
Scott Stewart  
Chris & Barb Stratman  
Edward Svagjl  
Tedi Swanson  
Monte & Duane Thompson  
Nicole Tromler  
Joseph Vavak  
Julie & Diane Walker  
Paula Wallace  
Maggie Weber  
Susan Westerholm  
Mark Wiesman  
Susan Woodford  
Maggie Wood  
Ryan Youtz  
Ketryn Zychal