

ARTS

ARTS

AMPLIFY ARTS

2018

ANNUAL

REPORT

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Dear Friends,

(Is it too cliché 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!

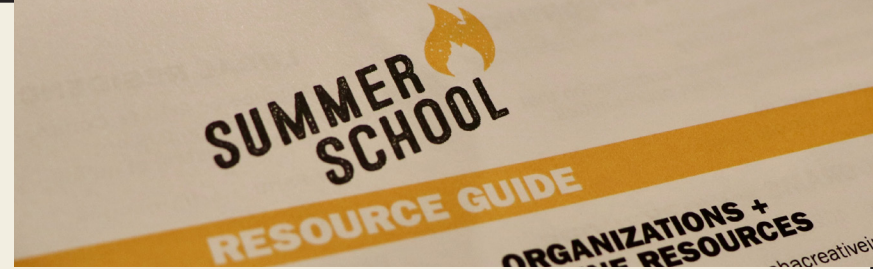
In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy", written in a cursive style.

Andy
Executive Director

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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.



Artist Grants Jurists

Kim Carpenter, Nancy Friedemann-Sanchez, Camille Hawbaker, Rachel Jacobson, JoAnna LeFlore, Zora Murff, Denise Powell, Josh Powell, Angie Seykora

Artist Grants Sponsors

Annette and Paul Smith, The Pape Family Foundation

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

Siddig Babiker, Amanda DeBoer-Bartlett, Sarah Hummel Jones, Holly Kranker, Sarah Kolar, Joey Lynch, Bryan Miller, Howard Paine, Joe Pankowski, Sarah Parys, Nadia Shinkunas, Torrey Smith, Katie Temple, Jadon Ulrich, Brian Wetjen

Events

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

GENERATOR GRANTS

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

FEB 9

Chumley // curated by Erin Foley

FEB 16

Medium Green // curated by Andrew Tatreau

APR 13

I Like Your Work // curated by Sarah Hummel Jones

MAY 11

Art Furniture // curated by Christopher Prinz

JUN 8

Lauren Conrad is Crying // curated by Slushie Cohen

AUG 10

Y'all 20 // curated by Dan Crane

SEP 14

Silk // curated by Alajia McKizia

OCT 12

In Thicket // curated by Alexis Maine



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.**



photo by Debra S. Kaplan

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

Will Anderson, Anthony Deon Brown, Dan Crane, Chikadibia Ebirim, Alex Jochim, Nick Holden, Sarah Hummel Jones, Ruby Kelley, Sarah Kolar, Holly Kranker, Jessica Latch, Matt Mason, Sarah McKinstry-Brown, Dominique Morgan, Joe Pankowski, Luke Severson, Katie Temple, Ian Tredway, Nolan Tredway, Jadon Ulrich, Bart Vargas, Ella Weber, Brian Wetjen, Watie White, Mary Zicafoose, and tbd. dance collective.

AMPLIFYARTS

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.



photo by Debra S. Kaplan

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

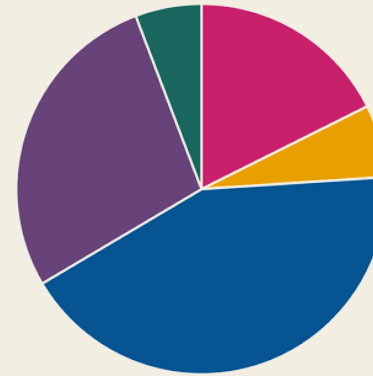
STAFF

Andrew Saladino
executive director

Peter Fankhauser
program director

Caitlin Osborn
communications director

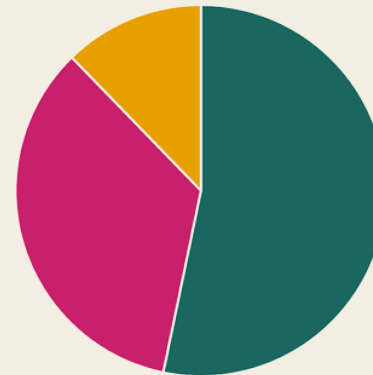
FINANCIALS



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

AMPLIFYARTS

1419 South 13th Street, Suite 103
Omaha, Nebraska 68108
402.996.1092
www.amplifyarts.org
@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 Kemerling
James Luyten & Meredith Fuller
Rosie Meegan
Hannah Mirmiran

PJ. Morgan Real Estate
Louisa & Peter Saladino-Kuhl
Andy Saladino & Jennifer Ettinger
Aaron & Robin Shaddy
Jonathan Tvrdik & Sarah
Lorsung Tvrdik

\$100 - \$249

Emily Andersen
Tracy & Claire Baker
Jennifer & Ryan Barry
Bob Benzel & Gerry Sullivan
Terri Blase
Karin 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

\$10 - \$99

Joe Addison
Josh & Dana Bartee
Shelly Bartek
Colin Bernard
Esau Betancourt
John & Patricia Binderup
Cherine Bishara
Courtney Brewer

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
Tammy Gebers
Daniel Gilbert
Jeffrey Hahn
Wendy Hamilton
Amy Haney
Madison Haugland & Scott Smith
Heidi Hermanson
John Herzinger
Kareen 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 McBee
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
Alysia 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
Kietryn Zychal