Hello Friends of Artistry,

It has been 10 months since we first shared the financial uncertainty we were experiencing as an organization. As we end this fiscal year and look to the future we wanted to update this community on our progress and status.

The end of one fiscal year and the beginning of another is an important time for any non-profit. We are excited to say that we are very close to our $30,000 year-end fundraising goal. Your gift today will help us close that gap and begin this new fiscal year in a strong position to continue our quest to bring Artistry Theater and Visual Arts to the next level of impact and sustainability.

What happened?

- In September the staff and board at Artistry discovered previously undisclosed debt which forced us to make a number of difficult but necessary decisions to secure the future of the organization. Since that time, we have negotiated forgiveness and **paid down over 70% of that debt**. We have payment plans for the remainder of the liabilities and have put a number of new processes in place to ensure that this situation cannot happen again.
• The leadership of the organization is positioning itself to support and protect the future of Artistry. The majority of our Board of Directors have opted to stay in their positions so they can take responsibility for righting the ship. They are **working diligently with current staff to secure the future of the organization**. Through more engaged fundraising efforts, new oversight and fiscal accountability in place, a revamped committee structure, new members with expertise previously missing from the team and board training, to name a few.

• Since receiving a grant from the Bloomington City Council and a loan from Propel Nonprofits in January of this year, we are grateful that **Artistry has also been awarded grants from The McKnight Foundation, Xcel Energy and Bloomington Noon Rotary Club**.

![Image](image1.jpg)

*The cast and creative team of GODSPELL on their first day of rehearsal!*

**What is happening now?**

• After a successful run of our first production back, *The Pajama Game*, **we have started rehearsals for our next theatrical production - Godspell**! We are thrilled to say that we made it to this moment after having to reschedule the production back in September. The original team and the majority of the cast was able to return.

• **Our 3 galleries are blooming with art.** Hundreds of visitors have had free access to engage and be moved. Artists have received stipends, have sold art pieces and had the opportunity to share their wonderful work with the community. AND we have reopened The Rose Schneider Gift Shop. Visit us during Bloomington Farmers Markets and Box Office Hours!

• We have partnered with the Mall of America on a visual art exhibit for PRIDE - now showing at the mall through July 31st.
• Summer Camps for youth are happening! We had our first camp last week and are so thankful to our amazing teachers! The kids, and parents, reported a great time. 3 more artful weeks to go!

• Since January, **we have held several education events** including dance classes, painting classes, an audition workshop, a volunteer appreciation event, Artist talks in our galleries and hosted the annual Bloomington Elementary Schools young artists exhibit in the Atrium gallery. Check out the exciting new installation opening this Thursday, June 29th in the Inez Greenberg Gallery, **An Authentic Truth** by Peyton Scott Russell!

![Campers enjoy the performing and visual arts at Artistry Summer Camps 2023!](image)

All of this to fulfill our mission: **providing artists the opportunity to create and grow and audiences the chance to engage with quality accessible arts experiences.** Another big thank you to all of the generous supporters and partners who canceled and negotiated debt, to all of you who donated, are buying tickets and have rallied your support in our direction! **Thank you!**

![Family and friends view the Bloomington Elementary Schools Art Show in the Atrium Gallery at the Bloomington Center for the Arts.](image)
What does the future hold..

- The team at Artistry is excited to complete this theatrical season and honor the commitments to artists and audiences.

- The galleries will remain accessible visual arts showcases as we present new exhibitions, host opening receptions and Artist Talks open to all.

- We have a renewed and exciting relationship with the other Resident Arts Organizations with whom we share space and vision, meeting regularly to promote collaboration and promotion of the arts in our community.

- We are looking forward to celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Bloomington Center for the Arts and all the folks from this community that worked generously to make it a reality.

- We are working to continue to expand the arts education opportunities we can offer. Look for updated programming this fall.

- We are planning for the next theatrical season and can’t wait to share more stories with you all in the beautiful Schneider Theater!

An Artist Talk in the Inez Greenberg Gallery at the Bloomington Center for the Arts.
Many arts organizations across the country are making headlines with canceled programming, reduced staffing and even doors closing. Artistry was among the first to come forward with this reality but the truth is we are all facing the challenge of rebuilding and reengaging with the community after several challenging years. The pandemic changed the way folks participate in arts experiences and our industry is looking to find new ways forward. It took years to get into this situation and it will take time to get out. We have made great strides over the past 10 months but that can never make up for the difficult impact the past has had on people who lost opportunities and livelihood and the loss of programming that was beloved.

As we look to the future of the arts in Bloomington, we will continue to prioritize and support theater makers, visual artists and arts education. **We are committed to honoring the great history and people who came before us by focusing our efforts on stabilizing, prioritizing inclusivity and diversity, and lifting up Minnesota artists to provide audiences with arts experiences that make our community proud.**

With utmost appreciation and gratitude,

Kelli Foster Warder
Executive Artistic Director

~ DONATE NOW! ~