



2022 IMPACT REPORT

Enriching our community
through artistic experiences

AS THE SNOW is again falling outside, in what is sure to be an epic winter to remember, I can't help but think how *epic* this past year has been for the Arts Council. When I wrote this introduction for our 2021 Impact Report, we had just moved into our new space in the BASE community center. Everything was happening so fast! But here we are, a year later, and we are settling in our new digs quite nicely. I'm extremely proud of what we've been able to accomplish in such a short amount of time. Nearly 1,000 individual participants in our kids and adult art classes. A dedicated gallery space to hang everything from student artwork to new pieces from the best regional artists. Classes in pottery, watercolor, collage, mosaic, woodburning, drawing and more! Single day workshops to multi-week arts experiences. The best thing is that this is just the beginning—we have so much more in store for 2023.

The support that the Arts Council has received from the Big Sky community has been truly overwhelming. This support has allowed us to further our mission of *enriching our community through artistic experiences*, and help achieve our vision of a community **connected to and inspired by art**. Furthermore, this support has allowed us to adhere to our guiding principle: *accessible arts for all*. We strive to remove barriers for Big Sky residents and visitors to make the Arts a part of their life, since we believe that this plays an important role in a healthy, creative and caring community.

We're excited for what this coming year will bring to the Arts Council, and what **we** can bring to **you**. Our summer music series starts on June 22, and our spring is filled with a wide selection of art classes. Whether it's in the classroom or in Len Hill Park for a Thursday concert, we look forward to saying hello and, most of all, *thank you!*

Sincerely,



Brian Hurlbut

Executive Director, Arts Council of Big Sky

bigskyarts.org



| On the Front Cover: *The crowd approves. The Last Revel performs at the 2022 Music in the Mountains. Photo: Braydon Bell*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Installed Linda Fleming's *Lightning* sculpture at BASE Community Center

Moved offices into BASE and opened art classroom and gallery space

Hosted 13 free concerts in Len Hill Park

More than 1,200 kids participated in ARTventure activities

Presented Montana Shakespeare in the Parks in July

2022 Auction for the Arts gala raised more than \$160K for arts programming

Supported >85 artists for annual auction fundraiser event

Hired part-time Studio Assistant for art classroom

Exhibited three different art exhibits at BASE gallery

Collaborated with Montana Ballet on Discover Dance student program

Presented Juno-winning Canadian folk quartet the Fretless in concert

Hired four interns for summer art activity tent

Hosted first-ever, sold-out Skull & Roses Ball at the Independent

Hosted Big Sky Artisan Festival with more than 80 vendors

Presented Mountainfilm in the Schools to local students

Invited nine high-school students to Seattle for annual ARTventure trip

Hosted Gina Still Smoking for Artist in Residence student program

Collaborated with MSU School of Music for annual Madrigal Dinner

Presented more than 125 free film and music events at the Independent

Music in the Mountains awarded Best Annual Event by Explore Big Sky

Nearly 900 total participants in 128 art classes at BASE

and much, much more!

2022



| **Top Right:** *Lightning*. Harpist Abigail Kent. Woodburning class. Volunteers. Carlin Bear Don't Walk.

EVENTS. EDUCATION. PUBLIC ART.



Providing access to the arts for all.
No barriers. Proud partners with the community.

FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

INCOME

\$1,381,361*



DONATIONS
30%



PROGRAM
27%



RESORT TAX
16%



GRANTS
14%



SPONSORS
9%



OTHER
4%

EXPENSES

\$1,329,127



PROGRAMMING
81%



ADMINISTRATIVE
14%



FUNDRAISING
5%

* Includes \$100,000 restricted funds donation



FOCUS ON: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



EACH FALL the Arts Council collaborates with the Big Sky School District for our Artist in Residence Program, where our goal is to engage students with diverse cultures through the arts. This year we brought renowned fashion designer and multimedia artist Gina Still Smoking to Big Sky, where she worked with Lone Peak High School students on collaborative design work-

shops for two days, culminating in an evening fashion show at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. Students learned the artform of block printing, and their designs were incorporated into the garments featured in the fashion show. Working directly with BSSD teachers Tony Coppola, Kate Riley and Jeremy Harder, the students were able to connect to modern Native culture

through design, visual art and historical and contemporary Native history. The fashion show also included a special performance from world champion hoop dancer Jasmine Pickner Bell. The Arts Council received a grant from the Montana Arts Council's Artists in Schools and Communities program, as well as funding from Indian Education for All through the Big Sky School District.

"The artist in residence program sponsored by the Arts Council of Big Sky has been a valuable experience for the students of Lone Peak High School," says Coppola. "Over the years the students have been enriched by this experience through workshops, live performances and experiential learning activities. The student experience at our school has been enriched through this program and partnership."





TO SAY our new art classroom in the BASE community center has been popular is an understatement. Just look at the numbers in the box to the right, and you'll see the impact this new space is having on our community. Staffed with a full-time Studio Manager and a part-time assistant—along with guest instructors when needed—we have been able to offer classes in pottery, painting, drawing, watercolor, collage, woodburning and mixed media. These include longer sessions like our five-week pottery classes, after school art programs for kids and community art classes that explore a new artistic medium each month. In addition, we offer intensive multi-day workshops such as plein air, encaustic and palette knife painting taught by renowned regional artists.

Part of our success is our dedication to making high quality art education accessible to all members of the community, striving to remove the barriers—social, economic and demographic—that could prevent someone from experiencing the

power of the Arts. Our Contribute What You Can (CWYC) program offers a sliding scale fee system, allowing participants in financial need to pay a reduced fee, as well as offering an opportunity for participants to 'pay it forward' by making a donation along with their class fee.

We know from our surveys that this model has allowed people to take one of our art classes that might otherwise not be able to. It also allows others to extend a helping hand to their neighbors. It's the only program like it in the state.

Finally, we're witnessing how the Arts can play a role in improving our behavioral health, helping make Big Sky a better place to live—one class at a time.

Our gratitude is extended to the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation, the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation and the Gallatin Canyon Women's Club—along with many generous individuals—for helping us fund the CWYC program during the past year. The entire community thanks you!

BASE CLASSROOM BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL CLASS PARTICIPANTS

899

TOTAL ADULTS

475

TOTAL KIDS

424

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLASSES

128

CWYC PERCENTAGE

40%

PERCENTAGE WHO DONATED

14%

POUNDS OF CLAY USED

5,000

POUNDS OF CLAY RECYCLED

500

POTTERY PIECES CREATED

1,980

As of February, 2023



FOCUS ON: ART IN ACTION



CONTRIBUTORS

Includes donations made from January 1 – December 31, 2022

\$25,000 AND UP

Big Sky Resort *
Big Sky Resort Area District
Trux and Durbin Emerson
Don Grasso
Jereco Studios *
Lone Mountain Land Company
MJ Murdock Charitable Trust
Spanish Peaks Community Foundation
Yellowstone Club Community Foundation

\$10,000 TO \$24,999

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** includes in-kind donations*



GRATEFUL

The ACBS is supported by the following grantmaking foundations and organizations



| A young participant having fun at the summer ARTventure activity tent.

A sincere THANKS to all of the artists who participated in our 10th annual Auction for the Arts fundraiser, February 26, 2022!



Clyde Aspveig
 Georgia Baker
 Patty Bauchman
 Carlin Bear Don't Walk
 Ben Pease
 Katherine Berceau
 Shelly Belmont
 Amber Blazina
 Will Brewster
 Shari Chandler
 Julie Chapman
 Ariane Coleman
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 Logan Wood
 Betsy Youngquist
 Jill Zeidler
 Rilie Zumbrennen



Above, scenes from the 2022 Music in the Mountains concert series in Len Hill Park, as well as the Auction for the Arts (Dave Pecunies photos).

PARTNER FOCUS: THE INDEPENDENT

IT WAS quite a year for our collaborative venture with the Independent, a multipurpose venue that opened in early 2022 in the old Lone Peak Cinema space. Reimagined with a new live music room, two movie screens, a restaurant and two bars, the Indy has become a hotspot for everything from outdoors films to local musicians to special events.



THE INDEPENDENT

Our partnership allows us to program one night of film and at least one night of music per week. One highlight has been our Saturday night Songwriter Showcase, which features local, regional and national musicians



performing in the intimate venue. These free shows have been quite popular. We've also hosted full bands, and special events like last fall's Skull and Roses Ball—a sold-out themed Halloween event with a live performance from Dead Sky (at right).

We also offered numerous films throughout the year, including our annual Mountain-film celebration, as well as skiing, mountain bike and fly fishing adventure films. We're excited about this new collaboration, and we will be hosting even more events in this great new Big Sky venue in 2023. Stop in and check it out!

SAMPLE PROGRAMMING FROM 2022

Vancouver International Film Festival • Paddling Film Festival • Mountainfilm
Manhattan Short Film Festival

Amanda Stewart • The Damn Duo • Mike Murray Duo • Dead Sky
Craig Hall Trio • Emma and the Ledge • Desperate Electric • The Dead and Down
Jacob Rountree • Dan Dubuque • Sean Devine • W.C. Huntley



 | Scenes from the Skull and Roses Ball. Photos by Marco DelGuidice.

FOCUS ON: EMERGING ARTISTS

THANKS TO a generous grant from the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation, the Arts Council added more music to the already popular Music in the Mountains free summer concert series. With the amount of amazing local talent in Montana and the region, we wanted to showcase these artists in front of a cheering Big Sky crowd. This not only allows them to hone their craft in front of a large audience, with professional sound and lights, but it gives them an opportunity to open for more



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

professional, touring bands. It allows the local bands to be a part of the tight-knit musician community. Finally, funding from the grant allows the Arts Council to pay the bands a decent wage to perform. Part of our role at the Arts Council is to support our local and regional artists. The Emerging Artist Series is a great way to do just that, while enhancing our Thursday concert events. Thanks to the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation for supporting our efforts!



2022 MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS EMERGING ARTISTS

Cole and the Thornes • Ian Thomas • Wes Urbaniak • One Leaf
Sam Platts and the Plainsmen • Peter King • Dammit Lauren!
Madeline Hawthorne • Amanda Stewart • Vibe Quartet
Moonlight Moonlight • DJ Jenn N Juice



| From the top: Cole and the Thornes; Moonlight Moonlight; Madeline Hawthorne; Vibe Quartet.

OUR MISSION: *To enrich our community through artistic experiences*

OUR VISION: *A community connected to and inspired by art*

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Back Cover: *Award-winning Crow Creek Sioux hoop dancer Jasmine Pickner Bell.* **Right:** *Young artists at work in our new classroom.*



