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Grants

2024 Recipients of Arts Initiative Grants

By Kathleen Broadwell

Five local art projects will receive a total of \$12,800 in funding through CBAC's Arts Initiative Grant program, which serves Bayfield and Ashland counties. Applications were project-specific and were reviewed with regard to artistic merit, community benefit, artistic development and innovation, and the ability to succeed. The four-member review panel, under the direction of CBAC grant coordinator, **Kathleen Broadwell**, consisted of **Carla Bremner** and **Claire Duquette**, former CBAC board members; **Holly Rigotti**, former theatre manager; and **Christina Sauer**, former CBAC board member and Grant Coordinator.

The Arts Initiative Grant is made possible by funding from the Wisconsin Arts Board. CBAC matches WAB funds with money donated by our local sponsors. ☺



Congratulations, 2024 Arts Initiative Grant Recipients!

- **Bayfield Summer Concerts** (\$3,000)—to pay musicians who come to Bayfield for the summer concert series.
- **Marlin Ledin** (\$1,400)—to pay for mixing, releasing, and promoting an album called “Loom” (digitally online and as CDs) of local musicians.
- **Port Wing Plein Air Festival** (\$3,000)—to cover payments to teachers, advertising, and Berton Boxes.
- **Rabbit, Bird & Bear** (\$2,500)—to support a traveling art exhibit, “Waiting for Beds,” which will showcase art made by those who are/have been homeless in the Chequamegon Bay area.
- **Devin Thunhorst** (\$2,900)—to employ musicians and callers for monthly folk dance get-togethers open to all ages.

Apply for Grants

Artistic Development Grants — Apply by April 1

By Chris Lindsey

Applications will be available March 1, 2024, for the CBAC Artistic Development Grants.

The purpose of these grants is to promote ongoing learning and to encourage professional, amateur, or student artists residing in **Ashland or Bayfield Counties** to further their artistic abilities for reasons of personal growth and enhanced community artistic excellence. Any continuing education opportunity in the field of visual, performing, or literary arts are eligible for consideration. Opportunities can include short-term courses in an artistic field of interest, workshops, art/music/performance/literary camps, or well-defined individual research projects of an artistic nature.

Apply online or download the application and eligibility guidelines at cbayarts.org. The application deadline is April 1, and funding announcements will be made by April 14.

For further information, contact CBAC grant coordinator, **Chris Lindsey**, at chris6454@gmail.com. ☺

President's Letter

Thank you to the Wisconsin Arts Board!



By LeeAnn Frey

At our annual meeting in January, as the **Wisconsin Arts Board** celebrates its 50th anniversary, I was reminded of how important the Wisconsin Arts Board has been to our state. The Chequamegon Bay Arts Council has been a regranteeing partner with the Wisconsin Art Board since 1996. Without their generous support and hard work, I doubt our community would be as enriched with the arts as we find ourselves to be in 2024.

And to drive that point home, at the annual meeting we had three Arts Initiative Grant recipients present their projects. Our meeting turned out to be a night of entertainment. What a testament to the talent and creativity we are blessed with in this area! What a huge benefit to all of us that they, along with other grant recipients and artists, seek out avenues to perfect their skills and share them within their community. We experience this investment in the arts through events, performances, and visual interpretations into the human way of understanding our world. So thank you, Wisconsin Arts Board, for all you've done over the last 50 years to promote the arts culture, especially in our northern area!

Besides this tribute to the WAB, we reviewed what CBAC has done in the last year. Briefly, we put on two art shows; supported **Art Escape**; participated in the **Bayfield Art Festival** and the 2nd annual **Plein Air of Washburn (PAW)**; ran two grant programs and a scholarship program; put out four high-quality issues of our quarterly newsletters (thank you, **Cathy Lange**); and dealt with the challenges of technology, membership management, and bookkeeping programs. We were busy and very productive.

This brings me to my next point. If you find value living in a community that offers this quality of art experiences, please consider becoming a member of our volunteer board. Not only is volunteering a great way to contribute to a place you live in, but you'll have a birds-eye-view into all that's going on in the arts. Contact any board member for more information, and come to one of our meetings to see if you might enjoy being on the board.

Now it's time to look forward. Our spring show will be underway when you get this newsletter. "**Let 'R Rip**" is our theme. Our hope is to inspire artists to have fun and stretch the boundaries of what they might otherwise create. And to everyone, please come to the reception and enjoy the month-long show. See what catches your eye and captures your imagination. I hope to see you there.

Happy Spring, everyone! ☺

Editor's Note

Thank you! By Catherine Lange

Special thanks to **Avery Makes Room For Them** for his article about **Rabbit, Bird & Bear!** Thank you, too, to this issue's other contributors: **Kathleen Broadwell, Chris Lindsey, LeeAnn Frey, Claire Duquette, Ann Christensen, Tim Heil, Trisha Miller, Debra Dicke, Lorraine Norrgard, Sara Mustonen, Katherine Swanson, and Lucy Tyrrell.** ☺

Artifacts

The **Chequamegon Bay Arts Council** publishes *Artifacts* quarterly for its members and supporters. CBAC welcomes feedback, article ideas, newsletter contributions, member news, and calendar items. Please send submissions to Editor Catherine Lange at langecate@gmail.com or mail to CBAC, P.O. Box 25, Washburn, WI 54891.

Submission deadlines

Unsolicited articles will be included on a space-available basis. To secure space in an issue, please contact the Editor directly one month before copy deadline.

Summer

Content covers June, July, and August.

Deadline: May 1

Fall

Content covers September, October, November.

Deadline: August 1

Winter

Content covers December, January, and February.

Deadline: November 1

Spring

Content covers March, April, and May.

Deadline: February 1



www.cbayarts.org

P.O. Box 25,
Washburn, WI 54891



2024 SPONSORS



Thank you!

By Chris Lindsey

Thank you to these generous sponsors of the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council! With their support, we've raised significant funds to match those provided by the Wisconsin Arts Board. With these combined funds, CBAC is able to support the work of local artists and arts organizations through our grant programs.

CBAC values our sponsors and will publicly acknowledge them all year long as individuals and organizations who care about enriching our lives through the arts.

Please consider becoming a 2024 CBAC sponsor!

You can donate at cbayarts.org or use the form at right. Or contact Chris Lindsey at (715) 209-5774 or chrissie6454@gmail.com.



Yes!

I will be a 2024 sponsor of CBAC's work to support the arts and local artists.

Sponsor

- Champion \$5,000
- Major Sponsor \$2,000
- Presenting Sponsor \$1,000
- Supporting Sponsor \$500
- I will send my high-resolution logo file to langecate@gmail.com.
- Please call me at _____ I'd like a CBAC board member to meet with me before I become a sponsor.
- My check payable to CBAC for \$ _____ is enclosed.**

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Website _____



P.O. Box 25
Washburn, WI 54891

Questions:

Contact CBAC Board Member Chris Lindsey at (715) 209-5774 or chrissie6454@gmail.com.



Profile

New Gallery in Region: Rabbit, Bird & Bear

By Avery Makes Room For Them

Rabbit, Bird & Bear: Fine Art & Gifts (RBB) is a new gallery and gift shop currently operating out of our downtown Duluth location. The gallery store features 50+ artists, authors, and food producers.

RBB was envisioned by **Michelle LeBeau** shortly after her retirement in early 2023. Michelle's 45+ year career focused on economic development, and with her strong relationships with artists, the dream of Rabbit, Bird & Bear became a reality.

RBB Moving to the Washburn Cultural Center

In early June 2024, we have plans to move into the **Washburn Cultural Center's** first-floor antique store space



Rabbit, Bird & Bear found its first home in May 2023 in Cornucopia at the Ehlers General Store.

as a secured location. We will carry high-quality artworks focusing on indigenous and diverse art. Along with the artwork, we will feature local foods, jewelry, books, and home goods.

RBB is particularly excited to showcase shows in the WCC gallery space. We just learned we've been awarded a **\$2,500 CBAC Arts Initiative grant for "Waiting for Beds,"** a traveling art exhibit showcasing art made by those who are/have been homeless in the Chequamegon Bay area. Works by **Moira Villiard** and **Carla Hamilton** will be in the WCC gallery space during the month of April. This show highlights the challenges with mental health and the trials and frustrations individuals'

experiences during their time waiting-for-a-bed. Accompanying each exhibition is community programming that invites locals with lived experience and expertise to share their connection to the topic.

RBB Also in Bayfield

In addition to the WCC first-floor store space, RBB has secured another gallery location in downtown Bayfield at 222 Rittenhouse Ave. We plan to open this spring and have a grand opening in May. We are excited to partner with **South Shore Botanicals** which will keep Bayfield and surrounding areas supplied with local flower arrangements all summer long!



RBB hosts artist "meet and greet" events.



At their new location in Bayfield, RBB will partner with South Short Botanicals.

"I want to support emerging artists and create spaces that showcase work not always found in other galleries."

—Michelle Lebeau (RBB Owner, CEO)



RBB's exhibit in Madison, in partnership with Integrated Arts Group, netted \$55,000 for artists.



RBB's location in downtown Duluth.

Development and History

While visiting Michelle, artist **Rabbett Before Horses Strickland** encouraged her to pursue her passion in the arts and economic development, and together they began to scope out a location. It's these long-lasting relationships with artists that made the idea of a gallery possible. Artists **Leah Yellowbird** and **Karen Savage-Blue** were among those most encouraging during the early stages when the idea was still an idea.

Michelle's grandson, **Stone Schul** said, "Grandma, you have a Rabbit [Rabbett Before Horses Strickland], a Bird [Leah Yellowbird] and a Bear!"—with the "bear" coming from Michelle's son, **Zach Schul's** knife company at the time, "**Spirit Bear.**"

RBB found its first home in mid-May 2023 in the welcoming community of Cornucopia, Wisc., where we had our first grand opening. The gallery was in the historic **Ehlers General Store**, and our partnership with **Jayne** and **Sara Norton** was successful.

We had established new relationships with artists in the area, including **Karen Maki**. Karen mentioned many

Continued on page 6



Artists Rabbett Before Horses Strickland and Leah Yellowbird at the opening reception of their exhibit at the Washburn Cultural Center in November 2023.

Profile: Rabbit, Bird & Bear

(Continued from page 5)

times throughout the summer, “This is the single best thing to happen to Cornucopia this year.” The support from the community and customers was overwhelming in the best possible ways. During our time in Corny, we were introduced to **Mel Dunn**, who owns and operates South Shore Botanicals, a sustainable greenhouse that offers a flower CSA and caters a natural approach to weddings, funerals, and celebrations of all kinds with locally grown, in-season flowers.

With the summer season coming to an end, our gallery moved to Duluth, and we celebrated our second grand opening on September 16. Our gallery was featured in a **Duluth News Tribune** article which sparked interest in the community, and we started to welcome new customers and art viewers. We were happy to find many returning customers from Washburn, Bayfield, and the South Shore.

Keeping busy during our time in Duluth, RBB has launched an online store, **RbbArtGifts.com**. Our online store created by **Jazmin Wong** and **Avery Makes Room For Them**, features hundreds of gifts, highlights our artists, and updates events frequently. We have also stayed busy curating shows, adding some 20 artists, and hosting events like artist meet and greets.

RBB partnered with **Integrated Art Group**, an art agency in Madison, Wisc., to curate a show and showcase “**Indigenous Artists of the Upper Midwest.**” We introduced ten artists and about 30 pieces of original art. The opening reception welcomed hundreds of people from Madison (including Wisconsin **Governor Tony Evers**), Chicago, Minneapolis, and surrounding areas. About three-quarters of the artwork from this show sold, and in return, some \$55,000 was distributed back to contributing artists. This show was featured on the front



To see the artwork at the WCC exhibit of Rabbett Before Horses Strickland (above) and Leah Yellowbird, you almost needed to return to the gallery after the reception (at right), because so many community members attended the event.

page of **The Wisconsin Daily Press** and received outstanding reviews. It is the amazing artists that made this show possible, and RBB is honored to bring such great, diverse, but underrepresented artists to such areas as Madison.

Also, RBB partnered with the Washburn Cultural Center to promote a new exhibit which opened with a reception on November 10. Community members filled the entire gallery space, and both artists were present. The show featured 25 pieces by Métis heritage artist Leah Yellowbird—including her pointillism paintings, a large quilt, and extravagant beadwork. Eight original pieces by Red Cliff artist Rabbett Before Horses Strickland caught viewers’ eyes with his renaissance style of oil painting depicting Ojibwe oral histories. The show was larger-than-life. RBB featured indigenous foods like wild rice, hominy, squash and bison meatballs, catered by **Kim Nordin**.

Who Is the RBB Team?

The team behind Rabbit, Bird & Bear includes **Michelle Lebeau**, CEO and owner; **Avery Makes Room For Them**, Gallery Store Coordinator; **Zach Schul**, **Kim Nordin**, and **Stone Schul**. ☺



“I worked for Michelle at the Indian Center here in Duluth and when she dreamed about the gallery she included me. I had the same vision, and together we went full force with the idea. Michelle’s family was incredibly helpful, and we could not have done this without the help of Zach and Kim, and the support of my family and close friends. I am honored to take on this role representing amazing artists, and I cannot wait to see what incredible future RBB holds.”

—Avery Makes Room For Them
(Gallery Store Coordinator), Sicangu
Lakota and White Mountain Apache

“Although I’m not an artist myself, I have great appreciation for artists and the work they produce. My specialty is development. I love the process of planning and curating art galleries and gift shops. I want to support emerging artists and create spaces that showcase work not always found in other galleries.”

—Michelle Lebeau (Owner, CEO)

ATTEND CBAC'S
SPRING SHOW!
MARCH 2024



LET 'R RIP

MARCH 6-30, 2024
AT THE WASHBURN CULTURAL CENTER
RECEPTION: MARCH 7 – 5-7 P.M.



Debra Dicke (left) and Dani O'Brien of the Lost in the Woods troupe perform an improvisational comedy sketch at the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council annual meeting. Lost in the Woods received an arts initiative grant in 2023, used to provide five free performances in the bay area. (Claire Duquette/For The Ashland Daily Press)



Diana O'Brien of Herbster shows some of the materials she used to help teach South Shore School District students a variety of drawing techniques. O'Brien is part of the Herbster Studio Art Tour organization that used a 2023 CBAC arts initiative grant to augment arts education in the South Shore School District. (Claire Duquette/For The Ashland Daily Press)

Wrap-up

Arts Thriving in the Bay Area with Boost from CBAC

By Claire Duquette

Bay area artists and art supporters attending the January 29 pot luck and annual meeting got the exciting message that the arts continue to be a vital part of the regional economy and increasingly contribute to the quality of life for those living in the area.

State Arts Advocates in Attendance

In attendance were **Anne Katz** of the **Create Wisconsin** arts advocacy organization and **Karen Goeschko** of the **Wisconsin Arts Board**. Both arts leaders said the arts in Wisconsin continue to grow and be an important part of the state landscape, in both metropolitan and rural areas.

CBAC's Primary Mission: Grantmaking

CBAC President **LeeAnn Frey** noted in 2023 CBAC gave out \$13,570 in nine Arts Initiative grants to area arts organizations and individuals, \$3,000 to six local artists for artistic development opportunities, and a \$2,000 scholarship to a high school student planning to study art in college.

The groups receiving grants in 2023 included the **Bayfield Summer Concert Series**; **Big Top Chautauqua** to support Open Mic nights at the new Backstage venue; **Chequamegon Theatre Association** for children's summer

theater; **Dandelion Days** in Washburn; **Floydian Slip** for a recording and release party; **Herbster Studio Art Tour** for educational outreach to the South Shore School District; **Lost in the Woods** improvisational comedy troupe; **Lorraine Norgaard** for book design; and the **StageNorth Groundlings** for the SoundCheq music festival.

Presentations by Grant Recipients

Representatives from Big Top, Lost in the Woods, and the Herbster Studio Art Tour came to the meeting to report on the impact the grants had on their organizations.

Big Top Chautauqua's Backstage Open Mic Nights

Garry Schalla of Big Top said the popular Wednesday night open mic nights have had a positive impact both for people coming to listen to the musicians, storytellers, and poets who perform and for the performers themselves, who are getting employment opportunities as a result of open mic night exposure.

Schalla said on average there are 11 performers at each open mic night, with some 30 to 50 audience members. The performers have ranged in age from 10 to 82 years old.

"The money from this grant really helped support this experiment," Schalla said, noting that unlike many open mics, which focus on selling drinks and food, the Big Top experience is focused on the performances, with food and drink as a side.

Lost in the Woods Improv Comedy Troupe

Debra Dicke and members of the Lost in the Woods improvisational comedy troupe treated the board to a short performance to demonstrate the art form they practice. Dicke said the CBAC grant allowed them to give five free shows in conjunction with several nonprofit fundraisers, as well as access some professional coaching.

Herbster Studio Art Tour Educational Outreach

Diana O'Brien of the Herbster Studio Art Tour explained how the CBAC grant allowed her to work with South Shore seniors on a watercolor painting project and younger grades in drawing projects planned in conjunction with the school's art teacher.

Grant Reports

2023 Artistic Development Grant Transformation, Growth, Gratitude

By Tim Heil

In 2023 I received \$750 in grant funding from CBAC to attend the week-long **“Alternative Guitar Summit Camp”** in upstate New York, put on by **Music Masters Collective**. It proved to be a transformative journey that enriched my musical knowledge and personal growth.

Immersed in a picturesque setting in the Catskill Mountains, I found myself among my musical heroes and fellow guitarists from diverse backgrounds. The retreat provided a unique opportunity to delve deeply into nuances of technique, improvisation, composition, and philosophy—guided by seasoned professionals whose expertise and openness inspired me to push my boundaries.

Three excellent meals were provided each day in a beautiful dining hall outfitted with a large stage, high-quality PA system and multiple live sound engineers on staff. In addition to the dining hall there were also several other venues within short walking distance. Master classes and small group workshops took place throughout the day at the various venues.

With artists leading multiple classes throughout the week, it was possible to attend at least one session with every faculty member. After dinner, there were faculty performances in the dining hall, often featuring never before seen collaborations between musical giants such as **Bill Frisell** and **Marc Ribot**. After the evening concert, attendees and faculty would be free to roam between the nearby venues where professional session musicians from New York City would be hosting jam sessions late into the night.

It felt very nourishing to develop connections with incredible guitarists and musicians from all over the world. My biggest takeaway from the whole journey can be summed up in one word: gratitude. A lot of people struggle to find access to a supportive musical community, regardless of their skill level

CBAC's Frey said all the funded projects benefitted both artists and the community at large.

“The quality, variety, and talent that is exhibited in the grant applications is tremendous,” she said.

CBAC Board Business

The group heard a report from treasurer **Sharon Stewart**, approved seating new board member **Ed Vocke**, and elected a slate of officers including LeeAnn Frey, president; Sharon Stewart, treasurer; and **Chris Lindsey** and **Ann Christensen**, co-secretaries. The vice president slot remains open. ☺



Tim Heil attended a week-long jazz guitar camp in upstate New York and benefitted from seeing performances like the one above with guitar legends Bill Frisell and Gilad Hekselman.

or the size of the city that they live in. I left the camp feeling intensely grateful for the tight-knit music community in the Chequamegon Bay, which has supported me to grow personally and develop my musical craft. It is incredible that in an area as rural as ours, I have the privilege of playing in a jazz big band, playing for community folk dances, performing at an annual music festival, jamming with friends regularly, and having access to a world class recording studio.

A feeling that tends to haunt many musicians and artists is one of endless comparison and self-doubt. Am I good enough? Can I hang? Am I working towards the “right” goals? I have come to understand that the answer, for me at least, is... “maybe,” but that isn't the point of practicing a craft. The point, I believe, is to express oneself honestly and with empathy and humility. Regardless of where a person is on their artistic journey so long as they are being kind and honest, then I believe they are precisely where they should be in the process. Because that's what it is—a process—not an end state. It's about showing up and putting in the hours because you find joy in the process. ☺



Make a Date With the Arts

March through May 2024

Events compiled by Ann Christensen

Concerts

Every Friday

Garland City Players Concerts

509 Third St. West, Ashland. 7 p.m.
garlandcityplayers@gmail.com

Second Sundays

Garland City Players Concerts

509 Third St. West, Ashland. 3 p.m.
garlandcityplayers@gmail.com

March 9

An Afternoon of Harpsichord Quartets

The Club, 3 W. Bayfield St., Washburn. 3 p.m.
gardencityplayers@gmail.com

March 22

Crossing Borders with Haitian Music

Ashland Chamber Music Society at United Presbyterian Church, 214 Vaughn Ave., Ashland. 7:30 p.m. chulmer@northland.edu

March 24

Garland City Consort

The Club, 3 W. Bayfield St., Washburn. 3 p.m.
www.garlandcityconsort.com

March 31

Bach's Birthday Bash

509 3rd St West, Ashland. 3 p.m.
garlandcityplayers@gmail.com

April 9

Northland Symphonic Band and Community Choir Concert

Alvord Theater, Northland College. 7 p.m. chulmer@northland.edu

April 10

Northland Choir Concert at Northland College Honors Day Presentation

Alvord Theater, Northland College. 1 p.m. chulmer@northland.edu

April 13

Spring Concert—The Beauty of Nature

Chequamegon Symphony Orchestra. United Presbyterian Church, 214 Vaughn Ave., Ashland. 7:30 p.m.
www.chequamegonsymphony.org

April 20

Willowgreen and Friends with Celtic Music

Ashland Chamber Music Society at United Presbyterian Church, 214 Vaughn Ave., Ashland. 7:30 p.m. chulmer@northland.edu

April 27

Garland City Consort

South Shore Brewery Taphouse, 532 W. Bayfield St., Washburn. 6 p.m.
www.garlandcityconsort.com

May 19

Garland City Consort Concert

The Club, 3 W. Bayfield St., Washburn. 3 p.m.
www.garlandcityconsort.com

May 24-26

Sound Cheq Music Fest

Multiple venues. thegroundlings.org

May 26

Garland City Consort Concert

United Church of Christ, 13445 County Hwy M, Cable, WI. 3 p.m.
www.garlandcityconsort.com

Visual Arts

March 6-30

CBAC Spring Show—"Let 'R Rip"

Washburn Cultural Center. Reception March 7, 5-7 p.m. cbayarts.org

Theater

March 22

Lost in the Woods Improv Theater and Jan Lee

StageNorth, Washburn. 7:30 p.m.
thegroundlings.org

April 4-14

Tragedy of the Moor of Venice by William Shakespeare

StageNorth, Washburn. 7:30 p.m.
thegroundlings.org

Special Events

March 1

First Friday Dance

Free to the public. Donn Christensen caller with Hot Two Weeks and Clancy Ward. Sigurd Olson Institute, Northland College. 7:30 p.m. donann@hotmail.com

Wednesdays, March 6-20

Old Time Folk Dance

All dances taught. No partner necessary. No charge. Washburn Cultural Center, 1 E. Bayfield St., Washburn. 3-5 p.m.
<https://www.corecr.org/dance.html>

April 5

First Friday Dance

Free to the public. Rina Ross caller with AJ Scrubus and Friends Sigurd Olson Institute, Northland College. 7:30 p.m.
donann@hotmail.com

May 23

Poetry and the Natural World with U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón

Free Zoom event w/local intro, SOEI, Northland College, 6:45-8:30 p.m.
lucytyrell4alaska@gmail.com

Wednesdays

Open Mic Night

Big Top Backstage, 84810 State Hwy. 13, Bayfield. 6-9 p.m. (715) 373-5552

Classes

April 22-May 6

Watercolor & Silk Painting

France Austin Miller will host 2- and 3-day classes at the Chalet at Mt. Ashwabay. austinmillerstudio.com/workshops or austinmillerstudio@gmail.com

April 26-28

Danish Cord Stool

With Dawson Moore at Woodspirit School of Traditional Craft, Ashland.
www.woodspiritschool.com

May 3-5

Bird Carving Songbirds of Lake Superior

With Mike Loeffler at Woodspirit School of Traditional Craft, Ashland.
www.woodspiritschool.com

To submit details about your events happening in June through August 2024, email Ann Christensen by May 1 at donann@hotmail.com.

Grant Reports



Two pieces Trisha Miller created while taking the online course, “The Abstracted Landscape & Developing Studio Techniques.”

2023 Artistic Development Grant Artistic Development Success

By Trisha Miller

I don’t consider myself a realist painter, but I do tend to draw and paint everything I see, right down to each grain of sand, rather than the feel of the landscape. I used this Artistic Development Grant of \$275 to fund part of an online class with a British artist to push my boundaries into a landscape’s expression.

The **Lewis Noble** course, “[The Abstracted Landscape & Developing Studio Techniques](#),” taught me to let go and not become too precious with creating anything on the first try. It focused more on the loose side of art with any mediums handy, yet how to control the chaos using multiple layers and white washes. After that, we ripped it up and put it back together again and painted on top of that, over and over! It was a great class to learn how to really push your creation forward while not ending up with a muddy mess.

Later on, I came upon a call-for-artists contest for a local campground billboard. I made many studies of my usual “paint what it looks like” in watercolor and was getting nowhere—they had no expression. I knew I couldn’t go all-out abstraction as it needed to be clear that it was a campground. So, I took to other mediums such as sharpie pens and acrylics and then digitized it, all while utilizing the concept of “letting go” I learned from Lewis’s class. I ended up finding a concept through this process, and I won the contest!

I hope to keep developing this new-to-me abstract expression into my art. It has worked well so far! ☺



Trisha Miller credits the course she took as helping her execute this winning design for Big Rock Campground, to be installed in May.



A free performance by Lost In The Woods improv troupe at StageNorth.

2023 Arts Initiative Grant Lost In The Woods Brings Laughter to the Northwoods

By Debra Dicke

Wisconsin’s Northernmost Improv Team, **Lost In The Woods**, is a local comedy improv troupe founded in 2021 and consists of six people from the Chequamegon Bay area. **Jon Small, Phil Smith, Dani O’Brien, Jazmin Hicks-Dahl, Scogin Zimmermann,** and **Debra Dicke** are committed to providing the local community with opportunities to watch and participate in this creative approach to theater. In 2023, Lost In the Woods used the \$1,500 CBAC grant to perform free shows and offer audience participation improv “drop-ins.” They plan to share the joy of improv for a long time to come. ☺



A free drop-in event with Lost In The Woods at Cooper Hill Park.



Bringing improv to the Washburn Meditation Center.



Birchbark art forms to be included in Lorraine Norrgard's book include: Birchbark Canoe by Marvin Defoe, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe

Grant Reports

2023 Arts Initiative Grant

A Book to Celebrate Birch

By Lorraine Norrgard

Following the 2019 CBAC-funded “Celebrate Birch” Festival at the Washburn Cultural Center, we have been able to continue with the intention of creating a book, celebrating the many art forms of this multicultural medium. Receiving the 2023 Arts Initiative grant of \$1,375 has allowed us to move forward with designing the book. The book will feature the beautiful photography of **Marc Wanvig** and layout by **Mark Babel**. Quotes will be included from **John Zasada**, **Marvin Defoe**, and **Alexandra Bohman**.

The festival had included 32 artists, the major birchbark collections of **John Zasada** and **Lorraine Norrgard**, workshops with **Marvin Defoe** and others, and was viewed by 800+ visitors. The festival included field trips to gather birchbark sustainably, classes for children and adults, and speakers on the history, culture, and contemporary threats to birch trees.

The book will document birchbark art forms but is more: Because of a warming climate and harvesting practices, birch trees are showing signs of stress, and there are 50% less birch trees than 30 years ago. The book includes information on sustainable practices for gathering birchbark and maintaining the health of the trees into the future. ☺



Forest Spirit, Artist unknown, Ukraine

Photos by Marc Wanvig



Blueberry Basket by Lillian Wiser, Anishinaabe-Michigan



Etched Oval Box, Artist unknown, Russia



Second graders at South Shore School participating in a weaving workshop led by Sara Mustonen, an artist with the Herbster Studio Art Tour.

2023 Arts Initiative Grant Artists in South Shore School District Classrooms & Students in Artists' Studios

By Sara Mustonen

The **Herbster Studio Art Tour (HSAT)** used its 2023 Arts Initiative grant of \$1,850 to enhance educational components of the tour.

Kathy Irwin, the art teacher in the **South Shore School District**, supported and coordinated HSAT artists who conducted workshops for students in the fall and during student class time.

Secondary students (grades 7-12) had a field trip using the school van to visit HSAT artists for workshops in their studios. Elementary students (grades K-6) received instruction from a “visiting” HSAT artist in their classrooms.

Students benefited by having a unique art experience that they would not otherwise have, exploring different art mediums with different artists. In the case of secondary students, students experienced art outside the classroom and in the studios of working artists. ☺

2023 Arts Initiative Grant

Missoula Children's Theater Camp at Chequamegon Theatre Association

By Katherine Swanson

The **Chequamegon Theatre Association (CTA)** is thrilled to have received a 2023 CBAC grant of \$1,320 to bring **The Missoula Children's Theater** into the **Historic Rinehart Theatre** for a five-day summer camp experience, culminating in the children performing a production of Rapunzel!

Forty-three children (ages 6 to 15) and 260 audience members benefitted by experiencing quality youth theater workshops and performances engaging talented young people. The audience included the children's family, friends, and CTA supporters.

Theater enriches a community by involving and educating youth and audiences alike. Receiving the CBAC grant allowed CTA to keep the camp cost affordable, which brought about the involvement of families who might not otherwise be able to afford the price.

Children involved in the production and workshops enhanced their artistic development by learning various skills, including teamwork, memorization, singing, dancing, and stage movement. Several older students were involved in the leadership role of directing. For many participants, this was their first time being involved in assembling a theater production.

The most positive outcome of the theater camp was having full-to-capacity audiences share the enthusiastic experience of the children as they produced three performances of Rapunzel. Many children blossomed from hesitant, first-day jitters to confident young performers. The exuberance of the children performing was palpable, as demonstrated by their strong singing, dancing, and line delivery of the characters they portrayed. ☺



Forty-three children (ages 6 to 15) and 260 audience members at the Chequamegon Theatre Association benefitted by experiencing quality youth theater workshops and performances engaging talented young people.



Who We Are

The **Chequamegon Bay Arts Council** is a member-oriented, non-profit organization promoting the arts in northern Wisconsin. Run by a dynamic all-volunteer Board of Directors, CBAC supports local arts and believes that a vibrant arts community invigorates the community at large.

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Call for Artists



Call for Artists—*B is for Big Top Chautauqua*

By *Lucy Tyrrell*

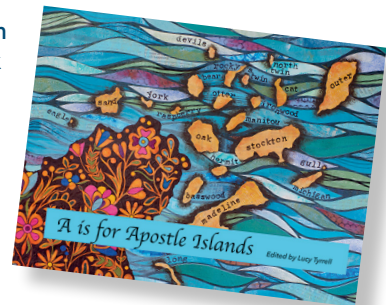
Artists (photographers, painters, printmakers, graphic artists, etc.) are needed to be part of another creative ABC book for all ages, ***B is for Big Top Chautauqua***. **Lucy Tyrrell** is collaborating with Big Top staff to organize and edit an artistic community project, with the goal of having it printed in 2025, Big Top's 40th season. Because there will be more than one topic for some letters, more than 26 artists will be needed. One or two topics for each letter will be chosen soon.

Artists would be selected by June 1 (before the Big Top season begins) and randomly assigned a topic A-Z for rendering in some medium. Artwork would be due by an autumn deadline (TBD and emailed to participants). Those participating will: (1) be given six free tickets to attend Big Top house shows put on by the **Blue Canvas Orchestra**, and (2) receive a free copy of the *B is for Big Top* book.

If interested in offering your artistic talents, please talk to Lucy or email her at lucytyrrell4alaska@gmail.com as soon as possible with your contact information and a short note about your preferred art medium and any background with Big Top. ☺



In 2020, Lucy Tyrrell received funding from CBAC and other sources to create a book and exhibit entitled ***A is for Apostle Islands*** (A-Z in art and poetry). For that project, Each of the 26 artists and 26 poets who volunteered was randomly assigned a letter. ***B Is for Big Top Chautauqua*** follows the success of that project.



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Thanks to all our supporters.
We couldn't do it without you!

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Yes! I support the arts!
I'd like to commit now
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For membership benefits:
cbayarts.org/membership.

- \$200 Patron
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Included in all of the above membership fees:
You will receive *Artifacts*, CBAC's quarterly newsletter, as an email attachment. Please provide your email address below.

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- I am also an artist.
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 Other: _____



www.cbayarts.org

P.O. Box 25, Washburn, WI 54891

Questions: Call CBAC President
LeeAnn Frey at (715) 308-3282

Mission: What We Do
The **Chequamegon Bay Arts Council** is a non-profit member organization that supports, develops, and promotes art and artists in northern Wisconsin. CBAC was established in 1981 and accomplishes this mission by providing:

- grants and scholarships in support of artistic development, creation, and presentation;
- communication with members and the public through various media;
- art exhibitions, workshops, and special events, including annual fund raising and membership activities designed to enable us to meet our goals.

Vision: What We Want
To assure that residents and visitors have access to art's enriching possibilities.

Values: Why We Do It
Because we believe that:

- the arts enrich lives, promote community, foster creativity and showcase diverse cultural perspectives in positive ways;
- the arts foster understanding of our unique place through time;
- artists need assistance to grow, so our organization invests in the future of the arts.



P.O. Box 25, Washburn, WI 54891

Artifacts

Apply for an
Artistic Development Grant!

Visit the Spring Show!

VISIT WWW.CBAYARTS.ORG

LIKE US ON [FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/cbayarts)

PLEASE NOTE: All memberships are for the calendar year of 2024. If you haven't joined or renewed yet, please go to cbayarts.org/memberships.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR\$

ATTENTION!

CBAC Will Award a Karlyn Holman Scholarship of \$2,000 to a High School Senior

If a **\$2,000 scholarship** from CBAC would help you to reach your artistic career goal, answer the following four questions to see if you qualify.

1. Do you reside and attend high school in Ashland County or Bayfield County?
2. Are you planning to enroll in a higher education course of study leading to a career in visual, literary, or performing arts?
3. Could you get a couple of teachers to say something nice about you?
4. Can you provide a sample of your art, performance, or writing?

Beginning February 15, 2024, you can go to cbayarts.org/grants to review the requirements and download an application. **Completed applications are due by May 3, 2024. You will be notified by May 17, 2024.** You are going to get very busy as graduation approaches, so get working on this as soon as possible. Don't miss out on this opportunity. It's easier money than shoveling sidewalks or babysitting, and there is no penalty for getting your application in early! — *LeeAnn Frey*