

In this issue...

- 1 Grants:** Four \$500 Mini-Grants Awarded So Far in 2026
- 1 Grants:** Apply Now for a 2026 Artistic Development Grant
- 2 President's Letter**
- 2 Editor's Note**
- 3 Sponsors:** Thank You, 2026 CBAC Sponsors!
- 4 Art Process:** Jamey Penney-Ritter on Creating Public Art—Monument to the Edmund Fitzgerald Crew
- 7 Exhibit:** 'Back Stories'—CBAC Spring Show
- 8 Grant Reports:** CORE, Kevin Stifter, and Michael Herrick
- 10 Wrap-up:** CBAC Annual Meeting
- 11 Supporters:** Update
- 11 Join CBAC:** Support Artists and the Arts!
- 12 Scholarship:** High School Seniors, Apply by May 2

Grants

Four \$500 Mini Grants Awarded So Far in 2026

By Dorota Bussey

The new CBAC Mini Grants program has awarded four \$500 grants so far in 2026. This program is made possible by a generous sponsorship of \$7,500 from **Norvado**.

Congratulations, Mini Grant recipients:

Bayfield Heritage Association, Bayfield:

"The Art of Calligraphy" A hands on public program inspired by the Leonard Anderson art collection at the Bayfield Heritage Association. The project scheduled for June will include an adult calligraphy workshop and an all-ages calligraphy open house.

Stone Soup Café, Ashland:

Ten open mike nights at the Stone Soup Café. Opportunity for community members to express

themselves in whatever auditory art form they wish. The Open Mic nights will be a non-judgmental, non-intimidating space for our community to share their talents.

"A Year on the South Shore 2024-2025" Photo Book:

The book will feature Kara Hakanson's photos. The photos depict the personal side of our region during the off seasons, such as an abandoned building or a pot of asters on a windowsill. Not the usual tourist snap shots. The books will be available for purchase.

Bayfield Schools:

To bring in musicians to supplement the lack of a dedicated music program for K-4, during the first half of the school year. ☺

Mini Grants will be awarded throughout 2026. Questions? Contact Dorota Bussey at dbussey714@gmail.com.

Submit applications online at: cbayarts.org/grants

Apply for Grants

Apply Now for a CBAC Artistic Development Grant!

By Chris Lindsey

The CBAC **Artistic Development Grant** application period commences at midnight on March 1. To access the online application and learn about eligibility guidelines, go to <https://cbayarts.org/grants/ad-grant-application/>.

The application deadline is April 1, and funding announcements will be made by April 17, 2026.

Any professional, amateur, or student artist residing in **Ashland and Bayfield Counties** is eligible to apply. The purpose of this grant is to promote ongoing learning and to encourage area residents 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 would be eligible for considerations. Opportunities can include short-term courses pertaining to an artistic field of interest, workshops, art/music/performance/literary camps, or well-defined individual research projects of an artistic nature.

For further information, contact CBAC grant coordinator, **Chris Lindsey**, at chrissie6454@gmail.com. ☺

President's Letter

Visits from Create Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Arts Board; Arts Initiative Grants slightly delayed; and come see the Spring Show, 'Back Stories'



By Dorota Bussey

"Creativity is intelligence having fun."—Albert Einstein

We were happy to welcome **Anne Katz** from **Create Wisconsin** as well as **George Tzougros** and **Karen Goeschko** of the **Wisconsin Arts Board (WAB)** to our annual meeting at the **Washburn Cultural Center** on a frigid January evening. *Please see Claire Duquette's "Wrap Up" of the meeting on page 10.*

We are grateful for the matching funding we receive from the state—this year's WAB funds were increased to \$10,000. All the funds we raise to match WAB's grant benefit our area's artists. Note that the CBAC board is an all-volunteer board: we give away the funds we raise. The arts are a vital part of our economy, plus art is good for everyone's health!

We welcome a new board member, **Debra Dicke**. Debra is the co-founder of the improv group **"Lost in the Woods."**

Applications for our **Norvado Mini Grant program** are coming in. We are looking forward to giving away the \$7,500 we so generously received from Norvado. *Please see page 1 for more details about the Mini Grants.*

We invite you to check out our March art show **"Back Stories"** at the Washburn Cultural Center. Enjoy our area's creative spirit, and find out why and how the art you see was conceived. ☺

NOTE: On account of a sudden and unexpected Board personnel change, our Arts Initiative Grant process is running behind schedule. Our Arts Initiative Grant recipients will be announced in March instead of February.

Editor's Note

Thank you!

By Catherine Lange

Special thanks to **Jamey Penney-Ritter** for sharing the story of how her collaboration with **Matt Tetzner** led to the creation of the Edmund Fitzgerald monument overlooking the marina in Washburn.

Please see page 4.

Thank you, too, to this issue's other contributors: **Dorota Bussey, Chris Lindsey, Jenny Tumas, Kevin Stifter, Michael Herrick, Claire Duquette, Trisha Miller, and LeeAnn Frey.** ☺

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

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WASHBURN IRON WORKS

Thank you!

■ Champion (\$5,000+)
 ■ Major (\$2,000-\$4,999)
 ■ Presenting (\$1,000-\$1,999)
 ■ Supporting (\$500-999)

By Chris Lindsey

This year we are happy to announce that the Wisconsin Arts Board has increased our funding to \$10,000 making it now possible for CBAC to distribute \$20,000 in grants supporting arts initiatives in our communities! But first, CBAC must generate enough funding to match this grant. And what is our greatest resource for accomplishing this? Our Sponsors!

Chequamegon Bay Arts Council's mission is to support the arts and promote artists living in our region of Northern Wisconsin. Please consider joining our efforts to develop, promote, and support the arts and artists in the Chequamegon Bay Area by becoming a sponsor today.

It's not too late to become a 2026 CBAC sponsor!

You can see sponsor benefits and donate at cbayarts.org/membership or use the form at right. Or contact Chris Lindsey at (715) 209-5774 or chris6454@gmail.com.

Yes!

I will be a 2026 sponsor of CBAC's work to support the arts and local artists.

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Questions:

Contact CBAC Board Member Chris Lindsey at (715) 209-5774 or chris6454@gmail.com.

Art Process

Creating Public Art: A Monument to the Edmund Fitzgerald's Crew

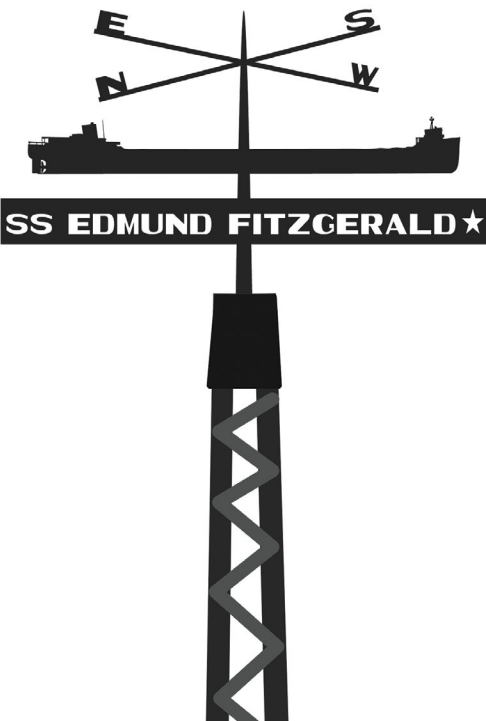
By Jamey Penney-Ritter

In May 2025, at the board meeting of the **Washburn Heritage Association (WHA)**, we discussed having money from membership, fundraising, events, and book sales that we could use to take on new projects in our community. I like spending money. I also like making a positive impact in our tight-knit community. Hmmm, what to do?

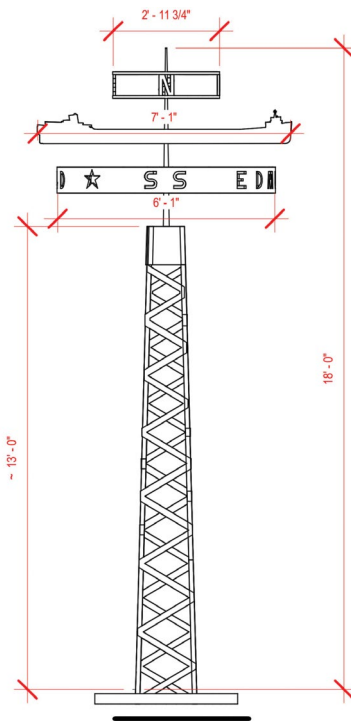
Local Connection to the Edmund Fitzgerald

I had just finished a new print to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the **Edmund Fitzgerald** off the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in 1975, the same year I was born. While doing research for the design, I was reminded that we had several local sailors aboard the vessel. I asked local residents if there had ever been a memorial erected nearby, and receiving responses to the negative, I started brainstorming.

If it had been my family member, what would I have wanted? Something beautiful, useful, well-made, and



Jamey Penney-Ritter's original sketch, which kicked off the process to create the monument.



Lucielle Sells, WHA board member, used her architecture school training to render the design with dimensions.

“If it had been my family member, what would I have wanted? Something beautiful, useful, well-made, and thoughtful. It would be something where I could go sit quietly and think about what could have been and what was lost.”—Jamey Penney-Ritter

thoughtful. It would be something where I could go sit quietly and think about what could have been and what was lost.

Within the WHA, we pitched ideas like statues, flags, benches, etc. We needed something that would last, but also something we could afford and raise funds for. Somewhere along the process, I remembered the Lake Superior weathervane **Matt Tetzner** had created for **Canal Park Brewing**. It was metal, solid, well-made, and had weathered the Canal Park environment for 15+ years. Not only was Matt local but also his family had a connection with Washburnite **Alan Kalmon** who had been on the Fitzgerald.

Beginning a Collaborative Process

I sketched up the basic design using elements Matt had used on various projects and added a few of my own.



Jamey used a photo of the likely location for the monument to create this mockup, which gained Parks and Rec Committee approval. In the original sketches, the weathervane elements stacked differently. To allow the ship element to turn in the wind, it needed to move it to the top.



Matt Tetzner adds welds to the hardware he fabricated to mount the weathervane on its tower.



The name of the ship was cut out of two pieces of steel. Matt would later merge the two together and shape it into a hoop for the weathervane. When complete, the circumference was nearly 19 feet.

I asked him, “Can you make this, and what would it cost?” His answers were “Yes” and “Let me do some figuring.” The price was something the WHA could help fund, but we would still need community financial support.

Matt also had the idea of using a piece of tower from the Ashland ore dock as the base on which to mount the weathervane. I connected with **Don Jaskowiak** of the **Ashland Ore Dock Teardown** group. Upon hearing our purpose, he donated a tower.

The next step was to get the project approved by the **City of Washburn’s Parks and Rec Committee**. WHA board member **Lucielle Sells** is a Washburn grad with an architecture degree. She took my design elements, asked for some basic sizes, and rendered it with dimensions. She also made a 3D image based on the rendering. I was able to take the 3D version and put it into a photo of the waterfront where I thought it might be installed. Those mockups made committee approvals much easier. Everyone was able to picture it and know the people involved had a record of completing projects on time and on budget.



The actual monument, installed overlooking the Washburn Marina.

Once the project received approval from the **Washburn City Council’s Historic Preservation Commission**, I was able to start fundraising. We had starter money from WHA but needed to raise an additional \$5,000. Through a **GoFundMe** campaign and direct donations by community members and businesses, we hit and surpassed our fundraising goals.

Throughout that process, Matt and I were lining up the production of the monument pieces. Matt picked up the tower and arranged for **Edmunds & Co. Log Home Restoration** to sandblast it. Matt cut the tower to size and straightened the bent bits. **Chris Bretting** of **Fast Lane Motorsport** powder coated it so that it is protected for decades to come.

Choosing the Location for the Monument

There was a healthy debate regarding where the tower would be erected. The Parks and Rec committee and interested community members met in September at the

Continued on page 6

Art Process

Creating Public Art: A Monument to the Edmund Fitzgerald's Crew

(Continued from page 5)

prospective sites and voted for the location overlooking the **Washburn Marina**. **Randy and Brian Bergman** poured the footing within days of approval, and then it was all up to Matt.

The fall is an extremely busy time for farmers, and Matt was doing his farm duties, running his welding business, putting up a shop addition, and making the custom pieces for the memorial. I don't believe he slept enough in October, and his family didn't see him as much as they would have liked. I also asked him to do press interviews. Matt Tetzner is a VERY good sport.

I got to do the planning and fundraising, and he had all of the production. We've worked on other projects like the new city welcome sign and the disks on the streetlights, so I knew I could count on him to make something that would last decades and be delivered on time. He took my design files and brought them to life. He added dimension that I couldn't have imagined.

Five days before the dedication ceremony we were at the site assembling the tower. Within 90 minutes of starting, Washburn had a new monument. We could immediately tell this was something we and our town could be proud of.

A Meaningful Monument, An Emotional Dedication Ceremony

Throughout this process, we kept in touch with Fitzgerald family members. We wanted to make sure this was something they wanted. For many, it was something they needed. I knew that this project would impact them, I just didn't realize how much. If you were able to attend the dedication ceremony, you know. It was incredibly emotional. Two hundred people came together that night to remember and mourn.

This project moved incredibly fast. I think there are many people who are still shocked it happened at all. From the beginning, the pieces fell together like fate wanted it. Every time I asked for help or materials or advice or money, I got it. Every minute spent planning, every dollar raised, every presentation, every committee meeting creating this piece was worth it, and I'd do it again.



Jamey Penney-Ritter is a native of Superior, Wisc., and current resident of Washburn. She has been a photographer, graphic designer, and illustrator for over 30 years. Her work can be seen in homes and businesses across the country. Her collection currently includes over 255 travel posters featuring your favorite places to live and visit across the Midwest. <https://www.bemusedposters.com>



Fitzgerald family member Missy Clark addresses the crowd during the dedication of the memorial.

Photos on this page of the dedication were taken by Sarah Schneider Wroblewski.



The weather during the dedication ceremony was beautiful for a November day. Warm, no wind, and a breathtaking sunset.



Matt Tetzner looks on surrounded by his family and community at the dedication ceremony.

Back Stories

Spring Art Show
March 5 to 27

At the
Washburn
Cultural Center

Opening
Reception:
Thursday,
March 5
5 to 7 p.m.



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Grant Reports

2025 Arts Initiative Grant

Art Making for Seniors

By Jenny Tumas

CORE Community Resources received a 2025 Arts Initiative Grant of \$1,440 from CBAC to partially fund the “Art Making for Seniors: Empowerment through Creativity” series. It was developed and offered by CORE Community Resources—a non-profit based in Bayfield, Wisconsin—across four months, from May through August 2025. One storyteller and three visual artists led a total of nine classes for the 55+ population of northern Bayfield County, with a culminating public event showcasing the work of those who joined the classes.

“The Way of Deep Water: A Storytelling Workshop” was the first class, conceived of as a springboard event to encourage self-expression. Several of the students from this workshop shared their stories at the final event—some aloud, some choosing to have someone else read their story, and one person displaying their poems in printed and framed form.

Three painters led the subsequent classes, which included a self-portrait class, two two-part oil painting classes, two plein air classes, and one painting-on-glass workshop.

Many participants in these classes chose to share their pieces at the art opening event. Most classes were held in CORE’s community space, with two being located at Washburn’s “The Club.” All artist instructors were offered a stipend to offset their donated time. Class registration was by suggested donation.

The culminating gallery reception, held at CORE, was well-attended and enjoyed by many—including the artists, storytellers, and the general public. ☺



CORE’s series, “Art Making for Seniors: Empowerment through Creativity,” offered nine classes for Bayfield County’s 55+ population. A gallery reception at CORE showed participants’ work.



A closer view of artwork on display at the series’ final art show.



Participant Pearl Swearingen with her painting completed during CORE’s series of classes.



The Monday Night Life Drawing Group features a live model each session—clothed or nude modeling sessions for each week are noted in the Upcoming Model Schedule at <https://www.washburnculturalcenter.com/life-drawing>.

2025 Arts Initiative Grant Life Drawing Group Continues to Grow

By Kevin Stifter

The Monday Night Life Drawing Group meets weekly at the Washburn Cultural Center and provides local artists with a welcoming, supportive space to practice drawing from a live model. Thanks to support from the CBAC Arts Initiative Grant of \$1,856, the group was able to compensate models consistently and maintain a stable environment that encourages artistic growth for participants at all levels. Sessions typically include a mix of short gesture poses and longer studies, allowing artists to explore anatomy, line, proportion, and expressive drawing. The group has grown steadily throughout the year and continues to contribute to the vitality of the local arts community. ☺

Photos of life drawing session and of artwork by Kara Hakason.



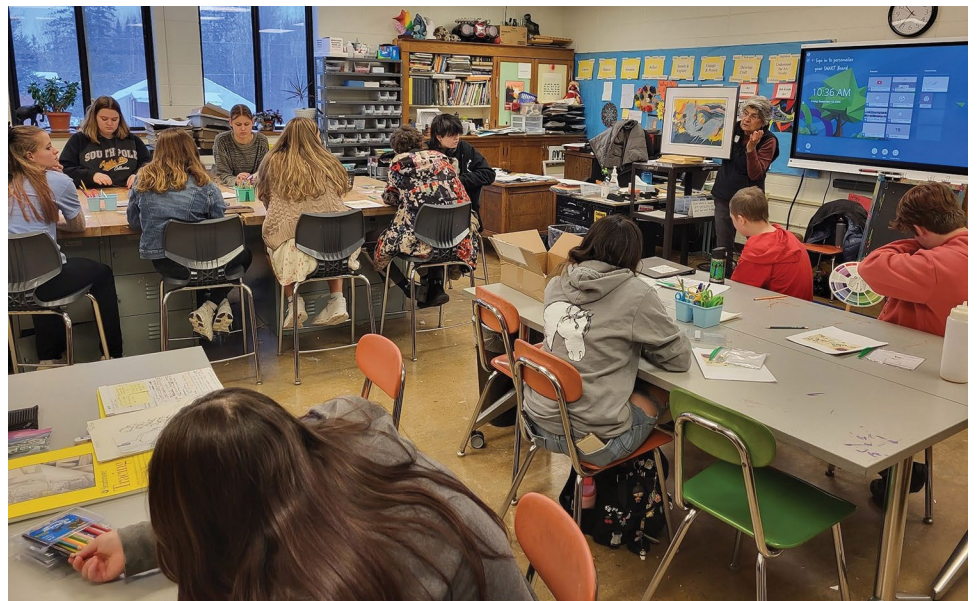
Sketches by April Lehman



Integration of creative dance and gesture drawings at Herbster Beach



Participants sketch in a quiet environment while a live model does a series of quick, then longer poses.



Lesson on music and visual art integration at South Shore School District



The group is open to artists 18 years and older and meets Mondays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on the third floor of the Washburn Cultural Center. Each session has a flat fee of \$10 per participant. For more information, contact Kevin Stifter at WashburnArtHub@gmail.com.

2025 Arts Initiative Grant Drawing Dance Movement and Responses to Music

By Michael Herrick

The **Herbster Studio Art Tour** (HSAT) received a \$2,500 Arts Initiative Grant from CBAC to help foster community involvement in understanding and participating in the integration of various modes of artistic expression. Grant dollars were used specifically to involve the community in witnessing a contemporary dance performance and drawing the body movements of the dancers in gesture drawings. The

dancers, **WeDance Collaborative** from Viroqua, Wisc., were compensated by the grant. Grant money was also used to promote the integration of music and the visual arts with **South Shore High School** students by drawing the feelings one gets from listening to a variety of music and listening to a variety of sounds. **Jane Herrick**, one of the HSAT artists, conducted a two-day “Visual Sounds” lesson; and **Kathy Irwin**, the school district art teacher, continued the lesson. Both were compensated by the grant. In addition, artwork of the HSAT artists is displayed in the dining room of the **Cranberry Inn** in Herbster. ☺



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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At the CBAC annual meeting, Jonathan Walburg, owner of Lake Superior Pottery in Washburn, discusses his work using Lake Superior stone to create clays. He received a CBAC Artistic Development Grant to help cover costs of studying in Japan with a master potter.



Washburn artist and gallery owner Susan Lince tells those gathered at the annual meeting about the impact a 2025 CBAC Arts Initiative Grant had on the Washburn Forward Together arts project "Love Stories for the Lakefront." (Photos by Claire Duquette)

Wrap-up

Positive Outlook for the Arts

By Claire Duquette

Chequamegon Bay Arts Council members and art supporters attending the January CBAC annual meeting were assured that the arts continue to be a vital part of the regional economy and continue to receive support from a variety of sources.

In attendance were Anne Katz of the Create Wisconsin arts advocacy organization and George Tzougros and Karen Goeschko of the Wisconsin Arts Board. All these arts leaders said the creative economy remains an important focus.

Katz said last year Create Wisconsin lobbied for increased funding for the Wisconsin Arts Board, creative economy development, and the creation of a film office with incentives for making movies in Wisconsin. Katz noted there was success creating the film office, which operates under the umbrella of the state tourism office.

She also noted that Create Wisconsin is administering a statewide artist grant program offering 16 grants of \$7,500 each to individual artists for their projects. The deadline to apply for these grants was February 16.

Tzougros said having Mary Anne Carter back as the head of the National Endowment for the Arts in the Trump

administration is good news, as she is able to navigate working with the Trump administration to keep funds flowing to the arts.

CBAC board President LeeAnn Frey told the group about the two successful art shows CBAC put on at the Washburn Cultural Center in 2025 – in March they hosted "The Art of Food," and in the fall a members-only show. The CBAC spring show, "Back Stories," is up during March.

Each year, CBAC applies for a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, and then matches funds received from the Arts Board to distribute in the form of community development grants. In 2025, CBAC gave out \$15,000 in grants to eight recipients, including the Big Water Film Festival, the City of Ashland for a mural, CORE for a senior art program, the Herbster Art Tour, the Iron River Lions Club for a mural, the LaPointe Center for the Arts for their outdoor concert series, the Monday Night life drawing group, and Washburn Forward Together for the "Love Stories for the Lakefront" project.

In addition, CBAC gave out \$4,000 in artistic development grants to the following individuals: Jonathan Walburg to study pottery making in Karatsu, Japan; fiber artist Shea Schachameyer for an artist's residency; Jonathan Small to attend an improvisation workshop; Jason Terry to attend a needle felting workshop; and Carrie Linder to attend an encaustic workshop. CBAC also provided Temperance Hay, 11, with a stipend to attend a summer music camp. ☺

Supporters

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

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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.

Yes! I support the arts!
I'd like to commit now
at this level of support:

Supporter & Member

For membership benefits:
cbayarts.org/membership.

- \$200 Patron
 \$100 Partner
 \$75 Business/Family
 \$25 Art Enthusiast

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.

\$12 Hard-copy subscription of *Artifacts*, CBAC's quarterly newsletter—mailed to the address you provide below.

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I am also an artist.

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



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Artifacts

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HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR\$

ATTENTION!

CBAC Will Award a Karlyn Holman Scholarship of \$1,000 to a High School Senior

If a \$1,000 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 2, 2026. You will be notified by May 15, 2026.** 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*