Michigan Arts Access

www.miartsaccess.org

expressions

Donor Addition



Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends of MiAA,

Our 2022-2023 fiscal year has already been very exciting. We were able to expand our arts instruction in Clawson and Wyandotte this year through MACC Arts in Education grants the districts received. We want to thank the leadership at Gratiot Isabella RESD, Cheboygan Otsego Presque Isle ESD, and Marquette Alger RESA for our long-standing relationship to provide arts instruction to all of their students. We are also thrilled to bring Copper Country and Genesee ISD back into the fold, as well as the center-based programs in Detroit Public Schools Community District.

I want to thank our Board for supporting the continuation of the All Means All program that supports professional artists with disabilities. We will restart our monthly sessions in March, but are still looking for program sponsors after the loss of our funding. Don't miss The Midtown Art Fair on July 16th, an offshoot of All Means All that began last summer. We will be expanding opportunities for visual artists and are proud to add performing artists this year.

Thank you for partnering with us on our important mission. Our programs would not be possible without our amazing volunteers and your continued financial support.

Your Devoted Director,

In the Spotlight

The MiAA Board and Executive Director wish to congratulate our Director Emeritus, Lora Frankel, for her Lifetime Achievement award, part of Hannan House's 70 Over Seventy Next Chapter awards. Lora also received the **Impact Award**, given to the person from this year's list of prestigious Lifetime Achievement award winners who made the greatest sustained positive impact on the community,



Club Create

Club Create Continues Growth

MiAA's Gratiot Isabella Affiliate opened a Club Create chapter in Alma in October in partnership with Gratiot Integrated Health Network. Sessions are held at the drop-in center at 340 Pine Avenue on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10:00 – 11:30 am. Alma Club Members created beautiful Valentine hearts at February's session.



We want to thank the **Theresa Allesandra Russo Foundation** for their second grant in support of our Club Create program. The foundation's funding has allowed us to open two new club chapters this year. The second club is at the Hawk and is a partnership with the City of Farmington in their efforts to provide inclusive programs at the community center.

Club Create at the Hawk has visual art and performing arts sessions. For more information and to register for visual art, visit https://bit.ly/3KfNTN9. For the performing arts, visit https://bit.ly/3lOp1BH, or contact Lindsay Janoch at ljanoch@fhgov.com, (248) 891-8288.



Our other club chapters continue to thrive and grow. Club Create Mid-Michigan welcomed Andrew and Nick as new members this month. During their February session they created "love bugs" and decorative picture frames with Teaching Artist, Cara Denison as gifts for Valentine's Day.

MiAA Genesee County Affiliate is piloting a new program in 2023. **Club Create Music** brings together adults with disabilities who want to develop their musical abilities. Club Create Genesee County Director, Kathy Cole and musician, Darwin Hamilton started the club in the image of School of Rock. The members chose the name Club Create Rock Band for their Club Create Music chapter.



Club Create North Oakland County ventured into ceramics for the first time in January and February, in collaboration with the clay artists at the Orion Art Center. Members loved the experience and everyone was thrilled with the beautiful (and functional) artwork they created!



On a sad note, after a decade of dedication to the North Oakland County club, Carmen Calcaterra will be leaving the club due to a move to Texas. Carmen was one of the founding members of the club and we are proud of her outstanding efforts and growth as an artist. The members of the club, Club Director Robert White and the entire Michigan Arts Access family wish her success in the Lone Star State.

Check out www.miartsaccess.org/calendar to see where all of our programs are taking place each day.

Artist-in-Residence Programs

AIR Program Reaches More Students

The **Otsego Community Foundation** provided a grant this year to ensure that all special education students in Gaylord are provided an equitable arts education. Students received visual art instruction this fall with potter, Phil Wilson. The students really loved the project to create a menagerie of animals. MiAA is now providing arts instruction to all of the special education students in the Cheboygan, Otsego Presque Isle ESD.





MiAA embarked on an ambitious integrated arts residency in Clawson Schools with the additional funding from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. The residency involves artists Lisa LaMarre (dance), Ben Schlatter (music), Amy Johnson (theatre) and S. Kay Young (visual art). The residency includes instruction in each of the art forms, as well as collaborative elements with all of the artists.



Our Gratiot Isabella Affiliate continues to do an excellent job raising the funds necessary to provide arts instruction for all of the Gratiot Isabella RESD students. MiAA Teaching Artists Barbara Taylor, Mel Gaal and Allise Noble will be providing visual art instruction, and Renee Hahn will be providing music instruction. The student pictured is glazing his clay mug as a final step in his artwork. The bowls at the top of the newsletter were also part of Barbara Taylor's instruction on how to create a vessel.

In addition to Michigan Arts and Culture Council, we wish to thank the Gratiot County Community Foundation and the Mount Pleasant Community Foundation for their continued support of these important programs. Gratiot Isabella RESD recently added 13 new classrooms to their student rolls, so we are working hard to find the funding needed to ensure that these students also receive an equitable arts education.



Watch for our Summer edition of EXPRESSIONS to see highlights from the rest of our wonderful AIR Programs!

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