Michigan Arts Access

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expressions



Club Create North Oakland County Reopens after 2-year Covid Hiatus

Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends of MiAA

The end of the summer is the time in our organizational calendar when we can take a quick breath and reflect on the successes and challenges of the year, before the start of our 2022-2023 programs.

I am particularly proud of our new All Means All program. As an offshoot of the program we hosted the first annual, Midtown Art Fair, which provides us with an opportunity to further support professional artists with disabilities, and demonstrate how wonderful an inclusive and accessible public event can be.

Our Club Create program continues to grow. We are pleased that Club Create North Oakland County was finally able to reopen in May, after a 2-year hiatus due to the pandemic. I was also able to secure funding through the Theresa Foundation to open two new Club Create chapters this fall: Club Create Alma and Club Create at the Hawk in Farmington.

We will soon begin planning for our 2022-2023 Artist-in-Residence

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In the Spotlight

Michigan Arts Access hosted the annual Midtown Art Fair, the first inclusive art fair featuring artists with disabilities and encouraging people of all ages with disabilities to attend.

The Midtown Art Fair is an outgrowth of All Means All, MiAA's program to support professional and aspiring artists with disabilities across the state of Michigan.

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All Means All

All Means All (AMA) is our program to support adult professional and aspiring artists with disabilities, The program is in partnership with the Disability Network of Wayne County Detroit, funded through a grant from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. The program has two components: a cohort for individual artists and a cohort of art studios for people with disabilities. Both cohorts meet monthly to share their work. During the sessions, we also discuss how to overcome professional challenges, as well as other relevant issues.





Elizabeth Martin



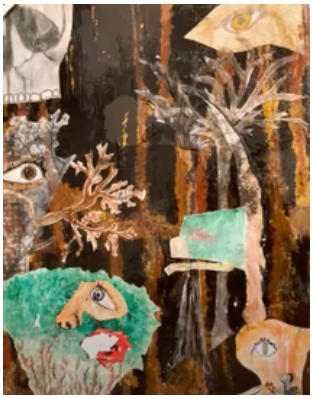
Two of Elizabeths best selling art pieces

Elizabeth Martin is a visual artist from Novi, MI whose media are clay and sewing. She sells her creations at art shops and boutiques around the state. She was also featured in the Creative Minds Changing Minds Statewide Traveling Art Show. Her dreams are to continue to make art and to expand and grow her business. You can purchase her work online at Etsy. Search: BethsElegantDesigns, Elizabeth will also do custom orders.

Jessica McLarty



Two pieces of Jessica's artwork





Jessica McLarty is a visual artist and poet from Lansing. She uses a variety of media, such as acrylic paint and recycled materials, and tools such as rollers and stencils to layer her pieces. She has also published three poetry books and the East Lansing Art Fair Poem Contest selected one of her poems for publication. Jessica's books are available for purchase on Amazon.

MiAA is also proud to showcase the work of the studios around the state that are providing professional opportunities for artists with disabilities through our All Means All Studio Group Cohort. Participating studios include Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, MRC Artworks Unit at MRC Industries in Kalamazoo, Art from the Heart at Peckham in Lansing, Creative360 in Midland, Creative Expressions run by Kadima and Jewish Vocation Services in Detroit and Southfield, and the Progressive Art Studio Collective at STEP in locations around metro Detroit.

Summer Programs

Midtown Art Fair

As we wrapped up another successful year of Artist-in-Residence programs in Michigan's special education centers, we prepared for an exciting summer, with our first annual Midtown Art Fair and Community of Practice Retreat. Norlena Brown, MiAA Board and Art Fair Committee Member proclaimed the Midtown Art Fair a resounding success. The fair hosted visual artists in a wide variety of media and featured the work of more than a dozen artists with disabilities. Legendary Detroit DJ, Bruce Bailey and his wonderful lineup of artists set a festive tone throughout the day. Visitors also expressed their creativity by participating in Daniel Cascardo's Interactive Art Experience, a collorative mural designed by Cascardo.

The event would not have been possible without the dedicated volunteers organized by Committee Member, Carolyn White, and Committee Chair, Cindy Babcock encourages more MiAA supporters, as well as artists with disabilities to get involved, as the fair expands next summer.







Community of Practice Retreat

Our annual teacher-artist retreat gathers teaching artists and special education teachers for a weekend of creation, collaboration, and learning. The retreat has three goals: It kicks off a year-long mentoring process for new teaching artists; It allows our Master Teaching Artists an opportunity to share ideas and reflect on their practice, which is part of MiAA's continuous improvement process; and it provides special education teachers with experiences and tools to integrate creative elements of dance, music, theatre and the visual arts into their academic content and instructional practices. Our Community of Practice Retreat is provided as part of a contract with VSA The Kennedy Center.





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Director's Message (cont. from pg.1)

Lora Frankel and I have been working with Clawson Schools, Detroit PSCD, Gratiot Isabella RESD, Lincoln Center School-Wyandotte, Cheboygan Otsego, Presque Isle ESD, and Marquette RESA to secure funding for the programs through community foundations and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC). We already received funding from the Otsego Community Foundation for visual art and music instruction for all of the COPESD special education students in Gaylord. We also received funding from the Mount Pleasant Area Community Foundation to work with GIRESD special education students in Isabella County. We await the late September announcement of the MACC grant awards, as well as announcements from other organizations, but anticipate another great year of providing hundreds special education students with an equitable arts education.



We are making great strides with our programs, but the fact remains that we are the only organization addressing the inequity that students with moderate to severe disabilities in Michigan do not receive any arts education. We believe this is a social justice issue, especially since it is clear from research that the arts can be particularly beneficial for these students. We currently provide arts instruction to only about one tenth of the students in Michigan's center-based programs. Your donation can help.

If you have not had the chance to donate yet to our biannual fundraising campaign, you can still make a donation by sending a check to us at **111 East Kirby st. Detroit, MI 48202** or by visiting our website at: www.miartsaccess.org/donors-and-partners/donate.

Your Devoted Director



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