NORTHPORT ARTS ASSOCIATION Annual Report 2023

> Painting by Debra Howard - 2023 Plein Air Golden Hour

Arts

NORTHPORT ARTS ASSOCIATION

301 N. Mill St., P.O. Box 262, Northport, MI 49670 231-386-1113 Northportartsforall@gmail.com A Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization

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Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report of The Northport Arts Association (NAA), a celebration of creativity, community and cultural enrichment. As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to showcase the accomplishments and hard work defining our organization.

Through our commitment to fostering artistic expression, supporting local artists and engaging with our community, NAA strives to serve as a catalyst for artistic growth in Leelanau.

We invite you to explore our achievements and initiatives furthering our mission in cultivating a thriving arts culture here in Northport Michigan.







n 2023, the Northport Arts Association remained steadfast in its dedication to supporting the arts community of the Leelanau Peninsula through a diverse array of exhibits, classes and events.

NAA provided local artists with invaluable

opportunities to showcase their talents and connect with audiences. These exhibitions not only served as platforms for artistic expression but also contributed a sense of community engagement and appreciation for the arts. Additionally, NAA's classes and workshops empowered individuals of all ages and skill levels to explore creativity and develop artistic abilities.

From painting and sculpture to photography and ceramics, these educational programs enriched the cultural landscape of our peninsula. We take pride in nurturing the next generation of artists and encouraging audience appreciation.

NAA's calendar of events pulls us together, providing opportunities for networking, collaboration and dialogue. Whether through exhibit openings, artist talks, or community festivals, NAA played a pivotal role in creating connections and promoting a vibrant arts scene on the Leelanau Peninsula throughout 2023.

In 2024, we embark on a new chapter with the introduction of our Executive Director, selected after an extensive search of extraordinary applicants.

Our focus continues on extending our reach for affordability in classes, ensuring that families and students have access to enriching artistic opportunities. This expanded reach identified a need to include young artists and collectors. With that in mind we are looking to create and promote a "NoMI Young Art Collectors Group" (Northern Michigan Young Art Collectors Group) with programs that bring the next generation of Artists and collectors together.

In The Clay Studio, the search for funds for the electrical and build-out for the installation of our large-capacity kiln (generously donated by The Michael Chetcuti Foundation in 2022) is a top priority. This addition expands our capacity for ceramics and is vital in attracting artist-in-residence talent and experience to our facility.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to our mission. Fostering creativity, nurturing talent and cultivating a vibrant arts scene enriches the lives of all who call our beautiful peninsula HOME.

Without the time and effort from our volunteers Northport Arts Association could not exist.

Volunteering at NAA is an experience filled with opportunities for personal growth, community engagement and meaningful connections. As a volunteer, you become an integral part of a vibrant community, where your contributions make a tangible difference in supporting local artists and building cultural enrichment. Whether assisting with exhibitions, events, or educational programs, the camaraderie forged with fellow volunteers and members creates lasting friendships and networks. Each interaction becomes a chance to learn, grow and share in the collective passion for the arts.

we are a working board united with dedicated committee of volunteers

Board of Directors 202

2023 Volunteers

Sheen Watkins, President Linda Bayer, Vice President Linda Gits, Treasurer Lisa Westling, Secretary Betsy Ernst, Director Clay Studio Mimi Heberlein, Director Tami Maisel, Director Jayne Robinson, Director Chris Woomer, Director Lydia Woodruff, Coordinator, NoMI Young Art Collectors Group Nina Collins, Emeritus

In Memory of Gene Rantz, Emeritus

Jerry Agnew Cynthia Goodrick Lyn Bahle Tina Greco		
Jerry Agnew Cynthia Goodrick Lyn Bahle Tina Greco	Sue Warrick-Smith,	Volunteer Director
	Sue Warrick-Smith, Paul Anderson Jerry Agnew Lyn Bahle Rich Bahle Paul Banfield Virginia Baxter Bob Bayer Linda Bayer Rita Biller Amber Bingham Barb Conley Janet Dickerson Betsy Ernst Kris Ernst Walter Farrell Marjorie Farrell Nancy Fitzgerald	Linda Gits Cynthia Goodrick Tina Greco Sue Harrison Mimi Heberlein Joel Heberlein Samantha Heberlein Oran Hesterman Lucinda Kurtz Russell Madsen Samatha Madison Tami Maisel Dick Martin Kathy Martin Brenda McWaters Peggy Miller
Virginia Baxter Joel Heberlein Bob Bayer Samantha Heberlein Linda Bayer Oran Hesterman Rita Biller Lucinda Kurtz Amber Bingham Russell Madsen Barb Conley Samatha Madison Janet Dickerson Tami Maisel Betsy Ernst Dick Martin Kris Ernst Kathy Martin Walter Farrell Brenda McWaters	Nancy Fitzgerald Wendy Van Maurek	Peggy Miller Pohai Muller
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There are others that volunteered but may not have logged in our Volunteer Sign Up Registry. Please know we are thankful for your help and would like to recognize you. Please send us an email so we can correct in the future.



Art, '23 in Review

NORTHPORT ARTS ASSOCIATION

nother fulfilling year of creativity, Fun and community involvement, as each year, we build stronger and reach more lives through art. Lessons are learned, improvements are taken and accomplishments celebrated.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for our passionate supporters, talented artists and committed volunteers who helped make this year happen.

MAY-JUNE

May 10-21 Arts of Our Members Annual Exhibit and Open House, Leelanau Township Community Foundation along with the Northport Performing Arts Center and Northport Arts Association joined together for a second annual Community Open House. People celebrated while enjoying art, refreshments and the smooth Jazz sounds from Northport's North Coast Trio with Amanda Kruk. NAA members displayed and sold a wide variety of art, crafts and pottery.

May 26-June 11 Northport Photo Exhibit, Photographers showcased a variety of genres, including landscapes, waterscapes, wildlife and architecture.

In recognition of the longstanding Cars Photographers Scott Wilson of VADA in the Park car show held over Memorial Day weekend, a new award category for automotive photography was introduced. One of the highlights of this across seven categories



year's event was the introduction of a Plein Air Photo Shoot. Photographers captured the beauty of the Northport area from dawn to dusk. Northport Public School art students also submitted their work for inclusion in the exhibit, adding a fresh perspective.

Color and Carol Greilick from the Traverse Area Camera Club judged our Plein Air. Awards were presented

Generous support of sponsors, including Scott Wilson of VADA Color, who sponsored and judged the exhibit, Additional support from McMillen Custom Framing, Tom's Food Market, Families First Monthly



Big shoutout to George and Tom for their invaluable contributions to the Clay Studio! Your dedication and talent are truly appreciated.





JULY- AUGUST July 10-13 August 7-10 Kids Camp

The 2023 summer Kids Art Camp was a success with over 30 artistic campers enrolled over two sessions. Campers explored a variety of art forms including; clay in the NAA Clay Studio, printmaking, sculpture, weaving, drawing and painting. Instructors Kay Pentzien and Lisa Westling along with volunteers Linda Gits, Samantha Madison, Tina Greco, Anna Rapson and counselors Bean, Kaylie, Natalie and Annika worked together to make this a memorable creative experience.



July 21-Aug. 6 The Gene Rantz Memorial Plein Air Paint Out & Wet

Paint Sale was a resounding success, drawing a large and enthusiastic crowd. Originally conceived by Gene Rantz in 2013, the event has flourished over the years, culminating in this year's impressive turnout of 49 artists. The generosity of Bill and Nina Collins, who donated the Village Arts Building to the NAA, plays a crucial role in the event's continued growth, providing a spacious venue for artists to showcase their work. Throughout the weekend, artists ventured across the tip of Leelanau Peninsula and the Village of Northport, capturing the area's scenic beauty in a variety of media and styles. From picturesque landscapes to charming village scenes, each painting offered a unique perspective on our region's allure.

Attendees, lined up around the block, were treated to a stunning display of artwork during the opening reception, where fresh paintings, created during the event, were available for sale. The gallery buzzed with lively conversation, energy and excitement as collectors snapped up prized art.

August 9 The Annual Gala "Dreamy Summer Evening" held at Willowbrook Mill in Northport was an absolute blast. Mimi and Joel Heberlein truly outdid themselves, ensuring that the event was a resounding fundraising success for NAA.

Guests were serenaded by the soothing jazz sounds of the North Coast Trio featuring Amanda Kruk vocals, adding to the enchanting ambiance of the historic Willowbrook Mill.

A highlight of the evening was the Silent Auction, featuring an impressive array of local offerings and art. The proceeds from the auction directly contributed to the growth and sustainability of the Northport Arts Association and Clay Studio.

Please thank these fine wineries for their support of our silent auction gift baskets when you visit their tasting rooms this year!

> Mawby Sparkling Wines Bel Lago Winery Baia Estate

Black Star Farms 45 North Vineyard & Winery

French Valley Vineyard Green Bird Cellars Leelanau Cellars Left Foot Charley

Shady Lane Cellars Verterra Winery

August 12-26 Animal Lovers Art Exhibit

Northport Dog Parade themed "Canine Couture", was a glamorous, tail wagging Doggie Fashion Show. Accompanying the Dog Parade was the Animal Lovers Exhibit organized by the Northport Arts Association. The exhibit featured artwork celebrating pets, domestic animals and wildlife,

displayed through paintings, photographs, sculptures and other media. Notable among the featured artists was Kat Dakota, active member and talented pet portrait artist, who played a pivotal role in launching the exhibit.

The gallery welcomed pets on leashes to join in the celebration and the exhibit continued through August 26th, offering visitors the opportunity to marvel at the diverse array of animal-themed artwork created by artists such as Robert Bayer, Judy Kelly, Barbara Waddell, Esther Send, Anna Rapson, Tina Greco, Denice Goldschmidt, Kelly Switzer, Sue Quinlan, Marjorie Farrell and Sheen Watkins. Board members Linda Gits and Linda Bayer made the front cover of that week's TraverseCity Record Eagle as they marched in the parade representing the show at NAA.

September-October

October 13 -21 When Form Meets Function, an exciting exhibit featuring artists' work in a variety of mediums, including clay, wood, fiber, metal and glass.

During the exhibit week, woodworking artist, Edward Foley, offered tours of his Northport Workshop & Studio, featuring live lathe demonstrations. Featured artists, Oran and Lucinda Hesterman shared insights and demonstrations of their journey to Italy Live demonstrations were also prewhere they attended the ceramics intensive workshop at La Meridiana.





sented by ceramicist Brianne Munch in the Clay Studio.



November December

The 7th annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Market, , hosted at the Northport Arts Association along with Willowbrook Mill, Attendees indulged in both adult and kid versions of gourmet hot chocolate while visiting Santa at the Willowbrook Mill

The Holiday Arts & Crafts Market showcased a diverse array of fine arts and crafts from exceptionally talented artists. Original and unique gifts, shoppers purchased holiday décor, pottery, fiber arts & needlework, jewelry, photography, paintings, greeting cards, books, aromatherapy, herbals, ornaments, woodwork, maple syrup, homemade pet treats, original artwork and fresh Christmas wreaths.

November 25th was a day filled with family-friendly activities in the Village of Northport. In addition to the Holiday Arts & Crafts Market, attendees participated in various holiday festivities throughout the village. From shopping at local shops and galleries, enjoying lunch or dinner at a nearby restaurant, experiencing a horse-drawn wagon ride to culminating in the magical Northport tree lighting ceremony, the holiday spirit filled the air.



figure drawing studio

our years running - over 6000 drawings created under the fearless leadership of Chris Woomer! Figure Drawing Studio celebrated its 150th continuous Monday night session this year. Every Monday a group gathers to draw 5-minute and 20-minute poses. People bring gourmet treats, wine and laughs. During each session, interesting art is produced using a variety of media; digital, oil, charcoal, pastel, pencil, pen and ink.

Don't miss our Biennial Quick Draw Exhibit, Opening May 3, 2024 where we again display our art, floor to ceiling, in the Village Arts Building!



Our 2023 Models Aaliyah Ann Harper Amanda Kruk Amy Murphy Angela Allyn Barbara Charpentier **Cam Brooks-Miller Chelsie Lambright Chris Woomer** Corbin **Colby Lambright Dan Frank Danielle Percy Diana Baxter Emily Julien** Ernie Barry Gary Kohlhaas Geri Grace Knight **Greg Maier** Ian Dawkins Kay Pentzian Kathryn Mitzka Katie Frank **Kevin Murphy** Laura Lilly Dean Linda Gits Lisa Westling Lynn Kinker

Maria Murphy Molly Murphy Nick Woomer Nicole Nelson Pohai Müller Rita Biller Russell Madsen Samantha Madison Sarah Webb Sheen Watkins Wendy Frank Will Kayuk



Lisa Westling Kids' Spring Break
Scott Kenyon Light in Plein Air
Chris Smith Wildlife in Art
Judie Fiegel Handcrafted Greeting Cards
Amy Foster Portrait Drawing
Janet Ryan Metal Smithing-Beach Stone Pendant or Ring
Tina Greco Mythical Creatures
Tina Greco Animals/Leelanau
Scott KenyonStudio Painting in Oil
Linda Bayer Creating a Dot Mandala
Denice GoldschmidtAcrylic & Oil Painting
Denice GoldschmidtArtwork Feedback Group
Lisa Westling Kids Camps
Mary Guntzviller Watercolor Magic, Watercolor B.S.
Anna Rapson Printmaking, Crochet Critters
Tina Greco Clay Vases/Trays & Molds/Slab/Gnomes
Brianne MunchBack to Pottery/ Beginner/Intermediate Throwing
Anna Rapson Crochet Critters
Lani Smith Try Throwing/Beginner/ Intermediate Throwing
Sally MeeseSlab Build/Nature Inspired
George & Tom Raku Party
Chris Woomer Figure Drawing Studio
Betsy Ernst Garden Goddesses
Pat McKean Introduction to Cold Way
Kathy KosinImprovisation on Canvas
Open Studio Pottery Group
Open Studio Sewing Group

spotlight Clay Studio

Northport Clay Studio is a community-oriented pottery venue offering opportunities for individuals to engage in wheel throwing, hand building and sculpture. Established in 2022 with the support of the community, the studio operates year-round and welcomes members of all ages.

Our facilities include 5 electric pottery wheels, two Skutt electric to Financial page 15). However, kilns, a Robert Brent Slab roller, as well as low fire white ware and high fire stoneware clay, along with a diverse selection of glazes tailored to different clay bodies.

The studio maintains regular hours, open daily to members and hosts weekly classes.

Looking ahead, one of our goals accessible to all. is to enhance our capabilities by funding the installation of the high-capacity commercial kiln (Generously donated by The Michael Chetcuti Foundation) to

"I enjoy the companionship and seeing other's creativity. I have a six-month membership ...The clay studio is my home away from home, ...where my creativity has flourished." - Marjorie Farrell

"Joining...has enabled me to meet other local clay artists to share information and ideas:... and afforded me the opportunity to display and sell ... at exhibits throughout the year. I am so appreciative of the dedicated ... board of NAA, ." -Oran Hesterman

"As a beginner it has been creative journey to go all the way to end as a piece can appear to be a fail in the end it can be an all time keeper. Thank you NAA for working so hard to provide such an amazing space." -Michelle White

accommodate oversized pieces, thereby attracting artists in residence who further contribute to our creative community. Building upon our initial success. we aspire to broaden our class offerings, particularly targeting families and senior citizens with limited incomes.

Currently, our financial situation is at a break-even point (refer to fulfill our expansion plans, including the installation of the large kiln and necessary electric upgrades, we rely on the generosity of donors, regardless of the size of their contributions. Your support enables us to extend tuition subsidies and further our mission of making ceramic arts

Sincerely,

Betsy Ernst, Director, Northport Clay Studio

 The fabulous "When Form Meets Function Show" highlighting artist's works functional to decorative 3-dimensional media. October 11-25, 2024.

> • Fill the Bowls Project, benefit for "5 Loaves 2 Fish Northern Michigan." November 8, 2024



Highlights and Upcoming Events

- Wheel th rowing classes from beginner to intermediate levels.
- Hand-building classes in sculpture, vases, trays... Garden Goddesses, Elves and Gnomes!
- After-school classes for the Northport High School students.
- LIFT (Leelanau Investing For Teens) Youth program creating artworks in clay.
- Summer Kids Camp clay experience.
- Open Studio time for participants meeting each Monday afternoon.
- Raku workshops with the Northport Pottery supporters.
- Thursday night open studio sessions.
- Bowl Glazing for Fill the Bowls Project: October 2- 3, 2024

donors Leelanau Township Community Foundation Nina Collins Linda Gits Marjorie Farrell enerous Phillip S. Harper Foundation Christine & John Woomer Rozansky Family Foundation Linda Bayer σ **Ronald & Kathleen** ЧΓ McInnis-Szostek Family 0 Silver Catherine Clifford fo Oran B Hesterman, Kellog Foundation ateful Jennie Berkson Alex Parks Candace Sutfin **Community Foundation** Louisville KY <u>gr</u> Elizabeth Perlman Fredrick R Budd & Donna are Wilds James Arnold Bronze C Anonymous Maria Tucker Marcia Gibson Tom & Deb Whitney Clare Gengarelly

Platinum

Barb Waddell T.L. Majoros **CDM** Foundation Katherine Martin Kellv Werback Larry Coppard Susan Ager McMillen's Framing Rose Arnold Samuel Martin Wendy Slade Ambassador Peninsula Perennial (Betsy Ernst) Gretchen French Leontine Elder Nancy Cooper Lisa & Bill Westling Lisa Ferden Ann Cary Trisha Wolfe David Bradley Marie-Claude Shanafelt Thomas Gebhardt Audrey H. Devault Deborah Samson James Fielding Laura Gits Paine Marcia DeBoer Shelly Batterbee Virginia Foley Cynthia Saffell Garret Ernst Mia Moyad Danielle Belin Margaret Peterson

Lawrence Fox Yvonne Norstrand Jennifer Wack Beth Plumridge Tim Hanley Francie Gits LPL Financial George Cooper Northport School Marcia DeBoer Northport Women's Club Marcia Gibson **Elizabeth Sweeney** Margaret Kroll Nancy Fitzgerald **Brigitte Weller** Tom Gennette Leslie & Deborah Disch Ann Mosier Allen Noftz CarmenVan Nieuwkerk Cynthia DeGrace Daniel Toole Susan Almeter LMawby Deborah Hercht Marilyn Zimmerman Gail & Richard Rapson Evy Sussman Janice Earl Janis Bond Jenny M. Evans Kay Pentzien Little Garden Club Pier Wright Lvnda Bahle Thomas Pritz S.P. Zadvinskis Karen Gros Sharon Kalchik Sarah Murphy Susan Harrison Judith Jensen Fowler Supporter Kerry Lucasse Lucinda Kurtz Kayleen Scott Lisa George Alexis Reid Kathy Garthe Donna Schaerer Anna Rapson Dorothy Aliq Peggy Miller Lauren Thomas Kincaid Anne Harper Lisa George Barbara Conley & Gerald Michelle Tylka & Family Schatz Mimi Heberlein Carl Steidtmann & Kathleen Cline Nancy Bunn Nancy P. Freeman Terrence Connolly Robert & Rita Lecy Thomas Kinkaid Leslie Palmer Virginia Baxter

In Kind **Bob Bayer Photography** Bill Westling, construction & telecommunications & maintenance Linda Gits Accounting & Graphic Design Gardening committee, Nance Schuman, Janet Dickerson Susan Husken & Tom Whitney, plantings & beautification Linda Bayer Website & Graphics, Event Management, Publicity, Facility Management Lisa Westling Kids Camp, facility management, Office Lydia Woodruff Website Mimi & Joel Heberlein management and venue for Gala Event at Willowbrook Mill Peninsula Perennial Nursery, plants Rvan Blessing HVAC & Installations Sheen Watkins, Website & Photography Tom Whitney, construction & maintenance Chris & John Woomer, Facade

Please email us if you donated and have been accidentally omitted from this list so we can correct our records.



Financial Picture

Northport Arts Association is in a solid financial position in 2023, with donations and program income outpacing expenses. That year, NAA disbursed \$40,823.89 directly to local artists and instructors across various programs, exhibits, awards, classes and events an increase from \$26,036.90 in 2022.

The estimated operating budget for 2023 was \$96,000, which was successfully raised. All expenditures remained under budget, largely due to significant volunteer efforts and the active involvement of the board of directors.

Looking ahead, our focus for the next year is on securing large donor funding and major grants to build necessary reserve funds and

Clay Studio is a separate entity within the Northport Arts Association (501c3)

Income is received from donations, grants, 30% class fee, studio memberships and 30% pottery exhibit sales.

Annually Expenses Average:

\$11,400 Rent paid to the Leelanau Township Community Foundation

\$1600 Electricity

\$4500 Clay and Glaze Supplies

\$300. Misc tools, cleaning supplies and consumables such as paper towels and garbage bags

\$350 Insurance

70% paid to instructors fees per class

70% paid to artists for exhibit sales

Trips downstate for supplies, kiln firing, clean up, clay recycling, scheduling, management, repairs, bookkeeping and instruction are currently being done by board volunteers (saving thousands). support future initiatives. To maintain our 501c3 status, it's imperative that the bulk of our operational funding comes from community support versus commercial activities.

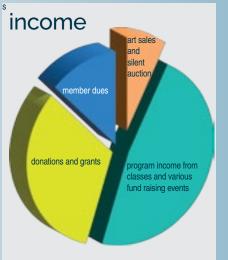
Last year, we also shared our next major goal: to recruit an Executive Director tasked with managing upcoming expanded programs, events and fundraising efforts. We're pleased to announce that the committee is in the final stages of the selection process and the start date for this role is April 1, 2024.

With continued support from our community, we are transforming Northport into an arts destination, while ensuring that Northport Arts Association remains an affordable haven for artists to thrive and create.

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office, accounting and payroll

We average approximately 4,000 annual hours of volunteer time across various areas, including Website, Graphic **Design & Promotions, Building** Maintenance, Landscaping, Kids Camp. Teaching. Bookkeeping. Event Catering, Copy writing, Facility Upkeep, Clay Studio Management, Board and **Committee Meetings, Figure Drawing Studio, Grant Writing** and more. Additionally, the generosity of Bill and Nina Collins, who donated the Village Arts Building to the NAA in 2016, has a yearly value of \$30,000 in rent savings, totaling an estimated value of well over \$200,000 in annual savings and support.



clay studio

nstructor fees for

artist payments for

art sold at exhibits.

prizes and awards

classes

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NORTHPORT ARTS ASSOCIATION

in the Village Arts Building at 301 N. Mill St.



Calendar 2024

MAY

- 5/3Quick Draw Opening Reception
 5/4 12Quick Draw Exhibit
 5/16.....Qpen House & Northport Public School -J is for Juxtaposition Opening Reception
 5/17-5/19....Northport Public School -J is for Juxtaposition Exhibit
 5/24Opening Reception Northport Photo Exhibit
 5/25 - 6/9 .. Northport Photo Exhibit
 JUNE
 6/14Opening Reception NAA Members Exhibit
 6/14Opening Reception NAA Members Exhibit
- 6/15 7/5 ... NAA Members Exhibit

JULY

- 7/8 7/11 Kids Camp Session 1
- 7/15-7/18 Kids Theatre Camp
- 7/20 Opening Reception Gene Rantz Memorial Plein Air Paint Out
- 7/21 8/3 Gene Rantz Memorial Plein Air Exhibit

AUGUST

8/5 - 8/8 Kids Camp Session 2

8/10 & 11 Art & Vintage Sale

SEPTEMBER

9/20 Opening Reception Woodruff Retrospective 9/21 - 29 Woodruff Retrospective Exhibit

OCTOBER

- 10/2 & 3...... Bowl Glazing for Fill the Bowls Project with 5 Loaves 2 Fish
- 10/11 Opening Reception When Form Meets Function
- 10/12 27 When Form Meets Function Exhibit

NOVEMBER

11/8.....Fill the Bowls Project with 5 Loaves 2 Fish 11/30Holiday Arts & Crafts Market

DECEMBER

12/21..... Tentative possible Winter Solstice SnoBall Dance Mixer & Pot Luck Volunteer Reunion



Online calendar with class updates and sign up (simply point your phone at this QR code)



www.northportartsassociation.org