



Annual Appeal for Funding

August 15, 2023

Dear Friends,

The Sault Area Arts Council (SAAC) enthusiastically reports several accomplishments over this past year. Thanks to your previous financial support, the energy and commitment of our Board of Directors, and the work of two highly energetic, part time staff (Robin Sorquist and Rebecca Jones) we experienced remarkable growth.

PROGRAMMING

- *Classes*
We held over 30 classes including painting, carving, fiber arts, drawing, art history/appreciation, color theory for clothing, book binding, watercolor and plein air group meet ups.
- *ART CAMP 2023.* SAAC was awarded a Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) one-time grant of \$3500 for SAAC to host a weeklong camp for children aged 8-12. The hugely successful camp was held at the Cultural Center in Bay Mills (through the generosity of Bay Mills Indian Community).
- *Open Studio* for members is ongoing and held every Thursday from 11 am – 1 pm
- *Back to School Book Signing and Reading*
- *Poetry Night once monthly*
- *Past Monthly Exhibits.* Since March 2023 our six well attended exhibits included:
 - Student show in (March)
 - Juried 2-D show (April, sponsored by Century 21 Advantage Plus)
 - Fiber Arts (May, sponsored by Kristin Fairbanks DDS)
 - Kaleidoscope and Lens & Chisel (June, sponsored by an anonymous donor)
 - Photography (July, sponsored by 4 Front Credit Union)
 - Paint and Metal (August, sponsored by GHL Certified Public Accountants)
- *Upcoming Monthly Exhibits*
 - The Curiosities of Two Dames (September, sponsored by Craig Flickinger DDS, PLLC)
 - Bonifas Award Winners (October, sponsored by Sault Rotary: meets at noon)
 - Indigenous Art (November sponsorship tbd)
 - Christmas Arts & Crafts (December, sponsored by Soo Co-op Credit Union)
- *Artist-in-Residence Program*
For the first time ever, SAAC will collaborate in a program that offers 10-day residencies for artists at a beach cabin at Point Iroquois. Of the 56 applicants four (a visual artist, two photographers and a writer) were selected for the 2023-2024 season.



REVENUE STREAMS In addition to providing excellent monthly exhibits and offering more classes, we have secured small business and community foundation sponsorships as well as government grants.

- *Sponsorships* All but one of our monthly exhibits was sponsored by a local business. In addition, we received donations from Cloverland Electric Cooperative, the Chippewa County Community Foundation, the Bay Mills Indian Community, Bay Mills Community College, Walmart, The Sault Ste. Marie Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Kohl's Volunteer program. This support helps to pay our part-time staff and keep the building maintained. A less tangible benefit is the increased awareness and engagement of our whole community in SAAC's mission.
- *Grants* In addition to the funded ART CAMP 2023 project we submitted three government grants and await funding decisions to be announced in October.
 1. NEA Challenge America grant entitled "The Soo Collects: Art for All" was submitted to the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA). If awarded we will hold a multiveneue exhibit, lectures and classes discussing the paintings, sculpture and architecture from Sault area private collections, institutional collections, and public art, in September 2024.
 2. An operational grant was submitted to MACC. If awarded it will provide funding for operational expenses including salaries for our Operations Manager and Business manager and digital expenses including Internet and web hosting.
 3. A professional development grant was also submitted to MACC. In this grant proposal we ask for \$1500 to fund two half day workshops to facilitate our building a cohesive, effective SAAC Board of Directors.

Our goals for the coming year are to; double our class offerings: hold another Children's Art Camp: purchase a large screen TV (\$1500) to show art related, free monthly movies: upgrade the interior gallery walls to meet the fire-retardant code per request of the Fire Marshall (\$20,000): and remodel the upstairs bathroom (\$5000) to have water available for classes on the 2nd floor.

On behalf of SAAC, with heart-filled gratitude, I thank you in anticipation of your contributions.

Agatha Colbert
Chair, Sault Area Arts Council

Donations can be made:

- In-person by visiting us at the Art Center located inside the Alberta House at 217 Ferris St. during our hours of operation.
- Via US Mail by addressing to Sault Area Arts Council, 217 Ferris St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
- Online by visiting <https://square.link/u/m8LieK2l>