



MONTANA PERFORMING *Arts*
Consortium

*Connecting Montana communities
with incredible performing arts
experiences since 1981*

**FY 2025
ANNUAL REPORT**
JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

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MISSION

- Promote and encourage the touring and presentation of the performing arts throughout Montana in a professional and cost-effective manner.
- Provide support and technical assistance to non-profit performing arts presenters, presenting communities, and artists.
- To foster a favorable climate for both artists and presenters in Montana and promote, cultivate, and amplify the vibrant, innovative, and powerful presenting culture in Montana communities.

The Montana Performing Arts Consortium (MPAC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit serving Montana's community of presenting organizations and the artists who bring their talent to our stages. Consistent with its mission, MPAC provides two important services to the field statewide: the **Artist Showcase & Conference** and the **Presenter Development Program**.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Webster

President
Montana Tunehound Productions
LLC
Missoula

Jill Dostert Wagner

Vice President, Secretary
Northeastern Arts Network
Sidney, Glasgow, and Malta

Connie Jenkins

Treasurer
Chouteau County Performing Arts
Fort Benton

Rob Kohler

Artist Representative
Bassist & Teacher
Great Falls

Jim Peaco

Director at Large
Electric Peaks Arts Council
Gardiner

Gary Fjeldstad

Director at Large
Kootenai Heritage Council
Libby

STAFF

Emily Wolfram

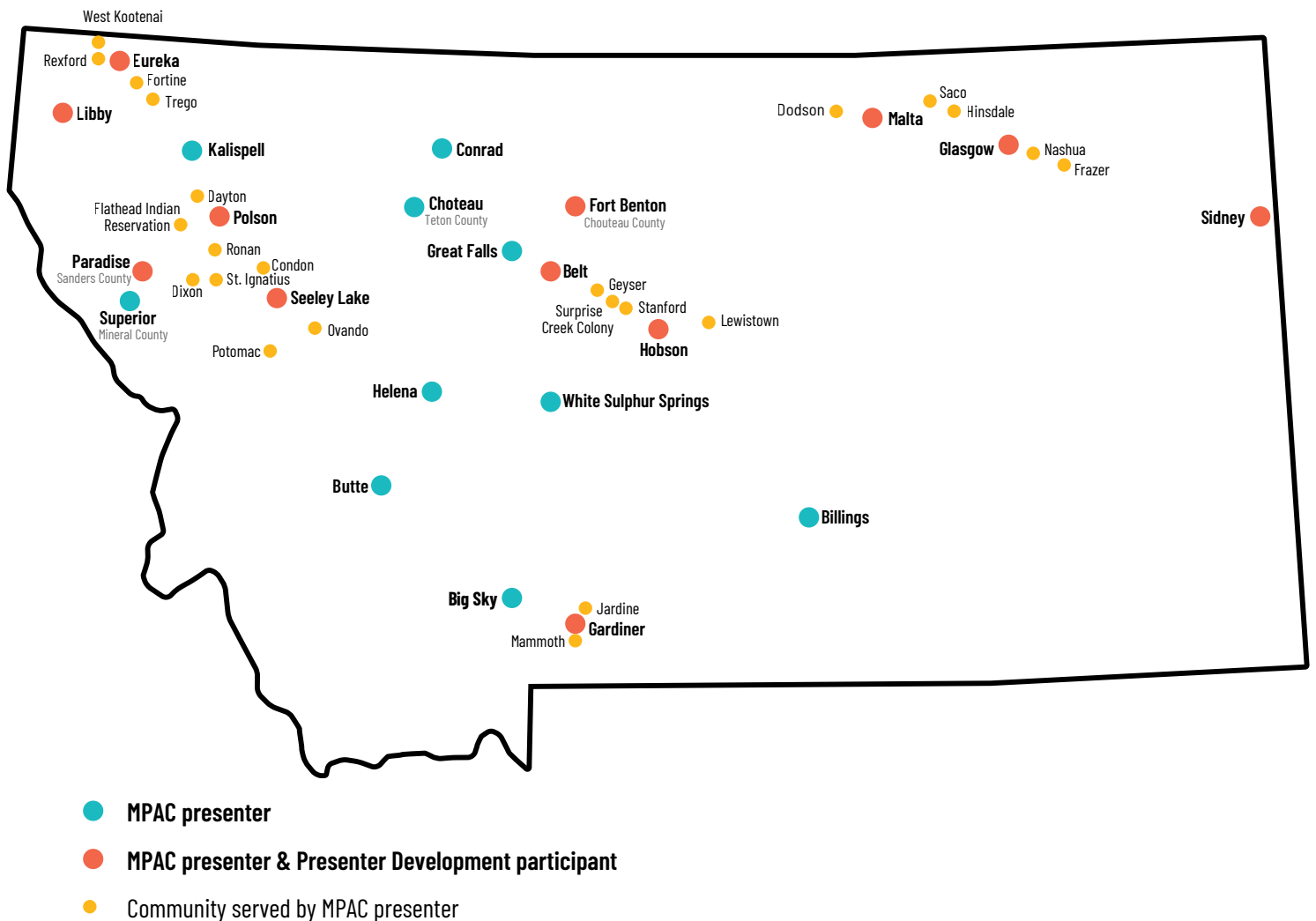
Executive Director
Great Falls



WHO WE SERVE

MPAC promotes and encourages performing arts touring in Montana by supporting the work of arts organizations, big and small, in communities, urban and rural. Through the Artist Showcase & Conference and the Presenter Development program, MPAC cultivates a cooperative network of presenting organizations of all sizes. They work together to draw high-caliber performing arts groups to all corners of the state through block-booking.

What is Block-Booking? *Block-booking is three or more presenting organizations coordinating to book an artist or artistic group, making an offer which pools the combined individual offers of the “block” and offering performances along a route and in a time-frame beneficial to the artist. (Robert Baird, BAM! Complete Guide to Block Booking, 2017)*



PRESENTER DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Founded in 1987 and recognized as a national model by the National Endowment for the Arts, our Presenter Development program is the cornerstone of arts access in rural Montana. We provide artist fee support and technical assistance to help emerging and volunteer-led organizations build sustainable performing arts series. From school workshops in Eureka to mainstage jazz in Belt, this program ensures that high-quality, professional performance is woven into the daily life of every Montana community, regardless of size.



Kate Voss from Sundae + Mr. Goessl shares the melodica event at an outreach activity presented by the Kootenai Heritage Council in Libby

PRESENTER DEVELOPMENT

BY THE NUMBERS

Support for Rural Communities



MPAC distributed **\$9,000** in promotional support to **9 participating organizations**.



The 9 participants received **\$96,208** in individual and corporate donations from their respective communities.



Collectively, participating presenters garnered community support in the form of **in-kind contributions totaling \$127,060**.

Engagement



18,968
total audience members



14,047
students

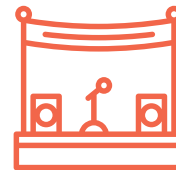


5,038
seniors



205
individual artists

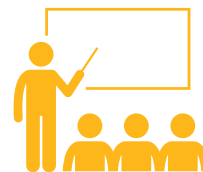
Events Supported



78 public performances



146 school outreach events



28 other outreach programs

(e.g. workshops, masterclasses, lectures)

PRESENTER DEVELOPMENT

TESTIMONIES



**BELT PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER (BELT)**

Artist: Jazz Legacy Project

Having the Jazz Legacy Project work with our students was incredibly valuable. In a rural setting like ours, opportunities for students to experience performance and learn from professional musicians are rare. These moments can be pivotal for a student's musical development. Their performance/feedback energized our students and supported the work we're doing in the classroom. As a music educator, I really appreciate the fresh perspectives and the way they reinforced key concepts in new engaging ways.

— **Andrew Cantley,**
Belt Music Teacher

Duende Libre was amazing. A top notch performance with talented and passionate musicians. I loved that they spent time with the students in our community to share and teach their craft. Thanks so much for sharing these performers with us.

— **Andra Ruhman,**
audience member



MISSION VALLEY LIVE (POLSON/RONAN)

Artist: Duende Libre

PRESENTER DEVELOPMENT

FY2025 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Alpine Artisans / 2Valleys Stage

Seeley Lake

Belt Performing Arts Center

Belt

Chouteau County Performing Arts

Fort Benton

Judith Arts Society & Geyser Community Hall

Hobson

Kootenai Heritage Council

Libby

Mission Valley Live

Polson

Northeastern Arts Network

Sidney, Glasgow, and Malta

The Paradise Center

Paradise

Sunburst Arts & Education

Eureka

Belt Performing Arts Center presents an outreach event with international fiddle champion Mari Black and her trio.



ARTIST SHOWCASE & CONFERENCE

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Artist Showcase & Conference is the cornerstone of MPAC's work, serving as a vital convening point where Montana's vast geography is bridged through meaningful connection. This annual gathering brings together a statewide network of presenters, artists, and agents to build the relationships that make touring feasible and arts access possible—especially for rural communities navigating the realities of long distances and volunteer leadership. It is an intentionally collegial environment designed to prioritize long-term partnership over transactional booking, ensuring that professional, world-class performance is woven into the daily life of every Montana community.

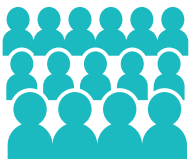
Throughout the intensive weekend, attendees engage in juried showcases, professional workshops, and unique networking events like “Turn-The-Tables,” where presenters host the booths to allow artists and agents to lead the conversation. These activities serve as a practical catalyst for the year-round block-booking tours that follow, allowing members to pool their resources and coordinate performances that are cost-effective for presenters and sustainable for touring artists. By convening the field in this collaborative spirit, the conference strengthens the essential infrastructure that allows incredible arts experiences to reach all corners of the state.



ARTIST SHOWCASE & CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 11-13, 2024

MANSFIELD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA



150
total conference
attendees



17
juried
showcases



23
presenting
organizations



16
rural Montana
communities
represented



58
individual
artists



2
arts service
organizations



22
artist
groups



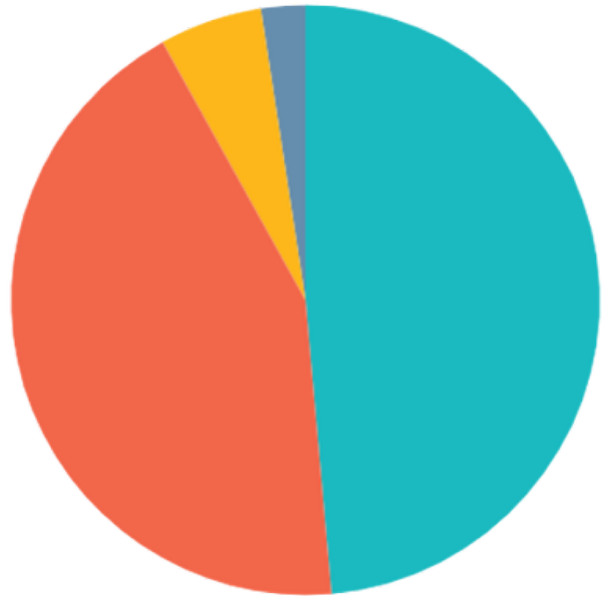
6
artist
agencies

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY2025

REVENUE

● Grants	\$28,500	49%
● Program Service Fees	\$25,422	43%
● Contributions	\$3,300	6%
● Other	\$1,425	2%
Total Revenue	\$58,647	



EXPENSES

● Program Services	\$34,504	67%
● Management & General	\$17,048	33%
Total Expenses	\$51,552	



2024-2025 MEMBERS

PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS

Alberta Bair Theater, Billings (Yellowstone County)
 Alpine Artisans/2 Valleys Stage, Seeley Lake (Missoula County)
 Belt Performing Arts Center, Belt (Cascade County)
 Choteau Arts, Choteau (Teton County)
 Chouteau County Performing Arts, Fort Benton (Chouteau County)
 Covellite Theater, Butte (Silver Bow County)
 Electric Peak Arts Council, Gardiner (Park County)
 Great Falls Community Concert Association, Great Falls (Cascade County)
 Judith Arts Society and Geyser Community Club, Geyser (Judith Basin County)
 Kootenai Heritage Council, Libby (Lincoln County)
 Meagher County Arts Council, White Sulphur Springs (Meagher County)
 Mineral County Performing Arts Council, Superior (Mineral County)
 The Myrna Loy, Helena (Lewis and Clark County)
 Mission Valley Live, Polson (Lake County)
 Mother Lode Theatre, Butte (Silver Bow County)
 Northeastern Arts Network, Sidney (Richland County)
 Northeastern Arts Network, Malta (Phillips County)
 Northeastern Arts Network, Glasgow (Valley County)
 The Paradise Center, Plains (Sanders County)
 Pondera Arts Council, Conrad (Pondera County)
 Sunburst Arts and Education, Eureka (Lincoln County)
 Wachholz College Center, Kalispell (Flathead County)
 Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, Big Sky (Gallatin County)

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Montana Arts Council, Helena (State Agency)
 Creative West, Denver, CO (Regional Arts Organization)

2024-2025 MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS & ARTIST GROUPS

Aliya Kanani, Toronto, Ontario / TX, Canada

Arcana Kings, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Broadway In Love, Holland, Ohio

Buzz Brass, , Quebec, Canada

Christine Tassan et les Imposteurs, Quebec, Canada

Duende Libre, Seattle, WA

El Javi, Wheat Ridge, Colorado

Fore Fader, Los Angeles, California

Gideon Freudmann, Puget Sound, Washington

Jessica Loobey, Whitewood , South Dakota

Joselyn & Don, Los Angeles, California

Luciane Dom, Brazil

Melissa Lynn Band, Great Falls, Montana

Montreal Guitare Trio, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Pipeline Vocal Project, Anchorage, Alaska

Rachel Therrien, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Repertory Dance Theater, Salt Lake City, Utah

Rob Verdi, Los Angeles, California

T. Buckley, Alberta, Canada

The Hello Darlins, Calgary, Alberta

The Lucky Valentines, Fort Benton , Montana

The McDades, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Trevor Panczak, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada



2024-2025 MEMBERS

ARTIST AGENCIES

Agence Station Bleue, Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Cubbyhole Artists, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Danielle Lefebvre Artist & Concert Agency, Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada

EPIC Arts Management, West Palm Beach, Florida

Home Team Management, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The McDades, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

FY2025 MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Member Services & Network Support: Moving Toward Intentional Growth

Building on the successful launch of our inclusive membership model and online portal in FY24, this past year marked a pivotal shift from "making do" toward a future of intentional growth and sustainability. The defining milestone of FY25 was the completion of our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, a roadmap developed through a structured process of research, SWOT analysis, and extensive stakeholder input. We surveyed approximately 140 conference attendees and 230 arts professionals to ensure our goals remained deeply rooted in the needs of the Montana presenting field. As we enter this "foundation year," our focus has transitioned from mere subsistence to building the internal clarity and infrastructure needed to be recognized as a crucial economic driver for Montana by 2030.

To support this strategic growth, we have significantly enhanced the Member Dashboard with new practical resources designed to foster year-round collaboration. Members now have access to a Community Calendar to submit and view statewide events, an updated Block-booking page for real-time tour coordination, and a curated Learning Calendar featuring professional development workshops on nonprofit management and presenting—most of which are free to access. These tools represent our commitment to serving as a central connector for the arts, providing our network of presenters, artists, and agents with the resources they need to thrive regardless of their location or budget.

MONTANA PERFORMING *Arts*
consortium

EMILY WOLFRAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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