

A group of students in an auditorium are cheering with their hands raised. They are seated in rows of orange chairs. The background shows the interior of a theater with a balcony and stage lights.

MONTANA PERFORMING *Arts* **consortium** **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Student audience cheers at an outreach performance presented by the Belt Performing Arts Center

Photo: Amy Olson



Judy Carmichael performs at the Belt Performing Arts Center
Photo: Amy Olson

MONTANA PERFORMING *Arts* **Consortium** **MISSION**

- Promote and encourage the touring of the performing arts throughout Montana in a professional and cost-effective manner.
- Provide support and technical assistance to performing arts presenters.
- Foster a favorable climate for both artists and presenters in Montana.

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 mission, MPAC provides two important services to the field statewide: the **Annual Showcase & Conference** and the **Presenter Development** program.

“It’s moments like these that makes our efforts all worthwhile! Bringing in artists from all around the world expands the creativity and confidence of children who participate in the arts.”

JILL DOSTERT WAGNER

**President, Northeastern Arts Network
Sidney, Glasgow, & Malta**



De-fi outreach event for Sidney students, presented by the Northeastern Arts Network. Photo: Jill Dostert Wagner

From the Board Chair

Dear members and friends of MPAC,

It has been a privilege and honor to have served on the Board of Directors of the Montana Performing Arts Consortium (MPAC) since 1995, and as acting President of the Board for over a decade. For the past 28 years I have witnessed the impact our organization has made by facilitating the presenting and producing of literally thousands of events for hundreds of thousands of patrons through live entertainment. These events have occurred in numerous communities, both large and small, in Montana and surrounding states. Through our endeavors and passion for the arts since 1981, MPAC has brought joy and entertainment to many areas where cultural events wouldn't normally occur. This has been accomplished by the hard work, passion and dedication of presenters and performers. Through our Presenter Development program and Annual Showcase and Conference, MPAC is instrumental in keeping the performing arts alive and well. I also want to recognize our hard-working and dedicated board, made of presenters and artists from throughout our great state. Peruse the list of board members and you will find passionate people from all sizes of communities, from every region of Montana. MPAC's ability to pursue its mission is also made possible through the generosity of the Montana Arts Council, the National Endowment of the Arts, the Montana Cultural Trust, Western States Arts Federation, dedicated contributors, and patrons of our member presenters. I also want to give credit to Emily Wolfram, our exceptionally dedicated and hard-working Executive Director. Through her energy and passion, she is taking our organization to new heights! At this time, I encourage any person or organization to join our efforts by making a fiscal or in-kind contribution to MPAC so we can continue supporting the performing arts in all Montana communities.

I truly believe that arts and entertainment are important to our success as a people and collective well-being. When we have the great fortune to witness live entertainment—whether it's a solo singer-songwriter, a large ensemble or symphony, Broadway play, or any event in venues large or small—for that moment we can be transformed to a magical place as a community. Live performance allows us to set aside our differences, and come together through the arts. Long live the performing arts!



Tom Webster

Board President, Montana Performing Arts Consortium

Board of Directors

Tom Webster, President

Montana Tunehound Productions LLC
Missoula

Nick Spear, Artist Member

Big Sky City Lights
Whitefish

Jill Dostert Wagner, Vice President

Northeastern Arts Network
Sidney, Glasgow, and Malta

Jim Peaco, Director at Large

Electric Peaks Arts Council
Gardiner

Connie Jenkins, Treasurer

Chouteau County Performing Arts
Fort Benton

John Zirkle, Director at Large

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center
Big Sky

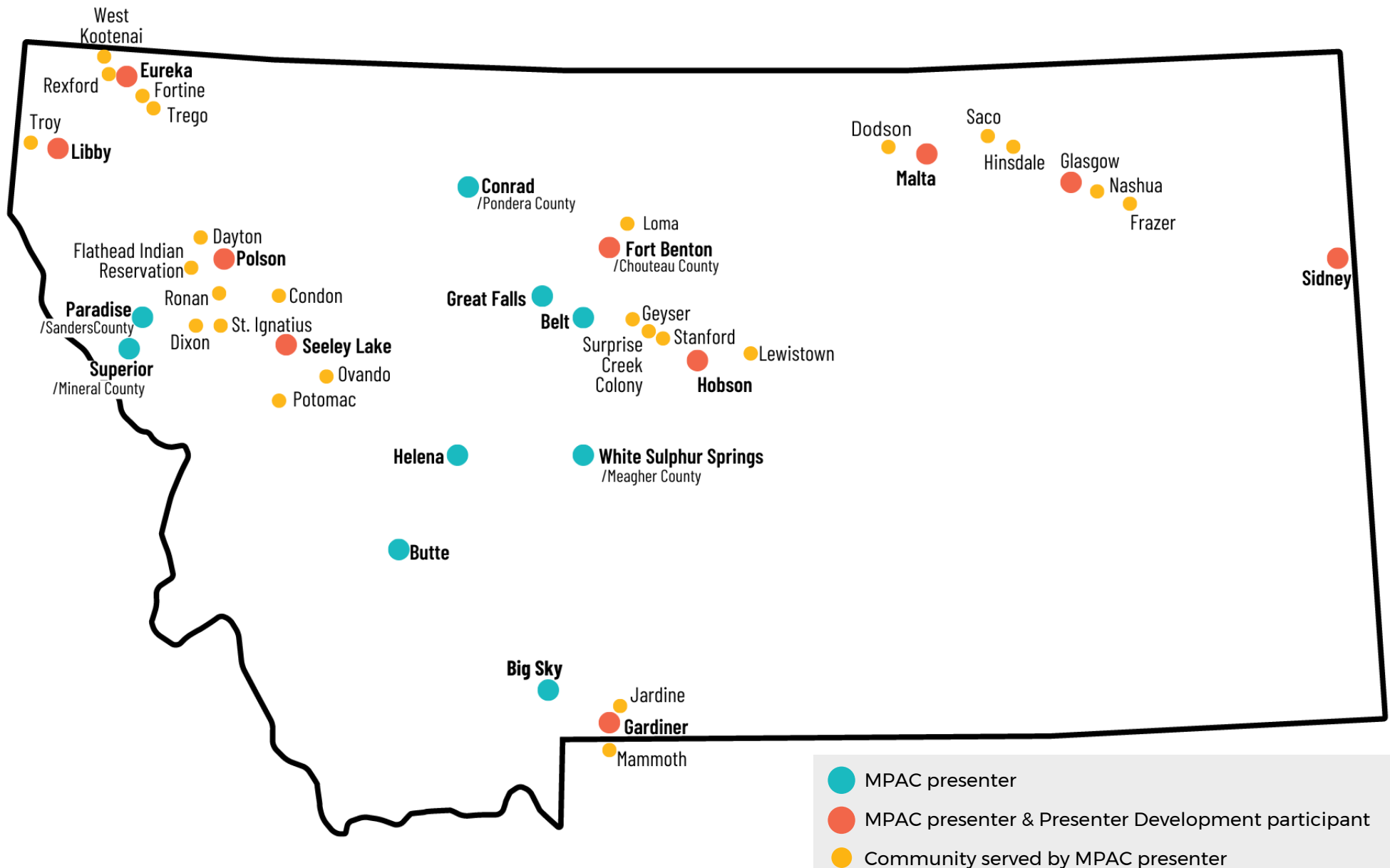
Misty Annala, Secretary

Judith Arts Society
Hobson

Hannah Hudgins, Director at Large

The Mother Lode Theatre/Butte Center for the Performing Arts
Butte

Where MPAC makes an impact



Presenter Development

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Presenter Development program provides promotional support to small, rural presenters in Montana. The main objective of the program is to give rural communities increased access to diverse, high-quality performing arts experiences. Participating organizations are based in small towns and communities. They are typically volunteer-run and have limited resources for bringing artists to their venues. This program provides assistance to help these organizations book quality artists and fund outreach programs that extend the impact of the arts beyond the mainstage performances.



Alpine Artisans / 2Valleys Stage present Dennis Stroughmatt. His band is pictured here performing in an outreach program at Swan Valley School in Condon.
Photo: Jennifer Rohrer

Presenter Development

BY THE NUMBERS

Support for Rural Communities



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



The 9 participants received \$39,152 in **individual and corporate donations** from their respective communities.



Collectively, participating presenters garnered community support in the form of **in-kind contributions totaling \$31,900**.

Engagement



13,230
total audience
members



904
students



1,620
seniors



108
individual artists

Events Supported



45
public performances



46
school outreach
events



37
other outreach
programs

(e.g. workshops, masterclasses, lectures).

Presenter Development

2022-23 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Alpine Artisans / 2Valleys Stage
Seeley Lake

Sunburst Arts & Education
Eureka

Chouteau County Performing Arts
Fort Benton

Electric Peak Arts Council
Gardiner

Judith Arts Society
Hobson

Kootenai Heritage Council
Libby

Northeastern Arts Network
Sidney

Northeastern Arts Network
Glasgow

Northeastern Arts Network
Malta



Jaca outreach presented by Mission Valley Live.
Photo: Trish Rodrique



Acoustic Eidolon concert presented by the Northeastern Arts Network. Photo: Jill Dostert Wagner



Philip Aaberg outreach presented by Chouteau Co. Performing Arts. Photo: Jenice Fugere

Presenter Development

MAKING AN IMPACT

Sunburst Arts and Education

EUREKA

Compton and Newberry provided the first performance of Sunburst's 22-23 season. They were well received by our audiences, which remain a bit hesitant to come out for live performances. Compton and Newberry put on a wonderful show and offered an outreach that was very much enjoyed by all who participated. They did a great job of working with local musicians and Sunburst would be pleased to recommend them as well as have them back in our community...I so appreciated their outreach-masterclass ... They gave generously of their time and talents to offer new ideas and experiences to our Eureka musicians. They listened to the group and were professional but also engaging. They offered our community an invaluable experience of being able to play with and learn from musicians of their caliber.

Rita Collins

Board member, Sunburst Arts and Education



Annual Showcase & Conference

PROGRAM SUMMARY

MPAC's Annual Showcase and Conference is an annual 3-day event during which over one hundred performing arts professionals gather to plan performances, network, learn, and develop lasting relationships that extend into communities around the state.

Each year, the event is attended by presenting organizations from throughout Montana and nearby states, as well as artists, agents, and arts advocacy and service organizations. MPAC's annual conference features juried showcase performances by approximately 17 different artist groups, a trade-show style exhibit hall, networking events, and professional development workshops. The showcase and conference events are designed to be a collegial and practical means of networking and block-booking. Events are organized to provide ample time and opportunity to meet and foster conversation between presenters, artists, and agents.



Annual Showcase & Conference

AT A GLANCE

Where & When



Fort Benton, MT



January 27-29, 2023

Artist Origins



3 artist groups
based in Montana



20 artists groups and
agencies from other
US/Canadian states

Attendance



138
total conference
attendees



18
presenting
organizations



15 rural Montana
communities
represented



18
artists groups



5
artist agencies



49
individual artists

Annual Showcase & Conference

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL: DR. DAYLIGHT'S JAZZ CO.

Dr. Daylight's Jazz Co. is a Louisiana-based group that performed at MPAC's conference in January 2022 and toured MT in spring of 2023. **The success of this tour is largely due to the collaborative effort between Montana presenters, facilitated by the MPAC network.** It shows how MPAC, as a community, is effectively pursuing its mission and serving presenting organizations, artists from within and outside of Montana, and audiences in rural communities.

Dr. Daylight's Jazz Co. performed in Libby, Fort Benton, Belt, Polson, Eureka, and Great Falls. It was also scheduled to perform in Helena, but that performance had to be canceled mid-season. Fortunately, the date was filled by the Belt Performing Arts Center. Bandleader, Jake Spinella, shared this experience about setting up the tour and recovering the performance opportunity: **"We attended and showcased in January of 2022 with hopes of receiving a single booking...Not only did we receive that booking, but an entire tour for 2023 fleshed itself out! One of the dates had fallen through and I returned to MPAC in January of 2023. Familiar faces greeted me and helped fill the date!** All of the MPAC crew have constantly been helpful and pleasant folks to work with. MPAC is one of the smaller conferences in the U.S., but well worth the trip! That second trip felt like a family reunion, everyone is down-home sweet. If you are considering attending MPAC, I would highly recommend it!"

The Dr. Daylight's Jazz Co. tour also created paid performance opportunities for Montana-based performing artists. Jake Spinella and his lead singer were supported by MT musicians: Rob Kohler, Rod Chaon, John Gemberling, and Matt Austin. This ensemble was coordinated by Misty Annala, who serves as a board member for MPAC and the Judith Arts Society in Hobson and Geyser.



Louisiana-based group Dr. Daylight's Jazz Co. with supporting musicians from Montana, presented by Sunburst Arts & Education. Photo: Jake Spinella

Annual Showcase & Conference

ACCESS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES: JUDITH ARTS SOCIETY

Judith Arts Society

HOBSON

Judith Arts Society is an organization that brings the performing arts to the very small towns in Judith Basin County. MPAC is an invaluable source for us to connect with high-level artists, and work with other presenters to block-book those artists for tours through our rural area. We book our entire season from the wonderful showcase artists that perform at the annual MPAC block-booking conference. It gives us a chance to hear the artists perform live, meet them face-to-face, and work with other presenters to block-book tours. We would not have direct access to this level of artistry without the MPAC conference. At a time when the schools in our county are struggling to find music teachers, we are also able to bring artists into the schools to provide a rich experience for the students. Those educational outreach opportunities are highly valued by the students and staff. MPAC is a vital link between our rural communities and the performing arts.

Misty Annala

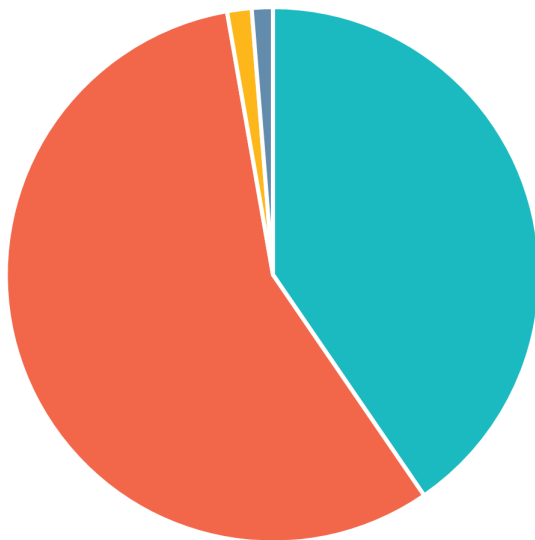
Board member, Judith Arts Society



The Wardens performance presented by Judith Arts Society.
Photo: Misty Annala

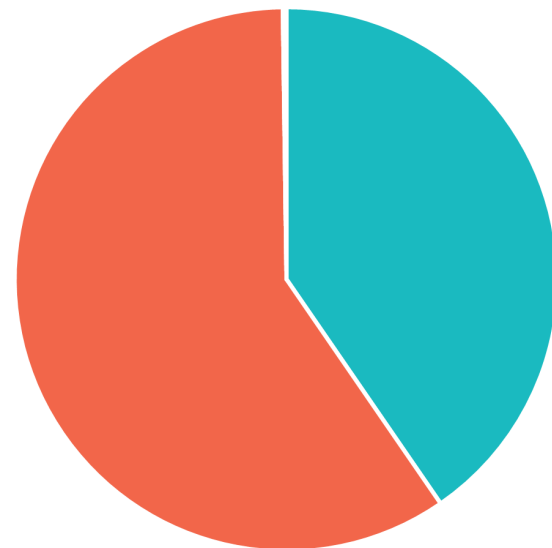
Financial Summary

REVENUE



Program service fees	\$ 20,884	40.4%
Grants	\$ 29,350	56.8%
Contributions	\$ 765	1.5%
Other income	\$ 660	1.3%
Total Revenue		\$ 51,659

EXPENSES



Management & General	\$ 18,564	40.4%
Program Services	\$ 27,279	59.4%
Fundraising expenses	\$ 100	0.2%
Total Expenses		\$ 45,943

2022-23 MPAC Members

PRESENTERS

Chouteau County Performing Arts
Electric Peak Arts Council
Great Falls Community Concert
Association
Kootenai Heritage Council
Montana Tunehound Productions LLC
Northeastern Arts Network
Alpine Artisans, Inc / 2 Valleys Stage
Belt Performing Arts Center
Judith Arts Society
Meagher County Arts Council
Mineral County Performing Arts Council
Mission Valley Live
Pondera Arts Council
Starz on Stage
Sunburst Arts and Education
The Mother Lode Theatre / Butte
Center for the Performing Arts
The Paradise Center
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center

ARTIST GROUPS

Admiral Radio
Big Sky City Lights
Champagne Sunday
Derek Evans
Dr. Daylight's Jazz Company
Ken Lavigne
Maria & Sergei Teleshev
Mark Oblinger
Michelle Rivers
NIC+DESI: Broadway Song, Dance and
Romance
Rebecca Folsom Ensemble
Robin Layne & The Rhythm Makers
Rory Gardiner
Sarah Hagen
The Matinee
Tom & Kalissa Landa; Cubbyhole Artists
Uptown Girls/Showstopper
Entertainment
Wylie Gustafson/ Songs of Montana

ARTIST AGENCIES

Caline Artists International / Maverick
Cooperative
Cubbyhole Artists
EPIC Arts Management
Pebble Star Artists
Showstopper Entertainment

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Montana Arts Council
Montana Cultural Trust
National Endowment for the Arts
Western States Arts Federation

Staff and Contact Information

Emily Wolfram

Executive Director

Website: mtperformingarts.org

Email: info@mtperformingarts.org

Address: P.O. Box 1254, Great Falls, MT 59403

Phone: 406-284-5524

Facebook: @MTPerformingArts

Instagram: @mtperformingarts406

Twitter: @mpac406

LinkedIn: @mtperformingarts