

MONTANA PERFORMING *Arts* **consortium**

Connecting Montana communities
with incredible performing arts
experiences since 1981



FY 2024
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

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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**.

A NOTE FROM EMILY

Dear colleagues and friends of MPAC,

This annual report is a story of growth and new beginnings that we are very proud to share. Fiscal year 2024 marked the beginning of a transformative period that will carry on through the coming years as we continue to respond to the needs of our professional network, advocate for the power of the arts, and strive to support access to exceptional arts programming in all Montana communities.

The data for fiscal year 2024 present continued growth in membership and revenue. We credit this, in part, to changes we made to increase the accessibility of our Membership Program and the Artist Showcase & Conference. We redefined and expanded membership to include presenters, artists, artist agencies, and associates (both organizations and individuals). MPAC also added an online member portal enabling a person or organization to join and access resources at any time.

MPAC returned the conference to the Mansfield Center for Performing Arts in Great Falls, which did much to alleviate travel and lodging challenges encountered in the past. This change significantly increased operational costs. However, increases in earned and contributed revenue more than outpaced our expenses. The local businesses of Great Falls generously supported the event in the form of in-kind donations and sponsorship. MPAC's attending artists and organizations also supported our efforts through new sponsorship and program advertising options where possible. We are so grateful for this show of support from our statewide arts community.

We look to the future with optimism inspired by the strength of our growing network. As we invest in member resources and tools, we see increased engagement, impact, and ultimately, powerful arts experiences reaching deeper into more Montana communities. Thank you for being a part of our story and supporting transformative arts experiences in communities throughout our beautiful state.

With gratitude,



Emily Wolfram, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Webster

President
Montana Tunehound
Productions LLC
Missoula

Jill Dostert Wagner

Vice President
Northeastern Arts Network
Sidney, Glasgow, and Malta

Connie Jenkins

Treasurer
Chouteau County
Performing Arts
Fort Benton

Misty Annala

Secretary
Judith Arts Society
Hobson

Rob Kohler

Artist Representative
Bassist & Teacher
Great Falls

Jim Peaco

Director at Large
Electric Peaks Arts Council
Gardiner

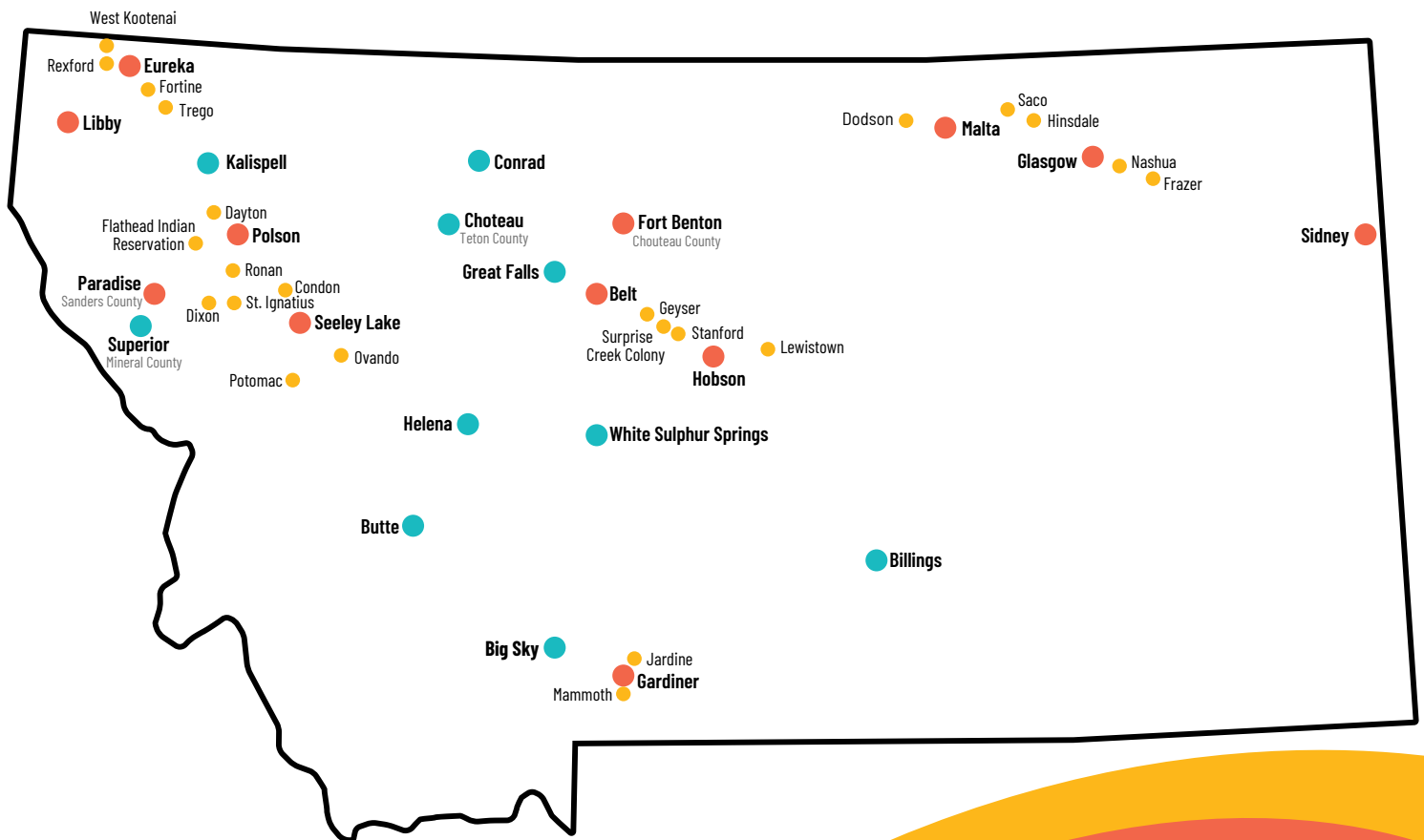
Gary Fjeldstad

Director at Large
Kootenai Heritage Council
Libby

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)



- MPAC presenter
- MPAC presenter & Presenter Development participant
- Community served by MPAC presenter

PRESENTER DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Presenter Development program provides financial 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 communities. 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.



PRESENTER DEVELOPMENT

BY THE NUMBERS

Support for Rural Communities



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



The 9 participants received **\$33,060** in individual and corporate donations from their respective communities.



Collectively, participating presenters garnered community support in the form of **in-kind contributions totaling \$44,883**.

Engagement



19,692
total audience
members



16,534
students

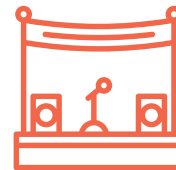


1,077
seniors



200
individual
artists

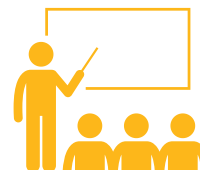
Events Supported



48 public
performances



72 school outreach
events



38 other outreach
programs
(e.g. workshops,
masterclasses, lectures)

PRESENTER DEVELOPMENT

TESTIMONIES



**JUDITH ARTS SOCIETY &
GEYSER COMMUNITY HALL**

Artist: Kyle Shobe & The Walk 'Em Boys

"There is nothing like playing these old community halls where so much music has been made over the last hundred years. As a kid, watching the musicians on these small stages was as good as it got for me. Now getting to share our music on the same stages is still about as good as it gets as far as I'm concerned. Thank you to the Geyser Community for making us feel so welcome. What an enjoyable night!"

— Kyle Shobe, artist

"Top notch musicianship. Excellent message in the lyrics of what it means to be humans and care about each other. They provided a valuable positive influence on our kids during the programs at the school. Thanks for bringing them to Eureka."

— G. Miller,
audience member



**SUNBURST ARTS & EDUCATION
(EUREKA)**

Artist: Rebecca Folsom Ensemble

PRESENTER DEVELOPMENT

TESTIMONIES

“2 Valleys Stage has offered presentations that have lasting impact on our students. From dance with theater, music, positive role models, and making connections to the world around them, the performances have delivered positive messages and provided inspirational content as well as opening up doors of possibilities for students who wouldn't normally be able to experience these types of events.”

— **Angela Mock, Principal,
Swan Valley School**



**ALPINE ARTISANS &
2VALLEYS STAGE
(SEELEY LAKE)**

Artist: Bridge & Wolak



**NORTHEASTERN ARTS
NETWORK (SIDNEY,
GLASGOW, MALTA)**

“NIC + DESI performed a wonderful act. Many of our students have not seen live theater, so were fascinated by the group dancing and singing traditional musical numbers. They loved seeing them tap, and had lots of questions about how they learned to do what they do. Our evening audience loved them, and hoped that we would get them back.”

— **Jill Dostert Wagner,
board member**



Artist: NIC+DESI, Broadway Song, Dance & Romance

PRESENTER DEVELOPMENT

FY2024 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Alpine Artisans / 2Valleys Stage
Seeley Lake

Sunburst Arts & Education
Eureka

Chouteau County Performing Arts
Fort Benton

Judith Arts Society & Geyser Community Hall
Hobson

Kootenai Heritage Council
Libby

Northeastern Arts Network—Sidney
Sidney

Northeastern Arts Network—Glasgow
Glasgow, and Malta

Northeastern Arts Network—Malta
Malta

Rialto Theater
Deer Lodge



ARTIST SHOWCASE & CONFERENCE

PROGRAM SUMMARY

MPAC's Artist Showcase & 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, as well as artists, agents, and arts advocacy and service organizations. It features juried showcase performances by approximately 17 different artists, a trade-show style exhibit hall, networking events, and professional development workshops. Conference activities 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.

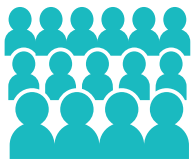
The showcases give artists a significant opportunity to promote their work while the block-booking meetings give presenters a chance to collaborate and block-book tours for the next season.



ARTIST SHOWCASE & CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 13-15, 2023

MANSFIELD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA



143
total conference
attendees



17
juried
showcases



17
presenting
organizations



14
rural Montana
communities
represented



47
individual
artists



2
arts service
organizations



21
artist
groups



6
artist
agencies

ARTIST SHOWCASE & CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK



"Such a well put together conference...the sound crew were amazing and made sure we felt so ready to perform which makes all other elements shine!"

— **The Wardens**



"Such a positive experience for me and my trio, in every way...the clear exhibit hall set up and instructions, the outstanding tech crew at our showcase (WOW!), the thoughtful scheduling, the delicious meals, the delightful jam session, and so much more!"

— **Mari Black Trio**



"...very well organized! There were many opportunities to interact with the presenters and discuss potential partnerships together to bring arts to their communities. The dashboard kept everyone on the same page—thank you for that!"

— **Ollee Owens**



"I was impressed by how friendly and supportive everyone was and how smoothly the conference seemed to run...overall we had a very positive experience, especially considering this was our first time showcasing!"

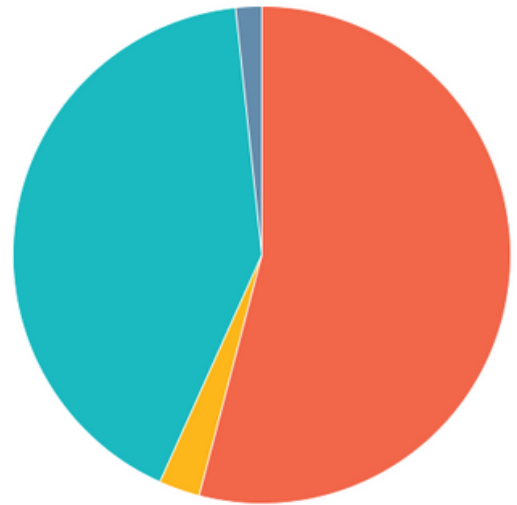
— **Duende Libre**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY2024

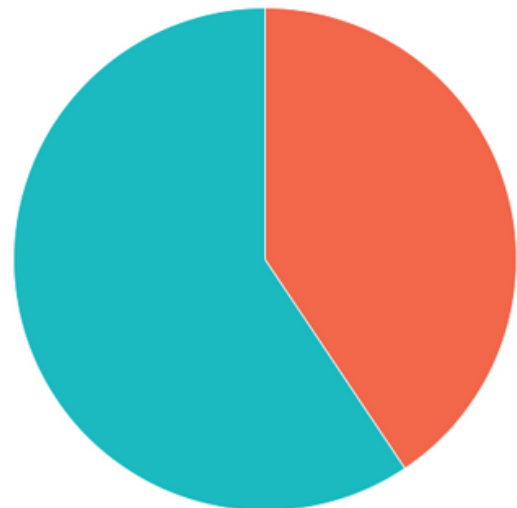
REVENUE

● Grants	\$31,150.00	54.1%
● Program Service Fees	\$23,962.97	41.6%
● Contributions	\$1,534.20	2.7%
● Other	\$975.00	1.6%
Total Revenue	\$57,622.17	



EXPENSES

● Program Services	\$30,534.80	59.4%
● Management & General	\$20,882.10	40.6%
Total Expenses	\$51,416.90	



IN-KIND DONATIONS

The Great Falls business community generously donated lodging, hospitality items, and printing services in support of MPAC's Artist Showcase & Conference.

2023-2024 MEMBERS

PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS

Alpine Artisans/2 Valleys Stage, Seeley Lake (Missoula County)
Belt Performing Arts Center, Belt (Cascade County)
Chouteau County Performing Arts, Fort Benton (Chouteau County)
Covelite 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)
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)
Pondera Arts Council, Conrad (Pondera County)
Sunburst Arts and Education, Eureka (Lincoln County)
The Myrna Loy, Helena (Lewis and Clark County)
The Paradise Center, Plains (Sanders County)
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, Big Sky (Gallatin County)



2023-2024 MEMBERS (CONT.)

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS & ARTIST GROUPS

Acoustic Eidolon, Boulder, CO

Arcana Kings, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Baroque Music Montana, Bozeman, MT

Boxtales Theatre Co., Santa Barbara, CA

Broadway in Love, Holland, OH

Conference Guest, Great Falls, MT

Duende Libre, Seattle, WA

El Javi, Denver, CO

Fore Fader, Los Angeles, CA

Gideon Freudmann, Puget Sound, WA

How Sweet It Is: Steve Leslie Sings James Taylor, Nashville, TN

Ian Sherwood, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Jazz Legacy Project, Atlanta, GA

Jessica Loobey, Whitewood, SD

Leeroy Stagger, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Mari Black Trio, Boston, MA

Megan Karls, Great Falls, MT

Mud Bay Jugglers, Olympia, WA

Ollee Owens, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Phyllis Sinclair, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Canada

Pipeline Vocal Project, Anchorage, AK

Pollo Loco, Great Falls, MT

Repertory Dance Theatre, Salt Lake City, UT

Sam Platts & The Plainsmen, Silver Star, MT

Sarah Hagen, Prince Edward Island, Canada

Sundae + Mr. Goessl, Oshkosh, WI

Travis Dolter, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

The Wardens, Banff, Alberta, Canada

Tomáš Kubínek, Mill River, MA



2023-2024 MEMBERS (CONT.)

ARTIST AGENCIES

Allied Concert Services, East Helena, MT

Cubbyhole Artists, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

EPIC Arts Management, West Palm Beach, FL

Indigenous Performance Productions, Olympia, WA

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

Pearl Entertainment Group, Marietta, GA

Strutz Entertainment, Fond du Lac, WI

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Montana Arts Council, Helena (State Agency)

Creative West (formerly WESTAF), Denver, CO (Regional Arts Organization)

FY2024 Membership Updates

MPAC initiated changes to membership options and created new benefits and features to better serve Montana's performing arts communities and support artist tours. In addition to presenting organizations and performing artists, MPAC now welcomes artist agencies, associate organizations, and associate individuals. MPAC also launched an online member portal through its website (mtperformingarts.org) to provide a convenient way for anyone to become a member, access presenter and artist directories, use resources, and update their profile. Membership is also now available regardless of whether or not the individual, company, or organization is able to attend the conference each year. These changes better reflect the individuals and organizations that contribute to presenting and touring in Montana and they make our organization more inclusive and accessible. We look forward to expanding resources and services through our member portal in the future!

Montana Performing Arts Consortium

EMILY WOLFRAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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