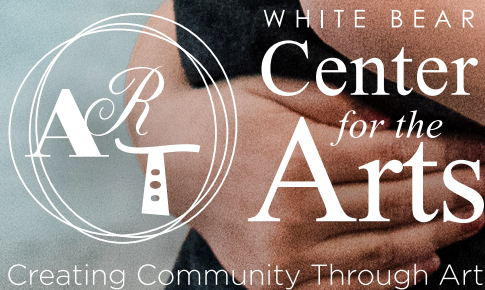


2023 Impact Report



WBCA's Mission Is To:

Enrich Lives by Celebrating Art

Nourish Imagination by Inspiring Creativity

Build Understanding by Connecting People

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Students in Erik Vevang's "Spoon Carving" class

Dear Friends of White Bear Center for the Arts,

I'm thrilled to share a glimpse into what made 2023 such an impactful year here at White Bear Center for the Arts. In the following pages you'll find a small window into the many incredible classes, exhibits and supporters helping WBCA to flourish. Of course, to understand the full scope of the art center, you'll have to come and see for yourself!

In 2023, our annual exhibitions once again captivated audiences, providing a platform for artists in our community to showcase their talent and creativity. While we honored our traditions, we also recognize the importance of embracing a fresh perspective. We have opened our doors to emerging artists, providing them with a platform to share their work, talent, and ideas with the world. We have also expanded our arts programming to include new mediums like basket weaving, yoga, and garden design, just to name a few, enriching the artistic experience for individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

This year we made significant strides in connecting our arts programming with our exhibitions, with the goal of creating a one-stop artistic experience for our community. Plein air workshops, inspired by our annual Into Nature Plein Air Exhibition, provided individuals of all ages with the opportunity to explore their creativity in the great outdoors. Families also had the opportunity to participate in Intergenerational Fridays, crafting artwork inspired by gallery shows and creating lasting memories together.

On a personal note, I want to express my thanks and admiration for the 19 year tenure of my predecessor, Suzi Hudson, and the work of the many volunteers, teaching artists, and community members who have made WBCA what it is today.

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for your continued support and dedication to White Bear Center for the Arts. Together, we look forward to building upon our successes and continuing to inspire creativity, foster connection, and create positive change in our community through the arts.

-Christopher Scholl
Executive Director



Students in Kyle Manley's "Succulent Artistry" class



2023 Program Highlights



Imagine Art: Youth Summer Camp

Summer 2023 marked the start of a brand new Imagine Art experience. Students signed up for full weeks of camp, getting a deeper dive into the world of art. Last summer, WBCA also kicked off Intergenerational Fridays, where kids and their adults created artwork together in a hands-on experience.



Black Artistry Explains American History

Artists Beverly Tipton Hammond, A. Drew Hammond, Donald Walker, and Kennedy Simpson discussed their artwork and its power to promote interracial understanding and activism during a series of conversations.



Woodfire Exploration

Clay students got to experience a unique form of firing their work: in a woodfire kiln. In this immersive experience led by Zac Spates, students stoked an anagama kiln over the course of a weekend and came away with one-of-a-kind works of art.



New Art Workshops

2023 saw many new workshops, including a plein air class with Joshua Cunningham, a welding class with Greg Kraft, and “Exploring Underpainting for Pastel” with Lisa Stauffer. This pastel class had students experimenting with watercolor, oil stain, inks, gesso, and more to create unique underpaintings.

2023 Exhibitions



Peyton Scott Russell

Peyton Scott Russell.

Artwork. Retrospective. 40 Years.

This retrospective exhibition examined how Graffiti Art became the one craft that transcended all other media for Peyton Scott Russell, earning him national and international recognition.



Nicky Torkzadeh

49th Annual Northern Lights

Juried Art Exhibition

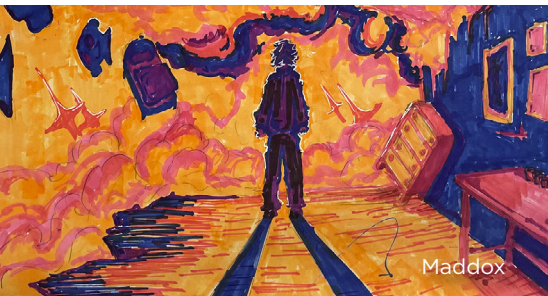
The 49th annual exhibition featured 113 pieces of artwork, chosen by professional artists Mayumi Amada, Catherine Hearing, and Dan Mondloch. The artwork spanned a variety of media from artists across the region.



Aryn Lill

WBCA Instructor Showcase

WBCA's instructors are professional, working artists from around the Twin Cities and beyond. The *WBCA Instructor Showcase* highlighted a sampling of the work from the 31 participating artists.



Maddox

High School Visual Arts Exhibition

Each year, WBCA invites local high school students to submit their artwork to the High School Visual Arts Contest. The *2023 High School Visual Arts Exhibition* featured 190 artworks by 147 talented artists from 13 different local high schools.



Genie Hien Tran

Second Sources

Second Sources consisted of a series of collages, sculptures, and textiles drawn from artist Genie Hien Tran's studio objects, family photos, and Vietnamese cultural archives.



Sandra Menefee Taylor

Dirt: A Matter of Reverence

In *Dirt: A Matter of Reverence*, Sandra Menefee Taylor arranged dirt into a delicate lace pattern on the floor of the Ford Family Gallery and invited viewers to walk through the piece, evoking ideas of birth, growth, and death.



Edson Rosas

Patio - de Casa

Patio - de casa explored artist Edson Rosa's Mexican roots, along with themes of openness, warmth, and anger. The exhibit told these stories using print, soft sculpture, and poetry.



David Nemo

Into Nature Plein Air Exhibition

Each year *Into Nature* begins with a plein air competition where artists paint *en plein air* throughout White Bear Lake. In 2023, 108 artists participated, and plein air judge Joshua Cunningham selected 62 pieces to comprise the official *Into Nature Exhibition*.



Howard Goltz

Inspired by Nature

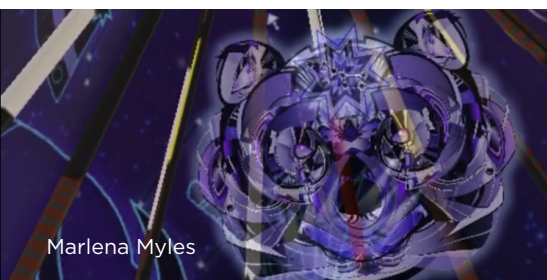
Inspired by Nature featured the artwork of the Great River Chapter of the American Society of Botanical Artists. In this exhibit, botanical artists depicted plants through watercolor, colored pencils, graphite, and more.



Susan Frame

Susan Frame Pop-Up Exhibition

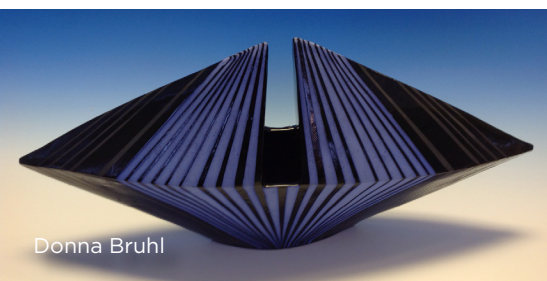
WBCA Teaching Artist Susan Frame has been playing with sumi-e ink for over 40 years. Her pop-up exhibit featured expressive flowers, landscapes, and abstract interpretations created from ink, pigments, and rice paper.



Marlena Myles

Augmented Reality Public Art Experience

Digital artist Marlena Myles, a member of the Spirit Lake Dakota Tribe, brought modernity to Indigenous history, languages, and oral traditions through this augmented reality exhibit in WBCA's outdoor campus.



Donna Bruhl

2023 Members' Exhibition

The 2023 Members' Exhibition was WBCA's largest exhibit yet, featuring 243 artists from the art center community. Each year, WBCA members have the opportunity to exhibit one piece of artwork in WBCA's exhibition spaces.

2023 in Numbers



1,184 classes offered



1,062 artists featured in WBCA exhibitions



Classes taught by **97** teaching artists

Teaching artists taught classes in these mediums:

Acrylic
Alcohol Ink
Artist Development
Astrology
Ballet
Basket Weaving
Book Club
Clay
Collage
Comics
Criticism
Culinary Arts
Drawing

Fiber
Garden Design
Herbalism
Improvisation
Jewelry
Labyrinth
Language
Leather
Mandala
Meditation
Mixed Media
Oil
Open Studio

Paper
Pastel
Plein Air
Photography
Poetry
Printmaking
Stained Glass
Tap
Watercolor
Welding
Wellness
Woodcarving
Writing
Yoga



150 volunteers shared **3,204** hours



1,715 WBCA members



263 youth served through Imagine Art



60% contributed income*

40% earned income



373 scholarships offered

* These percentages don't include the one-time Employee Retention Credit





2023 Donors

“The deep community building at WBCA is why Jay and I have made WBCA one of our highest priority charitable investments. Our donations to WBCA are truly investments in our community.”
-Cindy Ihlenfeld

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-Joanne Sohn

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-Diana Smyk

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***“No matter age,
income, or ‘talent’
the art center is a
very welcoming
destination for all.”
-Shawn Gritzmacher***

“The art center offers a focused artistic atmosphere that provides artists with the chance to hone their craft and establish their niche.”

-Owen Nelson

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“Art is therapeutic in ways you don’t even realize.”

-Meredyth Kramschuster

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Washington Square Bar & Grill
Wet Paint
White Bear Country Inn/Rudy's Redeye Grill
White Bear Eye Clinic & Optical
White Bear Lake Lions Club
White Bear Smiles
Xcel Energy Foundation



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