



**WALWORTH
COUNTY
ARTS COUNCIL**

WALWORTH COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 446 • DELAVAN, WI 53115
WALWORTHCOUNTYARTS@GMAIL.COM
WWW.WALWORTHCOUNTYARTSCOUNCIL.COM

October 2020

ART FOR CHILDREN

Our long-standing program *Art for Children* was once known as the “Picture Lady” program. This program began in 1968 when WCAC volunteers would bring a print to a classroom and give a brief history of the artist and facts about the artwork. The print would stay in the classroom for approximately a month or until the next “Picture Lady” presentation. WCAC has over 300 full size fine art prints for study and display.

WCAC has created a digital catalogue of the collection of art prints with an index by title and artist. The digital catalogue is on a USB flash drive and WCAC will be sharing it with art teachers in Walworth County.

COVID-19 has limited WCAC’s ability to get into schools to support art education programs. However, we still can support art educators by providing the digital catalogue and if a teacher would like to have the art print in their classroom, that is still available.

MSO PRELUDE CONCERT SERIES

For many years, WCAC has sponsored season tickets to the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Friday morning concert series. Due to COVID-19, WCAC will not be sponsoring any MSO concerts this coming season because MSO cancelled their regular 2020-2021 concert series.

The MSO has also been delayed in moving into the new Bradley Symphony Center. The new concert hall will be ready in January 2021, and the MSO has reimagined the 2020-2021 season. The MSO will be presenting virtual performances, reduced capacity, socially distanced in-person opportunities when the time is right, and exclusive tours of the new Bradley Symphony Center for their loyal subscribers and donors.

WCAC looks forward to the future when we will once again sponsor a concert series to MSO performances in their new concert hall.

WCAC BOARD NEWS

The Walworth County Arts Council Board has been meeting monthly through Zoom planning for programs that will be running this year: Art for Children, Winning Words and Scholarships. We are also engaging in a strategic planning process that will articulate goals for the future.

WELCOME SHANNON MCCARTHY!

WCAC Board has hired a new administrative assistant to help with technology and communications.

Shannon lives in Williams Bay and graduated from UW-Madison (2008) with a degree in Nonprofit Management & Community Leadership. After graduation, Shannon worked for several nonprofits in Milwaukee. She gained experience in nonprofit administrative duties that included working with volunteers, fund raising, and coordination and communication of programs. She left Milwaukee and came to Lake Geneva and was employed by Simple Café when this company was just beginning in 2012. Shannon is now involved in building the business and has been general manager and is currently the vice president focusing on marketing, human resources and internal development.

In 2019 Shannon received the Visit Lake Geneva Hospitality Award. In presenting the award, CEO and president Stephanie Klett said, “These are the coveted awards, the ones that begin with a nomination from peers, the ones that warm the hearts of residents and visitors alike, knowing just how much the work of the award winners means to the quality of life here.”

Shannon’s skills include technology, grant writing, volunteer management, strategic planning, and community outreach and development.

Shannon appreciates art in its many forms, but most especially music, theater and painting. Having returned to Walworth County after living in larger cities, she looks forward to being part of enhancing opportunities for access to arts in this area. We look forward to Shannon’s leadership!

LIVING WITH THE PRESENT - LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

COVID-19 has impacted the lives of many artists, musicians, dancers, and actors around the world. Many arts organizations have also suffered great financial losses.

The Metropolitan Opera recently cancelled its entire 2021 season as did the Milwaukee Symphony. The Lyric Opera of Chicago has cancelled performances through December 31, 2020. The Milwaukee Repertory Theater and many theaters in Chicago have cancelled their 2020-2021 season. However, the Milwaukee Art Museum and Art Institute of Chicago are both open with COVID safety plans for public viewing of their collections.

And while most performing arts organizations in the world of music and theater have cancelled their regular seasons, they are still providing music and drama experiences through virtual media.

The Metropolitan Opera is streaming "The Voice Must Be Heard" featuring solo recitals of the Met's biggest stars. The Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Milwaukee Symphony and Madison Symphony Orchestras all have streaming concerts available. Many streaming concerts are free; however, a donation is suggested. Some concerts require a ticket, most are around \$20.

An excellent concert series in Walworth County is going virtual this fall. The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater *Music Mosaics Concert Series* is a ticketed series that supports the UW-Whitewater Music Department Scholarship Fund. This concert series features UW-Whitewater music faculty and the season begins with pianist, Dr. Myunghee Chung celebrating Beethoven's 250th birthday. The concert is streaming between September 7 and October 12. To purchase a ticket call (262) 472-2222 or order online at:

<https://tickets.uww.edu/>

While we have access to recorded performances and live streaming events, musicians, actors and artistic companies are struggling to survive financially. Donations are critical to the survival of many well-known and loved creative sector nonprofit and profit organizations.

Recently, Governor Evers designated five million dollars of CARES act money to create the *COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grant Program* to support nonprofit

cultural organizations whose operations have been negatively affected by COVID-19. Grants of up to \$250,000 are available for eligible organizations. This program recognizes the financial peril to arts nonprofits during the pandemic stating, "Music, visual art, live performances, and other cultural organizations have always been a place of healing and hope for Wisconsinites, especially during difficult times. But, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit these institutions hard, and our state risks losing them when we need them most."

What can we do now? Anne Katz, director of Arts Wisconsin, (www.artswisconsin.org) gives specific advocacy actions that individuals can do to support arts in Wisconsin:

1. Send a personalized message to Gov. Evers and to state legislators thanking them for the COVID-19 Cultural Programs Grant Program, and, asking that they designate additional CARES Act monies for the creative sector.
2. Send a message to federal legislators calling on our congressional representatives to fight for the immediate passing of the next round of coronavirus relief.
3. Go to Arts Wisconsin's Issues and Resources for the Creative Sector regarding COVID-19 for the latest news and actions.

(<https://www.artswisconsin.org/covid19info/>)



The Walworth County Arts Council is a non-profit educational organization of individuals and groups united by an appreciation of the arts and interested in supporting and promoting their creation, performance, study and display. The purpose of the Council is to foster outlets for creative expression and to encourage a better understanding of the benefits of the arts. A specific goal is expanding all opportunities in the arts in schools.

Please consider donating to our 501c3 nonprofit organization that supports educational experiences and access in the arts for children and adults in Walworth County.