

Allied Arts Council Annual Meeting

Thursday, July 17, 2025
The Benton Club

Reception and Cash Bar
5:30 p.m.

Convene Annual Meeting
President’s Remarks
Executive Director’s Remarks
Financial Report
Arts Fund Report
Recognition of Retiring Board Members
Report of the Nominating Committee
Annual Meeting Adjournment

Dinner
6:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Liby Waltemath
Liby Waltemath
Jessica Agnew
Lee Ann Smiley
Alison Schieber
Liby Waltemath
Liby Waltemath
Liby Waltemath

July Meeting of the Board of Directors

Convene July Board of Directors Meeting	Liby Waltemath
Rebranding Committee Report	Annie Corrington, Dan Ramming, and Tona Williams
AAC New Logo Reveal	Liby Waltemath & Jessica Agnew
Adjournment of Board of Directors Meeting	Liby Waltemath

Mayor’s Awards for the Arts

Awards Presentation	Mayor John Josendale
Mayor’s Awards Jurors	Jennifer Wampler, Michael Gaines and Phyllis Paisley

Thanks to Creative Arts Production for the evening’s entertainment.

Officers

President - Liby Waltemath
1st Vice President - Michelle Norman
2nd Vice President - Valeri Jones
Treasurer - Lee Ann Smiley
Secretary - Kristi Brumback

Nominating Committee

Brittany Beaver
Kristi Brumback
Brandon Clark
Bobbie Cronk
Michelle Norman

Allied Arts Council of St. Joseph, MO
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St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-233-0231

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Mayor’s Awards For the Arts



Allied Arts Council Annual Meeting

Annual Report 2024-2025

A Message From the Director



Welcome to our Annual Report, reflecting on the 2024-2025 year at the Allied Arts Council. This report allows us to celebrate milestones of the past year and to highlight some individuals that made a difference in our community.

It has been a privilege and honor to watch how our agencies, members, partners, and volunteers have come together in support of the arts. I am immensely proud to share the growing progress we have made this year in advancing the arts in our community.

It has been a time of change and growth for Allied Arts. Our new staff are both humbled and honored to serve in our new roles. With our shared passions for the council’s mission, we look forward to a new chapter of innovation and collaboration within our policy and our programs.

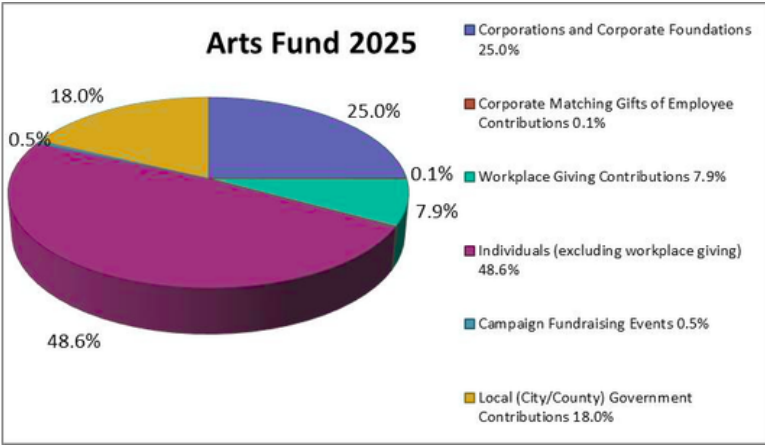
This is an exciting time for the arts in St. Joseph and our surrounding areas. Arts and culture are all around us, and shine within our city. They enrich life, restore it, and transform it. I am excited to see what year 65 will bring within the arts and how creativity and inspiration can cultivate and grow. Thank you for your support.

Jessica L. Agnew

Arts

The mission of the Allied Arts Council is to bring arts and people together. This report reflects how our programs and initiatives fulfill our mission.

Arts Fund



Arts Fund Pacesetters Plus (\$5,000 & above)

- Buchanan County Commission
- City of St. Joseph, Missouri
- Mosaic Life Care Employees
- St. Joe Petroleum-Fastgas Convenience Stores
- St. Joseph News-Press
- St. Joseph School District Employees



Arts Fund Pacesetters (\$1,500 - \$4,999)

- Altec Industries
- Evergy
- Hillyard Industries
- Hy-Vee Food Store
- Mosaic Life Care
- Nodaway Valley Bank
- Sunshine Electronic Display Corp.

Board of Directors 2024-2025

Executive Committee

- Liby Waltemath, President
- Michelle Norman, 1st Vice President
- Val Jones, 2nd Vice President
- Lee Ann Smiley, Treasurer
- Kristi Brumback, Secretary

Elected Board

- Brittany Beaver, Commerce Bank
- Janell Becerra, St. Joseph School District
- Annie Corrington, Art Attack Studio
- Jan Costanzo, Civic Volunteer
- Devon Kariker, Veterans Administration
- Mary Kottenstette, Civic Volunteer
- Sara Markt, SMar Architecture + Design
- Madison McKinley, Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art
- Jon Mark Mikkelsen, Civic Volunteer
- Dan Ramming, St. Joseph School District
- Holly Rubalcava, Missouri Western State University
- Martin Rucker, MO Department of Corrections
- Tona Williams, Nationwide Insurance

Ex-Officio Member

- Nicholas Robb,
- David H. Morton Memorial Fund for the Arts

Agency Representatives

- Liby Waltemath, Allied Arts Council
- Jackie Butler, Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art
- Tom Smith, American Guild of Organists
- Regina Calderwood, Creative Arts Productions
- Andrea Cole, Junior League
- Paul Storiale, Performing Arts Association
- Diana Smith, RiverSong
- Fred Olson, Robidoux Resident Theatre
- Sandy Miller, Runcie Club
- Laura Barger, Cheryl Rasmussen, St. Joseph Community Chorus
- Annie Hartley, St. Joseph Historical Society
- Drew Brown, St. Joseph Museums, Inc.
- Bryson Mace, Saint Joseph Symphony
- Christina Hazelwood, St. Joseph Youth Chorale

Financial Information

Finance Committee

- Lee Ann Smiley, Treasurer
- Brittany Beaver, Brendon Clark,
- Barb Connor, Ron Olinger,
- Ralph Schank, Liby Waltemath

Balance Sheet - Allied Arts Council - June 30, 2025

ASSETS	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	84,356.84
Accounts Receivable	9,677.29
Other Current Assets	2,598.25
Fixed Assets	33,141.50
Prepaid Expenses	627.06
TOTAL ASSETS	130,400.94
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Accounts Payable	17,210.99
Other Current Liabilities	3,416.28
Fund Balance	114,895.10
Net Income	-5,121.43
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	130,400.94

Balance Sheet - Arts Fund Endowment- June 30, 2025

ASSETS	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	442,437.35
Accounts Receivable	5,278.59
Pledges Receivable	47,665.19
TOTAL ASSETS	495,381.13
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	3,346.84
Retained Earnings	207,368.99
Fund Balance	303,670.87
Net Income	-19,005.57
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	495,381.13

Organizational Achievement in the Arts

Art Attack Studio LLC has quickly become a creative hub in our community, offering a welcoming space where people of all ages can explore and express themselves through art. Their dedication to nurturing creativity and fostering artistic growth has strengthened community bonds and inspired countless individuals. For their inclusive spirit and positive impact, Art Attack is a truly deserving nominee for Art Organization of the Year.



The Benton Club provides a platform where civic, cultural, and creative leaders can gather, ensuring that the arts remain a central part of the dialogue shaping St. Joseph's future. Whether through hosting events, providing meeting space, or fostering a network of engaged members, The Benton Club demonstrates a consistent and meaningful investment in the arts.



St. Joseph Youth Chorale stands as a shining example of artistic excellence and educational impact in our community. They are dedicated to providing advanced choral education experiences for exceptional young singers in grades 2–12 throughout St. Joseph, Missouri. They not only elevate the talents of their members but also enrich the cultural fabric of our region.



Staff

Jessica Agnew
Executive Director



Brooke McBride
Director of Strategic Communications



Jenyl Hart
Director of Finance and Operations



The Arts Fund of the Allied Arts Council supports a wide variety of arts activities provided by member agencies. As the only fund exclusively for the arts in St. Joseph, the Arts Fund provides a unique opportunity to support a wide range of arts programs and activities, spreading joy, inspiration, and creativity throughout our community. Your donation supports Art-Ventures that allow children in our community the opportunity to have their first symphonic or theatrical experience.

Your investment in the arts will help us achieve our mission of bringing arts and people together.



A Toast to Success: Beer Walk for the Arts Raises Funds and Spirits

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's Annual Beer Walk for the Arts—what a fantastic day it was! Attendees enjoyed a vibrant afternoon of craft beer tastings from local breweries while exploring the Harris-Kemper Historic District, all in support of a great cause. With live music, community connection, and plenty of cheer, the event was a true celebration of creativity and local flavor. We're thrilled to share that 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the Arts Fund, helping to sustain arts programming, educational initiatives, and resources for local artists. Your participation and support made this possible. Together, we're keeping the arts alive and thriving in our community—cheers to that!

Arts Advocacy

Our number one task as a Council is to advocate for the Arts in St. Joseph. It's our mission to make our community a better place to live through the arts by ensuring everyone has access to arts experiences. The Arts can not only make our community a better place to live, but a better place to learn, work, visit, and do business. When we reach out to elected officials on the local, state, or federal level, it's always important to remind them that the arts:

- Bring in tourism dollars
- Are one of the top considerations when a business is considering a move to St. Joseph
- Give our citizens a creative outlet
- Support art education opportunities through partnerships with our schools and after-school programs.
- Have a \$21.1 million economic impact.

It's our Arts organizations that foster healthy and vibrant communities, cultivate and encourage young imaginations, attract tourists to boost economic growth, and give our artists a voice

Advocacy takes many forms. To be an advocate, all you must do is share our goal: Bring arts and people together. If you would like to become an advocate please reach out to us on how you can help.

Arts Education



Under the leadership of the Arts Education Committee, chaired by Janell Becerra and Director of Finance and Operations Jenyl Hart, the Allied Arts Council provided a variety of educational programs, such as Artists in the Schools.

The opportunities available through Artists in the Schools are listed online, offering nine artists plus a guided Sculpture Walk Tour. The enrichment program provided 87 sessions and reached over 2,500 students, teachers, and parents. The program, in its 42nd year, includes some of the area's best artists who provide support across the entire curriculum. In October 2024, over 1,000 St. Joseph School District, parochial and homeschool students took a guided Sculpture Walk tour.

The David H. Morton Memorial Fund for the Arts

The David H. Morton Memorial Fund for the Arts was established in 1986 to pay tribute to Mr. Morton's leadership in the St. Joseph arts community. Memorials are accepted at any time and are solicited to commemorate a special event or promote the arts.

The fund can award up to \$2,000 to any public or private

organization that has received or applied for tax-exempt status. Projects that may be considered for the grant include, but are not limited to, dance, theater, visual arts, media, music, literature, multi-discipline, arts-related conferences, architecture, and exhibitions. Criteria include the need for financial support, the potential for creating new audiences or new artistic experiences for audiences, the quality of programming, and community-wide impact.

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts Committee, chaired by Devon Kariker, works to bring quality public art to St. Joseph. The committee oversees the annual Sculpture Walk and the traffic box art that can be found around downtown on the old boxes that used to house the technology needed for the traffic lights.

The Sculpture Walk in its 12th year has captured the hearts and imagination of both area residents and visitors. We encourage everyone to participate in the Sculpture Walk as it sparks conversation and allows anyone who participates the opportunity to have their voice heard through the People's Choice Award voting. That voting remains open until January 31, 2026.



Individual Leadership

Christy George exemplifies the transformative power of leadership grounded in creativity, collaboration, and community pride. Under Christy's visionary guidance, Main Street Saint Joseph has brought one of the most compelling international public art installations to our city. In connection with Mural Mosaic Global Roots Project, St. Joseph became home to the Mural Mosaic: America Connects Home and Family. This initiative united hundreds of artists worldwide to create a stunning visual tribute to our shared sense of home and belonging. Christy's leadership was instrumental in ensuring that St. Joseph would be a part of this prestigious global art movement.



Lindsay Prawitz has created and built an incredible educational program for the Robidoux Resident Theatre. What began as one camp and one class has grown to four summer camps a year and five Theatre Academy classes which take place throughout the school year. These educational programs have benefited hundreds of youth from St. Joseph and the surrounding area. The programming has become so valuable and so popular that the only obstacle to a child in our community participating in RRT's educational programs these days is finding enough time and teachers to continue Lindsay's work.

Youth Artist

Macormick Carlson has grown from a captivating kid on stage to a talented young man who is starting to get the recognition he deserves throughout the greater Kansas City area including participating in Kansas City's teen ensemble of the West Side Story for the Starlight Theatre. He's also received the Outstanding Award for RRT's Theatre League awards, nominated for Outstanding Performer in a Lead Role and for Rising Star award by the prestigious Starlight Theatre Blue Star awards while receiving a gold rating at the 2025 Missouri State Vocal Contest which he received two years in a row.



Gage Phroper, throughout his high school career, has demonstrated exceptional musical skill, earning all-district cellist honors and qualifying for the state music contest every year. He served as principal cellist for the SJSD Honor Youth Orchestra and has participated in St. Joseph Symphony's Side-by-Side concert since it's inception. His commitment to the southside orchestra program is evident in his leadership as President of the BHS Orchestra Council, where he took an active role in mentoring younger students, recruiting future orchestra members, and assisting with concerts. Gage is also an outstanding and well-rounded individual. He was selected as the Distinguished Cotillion Award winner for achievement, named valedictorian of his class, earned a Seal of Biliteracy, and was recognized as a Benton Drug-Free Superstar.



This project is made possible because of the support we receive from various donors. The program's primary funding partners are the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District, the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau, the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, Hillyard Industries, inspireU, Light and Power Building, and Tieman, Spencer, and Hicks. The combined efforts of Allied Arts Council and the numerous sponsors who support the Sculpture Walk enhance the area with new sculptures to generate more interest and foot traffic in downtown St. Joseph.

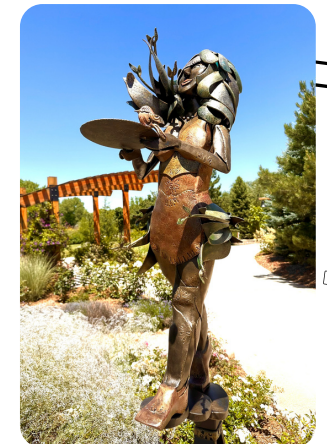


This year's Sculpture Walk stepped into new territory - where imagination leads the way. We partnered with inspireU by not only having our Sculpture Walk reception at their facility but we also centered our theme around the new kid on the block: Whimsical Walk with the Arts. We believe art should spark wonder at every age. The Children's Discovery Center shares our mission of engaging through community, education, and exploration - so teaming up with inspireU just made sense. Many of the featured sculptures this year were selected with kids in mind: bold colors, surprising shapes and elements that provide not just something you look at - but something that sparks dialogue and memories with the younger generation in our community.

During the Sculpture Walk reception we honored three artists that were selected by a committee of judges as First, Second, and Third place recipients.

1st Place Forward Motion

Jodie Bliss,
Colorado Springs,
Colorado



2nd Place High Stepping

Robert
Heintzelman,
Magnolia, Texas



3rd Place Letting Go

Clark Martinek,
Mitchell, South
Dakota



34th Annual Mayor's Awards for the Arts

Nominees

Artist of the Year

Christopher Alexander is a local who has grown up in St. Joseph, Christopher has spent years playing the piano, teaching music, and creating his own orchestrations. This upcoming September, he will be collaborating with the Saint Joseph Symphony to provide an "Animated Adventures and Family Favorites."

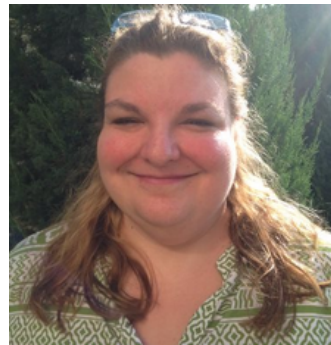


Lory Lacy and her ensemble performed a Chamber Mini concert in January 2025 for the St. Joseph Symphony. She continues to use her talent to help out so many local organizations in addition to spreading art around our community. At this particular concert she performed beautifully unique and rarely performed pieces as well as the world premiere of Lory's "Les Roses de Lune Lavande (The Lavender Moon Roses)"



Arts Educator of the Year

Beth McLenaghan exemplifies the heart of arts education through her unwavering love for and commitment to the growth and empowerment of her students. As a piano and vocal coach, Beth goes far beyond teaching musical technique - she shapes her students' confidence, character, and lifelong passion for the arts, which allows them to have so many life-changing experiences.



Lynnea Wootten brings her "A game" to life every single day--without exception. This award-winning St. Joseph, MO band



instructor conducts performances that are breathtaking! The technical skill level of her students will create a joy for music during the rest of their lives. The concert band also plays each year for the

Central graduating class of four hundred students. It's a jubilant evening of success. Ms. Wootten graduates top high school performers who receive district, state, and sometimes national honors.

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

Martin Rucker is an outstanding volunteer whose leadership and advocacy were pivotal in advancing our efforts at the state level. Through his strong relationships and deep understanding of the legislative process, Martin helped guide and support our conversations with state officials as we advocated for critical funding. His strategic insight, professionalism, and unwavering commitment played a key role in helping us secure the necessary resources to further our mission. Martin's dedication to public service and his impactful contributions make him an invaluable asset to our organization and a truly deserving nominee for this recognition.



Martial Thevenot's unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and countless hours of behind-the-scenes support have made



an extraordinary impact on our organization. Whether serving on the board, lending his expertise to strategic planning, or simply stepping in to help

wherever needed, Martial consistently goes above and beyond with humility and grace. Even after completing his term as Board President, Martial has continued to inspire, comfort and uplift with his commitment to the arts and our mission. That's why we believe he is more than deserving of this recognition.

Val Jones is an outstanding volunteer whose dedication and leadership were instrumental in the success of the Beer Walk event in downtown St. Joseph.

She meticulously organized every aspect of the event—from coordinating with local breweries and vendors to managing logistics and volunteer teams—ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience for all involved. The event raised vital support for the Arts Fund, helping to sustain and promote the region's vibrant arts community. Val's passion, commitment, and tireless work make her a truly deserving nominee for this recognition.

