

**ArtReach St. Croix** is a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting the St. Croix Valley communities and the visual, literary and performing arts.

## MOBILE ART GALLERY EXHIBIT

### **ARTWORK, ONCE CAPTIVE HAS GONE FREE**

With support from the St. Croix Valley Foundation and RBC Foundation, the 2024 Mobile Art Gallery season featured visual and literary artwork from inmates at Stillwater Prison. Did you know, Stillwater had a prison before Minnesota was a state? The Minnesota Territory needed to figure out where to “contain our rascals” and conversations on building a penitentiary in Stillwater began.



*Detail of Rusty Car  
by Andrew Severtson.*

Today, the Stillwater Prison provides men with educational, vocational and industrial programming opportunities during incarceration including visual arts and creative writing.

It was the prison's history and its educational programs that originally connected ArtReach to the prison for a joint exhibition in 2017.

Once again, this time via the Mobile Art Gallery, ArtReach shared inmate's artwork and 6-Word Memoirs. Led by art teacher Jeffrey Guse, the prison's art program includes art history and starts with elements and principles of art. Then, the participants explore graphite drawing, color theory, pastel drawing, watercolor and acrylic painting.

### **WITHOUT SKIPPING A BEAT – VALLEY READS**

After nine consecutive years, we were not awarded the NEA Big Read grant. This did not deter ArtReach and our partners from maintaining the momentum of our annual, Valley-wide literary arts project. Luckily, a local funder, the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation, stepped in to support the popular program and fill in the funding gap. This allowed

additional flexibility. We brought author Luis Alberto Urrea back to the Valley. And, we hosted a solo exhibition with new works by artist Dougie Padilla.

In 2022, Padilla's friend, Ojibwe artist Jim Denomie, passed away suddenly. Shortly thereafter, Dougie visited ArtReach's exceptional show of Jim's work, *Sweet Dreams*. To face his grief, Dougie dove into an intense aesthetic

and spiritual conversation with Jim and his art. Padilla states, “...the show was a knockout. And it knocked me out, pushed me further into both my sorrow and



*Gallery talk during Conversations with Jim.*

my ongoing interaction with the spirit world. So, I created incessantly, in conversation with Jim...” Within six months, 60+ works of art had been born. This show was the best of those efforts.

Padilla says of ArtReach, “In an art world that is often stuffy, slow moving, and distant, ArtReach is personal, attentive, and intimately regional.”

### **LET'S SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE SITUATION**

The grand finale of ArtReach's facility improvements came immediately before the annual Members Show when the old, fussy, halogen lights were replaced with LEDs. With the help of Chad Feldman of EME, LLC in Scandia, we outfitted the galleries with museum quality fixtures. We can now choose between spots and two different washes. The lights are also dimmable and remarkably flexible. We are now able to show artist work in its best light!

## HISTORY

Founded in 1992, ArtReach St. Croix began as the River Valley Arts Council, a grass roots organization focused primarily on the visual arts in the greater Stillwater area. It then evolved into ArtReach Alliance and began integrating the literary and performing arts, as well as building connections with other arts organizations in the area. Over time, these connections have expanded. Today, ArtReach St. Croix's mission of connecting communities and the arts has a valley-wide and multi-disciplinary focus.

Core ArtReach programs and services have taken shape with the goal of advancing the interconnectivity of the arts in the St. Croix Valley. To this end, ArtReach prioritizes arts leadership, creates marketing initiatives such as StCroixSplash.org, builds cross-promotional programs such as Take Me to the River, creates capacity-building opportunities, and hosts literary and visual arts programs showcasing local and regional artists.

**Mission Statement:** To connect communities and the arts.

***We acknowledge that ArtReach St. Croix occupies land that is the ancestral home of the Wahpekute people and the larger Očhéthi Šakówiŋ – Seven Fires Council – alliance of Dakota tribes. The Dakota people today are here and maintain deep connections to this land and its stories despite genocide and forced relocation.***

*ArtReach St. Croix will build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous people who currently, or in the future, call the St. Croix Valley home. ArtReach looks to amplify artists' voices and draws on the arts to connect communities to their stories, and to each other.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Anderson	Ross Higgins
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Gil Gragert	John H. Potter
Cecily Harris	Jon Skaalen

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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stcroixsplash.org

takemetotheriver.info

**Facebook:** facebook.com/ArtReachSTX

**Instagram:** @ArtReach\_StCroix

**YouTube:** @artreach\_stcroix

## BALANCE SHEET

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Checking/Savings	\$356,003.50
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	\$1,776.89

Total Current Assets \$357,780.39

Fixed Assets \$429,089.16

**TOTAL ASSETS \$786,869.55**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

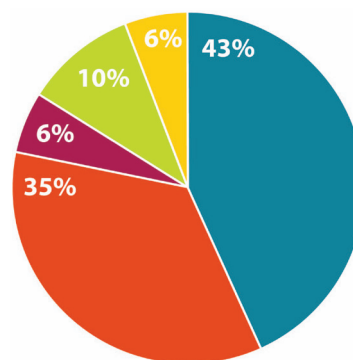
#### Liabilities

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$1581.20
Credit Cards	\$4,732.22
Other Current Liabilities	\$111,641.54
Total Current Liabilities	\$117,954.96

Total Liabilities \$117,954.96

Equity \$668,914.59

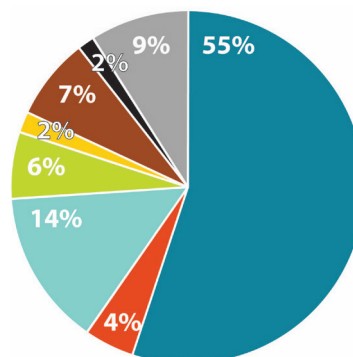
**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$786,869.55**



### 2024

#### COSTS FOR CORE PROGRAMS

Visual Arts	\$30,986.00
Literary Arts	\$24,973.00
Take Me to the River	\$3,995.00
Mobile Art Gallery	\$7,358.00
St Croix Splash	\$4,062.00



#### REVENUES

Foundation Grants	\$131,500.00
Corporate Funding	\$10,667.00
Government Grants	\$0.00
Individual Gifts	\$34,205.00
Fundraising Events	\$14,528.00
Fiscal Agency Fees	\$4,689.00
Gallery Sales	\$17,606.00
Memberships	\$3,826.00
Other Earned Income	\$21,371.00

# Behind the Scenes at **ArtReach**

## **Staff:**

Heather Rutledge – *Executive Director*

Marisa Grey – *Communications Coordinator*

Brianna Samson – *Gallery Host & Event Coordinator*

Jennifer Anderson – *Graphic Designer*

## **Core Volunteers:**

**Visual Arts Committee** – Jenn Anderson, Tom Dent, Gil Gragert, Diana Hatchitt, Phyllis Hunter, Bev Marx, Craig Parent, Kristin Prideaux, Barbara Schotl

**Literary Arts Committee** – Erik Anderson, Lynne Bertalmio, Jo Ann Dent, Karen Karason, Margaret Pennings

ArtReach relies on many other volunteers for events and special projects including Take Me to the River, gardening, facility maintenance, the Gift Gallery and more.



**VICTORIA BRADFORD STYRBICKI** is an interdisciplinary movement artist working in dance, video, social practice, and ethnography. Victoria works between her two Mississippi watershed hometowns Stillwater, Minnesota and Lake Charles, Louisiana as Executive and Artistic Director of A House Unbuilt. She studied visual arts, anthropology, and theology at the University of Notre Dame (BFA) and visual arts and performance and at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (MFA). ArtReach visitors may know Victoria from her performance pieces at the Members Shows and other special exhibitions. What you may not know is that she also volunteers time each week maintaining [StCroixSplash.org](http://StCroixSplash.org), ArtReach's online event calendar.



**DIANA HATCHITT** is one of only a few people who has worked at ArtReach since its move to 4th & Mulberry in 2009. Diana is a long-time volunteer with the Visual Arts Committee often found hosting receptions, painting walls and managing the Gift Gallery. Diana's life as an artist began before she can even remember. She was raised in Des Moines, Iowa to artist parents. After raising her own family, she returned to artmaking and fell in love with printmaking while pursuing a degree at Indiana University. Diana is well known for her Mezzotints on which color inks are applied by hand before each run through the press or hand colored with watercolor after. She is also experimenting with Monotypes. Diana's work can be found at ArtReach's Holiday Gift Gallery or year-round at the Stillwater Art Guild Gallery. She also participates in the ArtOPENER and other artist-led studio shows.



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Become a sustaining supporter of ArtReach St. Croix!  
Visit [artreachstcroix.org/giving](http://artreachstcroix.org/giving) and make a difference  
in the St. Croix Valley.

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