

## MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Wisconsin Arts Board to take a leadership role in enhancing the appreciation of and ensuring the continued vitality of the arts in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Arts Board is committed to creating an environment of free expression and open interpretation in which the arts can flourish and to preserving the heritage and multiplicity of artistic standards of the state's cultural groups. The Wisconsin Arts Board is further pledged to strengthening arts education, to supporting artistic excellence, to encouraging fiscal stability, and to ensuring full access to and full participation in these assets for all Wisconsin citizens throughout the state regardless of disability, race, age, sex, religion, or national origin.

The Wisconsin Arts Board fulfills this mission by advocating the importance of the arts and by providing funds, services, and information to artists, arts organizations, educational institutions, communities, and all other interested citizens of the state.

## DEFINITION

The National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies defines a local arts agency as "a community organization or agency of city or county government which provides financial support, services, or other programs for a variety of arts organizations and/or individual artists and the community as a whole."

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's professionally-staffed local arts agencies are few in number and by no means serve the state's seventy-two counties;

WHEREAS, strong local arts agency models exist within the state and throughout the nation;

WHEREAS, the creation of local arts agencies are critical to the development of a strong and active arts community that contributes to the growth and vitality of urban and rural communities and the creation of a quality environment;

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Arts Board is committed to the development of urban and rural local arts agencies in communities that have been artistically underserved;

WHEREAS, local arts agencies can facilitate in breaking down cultural barriers and developing a better understanding of our complex and diverse culture and can encourage the development of their communities' own unique cultural expressions, adding to the richness of those communities.

WHEREAS, local arts agencies can create partnerships with schools, businesses, chambers of commerce, governments, churches, etc.;

WHEREAS, the development of strong local arts agencies and the establishment of a statewide assembly of local arts agencies is consistent with the Wisconsin Arts Board's development of a regional communications system;

WHEREAS, the long-term goal of such a communications system is to enable the Wisconsin Arts Board to develop a comprehensive pool of knowledge about the arts in the state, to recreate a broader awareness of the Wisconsin Arts Board, and to establish a network cooperatively to demonstrate the centrality of the arts in the lives of Wisconsin citizens;

WHEREAS, the success of the system is having strong local arts agencies served by a strong statewide assembly of local arts agencies;

The Wisconsin Arts Board supports the creation and encouragement of local arts agencies across Wisconsin and a statewide assembly of local agencies.

*Adopted by the Wisconsin Arts Board February 5, 1992.*