

Arts Midwest Invests \$235,562 in Wisconsin



Photo by Heather Kuhlman.

In partnership with the Wisconsin Arts Board, Arts Midwest is providing audiences across Wisconsin with enriching cultural experiences.

Thanks to a successful partnership of more than 30 years, thousands of Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to participate in high-quality creative experiences. Together, we are elevating the importance of cultural activities for Wisconsin audiences, strengthening the impact of Wisconsin arts organizations and their leaders, and providing opportunities for Wisconsin artists to thrive in their careers.

This partnership has bolstered our ability to foster and support vibrant, diverse communities

throughout the state. In FY17, Arts Midwest leveraged \$36,348 in state dues to provide \$235,562 in programs and services, resulting in a **648% return on investment** to the state of Wisconsin for the 2016–2017 programming cycle.

We are thrilled to share in the following report that these performing, visual, and literary arts and leadership development programs reached urban and rural communities across the state.

Learn more by visiting artsmidwest.org.



Impact at a Glance



Arts Midwest Touring Fund

Awarded \$44,753 to 18 performing arts organizations, and supported the touring of three Wisconsin ensembles, which earned \$18,295 for their work



Arts Midwest World Fest

\$50,000 investment per year for two years of artist residencies in Rhinelander



Arts Midwest Conference

Provided business, learning, and networking opportunities to 129 individuals from 63 Wisconsin organizations in 2016



ArtsLab

Providing leadership and organizational development training to nine participating Wisconsin organizations



NEA Big Read

Supported six innovative reading engagements



Shakespeare in American Communities

Supported one Wisconsin-based theater company



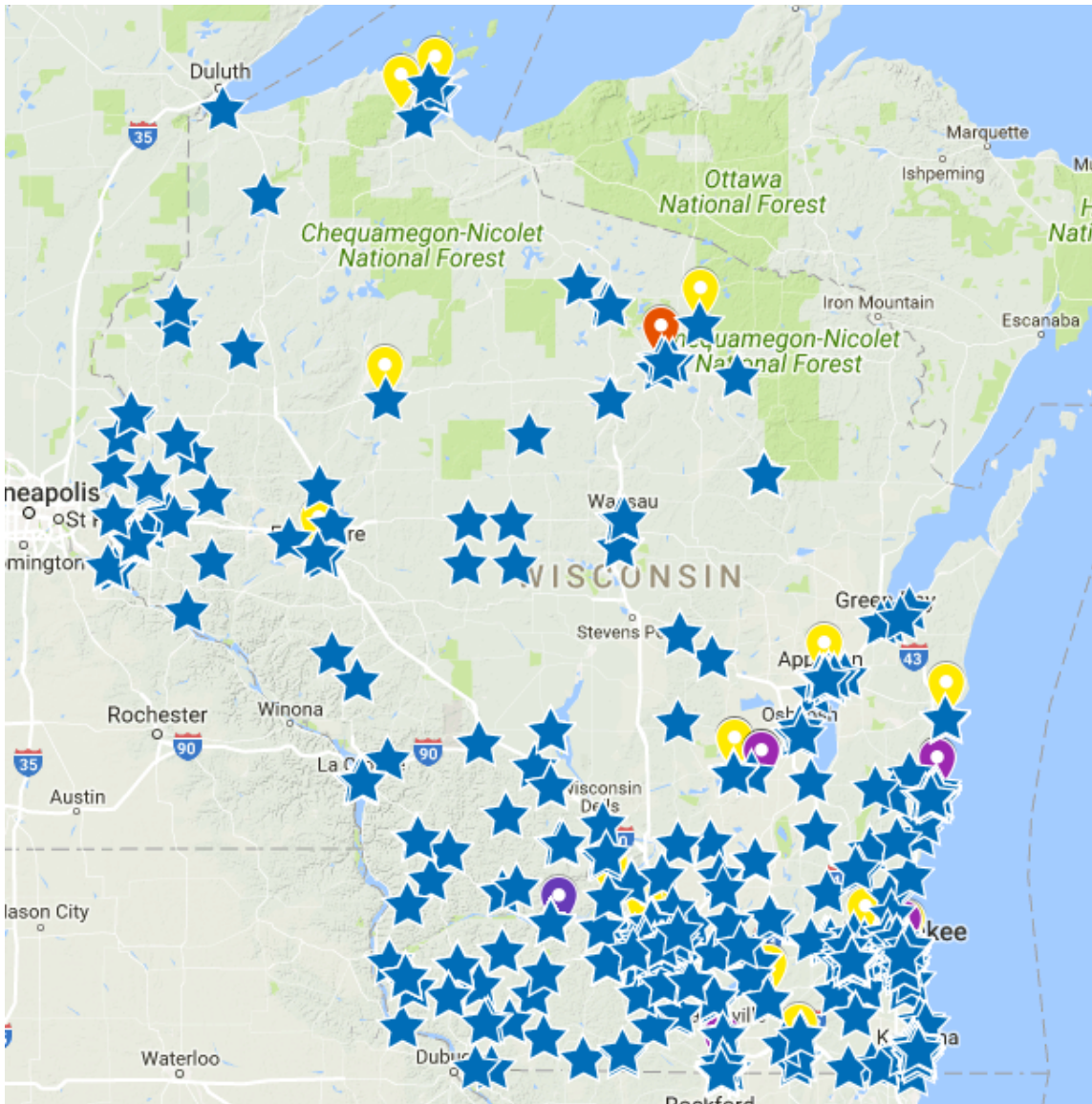
Leadership

Continued professional development and networking opportunities for state arts agency staff and leaders

Impact across the state

Arts Midwest awarded grants and partnered with communities to provide programming across the state, which touched the lives of thousands of individuals of all ages in both urban and rural communities.

This map details a full list of FY17 grantees and partnering organizations, as well as the reach of their programming.



Grantees and direct program partners



Program participants / communities impacted by Arts Midwest programming

An online version with additional details can be found at bit.ly/FY17WI.



Arts Midwest Touring Fund

Arts Midwest Touring Fund encourages performing arts touring by providing financial support to arts presenting organizations in the Midwest.

Arts Midwest Touring Fund engages people in meaningful experiences with the fine arts of dance, music, theater or musical theater, and other performing arts forms. When we share creative experiences, we build powerful connections with the people we are closest to, with our community and the world around us, and with ourselves.

Arts Midwest awards grants through this Fund of up to \$4,000 on a first-come-first-serve basis to performing arts organizations to bring high-quality performances to audiences across Arts Midwest’s region. Each engagement includes in-depth educational activities and public performances, and aims to reach underserved audiences.

In FY17, Wisconsin audiences experienced vibrant performances—from intricate orchestral music to energetic dance—and participated in community-driven activities. In the 2016–2017 performance season, **Arts Midwest awarded \$44,753 to 18 performing arts organizations in Wisconsin.** While some final reports are still pending, as of July 2017, these activities reached more than 19 communities through 20 public performances and 60 engagement events.

Congressional District	Grantee	City	Grant	Artist
1	Aurora University - Music by the Lake Series	Williams Bay	\$4,000	Micky Dolenz
6	Capitol Civic Centre	Manitowoc	\$2,000	The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute
4	Early Music Now	Milwaukee	\$4,000	Ars Longa de La Habana
3	Eau Claire Regional Arts Council	Eau Claire	\$1,300	The Second City
7	Flambeau Valley Arts Association	Ladysmith	\$600	Pat Balder
8	Fox Cities Performing Arts Center	Appleton	\$4,000	Spectrum Dance Theater
6	Green Lake Festival of Music	Green Lake	\$1,200	Calmus
2	Indian Music Circle of Wisconsin	Middleton	\$4,000	Chitravina N Ravikiran
6	John Michael Kohler Arts Center	Sheboygan	\$3,228	Kiran Ahluwalia and Natya
7	Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua	Washburn	\$2,500	Buffy Sainte-Marie
4	Latino Arts	Milwaukee	\$3,125	Mariachi Flor de Toloache
7	Madeline Island Music Camp	Minneapolis	\$2,200	Brentano String Quartet
2	Overture Center for the Arts	Madison	\$2,400	Manual Cinema
2	River Arts	Prairie du Sac	\$800	David Pendleton
5	Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts	Brookfield	\$4,000	Ailey II
6	Thrasher Opera House	Green Lake	\$500	Trout Fishing in America
7	Three Lakes School Community Arts Association	Three Lakes	\$900	Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues
5	Young Auditorium at the University of Wisconsin	Whitewater	\$4,000	AXIS Dance Company

The Touring Fund also supported **three Wisconsin ensembles** touring to other Midwest states during FY17. In total, the Wisconsin artists earned \$18,295 by participating in Touring Fund programming.

Grantee	City, State	Wisconsin Artist	Artist Fee
A Center for the Arts	Fergus Falls, MN	Harmonious Wail	\$6,500
Credo Chamber Music at Slowik Music Institute	Oberlin, OH	Kangwon Kim & Matthew Michelic	\$6,200
Live On Stage Marshalltown	Marshalltown, IA	The Kat Trio	\$5,595



Top image: Artists of Ailey II invite children in the audience to join them on stage at the Sharon Lynne Center for the Arts in Brookfield. Photo by Jen Mazza.

Bottom image: AXIS Dance Company perform for elementary school students in Whitewater. Photo by Ashley Miller .



Arts Midwest World Fest

Arts Midwest World Fest connects small and mid-sized Midwestern communities to world cultures through week-long residencies with international musicians.

Arts Midwest World Fest’s goal is to foster an understanding of and appreciation for global uniqueness and differences. Over a two-year cycle, four global musical ensembles engage with communities across the Midwest through activities that include public concerts, K-12 school workshops, and community outreach activities such as family and senior citizen workshops and master classes.

Committed to reaching communities that have limited access to high-quality international arts and education programming, Arts Midwest invests approximately \$100,000 to bring this program to Wisconsin for the two-year cycle. Local communities are only responsible for school busing, hall rental, and hospitality costs.

...[following a school performance by Lorraine Klaasen] one 8th grade student found me at lunch to give me a hug and thank me for lining up such an amazing experience for her and her classmates.

—Teacher
Rhineland, WI

Over the 2015–2017 Arts Midwest World Fest cycle, Rhineland, Wisconsin, hosted four engaging educational and performance residencies that featured Anda Union (Inner Mongolia, China); Le Vent du Nord (Québec, Canada); Baladino (Israel); and Lorraine Klaasen (South Africa).

Lorraine Klaasen (South Africa): Fall 2016 activities in Wisconsin

Location	City	Description	Adults	Youth
Rhineland High School	Rhineland	Workshop for grades 9-12	55	725
Saint Mary's Hospital	Rhineland	Short Concert Saint Mary's Hospital Staff and Patients	43	3
Rhineland High School	Rhineland	Workshop for grades 4-8	51	727
Lac Du Flambeau Elementary School	Lac Du Flambeau	Workshop for grades 5-8 at a Tribal school	9	76
Lac Du Flambeau Elementary School	Lac Du Flambeau	Workshop for grades 3-4	6	69
Avanti Health and Rehabilitation Center	Minocqua	Activity at senior center	43	0
Nicolet College	Rhineland	Workshop for small rural schools	15	232
Crandon High School	Crandon	Workshop for three combined schools, grades 3-8	30	381
Crandon High School	Crandon	Workshop for three combined Schools, grades 9-12	33	404
Tomahawk High School	Tomahawk	Workshop for grades 6-8	32	396
Tomahawk High School	Tomahawk	Workshop for grades 9-12	41	443
Tomahawk High School	Tomahawk	Workshop for grades 1-5	54	501
Nicolet College	Rhineland	Public concert	212	20
Total:			624	3,977



*Left: Lorraine Klaasen joins her new Wisconsin fans for a photo following the public performance at Nicolet College.
 Right: Students dance with excitement during a school performance with Lorraine Klaasen and her ensemble.
 Photos by Lindajoy Fenley.*

Anda Union (China): Spring 2017 activities in Wisconsin				
Location	City	Description	Adults	Youth
Nicolet College Commons	Rhineland	Welcome reception	31	2
Rhineland High School	Rhineland	Workshop for grades 4-8	80	650
Rhineland High School	Rhineland	Workshop for grades 9-12	85	665
Milestone Senior Living	Rhineland	Activity at senior center	55	0
Lakeland Union High School	Minocqua	Workshop for grades 9-12	22	311
Lac Du Flambeau School	Lac Du Flambeau	Workshop for grades 2,3, and 5 at a Tribal school	9	58
Lac Du Flambeau School	Lac Du Flambeau	Workshop for grades 4,6, and 7 at a Tribal school	11	44
Nicolet College Theatre	Rhineland	Workshop for small rural schools	23	210
Crandon School	Crandon	Workshop for 3 combined schools, grades 3-8	52	450
Crandon School	Crandon	Workshop for 3 combined schools, grades 9-12	41	440
Tomahawk School	Tomahawk	Workshop for grades 9-12	51	401
Tomahawk School	Tomahawk	Workshop for grades K-5	69	502
Tomahawk School	Tomahawk	Workshop for grades 6-8	31	289
Nicolet College Theatre	Rhineland	Public concert	240	23
Total:			624	4,045

Since the program's inception in 2003, we have brought 23 engaging international ensembles to seven communities across Wisconsin: Rhineland, Rice Lake/Shell Lake, Wausau, Hartford, Menomonie, Prairie Du Chien, and Eau Claire



Arts Midwest Conference

The preeminent booking and education conference for the Midwest performing arts industry.

The only meeting of its kind in the Midwest, our Conference is committed to connecting arts administrators, strengthening the Midwest's performing arts industry, and promoting the vibrant local arts scene in the Conference city. To those ends, in 2016, Arts Midwest welcomed a record number of attendees to our 30th annual Conference, totaling 1,075 individuals. Arts professionals convened in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from September 13–16 to network, conduct business, access in-depth professional development sessions, experience live performances, and gain new insights into the world of performing arts touring and presenting. **Representatives from Wisconsin included 129 individuals from 63 different arts organizations.**

The 2017 Arts Midwest Conference will take place August 28–31, 2017 in Columbus, Ohio, and we expect to again serve a broad sector of Wisconsin artists, presenters, and arts organizations at the event.



Image at right: A member of the Villalobos Brothers sings during the Spotlight Showcases at the 2016 Arts Midwest Conference. Photo by Joshua Feist.

2016 Arts Midwest Conference Attendees – Wisconsin

Organization	City	Organization	City
Al Ringling Theatre	Baraboo	Fox & Branch	Milwaukee
Bolz Center for Arts Administration	Madison	Fox Cities Performing Arts Center	Appleton
Bronzeville Arts Ensemble	Milwaukee	George Williams College of Aurora University	Williams Bay
CAL Center Presents	Reedsburg	Grand Opera House - Oshkosh	Oshkosh
Campanile Center for the Arts	Minocqua	Heider Center for the Arts	West Salem
Capitol Civic Centre, Inc.	Manitowoc	Hillbilly Silly Science Spectacular	Sussex
Carthage College	Kenosha	Historic Temple Theatre	Viroqua
Cedarburg Music Festivals/Summer Sounds	Cedarburg	Janesville Performing Arts Center	Janesville
Cedarburg Performing Arts Center	Cedarburg	John Michael Kohler Arts Center	Sheboygan
Center for the Arts at UW-Platteville	Platteville	Kohler Foundation, Inc.	Kohler
Christine Harris Connections	Milwaukee	Lawrence University	Appleton
Early Music Now	Milwaukee	LuCille Tack Center for the Arts	Spencer
Earthsign Records	Maiden Rock	Magic of Bill Blagg LIVE!	Pleasant Prairie
Eau Claire Regional Arts Center	Eau Claire	Marcus Center for the Performing Arts	Milwaukee
Edgerton Performing Arts Center	Edgerton	McComb/Bruchs Performing Arts Center	Wautoma
Event Resources Presents, Inc.	Green Bay	McCoy Artists Group	Baraboo

2016 Arts Midwest Conference attendee chart continued.

2016 Arts Midwest Conference Attendees – Wisconsin			
Organization	City	Organization	City
Meyer Theatre / PMI Entertainment Group	Green Bay	Tallymoore	Milwaukee
Milwaukee Arts Barge	Milwaukee	TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater	Madison
Milwaukee Repertory Theater	Milwaukee	The Grand Theater	Wausau
Monroe Arts Center	Monroe	Thrasher Opera House	Green Lake
Oconomowoc Arts Center	Oconomowoc	Ticket Star	Green Bay
Overture Center for the Arts	Madison	UW-Madison Mead Witter School of Music	Madison
Randy Otto as Winston Churchill	Lake Mills	UW-Washington County	West Bend
River Arts Inc.	Prairie du Sac	Verona Area Performing Arts Series	Verona
Schauer Arts Center	Hartford	Viterbo University	La Crosse
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts	Brookfield	Weber Center for the Performing Arts	La Crosse
Sinsinawa Mound Center	Sinsinawa	Weidner Center for the Performing Arts	Green Bay
South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center	South Milwaukee	Wisconsin Arts Board	Madison
SRO Artists, Inc.	Middleton	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Milwaukee
Stefanie Weill Center for the Performing Arts	Sheboygan	Wisconsin Union Theater	Madison
Still Waters Collective	Milwaukee	Young Auditorium at the University of Wisconsin	Whitewater
Stoughton Opera House	Stoughton		



ArtsLab strengthens the impact of arts organizations in urban and rural communities through leadership and strategy development.

ArtsLab seeks to nurture a vibrant regional arts ecosystem that ensures our cultural leaders have the skills, ideas, and mindset of adaptability and resiliency needed to thrive in a world of continuous change. Through in-depth training and peer-to-peer learning, ArtsLab cultivates a more effective and viable arts sector poised for community engagement. Our work is guided by three goals:

- Increase the pool of mature and engaged leadership able to meet 21st century demands;
- Build the resilience and strengthen the presence of forward-thinking arts organizations;
- Demonstrate the power of the arts to enhance community vitality and engagement.

To those ends, Arts Midwest invested \$9,514 in ArtsLab programming and **nine Wisconsin organizations participated in the Navigate cohort, which concluded in fall 2016.**

Navigate

Beginning in FY2016, ArtsLab collaborated with ArtReach St. Croix in Stillwater to convene cross-sector leaders from the St. Croix River Valley for a series of five retreats, with the purpose of building a coalition to amplify work happening at the intersection of arts and nature. With grants from Arts Midwest, organizations developed and implemented a number of arts and nature public projects that took place in the first half of FY2017.

Navigate Peer Learning Community – Wisconsin			
Organization	City	Organization	City
Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center	Prescott	St. Croix Watershed Research Station	St. Croix Falls
National Park Service	St. Croix Falls	Standing Cedars / Photographer	Osceola
Project Art for Nature	River Falls	The Borner Farm Project	Prescott
River Falls Chamber of Commerce	River Falls	The Phipps Center for the Arts	Hudson
St. Croix Valley Regional Tourism	River Falls		



NEA Big Read

The Big Read is a literary initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

Through this program, we bring partners across the country together to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment. We were thrilled to present **six Wisconsin organizations** with grants to develop community-wide programs that encouraged reading and participation by diverse audiences in the 2016–2017 NEA Big Read cycle.

Organization	City	Grant	Book
Beloit Public Library	Beloit	\$13,000	<i>Into the Beautiful North</i>
Gateway Technical College	Kenosha	\$14,000	<i>True Grit</i>
La Crosse Community Big Read	La Crosse	\$14,000	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>
Mead Public Library	Sheboygan	\$13,000	<i>True Grit</i>
Milwaukee Public Library	Milwaukee	\$14,000	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>
Waukesha Public Library	Waukesha	\$20,000	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>



Left: Milwaukee’s NEA Big Read events kick off at the Point Center for the Arts with community members. Incorporating themes from *In the Time of the Butterflies*, participants paint colorful butterflies.

Right: Also at the kick-off event in Milwaukee, Panadanza dancers perform Caribbean dances with event participants.

Photos by Grace Fuhr.



Shakespeare in American Communities

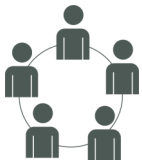
A program of the National Endowment for the Arts, bringing performances and educational activities to audiences across the country.

Shakespeare in American Communities is a national theater program that reaches middle- and high-school students in underserved schools throughout the United States by supporting high-quality, professional productions of Shakespeare’s plays and comprehensive educational resources.

In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, we were able to present **American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin, with a \$25,000 grant** to perform Shakespeare plays in the 2016–2017 cycle. Wisconsin students experienced performances of *The Comedy of Errors* and *King Lear*.



Performance of *The Comedy of Errors* at American Players Theatre. Photo by Liz Lauren.



Leadership

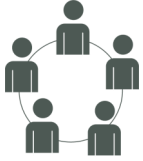
Arts Midwest draws on the insight, skills, and expertise of the Midwest arts community to inform and shape our programs and to ensure that our services nurture leadership among arts organizations.

Twice annually, Arts Midwest convenes a summit of the state arts agency executive directors representing Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Through this effort, George Tzougros, executive director of the Wisconsin Arts Board, participates in leadership development and knowledge sharing with key professionals in the public art sector.

The full Arts Midwest Board of Directors meets three times per year with governance committees meeting on a quarterly basis. Wisconsin continues to be strongly represented on Arts Midwest’s Board of Directors by Michael Vinson of Green Bay.

Other Opportunities

Arts Midwest provides an array of programs designed to nurture cultural leadership, promote creativity, and engage people in meaningful arts experiences. While the below activity did not occur in Wisconsin during this reporting cycle, we are pleased to make these opportunities available to artists, organizations, and audiences in your state.



Creating Connection is a national movement to advance arts and culture as a recognized, valued, and expected part of our everyday lives. It is drawing on proven social change strategies to understand and communicate how arts, culture, and creative expression connect to existing, closely held public values. Arts Midwest is working with Metropolitan Group, a strategic communications agency, to launch this work in communities across the country—using a combination of research, grassroots engagement, and trainings to help influence long-term changes in attitudes, behaviors, policies, and systems.

Learn more by visiting artsmidwest.org, or by contacting Colleen McLaughlin at 612.238.8052 or colleen@artsmidwest.org.