



Atchison Art Association | 2020



Annual Report



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2020 was surreal. A global pandemic changed everything. Every corner of the world has been affected, and every aspect of our lives has been impacted. Daily routines were brought to a halt, and any sense of normalcy was lost. We were forced to stop. Forced to look, forced to listen. And the message could not have been more precise; we are interconnected.

This year provided us with the opportunity to take better care of ourselves and each other. To reach out, find collective goodness, check in on our friends, explore ways to serve, and focus on what could be done. This year gave us the chance to connect.

We learned new skills, replaced programs, events, and activities to support social distancing, and, sometimes we completely shut down. We used our time to build new alliances and partners, solidify our future, and plan art to benefit our community.

With ingenuity, creativity, hard work, and a dash of good fortune, we rose to the challenge of a completely different and surreal year.

Key Achievements for 2020 include:

- *The city of Atchison approved plans for a Historical Sculpture Plaza*
- *Purchased a downtown building to develop a cultural center*
- *Moved exhibits, classes, and events to online venues*
- *Began a long-term partnership and art funding with The Darrell Schmitt Trust*
- *Developed Beautiful Benches, part 6 of a Vision of Our Culture*
- *Developed plans for Seaman bronze, part 5 of a Vision of Our Culture*
- *Secured LFM historical post for a future art project*

Thank you for taking the time to read,

~Deborah



Mission

Our mission is to provide access to the arts and avenues for artistic expression. We use education, outreach, and exhibitions to meet our mission in the Atchison community and throughout the region

Vision

Our vision is a community strengthened and transformed through art.

Values

We value creativity, communication, diversity, empowerment, advancement, and partnership.

The Atchison Art Association serves as a cultural resource for the entire community with special consideration to the needs of the underserved in our area. It provides art education to local, public, and homeschooled students and the community's senior citizens.

The association maintains a permanent collection of the highest quality and manages the Muchnic Art Gallery, offering area artists the opportunity to display and sell their works of art and the public the opportunity to appreciate it. The gallery also provides outreach and educational activities that coincide with the exhibits and classes.

The Atchison Art Association works closely with all Atchison organizations, the City of Atchison, and the Atchison community at large to promote the understanding and value art plays in a healthy, happy, and vibrant community.

2020 Goals and Results

Goal 1: Install 2020 Public Art Reflection. Results: Moved to June 2021, due to Covid.

Goal 2: Improve Committee communications. Results: Always a work in progress

Goal 3: Develop an Endowment plan for the Arts in Atchison. Results: Secured a funding partner

THE MUCHNIC GALLERY

Art in the time of Covid

The Muchnic Gallery opened the 2020 season with the S. Helen Buening Student Art Show on Mar 1. On Mar 12, Governor Kelly declared Kansas in the State of Disaster due to the coronavirus. After just eleven days, the Muchnic Gallery temporarily close its doors to the public. By June, the AAA calendar was empty, art exhibits, events, and shows, all canceled. The Gallery Committee asked, "how can we serve' and Locally Atchison Art was born. The Muchnic Gallery would meet this pandemic by supporting local artists and marketing their works on the second floor. On the main floor, the AAA featured works from its permanent collection. The Muchnic opened by appointment through July and then Sundays through November.



The Muchnic Foundation owns the 1885 Victorian mansion known as the Muchnic Gallery and offers it for public use to benefit visitors and area residents. The Atchison Art Association is entrusted to manage and maintain the Muchnic Gallery. The AAA provides the community with 6-8 rotating shows and exhibits each year, giving visitors a place to view, experience, and learn about art while offering artists a platform to

show their work and communicate ideas. Special yearly events include The S. Helen Buening Student Art Show and the annual Member Show,

The 2020 Shows:

- S. Helen Buening Student Art, February- March
- Locally Atchison Art, April -December
- Masters of the Muchnic, Apr 10 - Nov

ART PROGRAMS

Masters Then & Now Art Education

Masters Then & Now is Atchison Art Association's flagship art education program. This art program was originated by Sister Helen Buening from Mount St. Scholastica, then gifted to the Atchison Art Association as a resource for nontraditional students. This program includes art appreciation, techniques, and hands-on project learning. Classes drastically changed this year due to Covid and the closure of our Atchison Library Partner. Again, we asked what can we do? How can we serve? The answer was to go live online with classes. The current 2020/2021 school year has three students k-12 enrolled. Patty Boldridge serves as the lead instructor and director, Terri Kolher, teacher assistant. Masters Then & Now has an annual budget of \$2,700.



Partners: Memembers of the Atchison Art Association, Courtney Laurie, The McConaghey Trust

PUBLIC ART:

A Vision of Our Culture

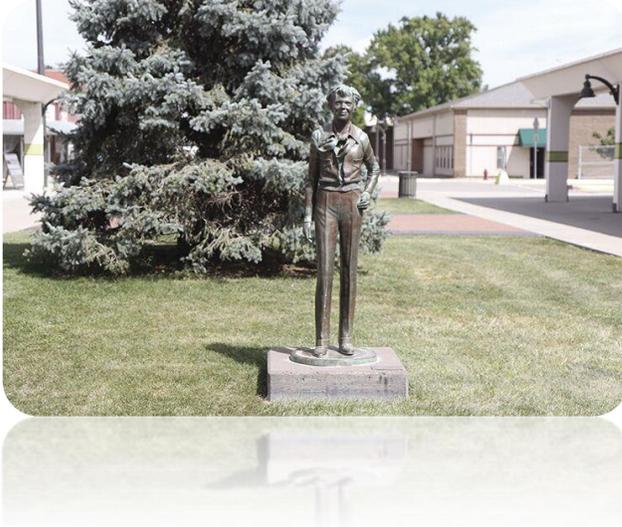
Public Art planning took center stage in 2020. Our schedule's openness provided opportunities for us to look into the community, meet and move A Vision of Our Culture forward with new partners and ideas.

'A Vision of our Culture' includes six permanent public art exhibits that visually draw attention to our community's places where culture is introduced, developed, and nurtured. **Art, history, food, commerce, people, and language** are the building blocks of local culture, and individually each is the focus of this multi-year public art project.

A Vision of Our Culture's mission is to create, facilitate, and guide a flourishing cultural community. We desire to contribute to the city's overall civic and economic vitality and the well-being of its people and neighborhoods through art. The goal is to change how people feel about their town and themselves.

Historical Sculpture Plaza

The Atchison Art Association is excited to install a historical sculpture plaza on Commercial Street's 400 block.



The Atchison City Commission unanimously approved support, with the Deafy Boular and Amelia Earhart sculpture's first additions already a part of the Commercial Street. The Atchison Art Association plans to install Refections, a modern bronze sculpture, and Seaman, the dog associated with Lewis and Clark. Fundraising is underway and expected to be complete in 2022.

Partners: The City of Atchison, Botteroff Construction

Reflections

Reflections is an 8-foot tall modern bronze sculpture by artist Dave Breneman. The sculpture has been in production since January 2020, with an install date set for June 2021 during the Juneteenth celebration. Reflections will be joining the Historical Sculptural plaza along with a historical marker for George Johnson.

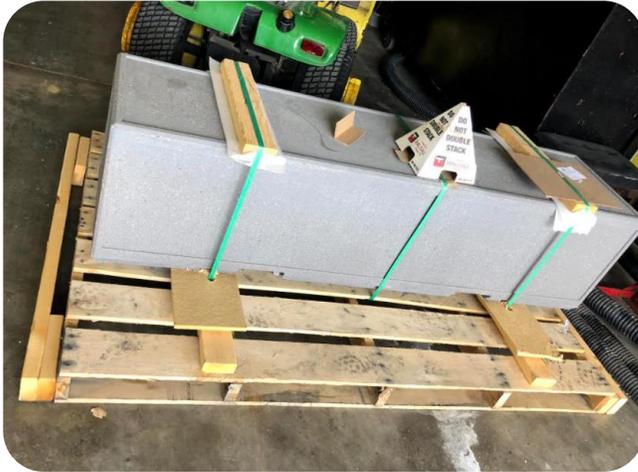
The Atchison Art Association received a grant for this project from the National Endowment for the Arts through a Kan2019 submission.



Partners: The Muchnic Foundation, The Adair Foundation, The City of Atchison, Juneteenth, Atchison United, The Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission.

Beautiful Benches

The Beautiful Benches project brings functional art onto Atchison's streets through a series of mosaic benches. Beautiful Benches represents part six, expressing a vision of our culture as Art. Community members, businesses, and organizations are invited to partner with the Atchison Art Association to build a unifying vision of who we are. Each bench reflects a unique feeling, emotion, or cultural idea unique to Atchison and



provides a platform for that community expression, involvement, and perspective.

Currently, we have purchase three benches and will be building a prototype this spring. Interested groups or individuals should contact Angie Cairo for details.

Partners: McElwain Sprayers, Russ McElwain, The City of Atchison, Darrell Schmitt Trust, The County of Atchison

Historical Cast-Iron Donation for Public Art

LeRoy Antes donated two pairs of Cast-Iron support poles cast in the late 1800's from the John Seaton foundry in Atchison. In 1905 Harry Muchnic and Clive Hastings became business associates of Seaton to form the LFM Company. These posts represent a significant architectural time in Atchison, and LeRoy suggested these would be great for light post or public art installations.

Partners: LeRoy Antes, McElwain Sprayers, Russ McElwain



Seaman Bronze

The Atchison Art Association seeks an artist and financial partnership to create and install a fine art bronze sculpture of Seaman, the Newfoundland dog associated with Lewis and Clark, for the newly formed Historical Sculpture Plaza.



The playful and lighthearted dog will encourage children to engage and round-out the appeal for Atchison's families and visitors. Patty Boldridge is Chair of this project with an estimated install of 2020.

Initial Partners: The Adair Foundation, City of Atchison

Inside Out

Atchison was part of a world-wide art exhibit! Thanks to artist and BC Student Ellen Budell, The InsideOut Project and joins more than 400,000 individuals in more than 140 countries who have participated in showcasing their communities by photographing individuals who live there. What began as a Discovery Day project for Ellen, slightly time-delayed by COVID, is now on full display as a celebration of the Atchison Community and her citizens from all walks of life.

Partners: Benedictine College, Thrivent



THE MEMBER SHOW

The show goes on

Even the Member Show had a virtual makeover this year. Patty & Lorna headed up the effort to ensure that art was happening even if it looked different.



The virtual Member Show had an impressive thirty entries with a popular People's Choice Award.

Patty announced the winners in an online post, and entry participants checked in to see who won. The Atchison Art Association mailed winning artists their ribbons and prizes, and we had a robust online engagement with the public through voting.

We all considered this a win, and by December, we needed it.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Yoga @ the Muchnic

Unfortunately, covid shut down community yoga classes at the Muchnic in 2020. We regularly hear how much students miss our weekly classes. However, we could continue to educate yoga teachers via Zoom through our Dharma House program with some adjustments. Dharma House School of Yoga is a nationally accredited eleven-month teacher training program. The Dharma House School of Yoga aims to provide cultural art avenues for entrepreneurial opportunities that impact local and small communities throughout NorthEast Kansas. We graduated nine students in 2020 and currently have one enrolled.



NEW BEGINNINGS

Darrell Schmitt

Darrell D. Schmitt was an internationally known artist/interior designer born and raised in Atchison, Kansas. Among his most notable work was designing Pelican Hill Resort in Newport Beach, California, and the Montage Beverly Hills Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles. Early in his career, he was influential in New Orleans. He created the



Diversity Gallery for the Arts, the forerunner to today's Contemporary Center for the Arts in the French Quarter. He owned Darrell Schmitt Design Associates in New Orleans and later in Los Angeles and won numerous professional and civic awards for his tireless dedication to the arts.

Darrell was very active in the Atchison Art Associations' early days and was a big supporter of the arts. Darrell never forgot his Atchison roots and dreamed of inspiring others in Atchison to pursue and become involved in the Arts. Darrell entrusted the Atchison Art Association to see that his dream of encouraging a community of art and artist be realized. We are humbled and up for the challenge.

Darrell Schmitt Center for the Arts

In 2020, the Atchison Art Association took the first steps toward fulfilling Darrell's wishes with the purchase of the old Snowball building on north 8th Street. We expect renovations to begin in early 2021 and to open to the public in late 2021. With the help of Darrell's long-time designer friend, Daniel O'Brien of ARC Form Designs and Marcio Marchezi, The Darrell Schmitt Center for the Arts will serve as a community cultural center in downtown Atchison's heart. Space will include The Masters Then & Now Art Studio, supporting art education, art exhibits, and community space. This addition to the community will significantly expand the arts in Atchison and provide greater access to the arts for all in the community.



The Friends of Darrell Schmitt have formed a committee at the Atchison Art Association; please contact us if you are interested in joining.

How it all gets done

The Atchison Art Association is an all-volunteer charitable 501c3 organization. As a nonprofit, everything we do in the community is either free or extremely reasonable.

Whether it's a bit of time, a donation, a gift, or the power of your voice, your contribution puts into motion new experiences, ideas, and perspectives that will impact Atchison for generations to come.

Fiduciary Gifts to the Atchison Art Association

Become a member of the Atchison Art Association for as little as \$35 per year. 100% of your donations are invested back into the community through education, public art, community classes, art exhibits, and outreach programs.

Contact Us:

- Online: AtchisonArt.org
- By mail: 704 North 4th Street, Atchison, Kansas 66002

Art Gifts to the Atchison Art Association

The Atchison Art Association maintains a Permanent Collection of both local and regional artists. From time to time, works from the Permanent Collection are exhibited at the Muchnic Gallery and open to the public.

Contact:

- The Executive Director at 913.367.4278 or email AtchisonArt@gmail.com to arrange a meeting.

Volunteer

Volunteering can help make you happier and healthier! Volunteering provides the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills, or even advance your career. Volunteering at the Atchison Art Association can bring creativity, motivation, and inspiration that can carry over into your personal life.

Contact Us:

- Online: AtchisonArt@gmail.com

- In-Person: The Muchnic Gallery is open March – December on Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday from 1-5 pm.
- Visit our website AtchisonArt.org and attend an Opening Reception
- Facebook, look for an interesting event and join us or volunteer!
- Call 913.367.4ART

Wish Lists

It takes two things to make an organization thrive, People and Ideas. We are always looking for both.

Additionally:

- Art supplies to use in art programs.
- Fundraising is a committee that is always hard to fill. We are looking for people to serve on the funding committee with the outlook that "No" is just a word.

Arts Impact

Art is so much more than just a pretty picture. Whether it is health, education, economy, or faith, the arts improve our communities and our lives, and they lend themselves to practical, solution-oriented philosophies to bind us socially and improve the world in which we live.



Advocacy Matters

We invite members and community residents interested in advocacy and policymaking to join us in our efforts to make Atchison a more vibrant and connected community. Please contact us at 913.367.4278.

The Atchison Art Association is seeking partnerships to:

- explore resident's preferences,
- create allied arts connections
- identify specific action steps that make the community's creative portfolio stronger
- establish an accessible, sustainable and diverse cultural plan

2020 Board of Directors

Christy Harris, President

Linda Clements, Vice President

John Bishop, Treasurer

Ronda Crossland, Secretary

Lorna Garrison, Director

Patty Boldridge, Director

Nan Muchnic, Director Muchnic Chair

Ronda Crossland, Board Director

Angela Cairo, Board Director

Alison Ternent, Board Director

Deborah Geiger, Executive Director

Looking Forward: 2021 Goals

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3: