



ATCHISON ART ASSOCIATION | 2022



Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

When I took this position 10 years ago, I could not have imagined where we would be today. It is almost impossible to wrap by head around the accomplishments of this organization.

Together, We:

- *Opened the first ever Cultural Center in Atchison*
- *Took over management of the Muchnic Gallery grounds*
- *Rebranded*
- *Hired new employee*
- *Brought more art experience to Atchison free of charge*
- *Install 5 Beautiful Benches*
- *Hosted new community events*
- *Statewide recognition as leaders in the Arts/*

Our most Remarkable year to date! As I look at these outstanding accomplishments, I realize that change is not the biggest hurdle in our daily lives, businesses, or families; the biggest hurdle is the transition. How we work as a team, let go of patterns and open ourselves to new possibilities will be the measure of our success moving forward. As it turns out, change is easy; transitions are complex.

It is an exciting time for the arts. But, just opening the doors to a new venue will not be enough; simply adding a location is easy. The transitional questions that will ensure future success are about what we need to become, how we work as a team to affect the community. There has never been a better time to get involved with the Art Association, as we reorient and redefine who we are and how we benefit our community. We need you. We need the voice, talent, and time of volunteers like you to help us know who we can be.

Thank you for reading. I look forward to working with you in the transition,

~Deborah

WHAT WE DO.

WE ENSURE THE ARTS REMAIN A PRIORITY IN THE COMMUNITY!

The Atchison Art Association provides art exhibits, events, and education for the benefit and well-being of its citizens and visitors. It serves as a cultural resource for the Atchison community with special consideration to the needs of the underserved in our area.

MISSION: ACCESS TO THE ARTS, AVENUES FOR ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

VISION: A COMMUNITY STRENGTHENED AND TRANSFORMED BY ART

VALUES: FUN, INCLUSIVITY, PASSION

2022 GOALS AND RESULTS

Goal 1: Opening up the Cultural Center.

Result: Open three days a week

Goal 2: progress Public Art: Bridge, Benches, 400 block.

Result: Bridge moving forward, 3 benches installed.

Goal 3: Understand what communications need to be clarified.

Result: Embarked on re-branding



Local. Regional. Art & Architecture



A year of transitions, new roles, rebuilding, and reorganizing after two atypical years. The Muchnic Gallery greeted over 1,500 guests this year.

End of an Era

As the caretaker of the Muchnic Gallery Sharon was a steadfast steward, guide and friend of the arts for 25 years. As the Art Association takes on more responsibility, we know just how much Sharon contributed, and we are grateful. The Muchnic Foundation and the Atchison Art Association continue to be partners, together we move toward new opportunities for the art to flourish in Atchison



Ice Cream Social



100-year celebration, Ice Cream Social at the Muchnic Gallery in June. Set on the grounds of the Muchnic Gallery, Linda Clements organized family games, a balloon sculptor, Gallery tours, and of course Ice Cream. Attendance at the event exceeded our expectations as families came to spend the afternoon under the canopy of trees playing games and connecting to the community and each other.

Monets Garden project sets up in the Carriage House

The Masters Then and Now class of 2021 came up with a project to give back to the Atchison community through art. This spring they set up shop in the Carriage House to create stepping stone tiles for the Monets Garden project. The project includes a replica of Monets famous green garden bridge and landscaping in the Atchison Library courtyard. Partners in the project are the Atchison Library and Urban lawncare. All the stepping stones are complete and the class will install the project spring 2023 in the courtyard of the Atchison Library.



School Tours & New education partner programs



Collaborations between St. Benedicts and Benedictine college were a common theme for 2022. We were so grateful to have the artists Ellie & Haylie Folsom meet and talk with 3rd-8th grade students about their show. We are looking forward to hosting the Benedictine College graphic design majors senior review, welcoming parents and marketing students.

PorchFest

Partnering with Project Atchison, the grand porch of the Muchnic Gallery transformed to a stage. PorchFest is a community music event, where music is played from neighborhood porches. Residence brought lawn chairs, families and snacks filling 4th street to enjoy a day of music. The event was very well attended, we have plans to participate next year.



Special Guest

A quilting guild set up shop at the Muchnic for a day of creating, fellowship, and education. The group served lunch as 7 ladies worked on quilting projects, learned for each other and shared their love of the quilted arts.



2022 Shows & Exhibits



The Muchnic Gallery hosted Student works, giclees, photography, mixed media, woodworking and quilts this year. The 2022 Shows:

- S. Helen Buening Stuent Art Show, March
- Jeff Garrison, April-June
- Samuel Pickman, July-August
- Ellie & Haylie Folsom, August-October
- Patty and Ben Simmons, October-November
- Annual Member Show, December

Music at the Muchnic

The year ended with the annual Member Show. After brainstorming a new approach last summer, the show struggled to gain momentum and had both a smaller number of entries and a smaller crowd. Although it was not the success we had hoped for, it has inspired us to continue to explore ways in which we can revise the show and still appeal to our members.





CULTURAL CENTER

ATCHISON ART ASSOCIATION

Experiences that connect us



The Cultural Center opens to the Atchison community on June 20, 2022

Pay It Forward

In June, the dust settled and the bustle of construction came to a close, revealing the beauty of an elegant public space unlike anything else in the Atchison area. Our hearts were full as we hung Darrell's artwork for the first show. 'Pay It Forward: The Life, Art, and Legacy of Darrell Schmitt'. Before we opened our doors to the public, we gathered the people who knew and loved Darrell along with our donors for a night filled with gratitude and emotion.



Book Signing



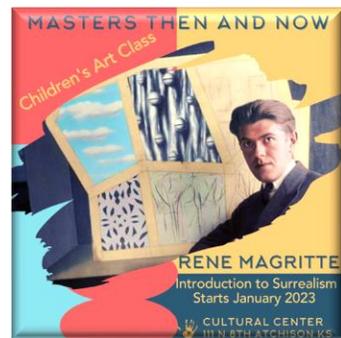
It wasn't long after the ribbon was officially cut that exciting opportunities started to come our way. "Vanished"! Cohosts Chris Williamson & Jennifer Taylor took us through a comprehensive study of the life, legacy, lore and disappearance of Amelia Earhart & Fred Noonan. 80 people attended this event as it live streamed via the popular podcast. Partners: Amelia Earhart Festival and Chris Williamson.

THE ART LAB

The Art Lab at the Cultural Center went into service. experimenting with the space, ideas,

Masters Then & Now Art Education

Masters Then and Now, our well-established children's art program settled happily into its new home at the Cultural Center. This year we have 33 students attending the weekly classes. As Atchison Art Association's flagship art education program, originated by Sister Helen Buening, this program includes art appreciation, techniques, and hands-on project learning. Masters Then & Now has an annual budget of \$2,700. Partners: Members of the Atchison Art Association, Courtney Laurie, The McConaughy Trust



Workshops



Exhibit related workshops, a Photography guild, and a film showing gave us the opportunity to tryout our new Art Lab space. Photography and beading workshops, art talks and the showing of the Lost nation utilized this resource to host events for the community. Partners: Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, Pottawatomie Tribe, Ioway Artist, Cray Foundation.



loway: Here to Stay

The first feature show at the Cultural Center had it all! Workshops, exhibits, artist talks, a feast, dancing, and music were just the surface. Over 100 people attended and 80 stayed for a special indigenous feast. This exhibit and space brought in statewide art commissions, community leadership programs, and universities to be inspired, educated, and build awareness of what is possible in a small community. Partners: Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, Pottawatomie Tribe, loway Artist, Cray Foundation.



Special Tours



It seems everyone wants to tour the Cultural Center and we are thrilled to host!

September we opened for a special tour organized by the Friends of Darryll Schmitt committee for the Golden Grads, Atchison Highschool Alumni. 33 people came, many of whom were friends with Darrell and shared their stories and memories with us.



Creating Access to the Arts and Avenues for Artistic Expression

Public Art

The Atchison Art Association remains dedicated to strengthening and transforming the community through art.

5 Beautiful Benches



Set of three, Flowers & Fun, Beautiful Benches by Donna Coleman were set at the Hwy 59 Rest stop alongside the On the Go sculpture.



Dan Bowen created a Lewis and Clark bench, located at 3rd and Riverfront Road.



Angela Spurlock of Back Road Atlas created Quilted Ambitions located on 5th and Commercial.

Thank you to Kearney Construction, City of Atchison, Russ McElwain & Angie Cairo from the Amelia Earhart Airport.

The Bridge

The Bridge continues its journey to fruition. Placement has been established with the Riverfront Development Committee for the main Riverfront area behind Mullers. Fundraising is coming to a close and the time for preparation and installation draws near. We anticipate a 2023 installation. Partners: Muchnic Foundation, Citizens of Atchison. Riverfront Development Committee, Zahner Company, artist Vaughn Schultz



THE BRIDGE
Concept

ADVOCACY

Telling the world what we do so that Art remains a priority in our community.

Branding



New buildings, faces, and possibilities...This organization was growing fast! To steward our new resources, we needed to be clear on who we are, how we tell people about us, provide motivation and direction for board and staff, create more awareness create culture! We need a rebrand! Branding recognition became a strong focus for staff and board.

Speaking opportunities

Thanks to many civic presentations the community has a better understanding of the Atchison Art Association. Thank you to board and staff who helped spread the message to Rotary, Retired Teachers of 409, Golden Grads, Louise Good News Show.

APPRECIATION FOR PEOPLE

The heartbeat of any organization! We were blessed to have so many join us this year.

First Darrell Schmitt Scholarship awarded.

Peter Zuzulo gave his acceptance speech as the first ever recipient of The Darrell Schmitt Scholarship. This award supports an Atchison high senior or equivalent seeking a degree in art, design or architecture. Peter is currently studying art and architecture at Benedictine College. You can meet him during opening receptions and special events.



Awards



Art Association member Ronda Crossland and community member Karly Nawrocki were awarded High Five award by the friends of Darrell Schmitt at Music at the Muchnic for their work in bring people to the Cultural Center through community events. These ladies exposed over 500 people to the Atchison Art Association and Cultural Center. High Five Ladies!

New Team Members



Two new faces joined the Atchison Art Association Team. Cooper Slough was elected to the Board of Directors, bringing his videography skills and a new generation to the organization. Christy Harris, past board president, was hired as the Cultural Center Director, she brings years of organization knowledge, programing, event hosting and an effervescent personality.



Artist in Residence program exploration

The Atchison Art Association has partnered with sculptor Kate Marin to explore the feasibility of an Artist in Residency program. This pilot program gives Kate the studio space she needs to work on her art and emerging art career. In exchange, Kate will conduct public and community experiences that draw residence into the creative process and techniques



APPEALS

Finding the Funds to do what we do!

Match Day

The Board of directors participated in a community wide match day, raising funds for the Bridge public art sculpture. Board members sent appeals to friends and family hoping to reach the maximum return of four thousand dollars.. through a collective effort 12,000 was raised for this project. Thank you for leading the way Rosemary!



Spirit Crawl



Amazing! October First Friday the AAA was designated as the non profit recipient of the proceeds from ticket sales. This brought 200 people to the Cultural Center to buy tickets and begin the event, raising \$1035.00 for the Atchison Art Association. A few weeks later was trick-or-treat in downtown Atchison which gave us the opportunity to meet nearly 200 families, most of whom didn't know anything about the Cultural Center. It was the perfect opportunity to pass out flyers for the loway Here to Stay opening festival.

How it all gets done

It takes a village! The Atchison Art Association is an all-volunteer charitable 501c3 organization. As a nonprofit, everything we do in the community is either free or highly 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 in 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. If you wish to donate art please 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 exciting event and join us or volunteer!
- Call 913.367.4ART

Wish Lists

What we need to thrive;

- Investors that want to fund Cultural Center exhibits
- Docents for the Muchnic Gallery & The Cultural Center
- Photographer for Show, tours and Events

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

2022 Board of Directors

Angie Cairo, President
Patty Boldridge, Vice President
John Bishop, Treasurer
Rosemary Wilkerson, Secretary
Linda Clements, Director
Cooper Slough, Director
Rosemary Wilkerson, Director
Donna Coleman, Director
Mike McCrory, Director
Nan Muchnic, Director Muchnic Chair

Staff

Deborah Geiger, Executive Director
Jennifer Tufte, Muchnic Gallery Dir.
Christy Harris, Cultural Center Dir.
Sarah Dunning, Docent
Carolyn Gubser, Docent
Peter Zuzolo, Intern

LOOKING FORWARD.

OUR LONG-TERM STRATEGIC GOAL:

A Thriving arts organization in a thriving arts community

2023 GOALS

Goal 1: Build Infrastructure as a foundation for growth

Goal 2: Ensure the arts are a priority in the Atchison Community

Goal 3: Create opportunities for jobs, participation, & engagement

Goal 4: Increase our visibility in the Community

