



FISHERS ARTS COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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2022



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

To echo past president Tom Rich in his 2021 Annual Report, "this will be my first (but not last) report to the Board of Directors at an annual meeting." It may not follow the exact flow of an annual report, so bare with me as I work through what I feel are important highlights of 2022.

As I compile my notes, I now see ways that data collection should be improved, areas that need more support, and a new way to appreciate those who participate in our events and juried exhibits. All of what we do is in support of the arts, but our artists truly do support us.

While we dialed back on programming from 2021, this did help us to focus in 2022. Our art fairs were strong, our Second Friday messaging was clear, and we began to work on partnerships.

We learned to not shy away from sponsorships and rekindled an old flame with Sun King Brewing. We spent time with Fishers Parks on Juneteenth Jubilee and Car + Art which led to other activities and is leading us along a path for 2023. We said goodbye to our home of over ten years, and hello to our new partnership with Hamilton County Community Foundation.

It's been a long but satisfying year filled with squirrels, local beer, some of the best student and professional art, classical jazzy and rock music, and incredible people - especially the people who sit around a table or on Zoom, who I have the honor to call my friends, the FAC board of directors.

Thank you and Cheers to 2023!

Les Reinhardt



# ART FAIRS



We offered three art fairs for our artists and community. We suffered difficulty in maintaining 2021 numbers for Art on the Prairie, our applications for Harvest Fest were triple of years past, while Car + Art maintained the same. Unfortunately Harvest Fest suffered under the rain and did not pull in the donations we had hoped, however our artists were happy to set up in the rain and create an incredibly welcoming, rainy event.

**Art on the Prairie:** 41 artists, 3 Spark activities, 3 nonprofits

**Car + Art:** 30 artists

**Harvest Fest (planned):** 48 artists, 1 Spark activity, 8 nonprofits



## SPARK! OF CREATIVITY

Spark! of Creativity moved from a solo event to activities paired with our Art Fairs, and closed out the year with a series of oil painting classes. All Spark! of Creativity funding came from grants and sponsorships, which cover all of the costs for the programs. While it may not seem to be a worthwhile program as it does not generate much revenue, having an arts education program continue to be an activity we offer allows for future funding for the organization.

## GALLERY

With constant date changes from City Hall regarding when we were to move out and finding a new location, we still offered 11 different exhibits in 2022.


We also experienced more engagement with students in 2022 and held three of our highest attended receptions on record:

**Embracing Black Culture:** 205

**Juried Exhibit:** 122 guests

**Emerging Artists:** 97 guests

Art Sales increased in 2022, and we included Book Sales during select Art Fairs. We also partnered with The Fishers Historical Society to create a Small Town/Fishers Historical Exhibit, which included Larry Reynolds as a guest speaker.




# VOLUNTEERS



Volunteer numbers, outside of existing board members, was lower than in the past, but we maintained a solid number of returning volunteers. These returning volunteers assisted with art fairs and Second Friday receptions, and became incredibly helpful as they learned our routines and methods.

We utilized the Fishers Volunteer website for two events, but had limited luck on volunteers attending training, and poor communication when events had to change last minute. The organization could benefit from an interested volunteer coordinator, as our repeat volunteers are excellent and should be treasured alongside our board.



## PARTNERS

Fishers Arts Council became the fiscal sponsor for Juneteenth Jubilee, as the support for opportunities for artists and musical performers aligns with our mission. Helping collect booth fees and sponsorships for the student-led group helped make their dreams reality. The students were excited to use Square to process event-day donations and sell event merchandise, and they expressed their appreciation at the support for all FAC did to bring the administrative side of the event together.

## RESPONSE

Several writers had contacted us about holding an Author Fair. While the board could not take on an additional event, we found a way to incorporate authors into our existing events. During Art on the Prairie we introduced an Artist Table at the FAC booth. That turned into an Authors Booth at Harvest Fest. The number of authors decreased between events, but authors appreciated the inclusion and sales were experienced at both events.

Families from previous focus groups requested activities for their kids to do during Winter Break. A Winter Break Art Class was developed and funded by a Penrod Society grant and a sponsorship from MashCraft in Fishers. While the class only drew one teenager, the adults who took the class gave it shining marks and asked for more!





## SUPPORTING MEMBERS

### **FRIENDS OF FAC**

Catherine Snider

Tom Rich

Gino Johnson

Shari Knox

Joanne Roeder

### **FAMILY**

Tracy Stebbe

### **INDIVIDUAL**

Bill Spellman

Paige Harper

Carla Naum



## **IN-KIND SUPPORT**

Peachin, Schwartz and Weingardt

Towne Post Network

Nickel Plate Arts

## **EVENT SPONSORS**

### **TITLE SPONSOR**

Jiffy Lube of Indiana

STAR Bank

Sun King Brewing

### **ARTS CHAMPIONS**

MashCraft Fishers

Four Day Ray

Propeller Marketing

Cordoba Strategy

Schoolhouse 7 Cafe

