



RESILIENCE

A YEAR OF RESILIENCE

Arts Midwest 2020-2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Photo by Pierre Ware, courtesy of
City of Minneapolis Creative CityMaking



In 2020, Arts Midwest celebrated its 35th anniversary.

For 35 years, we have served artists, audiences, and arts organizations across our region and beyond. We have produced tours and exhibitions, supported arts leaders, and brought communities together to experience creativity.

We reached this anniversary milestone in a year that was like no other in our history. Communities across the world are suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Arts organizations and artists have been deeply impacted by shuttered venues, travel restrictions, and social distancing. And in May of 2020, the city of Minneapolis, where Arts Midwest is headquartered, became the epicenter of a long-overdue racial justice awakening catalyzed by the murder of George Floyd in the hands of the police.

The work needed to rebuild and renew the creative sector is humbling. Yet the resilience of our region inspires us in this time of unprecedented difficulty. People are drawing on art and creativity to heal, connect, and move forward.

Strong communities need strong partners. For this recovery to succeed, we must work together to renew and rebuild. Arts Midwest is committed to supporting a creative and equitable Midwest – now and for the next 35 years.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Torrie Allen,
President & CEO

Peter Capell,
Board Chair

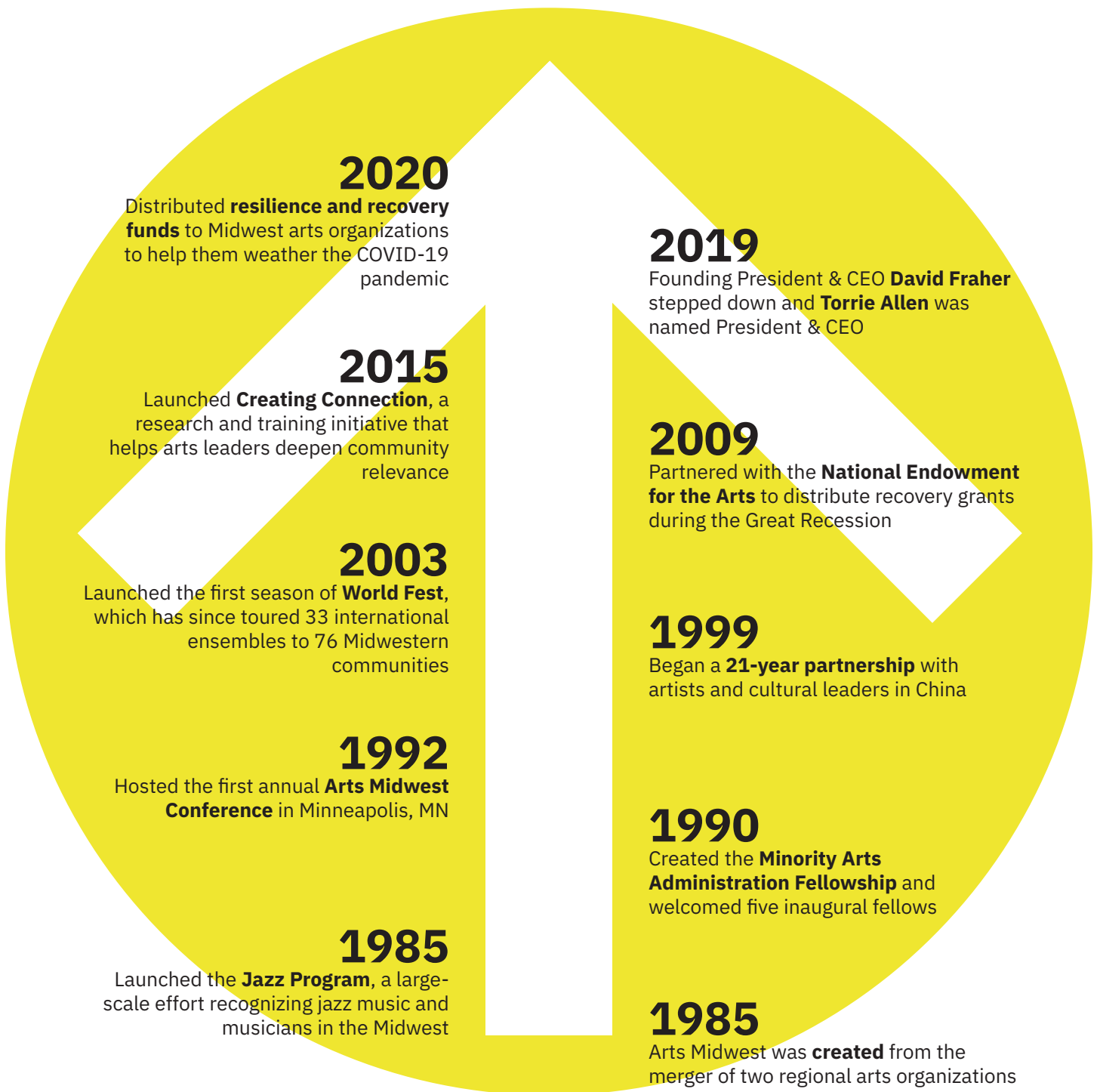
OUR VALUES

EQUITY

We commit to centering diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in our operations, programs, and relationships.

CREATIVITY

We believe Midwestern art and creativity are essential to the well-being and vibrancy of communities.



THE MIDWEST

We work hard to connect, support, and honor the people and places that compose our region.

LEARNING

We share what we learn with Midwestern artists and arts organizations to support them in being more visible, resilient, and sustainable.

INTEGRITY

We believe we are doing our best work when we listen and respond with empathy, humility, and authenticity.



COMMUNITY VOICES

2020 was a year of listening. In coffee hour Zooms, Conference keynotes, and one-on-one calls, we heard from grantees, partners, and audience members across the Midwest as we tried to find a path forward, together.

Chicago, Illinois

"If you are sick, I am sick. If I cannot recover, you cannot recover. We have a mandate to re-imagine."

ANGELIQUE POWER

*President of the Field Foundation,
speaking at the Arts Midwest
Conference*



OUR MISSION

Arts Midwest promotes creativity, nurtures cultural leadership, and engages people in meaningful arts experiences, bringing vitality to Midwest communities and enriching people's lives.



Sisseton, South Dakota

“The need for relationships has been accentuated even more. We may be gathering in different ways, but we are still making connections.”

KARIE GEYER

We the Many Participant



Chicago, Illinois

“People are just tired. There’s a hunger to be out. There’s a need to get to some kind of normalcy. The hardest thing is just continuing to have the faith that we will pass this.”

CARLOS TORTELERO

Founder of the National Museum of Mexican Art, a United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund Grantee

Massillon, Ohio

“Being in [an online book group] is really something I wish there was more of. The feeling of not being alone when you’re handling this stuff is comforting.”

JOHN STRAUSS

NEA Big Read Participant



Brainerd, Minnesota

“Whatever we do this summer, we will have to be flexible until the day we start.”

SCOTT LYKINS

Executive Director of the Lakes Area Music Festival, an Arts Midwest Touring Fund Grantee

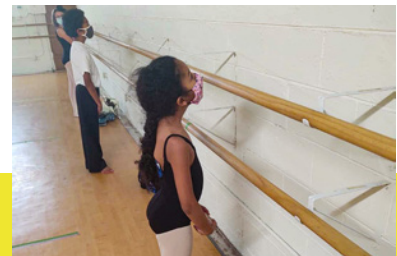


Gary, Indiana

“We’ve learned to adapt. Arts in general does what art does best — innovate.”

ALIA HAWKENS

Founder of Beachfront Dance School, a United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund Grantee



OUR REGION

Based in Minneapolis, we grow, gather, and invest in creative organizations and communities throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, and beyond.



CREATIVE HEALING

How can art help a community heal after trauma? In the fall of 2020, Arts Midwest worked with the Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy of the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota to disburse money to 10 artist-led creative healing projects that responded to the trauma of racial discrimination and inspired change.

“Artists use their skills to weave community relationships, build social cohesion, and help communities heal on their own terms.”

– GÜLGÜN KAYIM

Director of the Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy



**SELF CARE
THROUGH HAIRCUTS**

Samuel Babatunde Ero-Phillips and Christie Marie Owens created a pop-up barber shop and permanent altar installation on Lake Street, the heart of Minneapolis's immigrant corridor. By offering free haircuts, the artists created a space for neighbors to practice self-care.



**COMMUNITY
GATHERINGS**

Sayge Carroll and Keegan Xavi connected neighbors in two Minneapolis communities through *Harvest Feast*, outdoor events that focused on art, healing, and food. These events helped neighbors bond and learn about and from one another.



**PROJECTING
THE FUTURE**

D.A. Bullock's project *excited delirium* projected videos of Black artists and performers onto damaged or destroyed places in Minneapolis as a way to encourage neighbors to take part in rebuilding and re-envisioning the future.

From L to R: Photos by Keegan Xavi, Pierre Ware and Nancy Musunguzi. Courtesy of City of Minneapolis Creative CityMaking

Creative CityMaking is a program of the Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy at the City of Minneapolis. Funding is provided by The Kresge Foundation. Arts Midwest acted as fiscal agent for the disbursement of grant funds.

THE
KRESGE
FOUNDATION



SUPPORTING THE FIELD THROUGH CRISIS

United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund

How can we ensure that recovery from a crisis is equitable? Recognizing the organizations, Arts Midwest teamed up with the other five U.S. Regional Arts

UNEVEN IMPACTS

Systemic bias has prevented rural organizations and organizations led by and serving people of color from accessing resources that could help them weather this crisis. It was clear the Resilience Fund needed to focus on serving those organizations and leaders.

CENTERING ACCESS

It was important that this fund was of, by, and for our region. So we centered rural communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color in the decision-making process. We invited nominations from the community and simplified our grantmaking process.

THE
ANDREW W.
MELLON
FOUNDATION

The United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund is an initiative of Arts Midwest and its peer United States Regional Arts Organizations made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Funding for smaller organizations in Arts Midwest's region is generously supported by an anonymous donor.



From L to R:
Photo by Terry Gilliam.
Photo by Sarah Jjira Howard,
courtesy Detroit Music Weekend.

devastating impact of COVID-19 on historically under-resourced arts
Organizations to offer a national relief fund.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

We distributed more than \$3 million to 91 organizations across our region. These relief grants do not require matches and are not restricted, meaning that organizations can put the money to work where it's needed most.

FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY

In addition to grants, we're offering our community training, resources, and space to deepen relationships, share knowledge, and build skills around resilience and sustainability.

\$3,015,000

DISTRIBUTED IN 2020

91

ORGANIZATIONS

9

STATES



CONVENING IN THE TIME OF COVID

Arts Midwest Conference

For 30 years, Arts Midwest has been bringing the performing arts industry together to connect and plan live music, theater, and dance. But in 2020, we were faced with different questions.

- ➔ *After months of dark stages, how do we provide support and resources for reopening?*
- ➔ *How can we support artists who are struggling to stay afloat and produce their work?*
- ➔ *How can we invite our industry to reimagine its future—during and beyond the pandemic?*

RETHINKING THE CONFERENCE

We combined our team, resources, and imaginations with Western Arts Alliance, a longtime partner of Arts Midwest. Together, we reworked the Conference, creating the first-of-its-kind virtual event for the performing arts industry.

The Conference was designed to meet the moment, addressing themes of coming together and creating innovative change. It focused on equity, exploring ways that our field can combat systemic racism in our organizations and communities. In online panels, group discussions, and chats, participants explored how to build a new future together.

1,874
CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

“Thank you for coming up with a creative solution that has allowed us to connect in the best way possible during this time. I am most grateful for your innovation and appreciate the opportunity to see my friends/colleagues!”

—JANET HERMAN BARLOW
Stocker Arts Center/Lorain County
Community College



CONNECTING CULTURES ACROSS DISTANCE

World Fest

Typically, Arts Midwest World Fest tours international artists to Midwest communities for week-long residencies that promote connection and cultural exchange. But in a year where travel wasn't possible, our team had to find new ways to foster global connections.

GOING VIRTUAL

Three World Fest artists/ensembles—Paulo Padilha e Bando (Brazil), Hikaru (Japan), and Hadar Maoz (Israel)—joined us for the first-ever World Fest Online. We produced nine videos that offered workshops and scenes from the artists' lives, hosted virtual concerts, and brought the artists into classrooms across the Midwest for virtual workshops.

COMMUNITY AND ARTIST CONNECTIONS

At the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, students partnered with Paulo Padilha e Bando to create a new music video for his song "Outro Carnaval." Blending traditional music from Brazil with the sounds of more than 50 choral and band students from Wisconsin, World Fest proved that even a pandemic is no match for the power of creativity to bring people together.

"We got to try different [ways] of rehearsing and recording that we had never done before. A couple of semesters ago, Paulo came to UW-Stout, and we all sang and played together; it was a great example of unity. Even now, thousands of miles away, we [still] glimpsed that kind of unity."

—MEGAN KLAVER, UW-STOUT STUDENT



54
STATES + REGIONS

22
COUNTRIES

ARTS MIDWEST STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

for year ending June 30, 2020

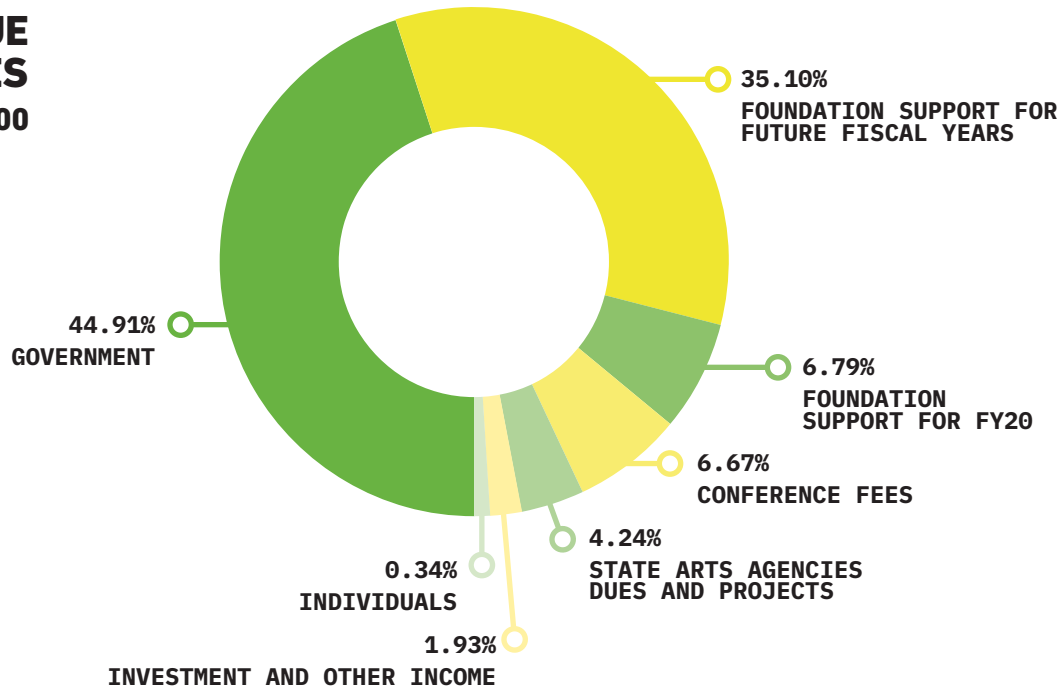
REVENUE	
Foundation contributions	\$ 4,777,000
Individual contributions	39,000
Government grants	5,121,000
Conference fees	761,000
State arts agencies dues and projects	484,000
Investment and other income	220,000
Total Revenue and Support	11,403,000
EXPENSES	
Program Services	6,247,000
Management and general	1,234,000
Fundraising	191,000
Total Expenses	7,672,000
Change in Net Assets	\$ 3,731,000

Rounded to the nearest thousand

In FY20, Arts Midwest received \$4,003,000 in foundation support for programming taking place in future fiscal years (FY21 and beyond), including Resilience Fund grants distributed in FY21. These restricted funds resulted in an increase in our net assets but were not available to us for ongoing support of operations in FY20.

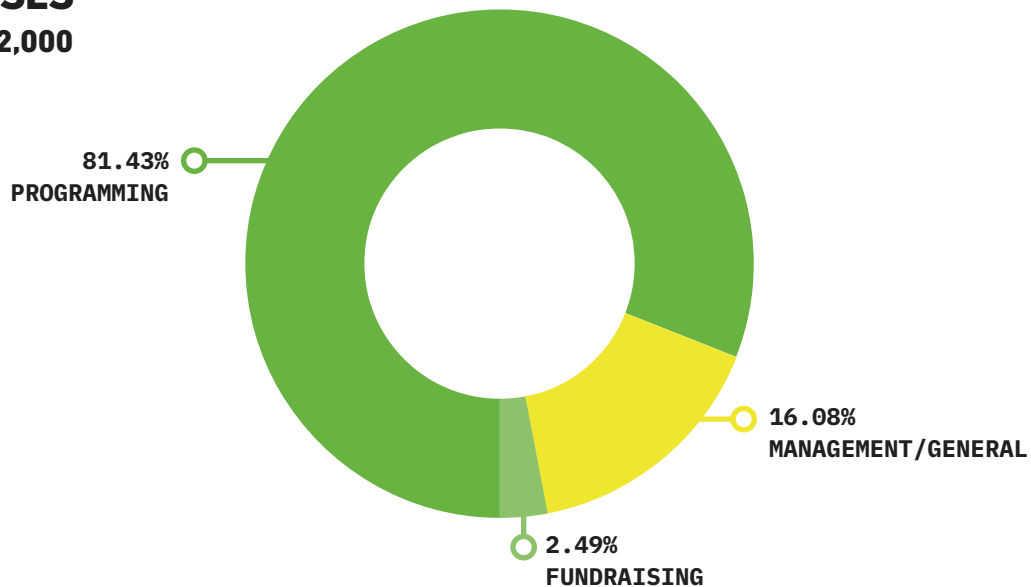
REVENUE SOURCES

\$11,403,000



EXPENSES

\$7,672,000



In FY20, Arts Midwest founding President & CEO David Fraher stepped down as part of a planned leadership transition. Torrie Allen joined the organization as President & CEO in August 2019. David remained on staff until November 2019 as an advisor to ensure a smooth and successful transition. Arts Midwest's Board of Directors approved additional expenses related to this transition. As a result, management expenses in FY20 were higher than usual, at 16%. Arts Midwest's management expenses typically range from 10-13%.

REMEMBERING COLLEEN MCLAUGHLIN

Arts Midwest was deeply saddened by the passing of Colleen McLaughlin on August 6, 2020. Colleen was a member of the Arts Midwest team from 2005 until 2019, serving in multiple leadership roles, including Vice President of Advancement. A joyful friend, committed leader, and champion for creativity, Colleen helped steward support for the arts across the Midwest.

"Colleen's passion and commitment to the arts leave behind a profound legacy. In her nearly 15 years with Arts Midwest, Colleen cultivated relationships and secured the funding necessary for Arts Midwest to thrive and carry out its mission. She was a trusted colleague and committed mentor. Her impact on the individuals and communities throughout the Midwest and the nation served by Arts Midwest's programs will endure."

—BRIAN TIEMANN
Arts Midwest Board Vice Chair

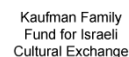


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Yumi Inomata, in memory

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*donations given in honor of Colleen McLaughlin

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