



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

The Mount Vernon Area Arts Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase the **knowledge, understanding, cooperation, appreciation and practice of the arts** in the Mount Vernon-Lisbon area.

Highlights 2018-2019



POET LAUREATE

The arts council envisioned and promoted, and the Mount Vernon City Council established, the position of Poet Laureate. After a community-wide search, Marianne Taylor was named to the inaugural position. Taylor is an English professor at Kirkwood College, a published poet, and a former member of the Mount Vernon City Council. In her first official event, Taylor presented a Favorite Poem reading. More than 20 people from the community read their favorite poem and described why they selected the poem. Taylor's other undertakings: Insert a different poem in the poetry box in front of the Presbyterian Church each week and present an original work at the Mount Vernon Cemetery Memorial Day Remembrance event.

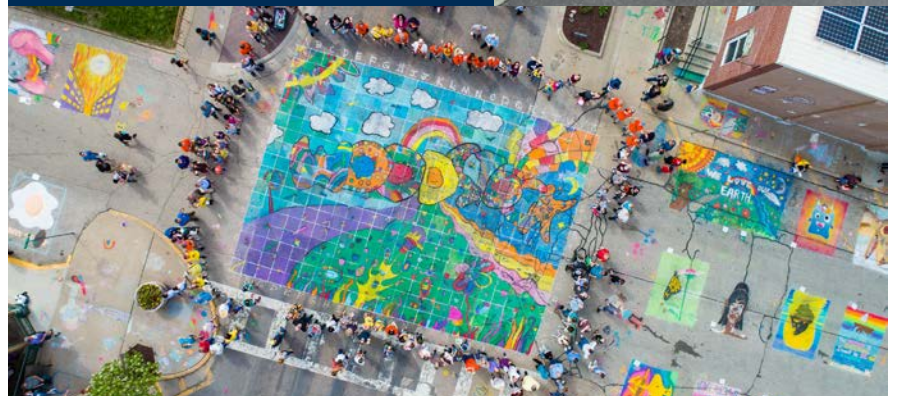


A NEW MURAL

MVAAC helped fund the mural on the side of the Zoe's Pet Deli building. It joins the Community Mural completed in the city parking lot in 2017 – both designed by Strider Patton who grew up in Mount Vernon.

FESTIVALS

MVAAC helps present two festivals in Mount Vernon. We're a partner in the Chalk the Walk festival, the town's largest event. We sponsor September's Lincoln Highway Arts Festival (Sept. 14 this year) which attracts dozens of local and regional artists for an old-fashioned street fair.





COMMUNITY GRANTS

During the past two years, MVAAC distributed nearly \$8,000 to the community to support projects such as student trips, Balderdash Ditty musical performances, Little Free Libraries, and more.

LISBON AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND BOARD TRAINING

The arts council supports a monthly After School Café at the Southeast Linn Community Center in Lisbon. Each session brings a local artist to the center to engage students in an art project.

The Mount Vernon Area Arts Council funds four scholarships, two each at Mount Vernon and Lisbon High Schools. The scholarships are awarded to seniors who have shown promise in one of the arts.

Last year, three members of the MVAAC board participated in an art management training program presented by the Iowa Arts Council. The resulting work product was a new Strategy Roadmap for the MVAAC. The process also helped forge stronger relationships with the Iowa Arts Council.



CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

MVAAC applied to the Iowa Arts Council to designate 10 blocks of First Street in Mount Vernon as an official Cultural and Entertainment District. The district begins at the First Street Community Center on the east and extends to the west end of the Cornell campus. Watch for more about this in the coming year!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

An art educator, a grants writer, a business owner, a musician, an administrator, an accountant, and visual artists are among the members of MVAAC’s Board of Directors. By covering all the bases, MVAAC hopes to provide the best leadership possible.

Support

About a third of our funding comes from business and individual donations. Folks like you! The other two thirds are provided by the City of Mount Vernon and area organizations including The McIntyre Foundation and the Maurice Foundation. We are fortunate to have such varied support.

President

Steve Maravetz

Vice President

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Danielle Chargo

Members

Dale Beeks

Tiffany Carr

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Incorporated in 2004 as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, MVAAC is dedicated to creating a community where the arts are economic drivers as well as an aesthetic component of the Mount Vernon/Lisbon area.

CONTACT US

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