



# MOUNT VERNON AREA ARTS COUNCIL

## CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT SIGNAGE

Signs have been erected officially designating 14 blocks of First Street in Mount Vernon as an Iowa Cultural and Entertainment District. Mount Vernon received the designation from the state in 2019 following an application from the arts council. As a result of the designation, Mount Vernon will be listed in various tourism promotion materials distributed by the Iowa Department of Economic Development.



## MOUNT VERNON POET LAUREATE 2021- 2022 SELECTED

Amelia Kibbie was selected as Mount Vernon's second poet laureate, a position created and supported by the arts council in partnership with the city. She succeeds Marianne Taylor. Amelia is a graduate of Mount Vernon High School and now lives and teaches in Lisbon. Mount Vernon is the smallest city in America with an official poet laureate.

## LINCOLN HIGHWAY ARTS FESTIVAL WILL RETURN SEPTEMBER 18

After a year's hiatus, the annual Lincoln Highway Arts Festival will return to downtown Mount Vernon on Saturday Sept. 18. Applications are open for artists interested in participating.



## POCKET PARK PUBLIC ART 2021

The MVAAC contributed \$10,000 for an artwork installation in Mount Vernon's new "Pocket Park" located on Main Street in the alley between the Sweet Factory and Scarlett Boutique. Following a call for artists which drew 33 responses from as far away as Greece, Tim Adams of Webster City, IA, was selected to create a metal wall sculpture that will be mounted on The Sweet Factory building. (rendering above)

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.



## CHALK THE WALK 2020-2021

After a virtual Chalk the Walk in 2020, won by Mary Campbell (photo above), the 2021 event came roaring back with 150 artists participating. First place went to Bryce Cox, Mount Vernon resident and teacher, who was also the 2017 winner. The event drew large crowds anxious to get out of the house after 15 months of the pandemic.

## FARM TO FORK EVENT 2021

The MVAAC received a \$2,000 grant from the Iowa Arts Council to sponsor a Farm to Fork event on Thursday, July 8 in conjunction with the local Farmers Market at the First Street Community Center. Local people involved in agriculture will work with former Iowa Poet Laureate and Iowa State University professor emerita Mary Swander to prepare stories about weather.

## MAPS OF LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Maps of the area's Little Free Libraries are available at Lisbon & MV City Halls, the public libraries, and at each LFL. Grab one and visit all 18!

## MVAAC SUPPORTS LOCAL PROGRAMS AND ARTISTS

The arts council distributed \$1,500 in grants to artists struggling during the pandemic. Other grants awarded in the past year went to the Uke Squad to publish a book of ukulele transcriptions, the MV-Lisbon Community Theatre for its upcoming Shakespeare play, to Mount Vernon High School to help host the WAMAC conference all-school arts workshops and exhibition, and to Mount Vernon Creates for its Artists Portrayal of Mount Vernon.

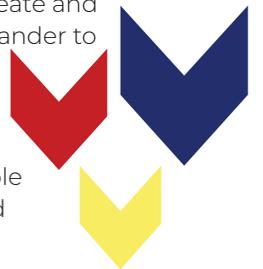
## MONTHLY WRITERS NIGHT CONTINUES

The indefatigable writers of Mount Vernon and Lisbon soldiered on through the pandemic, meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month at Mount Vernon Creates for socially safe Writers Nights.

## MVAAC ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

Emma Stevenson of Mount Vernon High School was this year's recipient of the \$1,000 Mount Vernon Area Arts Council scholarship. The scholarship, which is given to a senior at Mount Vernon and Lisbon High Schools on alternate years, recognizes a student who has shown promise in one of the fine or performing arts.

HIGHLIGHTS 2020-2021



Because our funding comes from area businesses and individual donors, foundations, grants and the City of Mount Vernon, we are confident the arts council is sustainable. Thanks to all who support the Mount Vernon Area Arts Council!

**Artiste: \$500+**

City of Mount Vernon  
 Ilene Crawford & Robert McGuire  
 Downtown Dental/Dawn Gaffney  
 Hills Bank  
 The Maurice Foundation  
 The McIntyre Foundation

**Imagineer: \$250+**

Mount Vernon Ace Hardware  
 fuel  
 Les & Katrina Garner/Greater Cedar  
 Rapids Community Foundation  
 Kay Johansen, Attorney  
 Koppenhaver & Associates  
 James Rebhuhn & Carol  
 Wozniak-Rebhuhn  
 Stewart Baxter Funeral &  
 Memorial Services

**Performer: \$100+**

Marie & Steve DeVries  
 Ed Fordyce  
 Glenn & MB Freeman  
 Emory Gillespie & Bob David  
 Hertz Farm Management  
 Lynch Ford Chevrolet  
 M & K Dust Control  
 Steve Maravetz & Dixie Collins  
 The Right Frame of Mind

**Patron: \$50+**

Bauman's  
 Dale Beeks  
 Lynda Bui  
 Kae Apothecary  
 Ann Hufford  
 Geoffrey Matsumoto  
 Mount Vernon Eye Clinic  
 Mount Vernon Insurance Agency

**Advocate: Other contributions including in-kind**

Christian & Mariah Andrews  
 Helios  
 Jake Jakoubek  
 Emily O'Connell  
 Mount Vernon Creates/Denise and  
 Robert Murphy  
 Tony Potter  
 Jeff Sellers  
 Anne Silva

SUPPORT

The MVAAC Board of Directors is comprised of community members from Mount Vernon and Lisbon with diverse backgrounds.

**Caitlyn Wu Campagna** is a new MVAAC member and has a background in multimedia production, event planning, interior and graphic design, and wine. She has spent the last several years working in fundraising for higher ed institutions and volunteering for organizations serving women and children.

**Dan Campagna** is a mild-mannered digital marketer by day, but a producer of local theatre by day... also. It's all done during the day, actually. He's a recovering graphic designer and actor with frequent relapses.

**Tiffany Carr, Ph.D.** is an educator, author, artist, and five-year resident of Mount Vernon's historic Ash Park District. She currently serves as secretary of MVAAC and has been on the council for two and half years.

**Danielle Chargo** is the owner of Iron Leaf Press, a letterpress stationery shop in Mount Vernon, and has served on MVAAC for nine years. She is also active in other volunteer opportunities, including the Cedar Rapids HOPEwalk. She likes to travel and garden in her spare time.

Recently returning to Mount Vernon **Jocelyn Châteauvert** is a professional artist. Her work is shown nationally and internationally

**Marie DeVries**, serving her 7th year on the MVAAC board, is a retired urban planner/project manager now dedicated to local arts, culture and water quality.

**Brittney Hejda**, new to the MVAAC Board this year, is an Artist and Interior Designer with a focus on sustainability by using reclaimed materials, energy efficient

systems and second hand items in her fabric flowers business, and home design projects. She has been a part of the Mount Vernon Community for almost 2 years now, and serves on the Chalk the Walk Committee.

**Mark Lengwin** has been serving as the council treasurer since 2017. While no one will mistake him for an artist, his work as a software developer does require a certain level of creativity. And he knows how to balance a checkbook.

**Steve Maravetz** is retired from University of Iowa Health Care, where he was a marketing and communications executive. He has served as president of the arts council since 2013.

THE BOARD

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.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

An art educator, a grants writer, a business owner, a writer, 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.

**President**  
 Steve Maravetz  
**Vice President**  
 Marie DeVries  
**Treasurer**  
 Mark Lengwin  
**Secretary**  
 Tiffany Carr

**Members**  
 Dan Campagna  
 Caitlyn Campagna  
 Danielle Chargo  
 Jocelyn Chateauvert  
 Brittney Hejda  
**Mount Vernon Poet Laureate**  
 Amelia Kibbie

**CONTACT US**

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