



# 2022 Annual Report





Dear Friends of Open AIR,

As the saying goes, 'If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together!' 2022 was a year of growth and togetherness, and it's exciting to think of just how far we can go!

In May of 2022, thanks to a significant two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, we welcomed Kelli Sinner, ceramic artist and educator-turned-nonprofiteer, to the newly minted role of Program Coordinator. Additionally, local musician and fashionista Sasha Bell held down the house as our part-time events coordinator. Our fabulous intern, Kaisha Gerhardt (who has the best costumes), has been laying art-filled tracks on our YouTube channel (are you subscribed? @openairmt).

Working with a team has brought levity and sustainability and has grown our capacity to serve artists and our community. Please keep reading for more excellent feats from our small but mighty team in 2022!

Additionally, I hope you will join us this year for many meaningful opportunities (both online and in-person) to connect with the arts in unique places in Montana.

Thank you for being so supportive of the arts with Open AIR.

In gratitude,



Stoney Samsoe

*co-founder, Executive Director*



## 2022 Open AIR Artists-in-Residence

David Lusk  
Holly Tripp  
Carolyn Courson  
Aaron Jennings  
Grace Brogan  
Cait Finley  
Jessi Harvey  
Judy Wildman

Stella Nall  
Angela Cieslewitz-Pierson  
Jennifer Ogden  
Rachael Marjamaa  
Bill Bowers  
Hannah Harvey  
Gunhild Lien

Ian Hanesworth  
Maria Uhase  
Kelsie Leonard  
Sophia Hart  
Kate Mostad  
Claire Thompson  
Suzanne Hackett-Morgan

Thank You

# Highlights

**22 artists** participated in the residency program, including **13 MT-based artists.**

We facilitated 3 five-week Residency Sessions and placed almost **\$30,000** directly into the hands of artists.

All residencies were **free-of-charge** and we awarded stipends to every participating Artist-in-Residence.

Artists worked **across disciplines including:** painting, sculpture, printmaking, writing, dance, textile, music & composition.

**2,000+ attendees** joined us for **46 free public events**, including 4 art exhibitions which drew over 1,200 attendees.

Over 200+ attended our **Indigenous Initiatives** speaker series which featured Indigenous artists & leaders in 4 online presentations.

We worked closely with over **2 dozen community partners** to support creativity and education in Montana.

Recipient of the 2022 Arts Missoula **Cultural Vision Award.**

*"I was so inspired by the time I had in Philipsburg... The space I was provided was extraordinary as a living and working space. I was also given carte blanche access to the theatre!... It was inspiring & comforting to know that there were other artists all over the area in the same (wonderful) boat as me."*

- Bill Bowers (top left), Philipsburg, Summer 2022

With Significant Support from...

**Laura Grace Barrett Living Art Family Foundation**

**The National Endowment for the Arts**

**Patt and Terry Payne**

**The Llewellyn Foundation**

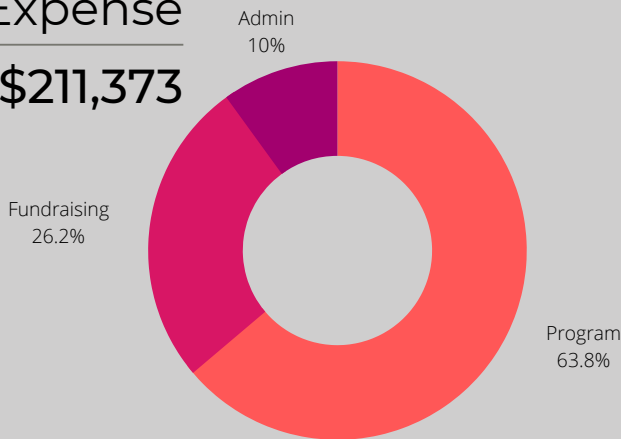
# Thank You

# Financial

## 2022 Expenses

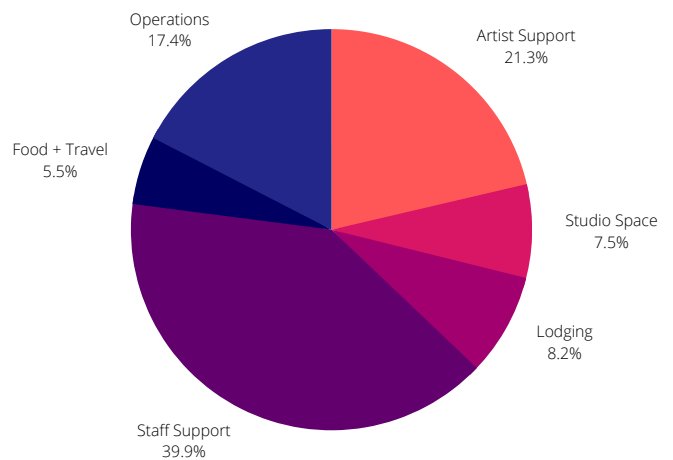
### Total Expense

\$211,373



### Open AIR Program Costs

\$134,884



### Avg Cost Per Artist

\$6,131



*"It is so nice to have fresh new perspectives, have people who come from different places, work with different media and get to come to the [Montana Natural History Center], and see what we have and incorporate what we do into what they do."*

- Drew Lefebvre, Museum Programs Coordinator, Montana Natural History Center

## Founding Members

Kevin Bateman  
Urban Bear Don't Walk  
Dana Boussard  
Sunni & Merrill Bradshaw  
H. Rafael Chacón & Andrew Laue  
Hadley & John Ferguson  
Reagyn Germer & Monte Mills  
Jana Hood

Jen Leutzinger  
Barbara Liss  
Sandra Marker  
Carl John McKay  
Leah & Sam Ore  
Addie Palin & Jason Sloat  
Dawn & Tim Payne

Celeste Payne  
Laurie Robinson  
Nicole Rush  
Bill & Barb Samsøe  
Stoney & Erik Samsøe  
Sandy Sheppard  
Amy Sings In The Timber

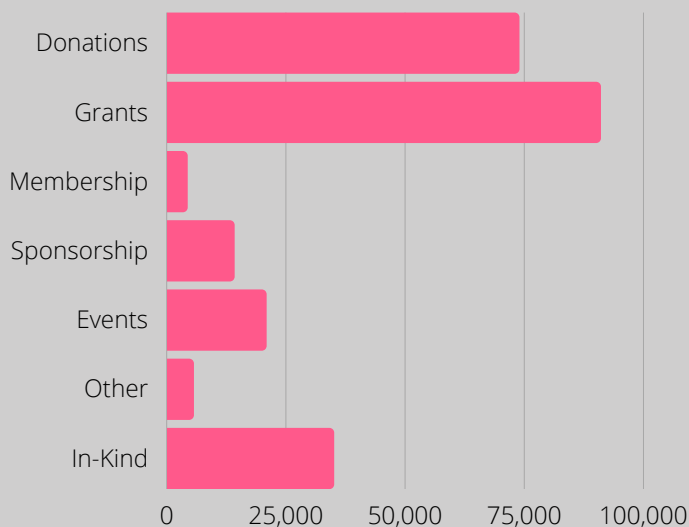
# Thank You

# Picture

## 2022 Income

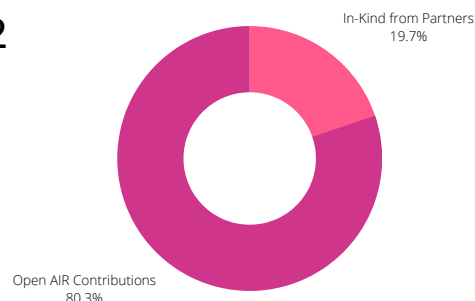
### Total Income

\$245,577



## In-Kind Program Support

\$31,802



A Collaborative Model = Lower Core Costs

**Significant support for Open AIR is generated through partnerships. This means we do more with 'less' and ensure your donations go the distance.**

In 2022, we received over 700 hours of in-kind staff support!



*"Having the opportunity to be somewhat whimsical was priceless. The freedom to spend time focusing on my process without an active audience has significantly changed how I approach my art. I've come away from this experience with a healthier relationship to my own craft, and confidence that if I make the art that makes me happy everything else will fall into place."*

- Aaron Jennings (left), Clark Chateau  
Spring 2022

## Open AIR Board of Directors

**Sami Stanley (Board Chair)**  
**Carl John McKay (Treasurer)**  
**Reagyn Germer (Governance Chair)**  
**Stoney Samsoe**

**Addie Palin (Fundraising Chair)**  
**Amy Sings In The Timber**  
**Kevin Bateman**  
**Carrie Richer (Artist Rep)**  
**Janel Woodworth**

**Katie Van Dorn**  
**Elisabeth Marshall**  
**Sally Jo Beck (incoming)**  
**Anne McNallen (incoming)**

# Thank You



# In-Situ

with the Emlen Biology Lab

During the summer of 2022, Open AIR Artists-in-Residence Jessi Harvey (Minnesota, Composition) and Julynn Wildman (Helena, Dance) explored and experimented with new creations inspired by the Emlen Evolutionary Biology Lab. Julynn and Jessi visited with Doug Emlen and his graduate researchers to dig deep & learn about invertebrates which resulted in collaborative new works exploring the anatomy of sound and movement, which they hope to debut in the coming future!



*"[It's been really fun] to have these two incredibly talented artists in residence hanging out in the lab listening to recordings of the beetles, and watching videos of the insects, studying the animals and being immersed in the chaos of the lab ... I'm super excited to see what they have been able to come up with."*

- Doug Emlen, evolutionary biologist & Professor of Biology

**EMLEN  
LAB**



*"The partnership with the lab showed me how important close proximity to research, and conversations with the people doing the research is to my music. Each one of my pieces involves learning about their subject. I feel that the depth of knowledge I gained from the members of the lab also gave my composing a new depth."*

- Jessi Harvey (above), Emlen Lab, Summer 2022

## 2022 Open AIR Annual Program Sponsors

### Luminary

Blackfoot Communications  
Clyde Coffee

### Inspired

Republic Services  
Taurus Wealth  
Management  
Morgenroth Music

### Crafters

Ace Hardware  
Western Montana Lighting  
Portico Real Estate  
Art Haus  
Park Side Credit Union

Thank You

# Open AIR

## *Vision*

Our VISION is to strengthen the creative capacity and well-being of Montana through arts-based cross-sector collaborations.

## *Mission*

Our MISSION is to enrich communities by connecting people with creativity and place.



## *Values*

collaboration,  
creative place-making,  
artist-community integration,  
and education.

*"Having access to a workspace and new tools was a total game-changer for me. As someone who doesn't have a studio space, it felt so liberating to be given so much room and free reign to work."*

- Hannah Harvey (above), Missoula Public Library, Fall 2022

## 2022 Open AIR Site Partners

Montana Natural History Center  
Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation  
UM School of Visual and Media Art  
UM Blewett School of Law, Indian Law Prgm  
Emlen Evolutionary Biology Lab  
Flathead Lake Biological Station

Missoula Public Library  
Moon Randolph Homestead  
Traveler's Rest State Park  
Historic Clark Chateau  
Home ReSource  
Philipsburg Arts Fund

# You + 2023

## Residency Schedule:

Spring - April 10 - May 14

Summer I - May 22 to - June 24

Summer II - July 5 - August 15

Fall - September 26 - October 22

[openairmt.org/events](https://openairmt.org/events)

## Shop!

[openairmt.org/merch](https://openairmt.org/merch)



Visit our online store  
& snag awesome  
eco- friendly merch  
designed by  
Open AIR artists!

## Get Involved!

Attend a talk, workshop, or exhibition,  
throw a house party, volunteer, donate,  
and more!

Learn more by visiting our website or contact:

Stoney Samsoe

[director@openairmt.org](mailto:director@openairmt.org)

[openairmt.org](https://openairmt.org)



"Open AIR helped remind me that it is important to seek out inspiration constantly... I think it was important for me to remember that creativity is messy and that it is perfectly OK to try things out and keep work in progress."

- Kate Mostad (above, in process), Flathead Lake Biological Station, Fall 2022

## 2022 Community Partners

Gallery 709

Missoula Urban Demonstration Project (MUD)

Philip Wright Zoological Museum

Philipsburg Theater

Philipsburg Public Library

University of Montana School of Visual and Media Arts

Westside Theater

## 2022 Jurors

Jesse Blumenthal

Monica Gilles Brings Yellow

John Knight

Jenny Montgomery

Christopher Moyles

Lenada Peppers

Sienna Solberg

Thank You