While 2020 proved to be a challenging and unprecedented year, The Arts Commission remained dedicated to serving our creative community and cultural workers. Through the support of the staff, board, and community we were able to pivot our programming in response to the global pandemic and civic unrest. From providing relief to artists and organizations that COVID-19 relief funding would not otherwise reach, to creating safe and self-guided programs, and enhancing public spaces The Arts Commission paid over $600,000 directly to 297 artists.

PLANNING FOR AN ADAPTIVE FUTURE
GUIDING PRINCIPLES
• Art is Work
• Enhancing Public Space
• Safe & Self-Guided Experience
• IDEA

COVID 19 ECONOMIC IMPACT
ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE ARTS:
• Covid-19 triggered a devastating blow to the arts industry, in particular, with national surveys reporting 59% of nonprofit arts organizations closed, at its peak, and 63% of artists and creative workers unemployed.

• Support for artists and creatives in our region is essential to the greater Toledo area’s revitalization, sense of place, and commitment to a brighter future.

• Health and well-being, both individually and for communities, is about being able to flourish and grow. In both arenas, the arts have played a strong role, leading to an increased quality of life.
Art Box is a specially selected set of art supplies for all ages, skill levels, and interests to create and learn with Toledo-area artists. The initiative provided the opportunity to continue engaging with our community while also supporting local artists and businesses. The public is encouraged to share their creations on social media throughout the season using the hashtag, #MyVibrantToledo. Featured artists were commissioned to create step-by-step lessons along with video tutorials that will be available for free download:

- 1st edition - launched June 18
- 2nd edition - launched November 12

Art Box provided a packaged creative educational experience that folks could bring into their homes, and then share their works using the hashtag #MyVibrantToledo Pop-up window displays were part of the Toledo Scavenger Hunt in partnership with Momentum Festival.

- Local artists were sought out first through our long-standing programs (YAAW, Creative Placemaking), with strong community connections + outreach.
- Sponsorship funds were dedicated to providing Art Boxes to families in Toledo’s greater downtown-area neighborhoods through the Creative Placemaking program.
- Support materials, such printable artist lessons were designed for optimal font legibility.
- Sponsored Art Boxes | 425 boxes distributed
ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

In 2020, APP has paid or has committed payments of $408,324 to artists and related contractors. $115,824 has been paid or is committed to local artists this year. Two workforce development projects are in the works for 2021 - the Uptown Green project and a Signal Box wraps project. The Uptown Green project is focusing on local emerging artists and will act as a mentorship opportunity. The Signal Box wrap project provides an opportunity for artists that have not worked in the public art sector to participate in a project that is accessible to many artists with a variety of media and work experience. Total allocated for these two projects is $70,000.

The Concourse Murals project completely transformed two somewhat drab Citiwalk Concourses into immersive, vibrant and playful experiences. These spaces have become a destination and will be a great new experience for visitors of the Imagination Station, the Renaissance and the many offices in One Seagate.

We produced two publications this year - The Public Art Field Guide and a second edition of the ABCs of Public Art. These books provide informed, self guided experiences that are engaging for all ages.

The APP Committee is in the planning stages of re-organizing the committee structure to better align with demographics of the City of Toledo, to grow the stewardship of the COT’s investment, and implement better representative decision making. This new structure will be fully in place by June of 2021.
ARTIST SERVICES

THE ACCELERATOR GRANT is a competitive program offering financial support with quick turn-around for local artists to advance their creative projects and their careers. In 2020, two cycles of Accelerator Grants were offered, funding 12 artists nearly $10,000.

THE MERIT AWARD highlights outstanding local literary, performing and visual artists. Four awards are given each year, totaling $5,000. Recognizing the immediate financial need for Toledo’s artists affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, The Arts Commission re-allocated $10,000 for EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR ARTISTS, a new program to support artists whose performances, exhibitions, and events were cancelled due to this crisis. Within 24 hours of launching the grant, requests from local artists exceeded the available funds. Through community fundraising efforts, The Arts Commission was able to secure an additional $5,000 for a second cycle of grants. These funds were also quickly exhausted, signifying the magnitude of need here in Toledo.

IN TOTAL THROUGH THESE THREE PROGRAMS, NEARLY $30,000 IN GRANT FUNDING WAS AWARDED TO LOCAL ARTISTS.

As part of the Momentum Festival, the 2020 Exhibition offered local artists the opportunity to have their work reviewed by a panel of national visual arts experts, with 12 selected for an online exhibition. Our Accelerator and Merit review panels were intentionally selected across a range of experiences and backgrounds, and they had IDEA values in mind without being asked to adhere to specific equity guidelines. The demographics of Merit and Accelerator recipients are close to the census demographics of the city (even though our reach is the greater Toledo area) but still fall short. However, the Emergency Grants did not reach that same level. The Emergency Grant applicants were funded as long as the guidelines were met, yielding a much less diverse group. This needs to be addressed in 2021.

2020 ACCELERATOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

Lee Fearnside, Dominick Gray, Harley King, Lauren Mock, Jolene Day-Miller, Paul Verdell, Alyssa Buezza, Maryn Rocks, Juanita McMillan, Shawn Messenger, Felissa Parker-Green, Eric Thomas

2020 MERIT AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Dr. Joey S. Kim, Timothy Serger, Michael Osborne, Bradley Scheeler
The Creative Placemaking program dramatically shifted course this year from supporting community events, performances, and visual art installations to bringing inspiration into the home. However, the program worked collaboratively in innovative ways across the organization to connect residents to local artists, events such as Momentum, and to generate dialogue about community plans and future planning efforts. In total, the program paid more than $3,000 to more than 10 local artists and creatives, and was able to distribute 430 Art Boxes and Art Bags to youth and residents throughout the Toledo Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture footprint. Additionally, Creative Placemaking supported a number of requests from community groups and organizations to assist with everything from video production to art supplies to PPP for LMI residents. Most notably, the Arts Commission supported Sofia Quintero Art and Cultural Center with more than $500 to assist with its services to residents along the Broadway Corridor.

The Creative Placemaking program focuses its work in TSPAC eight core neighborhoods, which is home to more than 40% of the City of Toledo’s African American population and one-third of its Latinx population. Neighborhood programs working with underserved populations, low-to-moderate income residents, and those with issues to access include: Circles and Verses, Juvenile Justice Collaboration Project, the Padua Center, and The Frederick Douglass Center (youth), St. Paul’s Community Center worked Community Collaboration Mural and received art kits to keep (unhoused), and Ten Eyck received art bags and gardening support (seniors/LMI).

St Paul’s Community Center’s advocates noted that their clients enjoy creative activities but often feel unwelcome at public events and experience barriers to attending classes. As part of our relationship with SPCC via Ebeid Neighborhood Promise, the CP Team provided art bags to each client that contained basic art supplies and instructions on how to utilize the materials. In addition to these supplies, SPCC clients were invited to participate in the Community Collaboration project and received a panel and an additional art supply to help complete their piece. Once completed, the final “art by number” will include artistic contributions from people living in all facets of our city.

The Walk & Roll Project, in partnership with ProMedica Ebeid Neighborhood Promise, assisted with installation of temporary art works in Uptown as part of the Momentum Festival. This project offered an opportunity to connect new community voices to our work, including paid commissions of chalk murals and a sizable, ongoing installation by Street Spun Yarn Bombing to address a significant vacant lot at the corner of Adams and 17th Streets, in the heart of the Village on Adams. The work was partnered with Toledo Design Collective to engage residents and guests visiting the artworks to offer input on future uses for vacant properties throughout the neighborhood.

The UpTown Walk & Roll engaged residents in walking & biking groups to promote a culture of health and well-being. The event pivoted to a month-long scavenger hunt with paths that wove throughout downtown and its adjacent neighborhoods. Each week had a unique theme and route: Arts & Culture, History, Nature, and Future Visioning. Participants received art supplies and an activity guide detailing routes spanning nearly 18 miles, which also included interactive elements such as coloring pages and poetry prompts. Creative Placemaking also contracted with local artists to create new temporary works of art along the routes, which were enjoyed by 175 participants and worked cross-programmatically with Momentum to promote the Alphabet Project and the Community Collaboration project. Additionally, Creative Placemaking staff distributed 430 donated Art Boxes and Art Bags which also contained facemasks throughout the Toledo Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture footprint.
Momentum supported “Art is Work” by providing paid artist opportunities for both visual and performing arts. The program invested $43,800 in local art and another $60,000 was invested by ProMedica to support the addition of new murals along Water Street and Madison Ave.

Momentum enhanced public space through art with the “Toledo Alphabet Project” by Graphite Design + Build along with collaborative projects with the Art Loop and Creative Placemaking to create the “Discover Toledo” scavenger hunt. Furthermore, ProMedica’s investment for the Water St. murals added vibrancy to the corridor that is adjacent to Promenade Park and the riverfront.

Momentum created safe and self-guided art experiences by working in tandem with both discoverable and virtual programming. The “Discover Toledo” scavenger hunt and partner programming from Toledo Area Cultural organizations stretched the timeline from three days into five weeks to allow for pacing and dispersal of crowds.

The Momentum Festival was built with equity in mind and continues to address IDEA initiatives through representation and engagement. In 2020, Momentum was proud to support Matt Foss and The University of Toledo Black Theatre Ensemble to present an adaptation of “20,000 Leagues Under The Sea”, host artist talks in conjunction with the Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery and “Launch: Art in the Age of Solidarity” that highlighted the work of the Black Artist Coalition, include black artists and makers in our virtual artist market, and reported 40% of artists and performers self identify as part of the BIPOC community.
YOUTH SERVICES

CONGRESSIONAL
• The Arts Commission and Representative Marcy Kaptur celebrated the creativity and artistic talents of area teens in the 37th Annual Ninth Congressional District Invitational Art Exhibition. Although the exhibition was hung in March, all public gatherings were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Art teachers from high schools within Ohio’s Ninth District nominated up to three two-dimensional student artworks for public display. The artwork was judged by a panel of college educators, local artists and representatives from sponsoring institutions and a number of awards were presented.

YOUNG ARTISTS AT WORK (YAAW)
• In 2020, Young Artists at Work hired 41 teens, 6 instructors and 10 guest artists, even more donated their time. The YAAW apprenticeship is many teens’ first job.

• The Young Artists at Work program enhanced public space in the summer by designing a mural for the Ottawa Tavern that the staff then executed.

• The League of Women Voters project, a mobile installation of portraits of people that contributed to suffrage and abolition movements was displayed at the Toledo Design Collective during Momentum. The piece is educational and also connects people to resources to learn about the suffrage movement and more information on how to vote in Ohio.

• While hiring YAAW staff, we consider representation of the leaders that guide the youth. While recruiting apprentices, we seek out youth from various neighborhoods, schools, and income levels. The apprentices discuss and make art about the issues they witness regarding race and representation and what they want to celebrate regarding diversity.

• The Young Artists at Work apprentices were able to work from home this summer instead of onsite. This could not have been possible without the support of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library.
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

2020 Annual Report | Audited financial statements - December 31, 2019

**REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT**

- Contributions and Fundraising: $517,557 (27%)
- City of Toledo, One Percent for Art: $277,786 (14%)
- Interest and Other Income: $14,493 (1%)
- Special Projects and Programs: $1,142,408 (59%)

**TOTAL**: $1,938,244

**EXPENSES**

- General and Administrative: $347,586 (25%)
- Programs & Special Projects: $856,878 (62%)
- Art in Public Places: $181,770 (13%)

**TOTAL**: $1,386,234
**PURPOSE**
To strengthen our community, foster creativity and celebrate life through art.

**MISSION STATEMENT**
The Arts Commission supports, promotes and connects visual, performing and literary artists, arts organizations and businesses; and administers the City of Toledo’s “One Percent for Art” ordinance.

**PHILOSOPHY**
We believe…
- The arts should be accessible to everyone
- Creativity fuels life and enriches a community
- Appreciation of art is nurtured by exposure and education
- The arts are key economic and social drivers for our community
- Art contributes to community image and civic pride
- Creative expression takes diverse forms
- A legacy of art is critical for future generations

**VISION**
“Toledo is a nationally-known model for artistic and culturally community development”

**BOARD CHAIRS**
- 1963: Martin Kobacker (first chair)
- 1964-66: John Richards
- 1966-70: Boris Neison
- 1970-75: Schuyler Yates
- 1975-78: Loren Soodman
- 1978-79: Erié Chapman
- 1979-82: Susan Reams
- 1982-84: Victoria Souder
- 1984-86: Robert Carlisle
- 1986-88: Tom Palmar
- 1989-91: Bruce Smith
- 1992-94: Arnold Cottrel
- 1994-96: Sara Jane DeHoff
- 1996-97: Thomas Webb
- 1997-99: Paula Brown
- 2001-04: Robert Meeker
- 2004-06: Joe Spencer
- 2006-08: Mary Trumbull
- 2008-10: Claire Kirner
- 2010-11: Jim Moore
- 2012-14: Dennis Norman II
- 2015-16: Edward Zark
- 2017: Sarah Skow

**APP CHAIRS**
- 1977-95: Susan Reams (18 years)
- 1995-00: Mary Trumbull & Rory Shantly-Brown
- 2000-01: Susan Reams
- 2003-05: Liz Cole
- 2005-07: Patricia Levy & Mike Duket
- 2008-2016: Mike Duket & Katrina Ruell Ray
- 2017: Mike Duket & Dan Hernandez

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
- John Einokit, President
- Rhonda Seawell, President-Elect
- Julie Beckert, Vice President
- Marithea Fitchko Phibbs, Secretary
- Kevin Kwiatkowski, Treasurer
- Sarah Skow, Past President (2017)
- Greg Braylock, Jr.
- Maureen Brown
- Ramona Collins
- Gretchen DeBlacker
- Michael Duket
- Marcus Herron
- Dan Hernandez
- Adam Jackson
- Laura Jakle
- Dr. Ardenia Jones Terry
- Maggie Kiser
- Kate Kelley
- Claire Kirner
- Kristin Kiser
- Jon Levine
- Suzanne Lind
- Bob Lubell
- Robert Meeker, Jr.
- Kathleen Merrill
- Larry Meyer
- Diane Phillips
- Kyle Swoory
- Reginald Temple
- Josh Thurston
- Michelle Zarou
- Gary Zimmerman
- Robert Zollweg

**STAFF**
- Marc Folk, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Jennifer Jarrett, Chief Operating Officer
- Ryan Buck, Executive Community Initiatives
- Kelly Rose Hagg, Director of Development
- Nathan Mattison, Director of Public Plaques
- Lindsay Amend, Managing Creative Placemaking
- Jordan Burdick, Managing Artist Services
- Marsha Collins, Financial Manager
- Emily Finzel, Communications
- Natalie Gray, Navigating Youth Services
- Natalie Transellers, Navigating Artloop
- Crystal Phillips, Managing Development
- Malinda Carlo, Managing Coordinator
- Liam Johnson, Creative Placemaking Coordinator
- Cail Linhard, Art Place Places Coordinator
- David Ross, Creative Placemaking Coordinator
- Victoria Steiger, Creative Placemaking Coordinator
- Meghan Wheeler, Momentum Project & Event Coordinator
2020 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

THE ARTS COMMISSION
INSPIRING A VIBRANT TOLEDO

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Ohio Arts Council

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City of Toledo

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS
arts.gov

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