

Montana Arts Council Testimony
HB 2 Education Subcommittee
January 6, 2005

Arlynn Fishbaugh, Executive Director

Madame Chairman and members of the committee, for the record my name is Arni Fishbaugh, and I am the director of the Montana Arts Council.

I was raised on a wheat farm in Carter, between Fort Benton and Great Falls, and have been involved in the arts my whole life.

The mission of the Montana Arts Council is to promote the arts in Montana.

We are governed by a 15-member council, all appointed by the Governor. Those members living in your area are:

Madame Chairman and Sen. Ryan: Ann Cogswell
Sen. Esp: Bill Frazier, Chairman
Sen. Williams: Neal Lewing, Polson;
Monte Dolack recent member
Rep. Juneau: Jackie Parsons of Browning
Rep. Glaser: Mary Crippen and Rick Halmes of Billings
Rep. Jackson: John Dudis, who is with us today.

The council is very diverse, including artists, political leaders, people with expertise in economic development and education.

Staff: Carleen Layne, Accountant and Central Services
Cinda Holt, Business Development Specialist
Former Development Director of Missoula Children's Theatre
Beck McLaughlin, Arts Education and Web Services Director
Dancer, former Arts Ed Director at Helena Presents, the Myrna Loy Ctr
Alexandra Swaney, Folk Arts Director
Jazz musician and writer
Kristin Han Burgoyne, Grants and Database Director
Biology major turned arts manager and new mom
Kim Hurtle, Executive Assistant (Half-time)
Visual artist and Interior Designer
Stefanie Flynn, Administrative Assistant (Half-time)
Actress and stage director

This staff is considered to be one of the best arts council staff in the country.

How do we serve the state?

- Five major grant programs serving different needs

- *Organizational Excellence grants to help support arts education mission of these businesses*

Great Falls: Great Falls Symphony, C.M. Russell Museum, Paris Gibson Square

Missoula: Missoula Children's Theatre, Montana Rep, Mo-Trans Dance Company, Missoula Art Museum, Missoula Cultural Council, First Night

Billings: Alberta Bair Theatre, Writer's Voice, Billings Symphony

Kalispell: Glacier Symphony, Hockaday Museum, Whitefish Theatre Company

Non-Profit Arts Organizations:

- *Tour Fee Support*
- *Opportunity Grants*
- *Folk Arts Master/Apprenticeships*
- *Arts Education Artist Residencies and Education Partnerships*

Reached one out of every six school children in K-12 last year.

Three arts education partnerships cover almost half of Montana's land mass...

Working with the Lewistown Art Center, the Custer County Art and Heritage Center in Miles City and the Choteau Performing Arts League.

- Administer the Cultural Trust, but have no control over the grant expenditures. Grants are in HB9.

- Special grant program: Wallace Foundation's Building Arts Participation

Montana selected as one of 13 states who are national's leaders in building art participation.

Grants and services provided, with grants designed to produce models for building arts participation in rural America. Outlined in blue book: Year One Evaluation.

Montana Study: One thousand Montanans participated – members of the general public – in a phone survey to determine their attitudes about arts participation in the state. Among the interesting findings, more Montanans participate in the arts than they do in

sports. Over half of Montanans believe that arts and culture are important to the quality of life in their community.

- Specialized programs and services
 - ***“State of the Arts” Newspaper***
Considered the best state arts council newspaper in the country.
 - ***Leadership Institutes and Workshops to build knowledge in trusteeship, governance, fundraising and marketing***

45 organizations participated; Evaluations state that 90% rated the program as meeting or exceeding their expectation.
 - ***Folk Arts Programs: CD Production, Radio Interview Program***
 - ***Website Resources***
 - ***ListServes for Opportunities and News for artists, arts organization and arts educators***
 - ***Audience Development Initiatives, funded through Wallace Foundation***
 - Montana Study
 - Year One Evaluation
 - Best Practices in Fund Raising
 - ***Largest arts database in the state; continually fill requests for information about artists and provide lists of artists for vendors offering opportunities***
 - ***Resource for economic development and education initiatives, such as putting together RFP for the state’s first economic impact study of individual artists, to be released this month, on behalf of the Governor’s Office. We knew the research throughout the country, what information should be tracked, pitfalls of other research and the sources of current statistical data, and we had the database from which to begin.***

Agency provides unique and valued services...Let’s take a look at how that translates to your areas of the state: Distribution Reports. Inside your packets you will find an overview of how we serve the whole state and your counties in particular.

In the interest of time, we won’t go through this, but I’ll refer instead to the map of the state. The Montana Arts Council provides services to every county and 3 out of every 5 towns on the Montana map.