



Annual Report 2018

downriver
council
for the
Arts

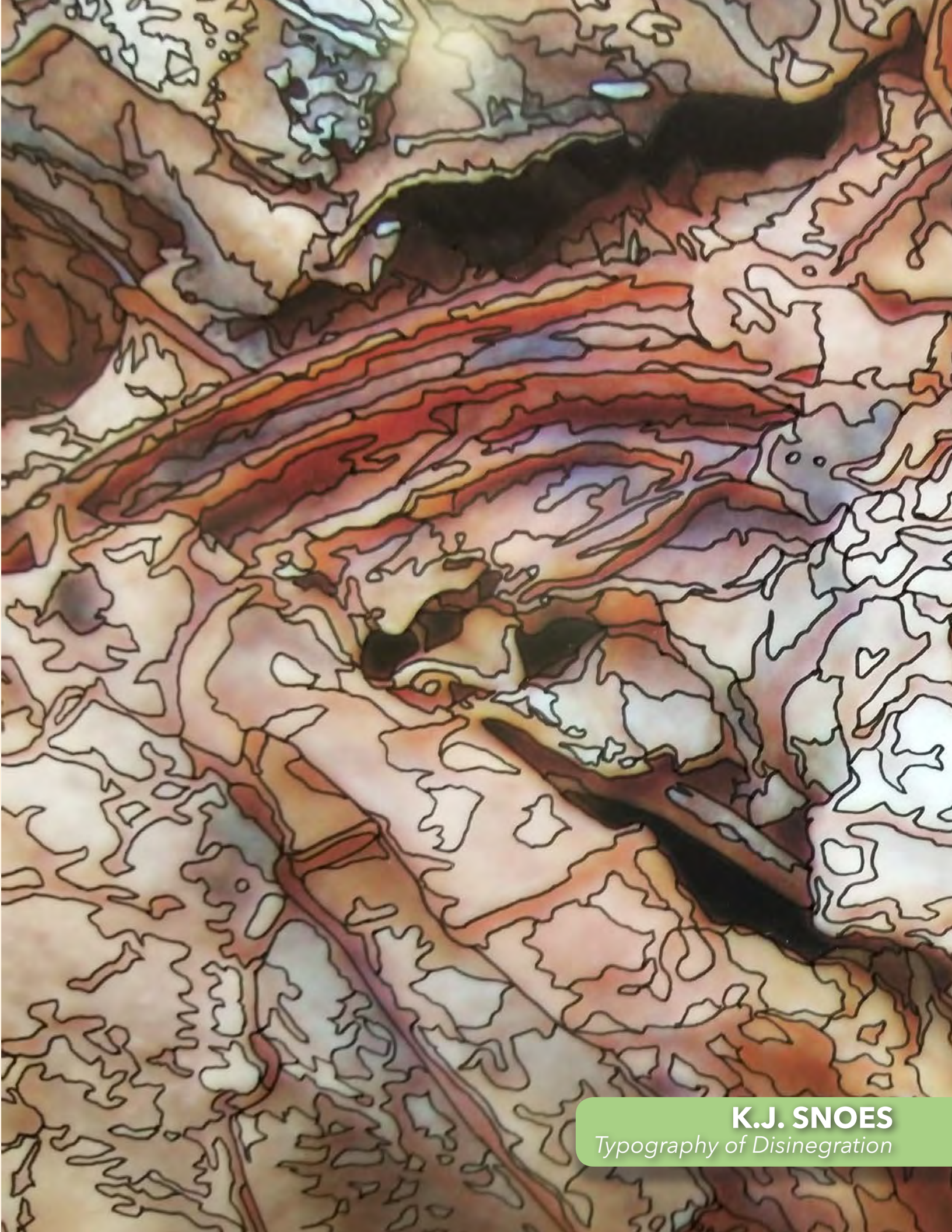


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DESANA
CENTER FOR
ARTS & CULTURE

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K.J. SNOES
Typography of Disintegration



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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MARTINE MACDONALD

The Annunciation

25 VISUAL ART EXHIBITIONS 2018

in our Main and Community Galleries



9 RESIDENT ARTISTS

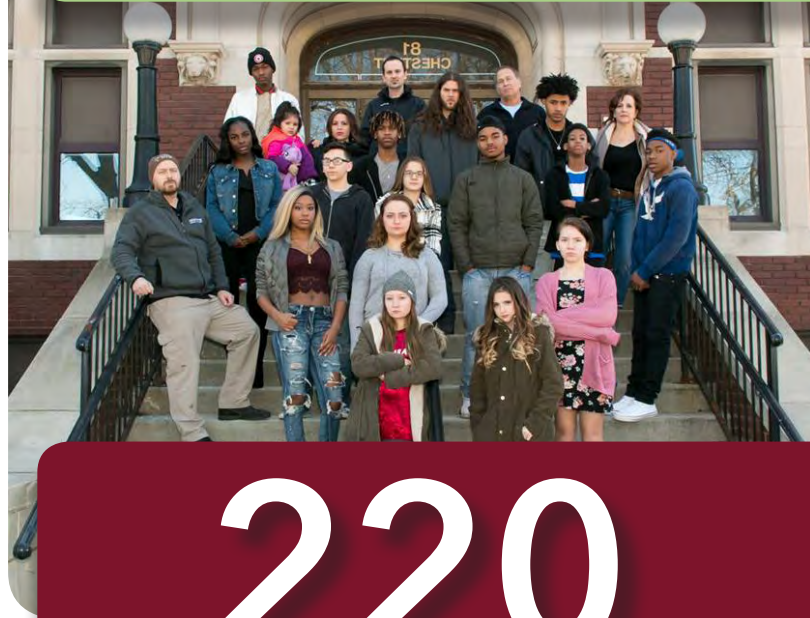
Engaging, exhibiting, and teaching out of the facility growing from 7 resident artists in 2017.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

5,000+

patrons

who come through our doors annually seeking to expand their hearts and minds by engaging in classes, performances, and art exhibits



220

members from 18 Downriver
Communities



DON GUTZ

Fractal Three - Chaos Theory

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Continuing restoration movement on second floor performing area. This work has made new programming possible like ballroom dancing and more music oriented concerts and events. We are continuing to make more improvements, which will help to draw more professional performing acts to the arts center.

Redesign of our website to reflect who we are and inspire people to get involved and take action.

Partnership with the Chamber Artists of Southeast Michigan to begin an annual summer concert series in June 2018.

Hosted impactful events in our main gallery in 2017; such as the Deaf Arts Festival Masquerade Gala: an art exhibit, fundraiser and educational awareness campaign featuring deaf and hearing-impaired artists; and a scholarship fundraiser exhibit for Spina Bifida to raise awareness of the defect in individuals of all ages

Continuing to bring curated art for all over the world via Art-O-Mat to Downriver (A converted cigarette machine that vends art from artists all over the world.)

Downriver Poets and Playwrights invited the community to lend an ear to their literary works during their "National Poetry Month Celebration" at the DCA, free and open to the public.

Introduced and educated the Downriver area by bringing new visual art exhibits from the Native American community and Lincoln Park High School graduating seniors.

Partnered in 2017 with the Kroger Company, to identify a professional artist to create indoor mural artwork for the new Kroger Marketplace store in Southgate.

Established the DCA Youth Arts Council - a group of young artists from around the Downriver community who are dedicated to promoting and the visual and performing arts. Their mission is to grow and nurture a community of local budding artists, as well as to give young people a safe, wholesome, and beneficial environment to express themselves in.

Partnered with numerous other non-profit organizations, education institutions and socially conscious community groups to provide events and spaces for groups such as Josephine Ford Cancer Center, TechShop Detroit, Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital, CultureSource, ARC, and many others.

This is just a small representation of the activities that the DCA participates in regionally to support artists and activities that will contribute to the Downriver area's arts and cultural diversity.



ERICA CHAPPUIS
Port of Call

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Founded in 1978, the Downriver Council for the Arts (DCA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) arts and cultural organization that proudly serve nearly 400,000 residents in 21 Downriver communities. Downriver is the area in Michigan comprised of cities south of Detroit. In historic times, these cities were accessible by traveling down the Detroit River. Downriver overall is known as a suburban Detroit region with working-class residential neighborhoods and includes Allen Park, Belleville, Brownstown, Ecorse, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Huron, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, River Rouge, Riverview, Rockwood, Romulus, Southgate, Sumpter Twp, Taylor, Trenton, Van Buren, Woodhaven and Wyandotte.

The Downriver Council for the Arts began its existence in 1978 as a division of the Downriver Community Conference (DCC). The DCC had been founded by cities and townships in the Downriver area as a cooperative organization that believed it was advantageous to work together on major projects that were best served by mutual efforts. They recognized that the arts were a vital component of the quality of life in the entire area and that Downriver lacked a comprehensive



organization that could oversee the arts and stimulate artistic development. A board of directors was formed out of persons belonging to several Downriver cultural groups who established goals and tasks that this new arts organization could accomplish. The mayors and supervisors of the DCC Board approved the new arts office in August of 1978 "to promote, stimulate and encourage throughout the Downriver community the study and presentation of the performing and fine arts and public interest therein."

The DCA is 40 years old in 2018.



ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY



The DCA operates out of the James R. DeSana Center for Arts and Culture (the Center), a three-story, 20,000 SF historic building located at 81 Chestnut Street in downtown Wyandotte. The Center became the home of the DCA in 2010 through a partnership with the City and the DDA. We are excited to report that in late 2016 the City of Wyandotte and DDA extended our lease for a 10-year commitment. We feel this partnership will solidify our place and home as a regional arts and cultural center. Our goal for the James R. DeSana Center for Arts and Culture is to be a multi-use, multi-generational, and multi-cultural destination arts facility that contributes to the expansion of the area's economic development initiatives and provides educational opportunities for the communities into the future. The Center serves the community in three ways: it creates opportunities for community artists to showcase their skills, it serves as a cultural resource for the community, and it serves as an educational facility.

A successful summer creative camp program for children, ranging from core fundamentals, like drawing and painting, to specialized camps, such as mixed media and acting. 145 kids in 26 different camps!





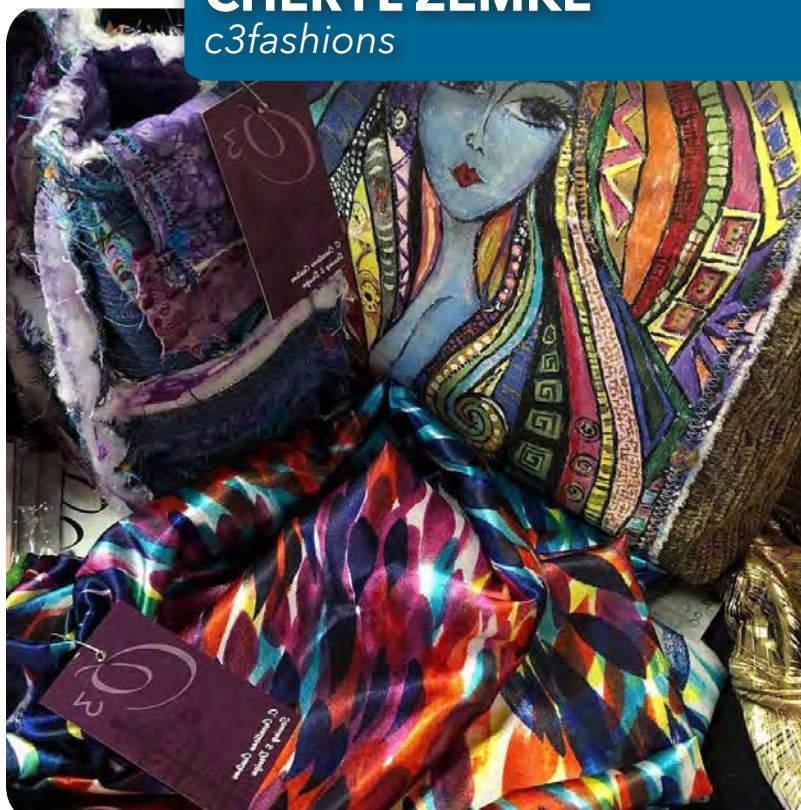
MARY JO CARAUANA
Chestnut Art Fair, 2018



Ballroom Dancing
at the art center



**CHESTNUT ART FAIR,
2018**



CHERYL ZEMKE
c3fashions



NADINE VADASSY
Assemblage of Found Objects

MEET OUR TEAM



ERIN
SUESS

Executive Director
esuess@downriverarts.org

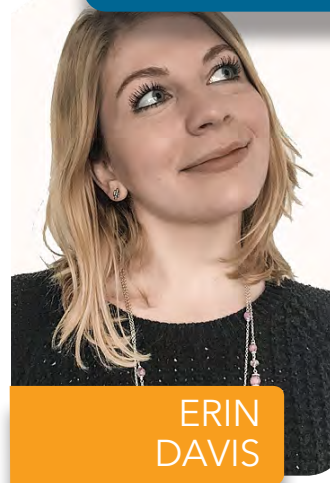
Erin is a lifelong Downriver resident, growing up in Lincoln Park and earning an Associate's Degree in art from Henry Ford Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in art from Wayne State University. Following graduation, she worked as a graphic designer for design agencies and the Detroit News and Free Press before advancing her career to art director with a Dearborn agency. Throughout that time, Erin served on the Board of Directors for the Downriver Council for the Arts (DCA) for 6 years and volunteered services for their website design and upkeep, graphic design and social communication. She now has acted as Executive Director with the DCA since the summer of 2016. In this capacity, she anticipates using her board experience to take a more pro-active and direct role in achieving the goals and maintaining the mission of the DCA. Personal experience has taught her that the arts are very important to the community and nurturing communities through arts and culture is an important aspect of being involved with the DCA.



LYNN
CAMPBELL

Office Manager
lcampbell@downriverarts.org

Lynn is a retired Executive Assistant with years of office management experience working for high-level senior management in the chemical and automotive industries. Her role as recording secretary for the board of directors' executive board meetings and general membership meetings simply begins to set the stage for the invaluable services she provides to the DCA. Lynn leads by coordinating, managing and facilitating membership in classes, programs, and camps, and the DCA general membership. She acts as the organization's primary liaison with the public in matters of building maintenance and reporting information to the city. In addition to coordinating the rental of our artist studios and event spaces, she manages the Artisan Gift Shop inventory, sales and display. Lynn also has a creative side, helping to create flyers, decorating for events, and donating and creating raffle baskets for fundraisers. Her hours of donated time, talent and money to assist the DCA help to round out her involvement.



ERIN
DAVIS

Design Intern
erin.unrulybydesign@gmail.com

Erin Davis is a senior illustration and graphic design student attending Grand Valley State University. She was a 2014 DCA scholarship awardee and has followed the DCA since then. While returning home for the summer of 2018, she is interning with the DCA and working on design projects to enhance her portfolio.

"I am seeking. I am striving. I am in it with all my heart."
Vincent van Gogh

OUR MISSION
to enrich the quality of life in the Downriver communities by advocating and promoting the arts and providing opportunities for involvement and participation in arts and cultural activities.

JAMES R. DESANA CENTER FOR ARTS

1001 TEMPLE

81
CHESTNUT

1911



MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

JOAN BROPHY

President
Fund
Development
Director, Wayne
Metro Action

DALE COOK

Past President
Vice President
PNC Bank,
Allen Park

LINDA SOULES

Treasurer
President, Seaway
Chorale &
Orchestra

PAULA BOASE

Secretary
Director
Economic
Development,
Downriver
Community
Conference

JAMES R. DESANA

Member at large
Past Mayor, City
of Wyandotte, MI
Past State Senator

PHILLIPA MATAKAS

Member at Large
Self Employed Real
Estate Development

**"Art enables
us to find ourselves
and lose ourselves
at the same time"**

Thomas Merton

Cheryl Alt

Instructor, WCCCD
Downriver Campus

Jan Dunbar

Homemaker / Artist

Judy Nelms

Retired Professional

Karen Ranka

Owner/Manger
Country Manor,
Grosse Ile

Rob Bovitz

President Bovitz CPA
PC. & Bovitz Mgmt.
Services, Inc.

Scott Galeski

Retired Wyandotte
Police Detective

Mary Ann Perttunen

Retired High School
Principal

Faye Tabor

Retired Professional

Evelyn Cairns

Columnist
Dearborn Times-
Herald

Maureen Keast

Retired Professional

Michelle Porter

Academic Service
Officer III

Steve Wildern

Theatre Operations
Dean, WCCCD

Delores Elswick

Retired High School
Principal

Joseph G. Kuspa

Mayor of Southgate,
Owner Lockus
Investments

Waltraud Prechter

Founder, Heinz C.
Prechter Bipolar
Research Fund



MIKE
MULLEN

Mike completed a BFA from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan where he focused on skills in drawing and printmaking. His craft today is realized through the relief process in printmaking where it is printed from an 1891 Chandler & Price letterpress custom restored himself. He works as a freelance art director and in addition to his graphic and fine art work, Mike is a musician playing guitar, mountain dulcimer and Celtic harp. Mike's love for traditional American music is an influence on his printmaking and can be seen on his website at michaelmullencollection.com.



SCOTT
GALESKI

Scott A. Galeski is an award winning independent filmmaker and a retired police detective from Downriver Detroit, Michigan. His long-term commitment as a coach and mentor to at-risk and disadvantaged youth, in combination with his law enforcement career has given him a unique insight into filmmaking. In 2009 Galeski founded Ring of Fire Entertainment which has produced over 30 independent films and music videos that have screened throughout the world. He has worked as a technical advisor with HBO, Tri-Star Pictures and other production companies, provides executive security for Actor Jeff Daniels and has served as a road manager for Detroit Rock Legend, Mitch Ryder. In 2016 he founded the Downriver Detroit Student Film Consortium diversely consisting of students from Detroit and Downriver area schools. (More info on the DDSFC program can be found section 7). See more on their Facebook page.



JAMIE
LEBOUF

Born and raised in Lincoln Park, Michigan, Jamie creates hand-crafted, artisan chocolates and confections in the kitchen at the Art Center and distributes them throughout Southeast Michigan. As a Muslim-American woman, she spent nearly 20 years abroad perfecting her craft and opened her first boutique chocolate production facility and group of retail stores in Beirut, Lebanon. Recently she has been selling her product every weekend at Eastern Market in Detroit. See more on Instagram @jpatricechocolatestudio.

“Every child is an artist, the problem is staying an artist when you grow up.”
Pablo Picasso

MEET OUR RESIDENT ARTISTS



MARTINE
MACDONALD

Martine is an accomplished artist and Adjunct Professor at Wayne County Community College. She explores notions of place and time, refined through life experiences, dreams and memories into a visual essence. She strives to move her work towards a spirituality that reconciles issues of mothering, home, place and identity. Her work can be seen at her website at martinemacdonald.com.



DONNA
HINSON

Donna teaches classes through the DCA for children and adults, including the DCA's Youth Art classes and the DCA's Youth Summer Art Camps. Previously Donna was the owner/operator of a gallery and studio on Grosse Ile, and now focuses her paintings on relationships between people, self and the larger society. She is interested in what makes us who we are and how we interact with one another, how the larger world influences us and how we influence the world. Many of her pieces rely on nuanced balance and simplicity, and can be described best as intimate looks at ideas and feelings. View her art at her Facebook page at Donna Boisseau Hinson Studio.



JOE
HOSLER

Joe is an artist who has spent the last 5 years creating artworks that deliver an impact and have a story to tell. He works in various mediums and is not limited to aerosol paints, airbrush, acrylics, pencil, and ink. As he is growing in popularity, he has been commissioned to create various murals in the Downriver community. His work can be seen on Instagram @hoss_designs.

“Creativity
Takes
Courage”
Henri Matisse

We provide artists with an incubator space to create their art in a dynamic environment.

MEET OUR RESIDENT ARTISTS



PODBROS NETWORK

The Podbros Network has been creating and producing podcasts since 2013. Through their podcasts, they have been able to promote and help many of the local creators of the Downriver Area. When they are not podcasting, they are covering local events, helping charities and organizations, and educating everyone on how to listen to podcasts. More on their podcasts can be found on their website at www.podbros.com.



ANDY CHORKEY & SARA WILKINS

Andy is a practicing musician on multiple instruments including guitar, bass, piano, banjo and lap steel guitar. He has performed with a variety of musical outfits across the state and nation, having recorded in Nashville with one these groups, and here in Michigan with the others. He is currently working with two bands composing original music, teaching music to beginner and intermediate students of a variety of ages, and helping other musicians reach their goals through promotion and encouragement. He wants to help create lasting and diverse musical performance experiences at the DCA. Sara Wilkins, an artist with a colorful imagination and an avid DIYer, works full time for a local nonprofit organization. An environmentally conscious artist, she upcycles, repurposes and finds new ways to reduce, reuse & recycle in her work! She teaches workshops at the DCA for all ages and skill levels, and recently organized her first successful Urban Gypsy Funk Fair in April of 2018 at the DCA. See what she does on her instagram [@thriftyfairtradingcompany](https://www.instagram.com/thriftyfairtradingcompany).



KYRA WOJCIK

Kyra is a watercolor painter, graphic/lettering artist and liturgical artist and designer. As an artist, her world vision is that of beauty, sensuality, spirituality and form. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. She is currently teaching at Wayne County Community College in the Art Department. She also facilitates therapeutic art sessions at several area nursing homes, and curates art shows of resident work. See her work at kyrawojcik.com.

“Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people.”

Leo Burnett



MARILYN VOSS

Poppies in Rain

INCOME STATEMENT 2017

HOW THE DCA IS FUNDED

Memberships, grants, foundation support, corporate support, sponsorships, fundraisers and special events, gallery sales, an annual giving campaign, classes, workshop fees and donations



PROGRAMMING
\$61,323



MEMBERSHIPS
\$9,595



FUNDRAISERS
\$10,031



DONATIONS



TOTAL INCOME
\$139,280



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$135,482



**Thank you for
your donations**

City of Wyandotte: \$25,000

The State of Michigan Council for
the Arts and Cultural Affairs: \$12,500

World Heritage Foundation -
Prechter Family Fund: \$3,000

Wyandotte Rotary: \$2,500

BASF: \$1,000

Joe and Carol Caruso: \$1,000

Karen Smithbauer-Wilson: \$500



THANK YOU
for an amazing
art center!

A LOT OF HARD WORK
HAS GONE INTO MAKING THIS ART
CENTER GREAT,
AND WE ARE EXCITED
TO SEE HOW FAR
WE'VE COME!





WWW.DOWNRIVERARTS.ORG

Designed by
Erin Davis
Grand Valley State University
Internship 2018

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from the DCA Board of Directors*

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