President’s Welcome

Welcome to the Annual Report for your Arts Council for fiscal year 2017. The art, culture, and science creativity we support in Flagstaff make a great difference in the quality of life for our community.

I especially value the important exhibitions we have offered over the years, especially *Fires of Change* and *Hope + Trauma in a Poisoned Land*. The educational impact of these exhibitions can only help to find solutions to the issues presented which are especially of concern in the southwest.

As a board member, I spent four years on the Art & Science Fund Committee, learning how local non-profit groups that provide an amazing diversity of arts, culture, and science programming for our community. Providing consultation to non-profits as they work to build capacity in their area of interest, as well as offering grant administration of the part of the City of Flagstaff’s BBB (Bed, Board and Beverage) tax revenues set aside for arts, culture, and science groups is an important service the Arts Council provides to our growing community and was personally very rewarding.

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Speaking for the Board, we are very appreciative of growth in the number of Arts Council members; the growing financial support for our programs which the community enjoys is encouraging. Discussions and research have begun to explore the Flagstaff community’s interest in and ability to support larger facilities for arts, culture and science programming.

On a personal note, I thoroughly enjoy being part of a good working board, with high energy and enthusiasm for new ideas and growth.

Holly Taylor
Board President

Message from the Executive Director

Your Arts Council did a lot of good work in the last year. Much of that is evident in this report which covers the many programs we offered to the community and to artists and non-profit organizations. Additionally, the Arts Council made a great deal of progress behind the scenes on programs that won’t come to light until after fiscal year 2017.

We have been collecting data for recently released report, *Arts & Economic Prosperity: the Economic Impact of the Non-Profit Arts and Sciences in Flagstaff, Arizona*, published by Americans for the Arts. The report shows that the non-profit arts and sciences sector has a $590 million dollar impact on Flagstaff’s economy. The arts strengthen local businesses and drive local engagement, both from visitors and from locals who attend local events and spend money at local businesses when they do. The full report can be seen on our website at flagartscouncil.org.

Additionally, we began serious work this year to launch an effort to pursue new facilities to better serve Flagstaff through the arts and sciences. In the past year, the Arts Council built a local coalition of non-profit organizations, along with the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County. Out of that work came the funding and momentum to contract with the consulting firm *ArtsMarket* to conduct a feasibility study in FY18 to develop a plan for new cultural facilities in Flagstaff.

The majority of this report reviews Arts Council programs, numbers, and broad impact. However, the real power of our work results from how it impacts individual lives: the stories of real people who have been touched by our work, in small ways and in big ways.

For instance, look at the recent path of artist Bryan David Griffith. In 2014, the Arts Council invited Griffith, then a brilliant fine art photographer, to participate in the *Fires of Change* project and exhibition. He took what he learned through that project and built an entirely new path for his art through sculpture, installation art, painting and encaustics. Winning a Viola Award in 2016 was just the beginning. He produced a solo art exhibition, *Rethinking Fire*, for the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum. In 2016, he was one of five artists to receive a Contemporary Forum Artist Grants from the Phoenix Art Museum, which included another solo exhibition. Griffith is now represented by Bentley Gallery. He’s clearly a rising star in the art world.

Meanwhile, *Fires of Change*, which premiered at the Coconino Center for the Arts in fall 2015, was shown at two other cultural venues in the southwest: the accredited University of Arizona Museum of Art in Tucson, and 516 Arts in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Plans are underway to take *Fires of Change* to southern New Mexico. The highly popular exhibition has brought considerable attention to Flagstaff, its artists, and the Arts Council.

It is through these kinds of ripples that we move forward - step by step, artist by artist, patron by patron - to achieving a vision for the arts in Flagstaff. All signs point upward.

John Tannous
Executive Director
2016-2017 Art Exhibitions

The Flagstaff Arts Council produces art exhibitions in the Coconino Center for the Arts in three distinct gallery spaces: the Main Gallery, the Jewel Gallery, and the new Hidden Light Gallery. In FY2017, the Arts Council presented fifteen exhibitions.

Main Gallery

The Road Ahead
August 23 - October 29, 2016
Traveling exhibition The Road Ahead celebrated the highly original work created by adult artists with developmental disabilities from four art centers in the United States including Flagstaff’s Hozhoni Foundation.

It’s Elemental
November 15 - December 17, 2016
This popular annual exhibition showcased works of art by the finest craftsmen in Northern Arizona, with a deep tradition at the Center going back to the 1980’s.

10x10 Exhibition & Sale
January 17 - February 11, 2017
This stunning array of small works featured 100 local artists showing newly created art sized at 10 inches by 10 inches, specially for this show and to support the Coconino Center for the Arts.

Youth Art
February 25 - March 25, 2017
The annual Youth Art Exhibition featured artwork by K-12 students from all schools in the Flagstaff area, including paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, and much more, with over 350 works of art.

Breaking The Barrier
April 11 - May 27, 2017
This exhibition featured interactive artworks in a variety of mediums that let patrons touch and play with the art. Everyone who walked through the door essentially became part of the exhibition.

NightVisions
June 13 - July 29, 2017
Celebrating the beauty of the night sky through art for the sixth time, NightVisions was an international juried art exhibition in support of Flagstaff’s status as the world’s first International Dark Skies City.

Jewel Gallery

The Last Bookstore
August 23 - October 29, 2016
Flagstaff artist Bryan David Griffith’s solo exhibition documented independent bookstores and their survival and potential comeback.

Foundations
November 15 - December 17, 2016
Foundations is an annual juried exhibition of artwork by local college student artists that accompanies the It’s Elemental exhibition.

Luster
January 17 - February 11, 2017
The Luster series by Arizona artist Mary Meyer is an ongoing body of work that features an evolution of cast aluminum forms originally hand sculpted in clay.

Qué Siga La Lucha (May the Fight Continue)
February 25 - March 25, 2017
This art installation by local high school Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy’s Art Studio class addressed their hopes for their own future and that of the coming generations.

Altared States: Symbols, Relics, and Totems
April 11 - May 27, 2017
Flagstaff artists Elizabeth Bonzani (ceramics) and Tanner C. Jensen (paintings) developed this celebration of the mysteries of the juncture where art and spirituality merge.

Part of a Larger Story
June 13 - July 29, 2017
Prescott artist Eric Boos explored human interactions and relationships through five sculptural wall hangings, all made from bent plywood shapes.

Hidden Light Gallery

The Living Subject
May 9 - July 8, 2017
This photography exhibition featured the three photographers who emerged from Hidden Light’s portfolio review as award winners as voted by professionals in the field.

A Wild Beauty
Oct 15 - Dec 17, 2016
This inaugural exhibition in the Hidden Light Gallery celebrated the character, beauty, and history of the land and people of Coconino County for the 125th Anniversary of its establishment.

Ecstasies and Homilies
Jan 21 - April 15, 2017
Award-winning Flagstaff artist David Christiansen showed a series of highly detailed egg tempera paintings, all on 16” x 20” panels.

Hope + Trauma
In A Poisoned Land

Artist Training for Exhibition About Uranium Mining

In early 2015, the Arts Advisory Council of the Flagstaff Arts Council met and approved a proposal for an exhibition exploring the impact of uranium mining on Navajo lands and people. Staff secured funding for the project, including a major grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Project partners were engaged including the Cameron Chapter House of the Navajo Nation, Northern Arizona University, University of New Mexico, and North Country Healthcare. A team of experts from these agencies developed a curriculum for artist to educate them on the impacts of uranium mining.

The result was a four day series of interactions, shared stories, and field trips that took place in Cameron, Arizona, and in Flagstaff, in October 2016. Artists who wished to submit art in the forthcoming exhibition, Hope and Trauma in a Poisoned Land, were required to attend the four-day intensive education program.

Artists were immersed in the landscape where uranium mining and contamination has occurred on the Navajo Nation. They heard from Navajo community members whose family members had suffered a variety of illnesses. They learned from scientists, health care professionals, mental health professionals, and other experts about the impacts of uranium mining.

Finally, artists were taken to visit several abandoned uranium mine sites around Cameron, Arizona. Near the end of a long day of visiting mines, they were taken to one more mine at the top of a hill, directly above the Little Colorado River, overlooking Cameron. To get there, they rode in buses through a neighborhood and past a home where residents enjoyed a birthday party for a young Navajo boy, within just one hundred yards of the abandoned mine site.

The experience was powerful, educational, and emotionally overwhelming for the participating artists. Many were inspired to create art to share what they experienced. The resulting exhibition, which opened the following year in August 2017, struck a chord with audiences.

Art & Science Fund Grant Recipients

With support from the City of Flagstaff’s BBB (Bed, Board and Beverage) Revenues, the Arts Council administers a grant program in support of arts, culture and science programs in Flagstaff. Funding is carefully allocated by a committee of volunteer citizens in support of activities produced by non-profit organizations.

The following are the organizations and projects that received funding through the Art & Science Fund for the period July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

**General Operating Support Grants**
These grants provide programmatic and operational support to non-profit arts, culture and/or science organizations with programs that serve the public in Flagstaff, Arizona.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowell Observatory</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museum of Northern Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Arboretum at Flagstaff</td>
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<td>Theatrikos Theatre Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music</td>
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<td>Arizona Historical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willow Bend Environmental Education Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master Chorale of Flagstaff</td>
<td>$12,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flagstaff Festival of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canyon Movement Company</td>
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<td>Artists’ Coalition of Flagstaff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elden Pueblo / Arizona Natural History Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flagstaff Youth Chorale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballet Folklorico De Colores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Nature Dance Theatre</td>
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<td>Heritage Square Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Canyon Guitar Society</td>
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<td>Orchestra Northern Arizona</td>
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<td>Dry Creek Arts Fellowship</td>
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<td>Living Traditions Presentations</td>
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<td>Northern Arizona Book Festival</td>
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<td>Capoeira Angola</td>
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<td>Flagstaff Community Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA Dance - Flagstaff Chapter</td>
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**TOTALS** | **$298,500**

**Project Support Grants**
These grants provide programmatic support to non-profit organizations for arts, culture and/or science projects that serve the public in Flagstaff, Arizona.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Celebration of the Night w/ Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition</td>
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<td>Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival</td>
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<td>Wonder Factory Traveling Exhibitions</td>
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<td>Center for Indigenous Music &amp; Culture</td>
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<td>Future of the Colorado Plateau Forum</td>
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<td>Hozhoni Art Exhibitions &amp; Workshops</td>
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<td>Arts &amp; Science Outdoors Discovery</td>
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<td>Youth Orchestra Northern Arizona</td>
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<td>State of Black Arizona Arts Initiative</td>
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<td>Salsa Dance Workshops</td>
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<td>Thin Air Magazine</td>
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**TOTALS** | **$36,000**

**STEM Education Grants**

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<tr>
<td>Flagstaff Unified School District</td>
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**TOTALS** | **$30,000**
At the 9th Annual Viola Awards Gala on Saturday, March 4, 2017, the Flagstaff Arts Council announced the winners of the 2017 Viola Awards. The event honored forty-two nominees in eight categories. Over 600 people were in attendance at the Gala. The majority of Viola Award winners were first time nominees. Dark Sky Aerial, Elizabeth Hellstern, Sheila White, Melissa Cripps, Kristopher Kohl, David Christiana, and Janice ChenJu Chiang were all first time nominees. Shawn Skabelund became just the sixth two-time recipient of a Viola Award. He won also in 2014 for his exhibition, Virga: The Hunt for Water.

This is the third time in Viola Award history that a Panel has awarded two Viola Awards in a category. The first time was in 2015 when both Tina Mion and Ulrike Arnold won in the Visual Arts. This year, both the Storytelling and Performing Arts categories had two winners.

The 2017 Viola Awards artist was Steve Warburton. He crafted the awards with the spirit of reaching upwards, using local and exotic woods to symbolize unity in diversity.

**2017 Viola Award Winners**

**Excellence in Storytelling**
- Klee Benally for *Power Lines*
- Elizabeth Hellstern for *Telepoem Booth*

**Excellence in the Visual Arts**
- David Christiana for *Portraits of Petrichor*

**Excellence in the Performing Arts**
- Dark Sky Aerial for *OPIA*
- Janice ChenJu Chiang & Shawn Skabelund for *Composition for Forests*

**Excellence in Arts Education**
- Sheila White

**Excellence in Science Education**
- Jillian Worssam

**Viola Legacy Awards**
- Robert Breunig
- Nando Schellen

**Excellence in Leadership**
- Michael Vincent

**Business for the Arts**
- Melissa Cripps State Farm

**Emerging Artist**
- Kristopher Kohl

**Youth Programs**

The Arts Council produces Northern Arizona’s largest professional display of K-12 student artwork every year in March, as part of National Youth Art Month. The Youth Art Exhibition features over 350 works of art by local students in all area schools.

FunTown Circus Camp for Kids completed its fourth successful year. The circus arts camp takes place for three weeks over the summer and for one week during Spring Break. Students aged 6-16 learn performance, juggling, aerial dance, clowning, and more.

Now in its third year, the Youth Lens High School Photography Contest and Exhibition continues to grow. Two hundred students entered the contest, and twenty-nine were chosen to exhibit their work at the offices of Freeman Law and Nature Exposed Photography.

**2017 Youth Lens Winners**

- **Grand Prize**
  - *Big Bend Woman* by Zoe Sawyers

- **1st Place**
  - *Aleona* by Marina Aukon-Page

- **2nd Place**
  - *The Crane* by Ben Shanahan

- **Honorable Mention**
  - *Evening Send* by Chiara Rose Skabelund
What’s to Come

The Arts Council is always looking ahead to what’s next. Staff plans ahead by three months, a year, and sometimes 2-3 years in advance for programs. Plans for FY2018 and beyond include more than can be listed on a single page. However, these are the big initiatives on the docket.

Hope + Trauma in a Poisoned Land

The blockbuster exhibition that explores, through the eyes of artists, the impact of uranium mining on Navajo lands and people is open August through October 2017. Featuring works by over twenty Native and local artists, the exhibition is the culmination of years of work by a variety of partnering organizations. An exhibition catalog will provide patrons with a long-lasting memory of the powerful art contained within the show.

Phase I: New Facilities

The Arts Council has hired ArtsMarket out of Bozeman, Montana, to conduct a feasibility study to explore the need and audience for a new art, culture and science center, facility or campus in Flagstaff. The eight-month effort will include surveys, intensive research, meetings, focus groups and community forums. The goal is to assess what is possible, what is needed, and what Flagstaff can ultimately afford to build and maintain in order to upgrade to premier facilities to better serve the community. Dozens of local non-profits will join into the effort, as the vision for this growth goes beyond current programming at the Coconino Center for the Arts.

Ten Years of Viola

Believe it or not, in March 2018, the Viola Awards will be ten years old. To celebrate the tenth anniversary of what has become a fixture, tradition, and highlight of the arts season, the Arts Council will have some special tricks up its collective sleeves for the 10th anniversary Gala event. Mark your calendars now: Saturday, March 3, 2018.

So Much More

Compelling art exhibitions, intimate concerts, engaging hands-on art experiences, and a lot of fun are on the slate as we head into our next year. We look forward to sharing it with you!

Other Programs

The Arts Council produced a number of vibrant programs for the community in 2016-17. There were many continuing programs that are well-known to members and constituents. The Arts Council promotes First Friday Artwalk, producing the monthly map and guide. The partnership with the Museum of Northern Arizona to produce the annual Navajo Rug Auction continued, with strong sales for another year. The Fine Craft Sale provided a marketplace for local artists to sell artwork during the holiday season. There were many others, in addition to the many theatrical productions, concerts and fundraisers held at the Coconino Center for the Arts that were produced by local schools, artists and non-profit organizations.

Flagstaff365.com, the ongoing partnership between the Arts Council and the Flagstaff Convention & Visitors Bureau to promote events, was migrated to a new WordPress format website. Visitaton to the site was on the rise over the past year.

Concerts and performances produced in the last year at the Coconino Center for the Arts included:

- Mother Road Trio CD Release
- Magician Eric Giliam
- Tinsley Ellis
- Martin Sexton
- Todo Mundo
- Daimh
- George Winston
- Dave McGraw & Mandy Fer
- Jon Stickley
- Flagstaff Sings
- Human Nature Dance Theatre
- Flagstaff Folk Festival

The Arts Council increased its offerings of workshops for the community in the past year. Art and professional development workshops produced in FY2017 at the Coconino Center for the Arts included:

- Surface Design on Fabric w/Sharon Richards
- Watercolor & Watersoluble Graphite w/Ellaine Dillingham
- Painting in the Wild w/Frederica Hall
- Introduction to Printmaking w/Deb Strong Napple
- Introduction to Comedy Improv w/Garrison Garcia
- Introduction to Watercolor w/C. Tanner Jensen
- Figure Drawing Classes
- Grant Writing Basics
- Arts in the Media Panel Discussion

Human Nature Dance

George Winston

Navajo Rug Auction

Garrison Garcia Improv
The financial reports for the Arts Council for the period July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, were audited by an independent auditor. These charts show a breakdown of the organization’s sources of income and expenditures, excluding pass-through grants and in-kind facility contributions. For a full report of Arts Council financial statements including audit, visit our website at flagartscouncil.org.