



UNION

*2018
Annual
Report*

www.u-ca.org

In 2018, we welcomed over 8,000 visitors to North Omaha to engage with the arts, participate in community forums, harvest fresh produce from our Abundance Garden + so much more!

In everything we do at The Union for Contemporary Art, our intended impact is to realize a larger vision: A city where the arts are actively cultivated and broadly celebrated; a place where artists are thriving and their contributions to society are valued. We envision a socially just and hate-free city full of engaged citizens who recognize what art and artists can do to help us rise above racial, social, and economic lines -- so that we may become a unified and culturally vibrant city where everyone feels welcome and inspired.

Since relocating to our new facility in the Blue Lion in January 2017, we have welcomed over 18,000 people to engage with the arts on North 24th and Lake Streets. We have connected over 300 children from our neighborhood with free cultural programming; helped to feed our neighbors while working for food justice in North Omaha; and created opportunities for everyone to see themselves celebrated through the arts, while using creativity as a means to address issues of inclusivity and equity facing our city and the nation.

In the year ahead, The Union will strengthen its commitment to creating a culturally vibrant and inclusive Omaha by creating more opportunities for the communities we serve to connect through public art

initiatives, lectures, and interactive forums. The focus of our Exhibition and Performing Arts programs will be creating opportunities for greater understanding and engagement with the arts and the history of our North Omaha neighborhood. We're also revamping our Fellowship and Youth programs to create deeper connections to our social justice work and are excited for our first full growing season in the newly established Abundance Garden. It's going to be an incredible year for our organization and stakeholders, and I could not be more proud of the work we're doing at The Union, or more grateful for the support we receive from our amazing donors, which makes it all possible.

Thank you for your interest in our work, and here's to an incredible 2019!

My best to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brigitte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'e'.

Brigitte McQueen Shew
Executive Director

“*Art Club has helped us fill a gap in our children’s education that would not have been an option for us otherwise while also providing lifelong memories, positive experiences, and relationships that are pivotal to their development.*”

— Art Club Parent

In 2018, more than **300 North Omaha youth** participated in our free cultural programs, including after-school partnerships with neighborhood schools and our Saturday Art Club. This amounts to **3,076 hours** of education programming rooted in the arts and community.

Youth



Exhibition



“*The Union didn't merely act as a place to show, but a place to make, connect, and grow. This opportunity not only expanded my own research and practice, but has also opened my eyes to the vibrant arts community found in Omaha, NE. I feel incredibly fortunate, as this has been one of the most fulfilling experiences I've had as an emerging artist.***”**

— Ella Weber, 2018 Exhibiting Artist

2018 EXHIBITION SERIES

Caroline Kent *Disappearance of the word, Appearance of the world*

Matthew Sontheimer *That's right...I still don't have a website.*

Sonya Clark + Althea Murphy-Price + Nontsikelelo Mutiti *Salon Time*

Ella Weber *Sounds Good*

Zoë Charlton *The Ipseity Project*

2018 Union Fellows Exhibition

Performing Arts



Since its start in 2017, The Union's Performing Arts program has presented five full-length theatrical productions, organized two installments of our annual Plays Out Loud! summer reading series, and welcomed **more than 1,600** theatre patrons to North Omaha. In 2018, we hosted our biggest production yet, the coming-of-age musical, *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*. The Union was proud to financially support the dozens of actors, musicians, and theatre professionals who worked to make this and every show a success.

“*The Union for Contemporary Art has quickly become my favorite place to see live theater.*”

— Beaufield Berry, Omaha Reader Review of *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*

In 2018, we hosted **126 workshops** in our Co-Op Studios, teaching new processes, offering introductions to our equipment and its uses, and expanding upon studio practices. We also took the Co-Op to the streets! Participating in community events like raku ceramic firing and live screen printing at the Nelson Mandela Festival in Miller Park have allowed us to bring art making practices to an even wider community.

“The Co-Op offers resources to artists not otherwise available in the community. It is a collaborative space, where artists can interact with and be inspired by other artists, which creates a highly creative atmosphere. The Union is a unique and invaluable space to create, to be inspired, and to offer support to other artists.”

— Annemarie Stokes, Co-Op Member



CO-OP Studios

Thanks to the generous support of the Peter Kiewit Foundation Board of Trustees, The Union constructed our new Abundance Garden in 2018, not only as a dedicated site for fresh, free produce, but as a beautiful communal space for gathering, connecting, and learning. In our first growing season, we distributed approximately **325 pounds of free and fresh produce** to our neighbors in North Omaha.

“I love the Abundance Garden and everything that it is and will be. I really enjoyed taking my boys to the Union to help cultivate the foundation of the garden. Digging in the dirt, moving the wheelbarrows and meeting lots of great people have become a reference point for them and increased their excitement about community involvement.”

— Jennie King, Abundance Garden Volunteer



Abundance Garden

Neighborhood Arts



“*These murals and public artworks are providing joy and introspection, highlighting the links between our people and history. In a poverty-stricken community like ours, this mural is a flower. I applaud the artist and the process that went into this work for once again displaying the gifts and talents of this community. Murals like this one are displaying the best of us. I celebrate this so much and welcome more of it.*”

— Preston Love, Jr., Founder and Director of the Black Votes Matter Institute of Community Engagement

In a collaboration with our 24th Street neighbors, Omaha Small Business Network, The Union guided the development of a new mural at the intersection of 24th and Ohio Street. Artist Reggie LeFlore's *The Ancestor*, *The Identity*, and *The Seed* was complete in October 2018 and will stand for generations as a bold tribute to the legacy and future of North Omaha.



2018 FELLOWSHIP COHORT

Barber \\ Interdisciplinary Artist
Pamela Conyers-Hinson \\ Sculptor
Chikadibia Ebirim \\ Multimedia Artist
Ashley Laverty \\ Theatre Maker
Dominique Morgan \\ Musician

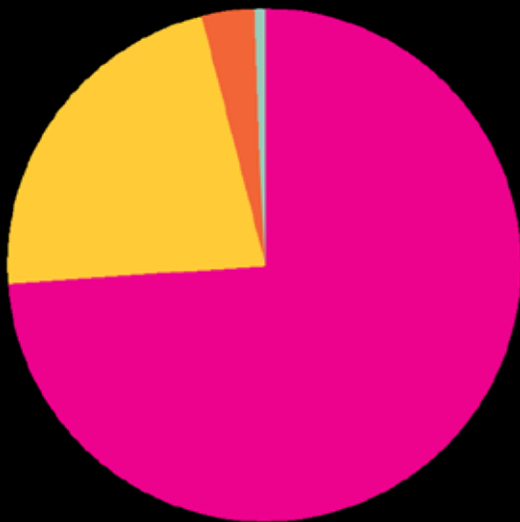
“Being a Fellow at the Union opened doors I never imagined existed. I had the opportunity to meet African American Artists from across the U.S. As an African American female artist it is so important to meet artists that look like you, and understand your struggle as a woman of color in the world of art. The Union for Contemporary Art supports and embraces local artists, providing them with valuable studio space to make their artistic dreams come true.”

— Pamela Conyers-Hinson, 2018 Union Fellow

Fellowship

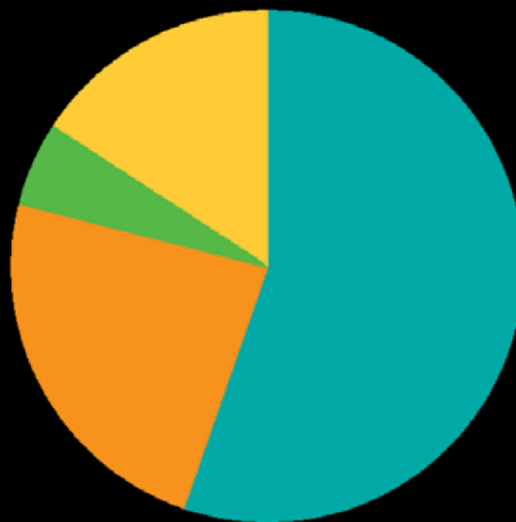
Income & Expenditures

CONTRIBUTED SUPPORT



● Foundations	\$914,787.86
● Individuals	\$273,140.20
● Corporations	\$43,322.46
● Government Grants	\$6,250
TOTAL	\$1,237,500.52

EARNED REVENUE



● Membership Dues & Ticket Sales	\$24,983.99
● Program Fees	\$10,661.26
● Rental Fees	\$2,334.59
● Product Sales	\$7,152.72
TOTAL	\$45,132.56

TOTAL INCOME: \$1,282,663.08

EXPENDITURES



● General Programs + Projects	\$866,489.54
● General Operating & Administration	\$150,075.27
● Professional Development & Strategic Planning	\$1,169.10
● Fundraising	\$129,838.19

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,147,572.10

People & Partners

UNION STAFF

Nicole Caruth	DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
Denise Chapman	PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THEATRE
Dan Crane	CO-OP STUDIOS COORDINATOR
Kat Fackler	PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Sarah Jones	CO-OP STUDIOS MANAGER
Megan King	MANAGER OF FOUNDATION + CORPORATE RELATIONS
Caitlin LaVelle-Gustafson	MANAGER OF INDIVIDUAL GIVING + STEWARDSHIP
Joey Lynch	DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES
Patrick Mainelli	COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
Brigitte McQueen Shew	FOUNDER + EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Paige Reitz	DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Danielle Powell	PUBLIC PROGRAMS COORDINATOR
Jacqueline Smith	YOUTH STUDIOS MANAGER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erin Amdor-Cihal, Secretary
Karen Borchert
Adrian Duran
Cydney Franklin
Shaun Ilahi
Tahnee Markussen
Bruce Moritz, Treasurer
Amy Nelson
Aaron Shaddy, Vice-Chair
Wendy Townley
Cammy Watkins
Drew Weitz, Chair

INCOMING MEMBERS 2019

Alexis Bromley
Celeste Butler
Ali Maloy
Jessica McKay
Tulani Grundy Meadows
Jen Pavkov
Carol Russell
Susan Stroesser

2018 TEACHING ARTISTS

Youth

Ekta Aggarwal
Ang Bennett
Nyame Brown
Celeste Butler
Jeffrey Collins
Tiana Conyers
Alisha Davis
Michelle Elson-Rosa
Amanda Foreman
Teri Iltaz
Christopher McLucas
Emily Mitchell
Anna Nance
Marcus Ross
Obed Sanchez
Sarah Schneiderwind
Katie Schroeder
Andrew Tatreau

Co-Op Studios

Joe Addison
Maranda Allbritten
Katy Baker
Celeste Butler
Cally Casteel
Shayne Christensen
Tiana Conyers
Teri Coolidge
Calandra Cooper
Alisha Davis
Demetria Geraldts
Allyson Gibbs
Amy Haney
Janelle Jurgens
Harrison Martin
Alajia Mckizia
Jessica Mills
Reagan Davis Pufall
Obed Sanchez
Peter Scherr
Katie Schroder
Andy Smith
Annemarie Stokes
Rob Walters
Ella Weber
Shea Wilkinson

2018 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts
Benson First Friday
Black and Pink
Black Votes Matter
Catholic Charities Christ Child North Senior Center
Charles Drew Health Center
Creative Mornings / Omaha
Creative Time
Creighton University
Girls, Inc
Greater Omaha Chamber
Habitat for Humanity of Omaha
Heartland Workers Center
Howard Kennedy Elementary
Joslyn Art Museum
KANEKO
Kerfuffle
Kris Graves Projects
MAPA
Metropolitan Community College
Minne Lusa Neighborhood Association
Montessori Co-op School
Nebraska Arts Council
Nebraska Civic Engagement Table
Nelson Mandela Elementary School
NET
Olsson
Omaha Creative Institute
Omaha Girls Rock
Omaha North High School
Omaha Public Library
Omaha Public Schools
Omaha Small Business Network
Omaha Zine Fest
ONE Omaha
Open Coffee
Opera Omaha
Partnership 4 Kids
Peter Kiewit Foundation Summer Fun
tbd. dance collective
The Nature Conservancy Nebraska
The Study
UNO International Programs
UNO Service Learning
Urban League of Nebraska
Verse, Inc
Washburn University
Women in Architecture
Women's Fund of Omaha

OUR STELLAR VOLUNTEERS

Molly Barber
Rebecca Bartless
Ang Bennett
Annie Boyle
Jeffrey Collins
Marsha Fields
Nick Holden
George Johnson
LaKajja Johnson
Jennie King + children
Michelle Masur
Taylor Newcomb
Tiffany Nigro
Sally Otis
P4K Teens tour
Chris Prinz
Kate Richling
Briana Ripley
Obed Sanchez
Trish Schaefer
Annie Schenzel
Service Learning Day
Melanie Sloger
Annemarie Stokes
Maureen Waldron
Tessa Wedberg
Matt Wettengel

UNION

