

UNION

**2019
Annual
Report**

www.u-ca.org



As an organization now entering its ninth year of life, The Union for Contemporary Art has seen many seasons of growth and change. Through it all . . . we have never known a year quite like 2019.

In 2019, we welcomed 14,245 people to North Omaha to experience the arts and engage in meaningful dialogue at the intersection of N 24th and Lake Streets. This figure is nearly *DOUBLE* the number of community members we hosted the previous year.

This growth reflects major new initiatives like the Undesign the Redline exhibit, which since opening in July 2019 has engaged nearly 2,000 community members in conversation on the legacy of housing discrimination and how we can best advocate for change in our community.

Our first annual fundraiser event, MOONDANCE, proved to be a big, beautiful, SOLD OUT, success, bringing 371 guests together to celebrate all that we are able to achieve thanks to our wonderful supporters

Our seven programs also grew in significant ways in 2019. In May, we officially re-launched our Abundance Garden project, which provided 348 pounds of free produce to our neighbors and the families we serve.

In September, we were honored to welcome Pittsburgh-based artist and community activist, Vanessa German, to Omaha as the 2019 Wanda D. Ewing commissioned artist. Her work, including her Ritual Reckoning performance commemorating the 100-year anniversary of Will Brown's lynching, will echo in our hearts and in our work for years to come.

All this and so much more (Destiny Palmer's mural *Altered Perspective* unveiling on N 24th Street, Union Fellow Liz Gre's performance with members of the Omaha Symphony, all those many nights of packed houses in the Union theater . . .) made 2019 a pivotal year for The Union.

Looking forward, while some things will evolve, and others remain constant – we will continue to support the arts and our local cultural community while working for social change in our city. We will hold true to our commitment to make the arts accessible for everyone, to work for unity and equity, and we will continue to lean into the steadfast resilience of our North Omaha neighborhood and move forward in our work with intentionality and love.

Best regards,

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

Union Founder + Executive Director

Youth



In 2019, the Youth Engagement program connected with 1,250 young people and community members, providing cultural enrichment ranging from culinary arts and urban agriculture, to art-making and gallery explorations. In total, we provided 3,273 hours of free, arts-based programming for North Omaha youth and other guests.

“Art Club = create, smile, eat new things, express yourself, open new doors, be a star, love others!”

-Art Club Participant

Exhibition



In 2019, the Exhibition program provided professional exhibition opportunities for 5 artists, showcasing local talent, as well as regionally- and nationally-renowned artists. In total, 2,101 patrons visited the Wanda D. Ewing Gallery for an exhibit or opening reception.

“*My time at The Union was so special. I have never experienced an arts organization so extremely dedicated to what they do while fostering such a strong sense of community with love in Omaha.*”

-Glyneisha Johnson // 2019 Exhibiting Artist

Performing Arts



PLa

Nearly 1,300 patrons attended a Performing Arts production in our theater (a 23% increase from 2018), generating \$17,445 in ticket sales. We also provided 393 FREE “Radical Hospitality” tickets to patrons who requested them.

“As someone from outside Omaha, I like to support The Union because The Union speaks with a voice that champions an underserved but vital component of the Omaha artistic community. The productions I have attended are bold and courageous and insightful.”

-Don Keelan-White // Theatre Patron



Co-Op Studios

The Co-Op Studios continued to provide access to professional art-marking resources and equipment to artists at all stages of their careers. In 2019, we offered over 80 creative skill-building workshops for nearly 345 community members.

“The Co-op at The Union is the reason I fell in love with Omaha. I moved here from Los Angeles in May and couldn’t believe what an amazing resource it is and available to the public for such an affordable price.”

-Anne Gustafson // Co-Op Member



Inside/Outside Fellowship

In 2019, the Inside/Outside Fellowship program welcomed a cohort of 4 artists and one artist duo whose artistic practices reflected a wide range of disciplines. From community organizing and theatre-making to dance and music, this year's Fellows expanded the possibilities of the program and left an indelible impact in our community.

“The Union family nurtured and trusted me as an artist. The Fellowship helped me to further solidify the correlation of my work to community engagement. I learned to give an (unapologetic) voice to my artistic expression.”

-Demetria Geraldts (of tūdūsō) // 2019 Inside/Outside Fellow

Neighborhood Arts



In 2019, we partnered with 54 community organizations, making our Neighborhood Arts program a truly collaborative and communal effort. In the summer, we were thrilled to host artist Destiny Palmer for the creation of the new mural *Altered Perspective* at the intersection of North 24th and Taylor Streets.

“I had the pleasure of being chosen to work with the community and The Union, to create a mural that will last for decades. The Union created a space for collaboration that allowed me to be the visual conduit for North Omaha’s community. I will be forever grateful for the gift to give.”

-Destiny Palmer // 2019 Neighborhood Arts Muralist

Abundance Garden



We grew, harvested, and distributed 350 pounds of FREE and fresh produce to our neighbors through the Abundance Garden program. Nearly 600 community members attended our Saturday Open Harvest events.

“When the garden was all finished and in full swing the kids and I really enjoyed picking ingredients for our cooking classes every week. My mother and I also got to teach a Mexican food cooking class, cooking with your mom is always humbling & nostalgic. There were beautiful memories made in that garden.”

-Obed Sanchez // Youth Teaching Artist +
Abundance Garden Volunteer

People & Partners

UNION STAFF

Denise Chapman | Producing Artistic Director, Theatre
Dan Crane | Co-Op Studios Coordinator
Kat Fackler | Events + Project Manager
Sarah Jones | Co-Op Studios Manager
Megan King | Manager of Foundation
+ Corporate Relations
Caitlin LaVelle-Gustafson | Manager of Individual
Giving + Stewardship
Mary Lawson | Program Coordinator
Joey Lynch | Director of Facilities
Patrick Mainelli | Communications Director
Brigitte McQueen | Founder + Executive Director
Paige Reitz | Deputy Director
Jacqueline Smith | Youth Studios Manager

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Tulani Grundy Meadows
Jessica McKay
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Amy Nelson
Jen Pavkov
Carol Russell
Sue Stroesser
Wendy Townley
Drew Weitz, Immediate Past-Chair

TEACHING ARTISTS: YOUTH

Ang Bennett
Jeffrey Collins
Tiana Conyers
Alisha Davis
Amanda Foreman
Emily Mitchell
Obed Sanchez
Sarah Schneiderwind
Katie Schroeder
Mia Matlock
Pamela Conyers Hinson
Samantha Zarders
Jessica Freeman
Alexandria Jonae Ewing
Tyler Swain
Mariah Person
Celeste Butler
Victoria Hoyt
Demetria Geraldts
Nicole Hulstein
Liliana Monjarez-Falcon
Glyneisha Johnson
Vanessa German
Lydia Thompson

TEACHING ARTISTS: CO-OP

Obed Sanchez
Andy Smith
Katie Schroeder
Sarah Hummel Jones
Maranda Allbritten
Megan Mcleay
Dan Crane
Ella Weber
Peter Fankhauser
Reagan Pufall Davis
Rob Walters
Jeff Collins
Harrison Martin
Katy Baker
Joe Addison
Cally Casteel
Demetria Geraldts

VOLUNTEERS

Ang Bennett
Sovia Bossmeyer
Russell Brausch
Julia Buskirk
Celeste Butler
Annie Carpenter
Kim Carpenter
Caity Caughey
Tony Chudomelka
Teri Coolidge
John Coolidge
Ervin + Smith Creative Academy
Marsha Fields
Ana Garcia
Stephanie Hanson
Teri Healy
Taylor Jackson
Junior League of Omaha
Mary Killian
Eric Lawson
Wilder Mainelli
Mia Matlock
Madeline McCrae
Alajia McKizia
Kristina Mengis
Emily Mitchell
Tiffany Nigro
Sally Otis
Hannah Randolph
Kristen Reitz
Amy Rouse
Erin Sanders
Trish + Hannah Schaefer
Mel Sloger
Melanie Sloger
Annemarie Stokes
Tiffany Truong
UNO ART4920 Art in Theory and Practice class
UNO Day of Service
Ramaa Venkatesh
Srila Venkatesh
Maureen Waldron
Elisa Wolcott

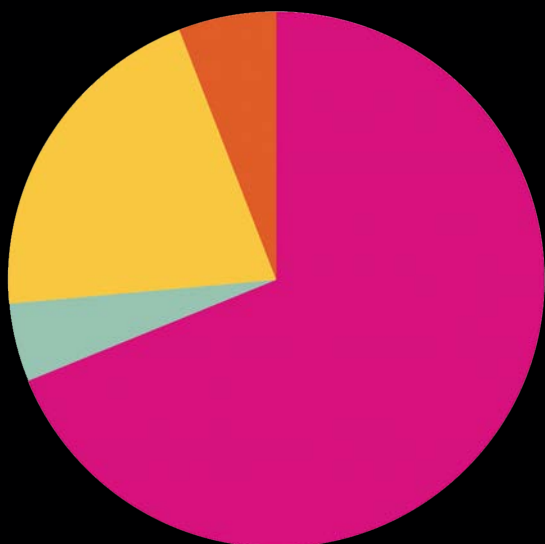
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

100 Black Men of Omaha
Amplify Arts
Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts
Big Garden
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands
Brownell Talbot
Charles Drew Health Center
Christ Child North Senior Center
City of Omaha Planning Department
City Sprouts Omaha
Creighton University
Designing the WE
Ervin and Smith
Film Streams
Free Farm Syndicate
Gifford Park Neighborhood Market
Girl Scouts
Girls Inc. of Omaha
Health Center Association of NE
Heart Ministry Center
Heartland Pride
Heartland Workers Center
Humanities Nebraska
I Be Black Girl
Inheritance Project
Joslyn Art Museum
Junior League of Omaha
KANEKO
Lutheran Family Services
Metro Community College
Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Black History Art Contest
Nebraska Civic Engagement Table
NET
No More Empty Pots
Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
North Omaha Neighborhood Alliance
Omaha Chamber of Commerce
Omaha Girls Rock
Omaha Public Library
Omaha Zine Fest
Opera Omaha
Peter Kiewit Foundation Summer Fun
Speaking of Happy
UNMC Health Disparities
UNO ArteLatinX
UNO Theatre Department
Urban League of Nebraska
Vaughn & Associates Inc
Women's Fund
YBI
YouTurn Omaha

Income & Expenditures

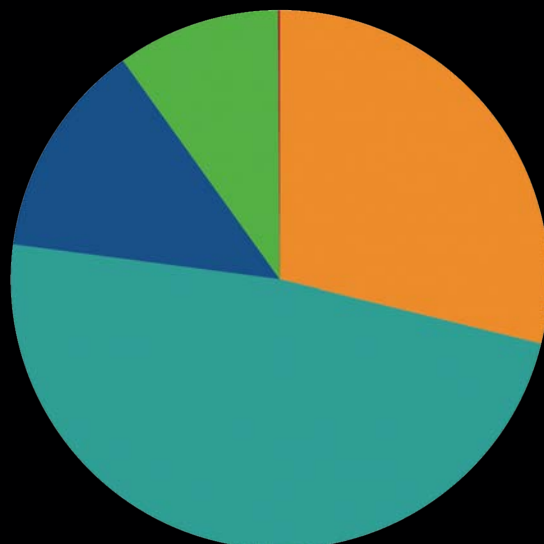
Financials reported in our annual report are calculated on a cash basis, reflecting income and expenses exchanged within the fiscal year.

CONTRIBUTED SUPPORT



● Foundations	\$755,700
● Government	\$52,029
● Individual	\$225,586
● Business	\$64,558
TOTAL	\$1,097,873

EARNED REVENUE

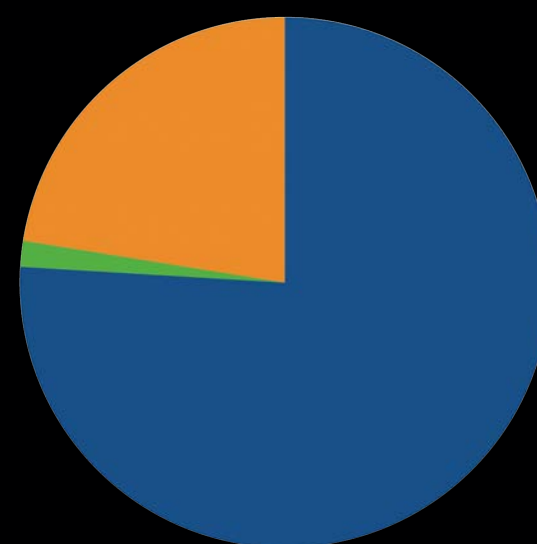


● Program Fees	\$17,474
● Membership	\$29,262
● Product Sales	\$7,900
● Rental Income	\$5,935
● Other	\$66
TOTAL	\$60,637

FROM NET ASSETS: \$47,443

TOTAL INCOME: \$1,205,953

EXPENDITURES



● Programs	\$915,934
● General / Overhead	\$18,966
● Fundraising	\$271,051

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,205,953

Supporters & Friends

Our work is made possible through the generosity of hundreds of incredible people who believe that the arts are vital to our community. We would be nothing without your support of our mission ... thank you!

\$20,000+

Anonymous
Richard Brooke Foundation
Holland Foundation
Peter Kiewit Foundation
Lozier Foundation
National Endowment For The Arts
The Sherwood Foundation
Fred and Eve Simon Charitable Foundation
Annette and Paul Smith
Weitz Family Foundation
Drew and Meredith Weitz
Katie Weitz, PhD & Tim Wilson
Roger and Kate Weitz

\$19,999 - \$10,000

Hawks Family Foundation
Lincoln Financial Foundation
City of Omaha
Omaha Steaks/Todd and Betiana Simon
Bill and Ruth Scott
Julia Vlock

\$9,999 - \$2,500

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Karen and Taylor Borchert
Cox Communications
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Karen and Robert Duncan
Joan Gibson and Donald Wurster
Kevin McCarthy
Metropolitan Community College
Mutual of Omaha
Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska
Cultural Endowment

\$2,499 - \$1,000

Alliance of Artists' Communities
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\$999 - \$500

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\$249 - \$50

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