



SOUTH HAVEN
CENTER FOR
THE
ARTS

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Jenna Myny, Arts Administrator
Wolfgang Alas, Visitor Services

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Annual Report FY25

Mission: Promotes community enrichment through the arts. Provides opportunities to study and appreciate the visual arts for all ages and at all levels. Supports arts in our schools and other arts organizations to ensure South Haven is a community where opportunities in the arts are abundant.



Letter from Kerry Hagy, Executive Director

June 1, 2025 was my seventh anniversary as the Executive Director of the South Haven Center for the Arts. This year the Center has been bursting at the seams with new involvement, collaboration, and program growth. We had gross revenues of \$266,596, a record in the history of the organization. We invested directly in programming, as well building a small reserve. This past year, I have seen more people in the Center than in any year in the last decade. We have built new and strong relationships with local families who attend our programming multiple times a week. We have purchased and used art supplies at a rapid rate. Mistletoe Market had record sales numbers and exhibitions shined, featuring artists and topics central to South Haven.

What is most notable about the last year at the South Haven Center for the Arts is the expansion of our mission-based programs that serve youth in our community. This includes an after-school program for middle and high school students that ran three days a week beginning in January and continued through the summer, a new visiting artist program implemented within the South Haven High School arts classes, a five-week outreach program to third graders at both Lincoln and Maple Elementary Schools, an expansion of our programming for children and families over the summer, and a new professional development program that served twenty Van Buren County Visual Arts Teachers. Through the funding of the Van Buren Youth Initiative, our middle and high school programming is free to families and includes all supplies and snacks. With funding from the South Haven Community Foundation, we were also able to make our programming free to elementary-aged youth over the summer and were able to provide more scholarships to our adult program participants.

This success was made possible by our amazing teaching artists, interns, volunteers, board members, community partners, donors and funders. We are able to further our mission thanks to the art work, dedication and inspiration of all the people highlighted in this report.

This fiscal year, the Center received \$34,461 from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC): \$17,500 supported our general operations and programming, \$11,061 was used to restore our downstairs gallery ceiling which had sustained water and time-based damage, \$5,000 was to launch our teaching artist outreach programming in the South Haven High School and \$900 was for professional development for staff. These dollars played an important roll in what we were able to accomplish. This was part of an MACC investment of \$101,357 in the arts and arts education in Van Buren County as a whole.

Looking ahead, state arts funding may be under threat. While typically we would already know what funding to expect for the coming year, the grant application process has not even begun while the state legislature determines what arts funding may be included in the new state budget.

Despite this uncertainty, and with your help, the South Haven Center for the Arts' mission has a bright future. Our Van Buren Youth Initiative funding for the next year will allow us to expand to four days of programming weekly. We will continue to collaborate with the schools and organizations to reach our wider community, and we will invest our time and resources in supporting the growth of artists, art teachers, art students, and our partner organizations. Thank you to each of our members who has participated in a class, an open studio, patronized the Mistletoe Market or the South Haven Art Fair, attended opening receptions, enjoyed the exhibitions and purchased art, volunteered your time and contributed your resources. We look forward to working with you again in the year ahead.

2025

Director's Highlights

Fundraisers:

Toasting the Arts at Modales in May was successful!

Fall Winemakers Charity Dinner hosted by Paul Hix and Michael Morey

Art Fair:

We had another wonderful art fair with much positive feedback from artists and visitors. Cell phone data shows we had 4,900 visitors, up from 4,600 in 2024, and 2,900 in 2023. The parking shuttle and family programming continue to be successful

Staff:

Jenna Myny joined the staff as Arts Administrator. Jenna, who carries a BFA from Western and lives in South Haven, joined us in March of 2025. Jenna is taking on a wide breadth of tasks for the organization including administrative, book keeping, and social media marketing tasks.

Wolfgang Alas joined in March of 2025 after years of volunteering and supports daily operations, guests services and program growth.

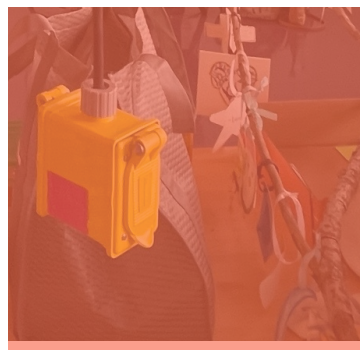
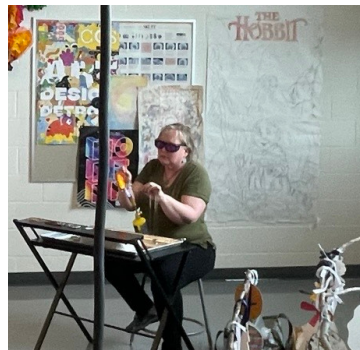
Interns:

In the summer of 2025 we had five amazing interns that supported all aspects of our programming. **Katelyn Jewett, Michelle Gonzalez, Sophia Confer, Lainey Allred, and Leo Rediess.**



2025 Program Highlights

- **Art Teacher Professional Development.** In August this year, with a partnership with the Van Buren Intermediate School District, we launched a county-wide art teacher professional development program. We served 18 Van Buren County art teachers and two Berrien County art teachers with a day-long program prior to the start of school. The teachers ranged from being in their first year of teaching to their third decade. What they all have in common is that they are the only visual arts teacher in their school or even in their district and greatly benefit from time to connect and share.
- **CAPS Program with third graders.** We were invited to do a five-week program for a select group of third graders from Maple Grove and Lincoln, which was a hands-on class focused on art history. Connie McAllister and Hailey Baskin implemented this program in November and December of 2024.
- **Arts In Education.** Working together with Madeline Finn, our South Haven High School art teacher, and funded by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, we launched a new visiting artist program with the High School. Gina Edwards, a glass and jewelry artist, visited six Art One classes (90 students) and one advanced class (30 students) for a week in the fall and a week in the spring. She instructed students in a total of four projects: metal etching, enameling, chainmail and fused glass, as well as demonstrating glass lamp work for students - all methods the students would not have had the opportunity to learn otherwise.



The Center's Amazing Teaching Artists

Teaching artists:

Sarah Rydecki

Kayla Ridley

Erin Zoet

Aubrey Jewel Rodgers

David Baker

Gina Edwards

Connie McAllister

Keara Moore

Lotte Resek

Tristsan Waters

Megan Bennett

Katrina Jones

The skill, insight and hard work of our teaching artists is central to our mission.

This year, these teaching artists combined have provided:

239 hours of instruction to middle and high school aged artist

98 instructional hours to elementary-aged artists

78 hours of adult programming

30 family programming

16 hours of professional development to art teachers in Van Buren County

"I like the art center because you can learn so much. I also like that you get to learn different techniques and styles. The art center has helped with staying focused and art has also helped with my anxiety. Being there helps me to be more open to trying new things. The open studio on Wednesday is a great place to meet new people. Everybody makes you feel welcome. Mrs. Sarah always listens to your needs, and she will always give you new ideas and inspiration. The art center is the highlight of my week, and I can't imagine my life without it"

13 year-old after-school participant



2025 Capital Projects

Upstairs plaster repair and lighting replacement

The remodeling of the upstairs gallery was completed in September of 2024 including new LED lights and repaired paint and plaster on the wall and ceilings. The new lighting has greatly improved the lighting for even classes and events.

Gallery ceiling and drywall repairs

In January of 2025, we removed the dated ceiling from the main gallery on the first level, as well as repaired damaged walls and ceilings, and replaced the window shades. The paint and drywall works was completed by Moore Drywall, while the window blinds were installed by Northshore Paint, and volunteer Doug Jones painted and prepared the windows for the installation of the new blinds. The project was fully funded by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

Sewage line upgrades

At the beginning of July, we suffered a breakdown of our sewage line. The City of South Haven, owners of our building, quickly got the problem solved. The pipe was relined out into the road and an access point was added outside of the building to make future repairs easier.





Exhibitions

In our main gallery, the Center featured four unique exhibitions of high community interest:

- Soulscapes A Visual Odyssey of South Haven's Black Heritage curated with original art by Jennifer Sistrunk in collaboration with the Black History Leadership Society, Gail Patterson-Gladney, and Bishop Dorothy Sherrod including two in-depth artist talks
- Water Ways: Reflect and Connect, the Center's 76th Member exhibition featuring 30 member artists
- Swell: Big Water, Waves, & Their Riders, artists Sue Majewski, Beth Price, Ruth Tyszka, and Jason Thelen
- Altered Consumerism exhibiting Mary Hammer, Robind Reva, James C. Palmore, and James Gordon Jackson.



Pocket Gallery

- Seven exhibitions from September 2024 through August 2025, exhibiting six artists and students from our open studio program.

Student Exhibitions in March and April

- Work from South Haven, Bangor, Covert, and Bloomingdale Public Schools as well as St. Paul, St. Basil and the VBISD. We added more family programming and framed work for extended display at the South Haven Memorial Library and the Van Buren Senior Center.

Community Partners in 2025

Van Buren Intermediate School District
Van Buren Youth Initiative
County of South Haven
Visit South Haven
South Haven Memorial Library
South Haven Public Schools
Covert Public Schools
Bangor Public Schools
Bloomingdale Public Schools
The Scott Club
St. Paul's School
Van Buren Senior Services
Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum
Michigan Maritime Museum
Our Town Players
Foundry Hall
City of South Haven
Black History Leadership Society
P.R.E.T.T.Y
South Haven Chamber of Commerce
South Haven Play School
Youth Development Corporation
Van Buren Tech
Region IV Area Agency on Aging

Partner Initiatives

Messy Art Day and Glow Art Day with South Haven Memorial Library

Arts and Aging Partnership with Region IV Area Agency on Aging, Berrien Community Foundation, Krasl Art Center, Monday Musical Club, Twin City Players, and more

Van Buren Youth Initiative Van Buren Intermediate School District, Luc's Light, His Place, Van Buren Mental Health and growing



2025

Financial Highlights

The fiscal year ended on August 31, 2025. Following our normal practice, we will update this report after our annual fall audit review.

2025
Financial Highlights

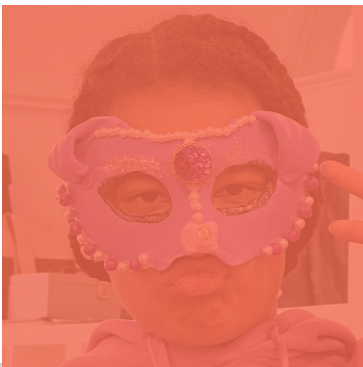
Van Buren Youth Initiative income
\$76,073.63

Michigan Arts and Culture Grants
\$34,461

South Haven Community Foundation
\$8350

Membership Income
\$25,224.85

Art Sales
32,072.63



Our mission's work is possible through our community's generosity.

Sponsors and Donors

Paul Hix Office of Edward Jones
Charles and Janet Beatty
Round Room Gives
Visit South Haven
TCC Gives
South Haven Public Schools
Visit South Haven
Constellation
B.E.R. Refrigeration, HVAC & Plumbing
All Weather Seal
Champion Windows
Glick
Whiteford Wealth Management
Hardt Insurance

Program Grants

South Haven Area Community Foundation
Michigan Arts and Culture Council

Capital Grants

\$11,061 Michigan Arts and Culture Council

VAN BUREN YOUTH INITIATIVE AFTER SCHOOL FUN



**SOUTH HAVEN
AREA COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

For good. For all.

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**
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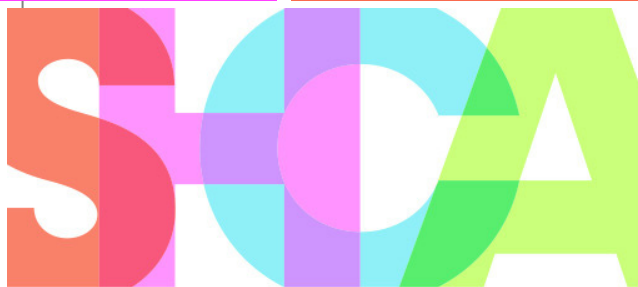
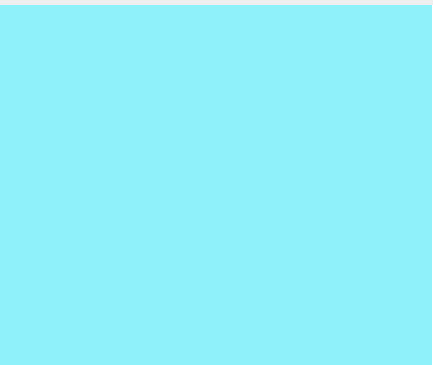
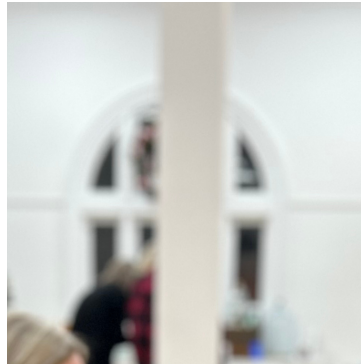
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ARTS &
CULTURE
COUNCIL**

Memorial Donations

Diane Lynn Cheeseman

In-Kind Donors

BRT/River Bottom
Crescent Moon
Fenn Valley Vineyard
Fieldsview Flower Farm
Genie and Ed Crotte
Groovin Grove
Harbor Light
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Kendra and Dave Kingsbury
Kitchen 527
Liberty Hide Bailey Museum
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SOUTH HAVEN
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www.southhavenarts.org

Kerry Hagy, Executive Director

Kerryh.shca@gmail.com

269-637-1041

600 Phoenix St.

South Haven, MI

@southhavenarts