



*sharing creativity, knowledge, and  
understanding across boundaries*

**1985 - TODAY**

**25 years of great art and great stories.** Arts Midwest was formed July 1, 1985 and today we proudly celebrate 25 years of service to residents of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Over these past 25 years, we have provided outstanding visual and performing arts experiences, innovative leadership development initiatives, and dedicated service to our constituents. We have worked hard to increase access to the arts for millions of regional and national audiences in vibrant urban and rural communities. **We love what we do, we love working with you, and we look forward to the next 25 years of great programs in great communities.**

## ARTS MIDWEST'S

mission is to connect people throughout the Midwest and the world to meaningful arts opportunities, sharing creativity, knowledge, and understanding across boundaries.



## PERFORMING ARTS

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Since 2003, Arts Midwest has been bringing extraordinary music ensembles from around the world to small- and mid-sized communities across the Midwest through our signature **ARTS MIDWEST WORLD FEST** program. Over these past seven years, ensembles from Somalia, Japan, Mexico, Israel, China, Canada, and Québec, have brought their music, dance, and cultural heritage to hundreds of classrooms, senior and community centers, factories, libraries, and performing arts spaces, and have reached thousands of students, adults, and seniors along the way. Community members have described Arts Midwest World Fest as providing lively arts education opportunities, exceptional public performances, and life-changing personal connections. As Karen Wagner, a teacher at Carlos Elementary in Alexandria, Minnesota, remarked:

*"I just wanted to thank any and all parties involved with bringing us ...Beauty and Melody ... What a phenomenal program for our students!!! My first grade class can't stop talking about it... we love to go to their website and listen to the various instruments that we were able to see and hear. We have also done multiple writing assignments in connection with the program...Thank you for giving our kids and community this cultural opportunity!!!"*

The **PERFORMING ARTS FUND** has been a cornerstone of Arts Midwest programming since our founding. Committed to reaching audiences across the Midwest, this program supported more than 300 performances and 1,000 educational events in the 2009-2010 cycle, and provided more than 334,000 Midwestern residents access to incredible arts experiences such as dance, theater, music, and youth and family entertainment. Through more than \$600,000 in direct support to presenting organizations, the Performing Arts Fund leveraged more than \$3.1 million in earnings for American artists.

In mid-September, performing arts professionals from across the United States, Canada, and beyond came together in Indianapolis, Indiana for the 23rd annual **MIDWEST ARTS CONFERENCE**. An educational and motivational four days focused on promoting and presenting touring performing arts, this year's Conference offered more than 900 attendees dynamic networking and business opportunities; engaging professional development sessions; and 150 live performance showcases.

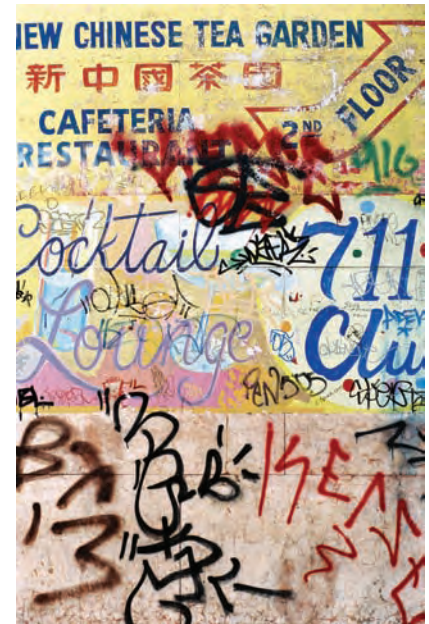
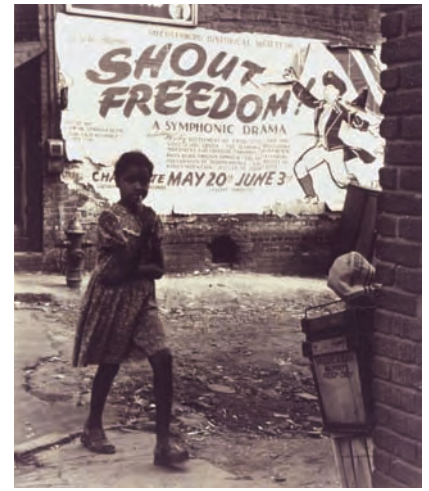
Arts Midwest continues to manage two national performing arts programs on behalf of the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 2003, **SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES** has supported theater companies in more than 2,300 communities across the United States as they build future audiences by educating and inspiring students to become active theatergoers. During the 2009-2010 cycle, 200,286 individuals experienced the inimitable works of William Shakespeare through 710 professional theater productions and 2,764 educational activities. The **NEA JAZZ MASTERS LIVE** program celebrates living jazz legends who continue to make exceptional contributions to the advancement of this original American art form. Through in-depth, extended engagements by NEA Jazz Masters, audiences have unique opportunities to broaden their awareness about the history, style, and significance of jazz.

## VISUAL ARTS

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In 2010, Arts Midwest partnered with the Columbus Museum of Art on the exhibition **SHOUT FREEDOM! PHOTO LEAGUE SELECTIONS FROM THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART**. The Photo League was founded in 1935 as a group of novice and professional documentary photographers working to use art to effect social change, and has since become one of the most influential photography movements of the twentieth century. The exhibition is supported by dynamic educational materials and videos, available on the Columbus Museum of Art Web site. "Shout Freedom!" will tour to The Muskegon Museum of Art in Muskegon, Michigan (August-November 2010); Ball State University Museum of Art in Muncie, Indiana (January-May 2011); and the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (May-September 2011).

Arts Midwest is also partnering with the United States Embassy of Beijing on **IDENTITY AND THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE: THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF WING YOUNG HUIE**, an exhibition that examines Chinese-American identities and the immigrant experience through the stunning works of Minnesota photographer Wing Young Huie. The exhibition opened in Beijing in November 2010 and marks the first time that Huie's works are on display in China. After the installation in Beijing, the exhibition will tour to four additional communities in China. Arts Midwest is also preparing for a tour of Minnesota artist **GEORGE MORRISON**'s paintings and sculptures. Drawing from the Minnesota Museum of American Arts' collection, this exhibition will tour to museums across the Midwest, and will showcase the breathtaking landscapes and sculptures by this award-winning Native American artist.



## LITERARY ARTS

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Arts Midwest continues to bring engaging literary activities to communities across the nation through **THE BIG READ**, an innovative reading program managed in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. Designed to provide citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities, in 2010 this initiative supported 267 organizations across 44 states as they created programming around 31 enriching works of literature.

In September, Arts Midwest had the pleasure of welcoming eight students from Egypt to participate in a two-week cultural exchange program as part of **THE BIG READ EGYPT/U.S.** project, supported by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The students spent their time touring South Dakota and visiting local landmarks such as the Badlands National Park, Mount Rushmore, and the Crazy Horse Memorial. Their delightful adventure also included an unexpected but welcome cultural exchange with American teenagers at a Cold Stone Creamery, where the two groups of teens instantly connected over ice cream.



## 2010 AT A GLANCE

1.7 million individuals served  
354,217 youth served  
1,238 performances  
17,801 educational activities  
50 states  
16 countries

25 years of service to  
the Midwest



## SERVING ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

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Arts Midwest continues to offer management and administrative support to **ARTSLAB**, a capacity-building initiative supported by Bush Foundation, F.R. Bigelow Foundation, Mardag Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, and The Saint Paul Foundation. Currently in the midst of another great programming year, ArtsLab is working with 16 grantees on strategies around planning, growth management, community engagement, and adaptive leadership—and is actively addressing the societal and organizational trends facing the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota arts community.

**ARTS LEARNING XCHANGE** is also bolstering the arts eco-system in the Twin Cities. Through a combination of free public symposia and advanced training for a select group of organizations, this program is providing opportunities for Minneapolis/St. Paul arts organizations to broaden and deepen their relationship with arts audiences. Funded by The Wallace Foundation and in collaboration with Minnesota Community Foundation, Arts Learning Xchange has coordinated a series of successful events around the topics of audience development, arts marketing, and using technology to reach new constituents.

Arts Midwest remains committed to serving our nine member **STATE ARTS AGENCIES**. Recognizing that each agency faces unique challenges in this economic climate, we have dedicated additional resources to presenting and visual arts organizations in each state, worked to support the staff and directors at each agency, and continued to offer opportunities to share best practices. We are currently in the process of researching and proposing new methods of collaboration with other sectors which have a stake in the success of the region's arts scene, and anticipate a strong and vibrant future.

## ON THE HORIZON

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Arts Midwest has exciting work planned for the 2011 calendar year. We encourage you to follow along with us in the coming year to hear more about:

- Expanded global cultural engagement programs, including the continued tour of Wing Young Huie's exhibition through China, and the launch of Chinese performing arts tours through the Major University Presenters circuit.
- Another exciting cycle of Arts Midwest World Fest featuring Wust El Balad from Cairo, Egypt; Cudamani from Bali, Indonesia; as well as engaging artists from China and beyond.
- The 2011 Midwest Arts Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, its first return to the city since 1992.
- The launch of Arts Midwest's new strategic plan.

## ARTS MIDWEST ONLINE

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[www.artsmidwest.org](http://www.artsmidwest.org)



[www.artsmidwestworldfest.org](http://www.artsmidwestworldfest.org)



[www.artslabonline.org](http://www.artslabonline.org)



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[www.youtube.com/artsmidwest](http://www.youtube.com/artsmidwest)

Photo credits. (Front): Black Violin performs at the Midwest Arts Conference, photo by Tiffany Rodgers. (Inside Left): Beauty and Melody conduct a workshop as part of Arts Midwest World Fest, photo by Shigeyo Henriquez; Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble performance, photo courtesy of the ensemble; a new colleague attends the 2010 Midwest Arts Conference, photo by Tiffany Rodgers; Johnny Cochran performs as part of NEA Jazz Masters Live, photo by Willie Jennings, courtesy of Jazz Arts Group in Columbus, OH. (Inside Right): Photo by Rosalie Gwathmey, "Shout Freedom," 1948 or later, courtesy of the Columbus Museum of Art; "San Francisco California," photo by Wing Young Huie; Egyptian students visit a buffalo range in South Dakota, photo by Sherry DeBoer. (Back): Taiko Project conduct a workshop as part of an engagement with Fort Wayne Dance Collective in Fort Wayne, IN, photo by Andy Welfle, courtesy of Fort Wayne Dance Collective.