

one story 



one **community**

28



years of
impact

Arts Midwest is a complex organization. We manage 13 different programs that span artistic disciplines and artistic missions. Some initiatives focus on business-to-business services. Others bring the arts directly to audiences. So telling our story can be challenging. That's why this year we are focusing on one part of that equation—our impact in Jamestown, North Dakota.

Nestled among rolling farmlands, herds of bison, and the churn of the James and Pipestem rivers sits Jamestown, North Dakota. Home to 15,500 residents, Jamestown is fueled by a dedicated manufacturing industry and a quiet but proud spirit.

But like much of main street USA, demographic shifts in Jamestown are bringing new cultures to this historically homogenous area. To help Jamestown residents embrace this change and to ensure that the community continues to be a leader in North Dakota's arts scene, civic leaders like Taylor Barnes, executive director of the Jamestown Arts Center, are looking for new ways to introduce diversity to the community.



Courtesy of the Arts Center

Taylor Barnes of the Arts Center is committed to bringing new arts experiences to Jamestown, which led her to partner with Arts Midwest on Caravanserai in 2012.

ARTS MIDWEST TOURING FUND

In 2013, our support to performing arts venues resulted in:

- 255** performances
- 595** educational activities
- And reached more than:
- 115,000** adults
- 64,000** youth



All this work requires a lot of energy. Learn how much coffee we consumed this year at bit.ly/2013atagance

During Arts Midwest World Fest, a local radio station hosted Israeli ensemble Darna.



Photo by Lindajoy Fenley

That's where Arts Midwest comes in

Arts Midwest was created nearly 30 years ago with the belief that the arts should be utilized and enjoyed by all, that they are a tool to strengthen our civic life. Our primary role was to provide grants to communities like Jamestown to support performing and visual arts activities. In fact, in 1985, the year we were founded, Arts Midwest gave one of our first **Arts Midwest Touring Fund** grants to the Jamestown Arts Center. Since then, we've funded more than 130 performances and educational activities for Jamestown residents—beginning a legacy of support to the Arts Center that would eventually result in new pathways for cultural understanding.



Photo by Eric Young Smith

For almost 30 years, we've been connecting children in communities like Jamestown to international artists.

ARTS MIDWEST WORLD FEST



10 years of programming
+ 17 international ensembles
+ 45 communities
= 465,500 people experiencing
new cultures.

Curious about how many miles these artists have traveled? Find out at bit.ly/2013ataglance

Native American and Japanese musicians exchange instruments during Arts Midwest World Fest.



Photo by Lindajoy Fenley

Over the years, we added new programs—addressing the needs of our region through touring arts exhibitions and developing performing arts initiatives like **Arts Midwest World Fest**. In 2003, recognizing the Arts Center's desire for new cultural experiences, we partnered with them to present the first Arts Midwest World Fest season. Over two years, four international ensembles visited the community for performances and school workshops.

While these artists opened new doors for audiences young and old, it was an exchange between two musicians that Barnes remembers best.

“The Japanese ensemble played a flute made by North Dakota Native American Keith Bear during their public concert. It was certainly the first time our community had ever heard Japanese and Native American music blend—and in bringing those cultures together, well...it made the world feel a little smaller for us all.”

And that was only the beginning.

Strengthening global connections

Arts Midwest World Fest was the impetus for the Arts Center's Culture Festival, a community gathering that celebrates North Dakota's ethnic traditions through food, dance, music, stories, and visual arts.

“Even with these festivals, I saw that our community needed more exposure to new cultures. So when the opportunity to host Muslim artists through Arts Midwest's **Caravanserai** program arose in 2012, I jumped at it,” says Barnes. “Caravanserai had such potential to improve dialogue and build trust through one-on-one interactions between Muslim artists and Jamestown residents.”

And it did. Nearly 10 years after their first experience hosting global artists, the Arts Center introduced the local community to a new culture—this time sharing Moroccan music, film, and literature.

The Anne Carlsen Center, a care facility for children with special needs, was an important stop along the tours. Michele Well, director of education at the Center, reflects on her experience:

“When the Majid Bekkas Gnawa Ensemble with Brahim Fribgane performed for our school, the students were taking in every song in their spiritual journey. The colorful ensemble of dancers caught the attention of every person in the audience. One little girl with a hearing impairment kept a steady beat with her feet as she viewed the vibrant orange apparel sashay by her. I have never witnessed her more engaged in an activity than that performance.”

CARAVANSERAI

3 years of touring artists from Pakistan, Morocco, and Turkey

Bringing school workshops, film screenings, community events, and public performances to **36,000** people, including **19,000** youth



Caravanserai hosts one of our most popular blogs. Find out how many posts we wrote this year at bit.ly/2013ataglance

Finances

Find out more at bit.ly/2013ataglance

\$7,318,165
Total revenue

\$7,310,463
Total expenses

11%
Administrative expenses



23

States where our donors live



In 27 of the past 28 years, we've operated in the black—including remaining fiscally sound during the Great Recession



89%
Program expense



9,256

Arts experiences that donors and supporters like you made possible



1

Giant thank you from all of us at Arts Midwest

Building a legacy

For more than 28 years, we have helped the Arts Center build a vital cultural community in Jamestown. As we look to the next quarter century, we want Jamestown to continue to have great arts experiences. So, in 2012, we invited the Arts Center to be a part of **ArtsLab**, a program that will help them sustain this work.

Only one year into ArtsLab, the Arts Center is already strengthening its relationships with the school board, local businesses, and the mayor's office—new connections that have resulted in a remarkable partnership, led by the Arts Center, which will create an Art Park in the heart of Jamestown. Barnes summarizes it well.

“Without the help from ArtsLab, our Board may not have had the incentive, and we may not have had the skills, to work with the City on this project. The Art Park is not only transforming downtown Jamestown, it's also anchoring the Arts Center as a key partner in community and economic development.”

Moving Jamestown and the Midwest forward

The Arts Center is just one of many stories about Arts Midwest's work across our region. But it's an important story. And it's one we couldn't tell without supporters like you—you who have enabled us to partner with hundreds of organizations just like the Arts Center, and allowed us to seize new opportunities, catalyze social change, and build communities through the arts.

Thank you—for all you've done and all you continue to do—to support our work across the region.

ARTSLAB

The Arts Center is just one of **15** arts organizations participating in ArtsLab—a program that is committed to helping nonprofits build partnerships, strengthen board involvement, and increase community engagement.



One of the ways we support ArtsLab participants is through webinars. Learn how many people we reached this way at bit.ly/2013ataglance



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