



Anderson

CENTER

AT TOWER VIEW

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report • July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023





Chairwoman's Letter

When I think of everything that the Anderson Center represents, it's the place itself that first comes to mind. My inner eye takes in the sculpture garden and the surrounding, expansive land; then it travels to the front of the house and imagines the residents inside, utilizing the space—actual and metaphorical—to dig deep into their chosen art form; then I think of the gorgeous barn, which uplifts my spirits every time I enter for a reading or a meeting; finally, I see the gallery space and I recall the art exhibits I have seen there over the years.

Since joining the board, and particularly since becoming board chair, I have learned to appreciate other spaces, too: the artists' studios behind the main building, where artists create year-round, and the classrooms that house the Alternative High School. Then there is the handsome new deck behind the barn, which opened in 2021. This summer, we celebrated the A.P. Anderson Award outdoors on the deck: our first time doing so, and our first time in person since the pandemic. It was a spectacular evening of exquisite music from honoree Nirmala Rajasekar's musicians and a wonderful opportunity to salute a world-renowned artist.

My eyes have also been opened to the incredible care and that goes into maintaining and improving the historic buildings and surrounding lands. In addition, the Anderson Center hosts dynamic public programs, such as the thriving annual Children's Book Festival that attracts hundreds of visitors every September. I am in awe of Stephanie Rogers and the dedication she and her team bring to the Center year-round. Together with the rest of the board, I am proud to support this work, and grateful to everyone who participates in the events and donates their precious resources of time and dollars.

Together, we form a unique community whose impact ripples out from Red Wing to reach the rest of the country and beyond. The Anderson Center is fueled by generosity, rooted in the vision of our founders, Robert and Carolyn Hedin, to offer its distinct spaces for the creation, study, and appreciation of art and ideas.

— Fiona McCrae, Board Chair

“To have such high caliber artists creating a premiere work outside of the metro area is part of what makes the Anderson Center special.”

—Sheila Regan for *MinnPost*
Covering *NORTH: an Installation by Mary Ellen Childs*, co-presented with Zeitgeist



Director's Letter

The year was a whirlwind of programs and projects with talented and inspiring people, yet a few stand out:

A new gallery opened in January 2023. The multi-media installation that inaugurated it was *NORTH* by Mary Ellen Childs, co-presented with Zeitgeist. Anderson Center has often re-purposed historic buildings to support art and ideas. The new gallery is in an industrial space originally constructed for the Energy Education Center in the 1980s.

Showing artwork in a highly flexible space specifically designed for exhibitions is a big step forward; the projections, sounds, and scents of *NORTH* showcased the space beautifully. The exhibition also perfectly encompassed important values: collaborations between people, disciplines, and organizations and timely programs that discuss important societal ideas.

In another example of how changes to the Tower View campus impact programs and people, Anderson Center added a wheelchair ramp to the Historic Residence side porch and made sensitive changes to doorways and a bathroom on the main floor. These updates make the first floor of the house fully accessible, allowing the Anderson Center to better fulfill our commitment to hospitality for all who want to be a part of our programs.

Anderson Center hosted our 28th season of artists and saw residency program alumni nominated for or receive major honors. Margaret Pearce (Resident '19) received a Guggenheim Fellowship to continue the project she began at the Anderson Center.

Jonathan Escoffery (U of M Gessell Fellowship Resident '14) saw the book he worked on during his residency nominated for the Booker Prize.

A personal favorite is getting to see artists-in-residence interact with Red Wing through community outreach programs. Public Artist Resident Seitu Jones continued work on the *Stand in the Shadows* project with a workshop with Red Wing High School's Black Student Union. We celebrated the installation of the first of Jones' works remembering African American History in Red Wing over the summer. Other artists-in-residence visited local senior centers, nursing homes, high school classes, and community organizations to share their work with our friends and neighbors.

The Minnesota Children's Book Festival was a joyful, memorable, and FUN day (as always). A full schedule of exhibitions, tours, and a concert with Charlie Parr in March kept our staff busy supporting artists and scholars, plus providing great programs.

The relaunched A.P. Anderson Award Gala celebrated Nirmala Rajasekar. The Gala also brought together many friends from around the region to celebrate the Anderson Center's work and the

Cover: Audience members experience *NORTH*, an installation by Mary Ellen Childs, co-presented with Zeitgeist, photo by Stephanie Rogers. Opposite, inset: composer Mary Ellen Childs (third from left, standing) and the team of musicians, artists, technicians, videographers, and administrators who brought *NORTH* to life.

This page: Nirmala Rajasekar, 2023 A.P. Anderson Awardee (left) in conversation with Stephanie Rogers, Anderson Center Executive & Artistic Director (right), photo by Chap Achen.





Residency Programs

accomplishments of a talented and generous musician, composer, and educator. Building community is a big part of our focus. Having so many people who have been a part of our programs together on the rooftop deck made for a special evening.

On a somber note, the Anderson Center said goodbye to several members of our community who passed away. I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know them. Having had several years to build relationships and learn the history of the organization and the site helps me appreciate the many ways (big and small, public and private) that so many people have contributed to the development of the Anderson Center over the past 28 years.

The Anderson Center's staff and board have updated our strategic plan. After accomplishing many of the goals we set four years ago, we are mapping the path forward in a world of accelerating change and increased uncertainty. From climate to technology to geopolitics, the context in which the Anderson Center operates has changed in just a few years. Despite that, we reaffirm that art matters and that Tower View is a rare, rural oasis that provides a place and a platform to support meaningful art and ideas.

New branding launched at the end of the fiscal year. The new logo, colors, and fonts in this document came from a months-long process by board and staff. This new look reflects our core identity as a place-based artist community that is steeped in history and supports innovative contemporary work. I am grateful to the staff, board, advisory members, and designers who worked on that process.

If you're reading this letter, you are part of the creative community that makes the Anderson Center possible. Whether you've been a member for years, are an artist advancing or presenting work through an Anderson Center program, or picked up this report on your first visit to the Center, you are part of what makes the Tower View site and the programs it supports happen. Thank you!

— Stephanie Rogers, Executive & Artistic Director

Above: renovating the non-historic porch of the Historic Residence to allow accessibility to the porch and first floor advanced the organizational value of hospitality for everyone.

Opposite, top: July 2022 Residents, from left: Michael Flora, Augustin Castila-Avila, Davu Seru, Ucheoma Onwutuebe, and Jordan Young. Opposite, inset: Early Career Resident Rachel Collier (right) showing felting work at an Open Studio event in August 2022. Photos by Stephanie Rogers. Early Career Residencies are generously supported by Jerome Foundation.

Below: Facilities Manager Ron Carpenter on the Anderson Center's new electric commercial lawnmower, part of our commitment to reduce both environmental impact and expenses for our site.



In Fiscal Year 2023, Anderson Center supported 28 artists-in-residence and launched the Winter Retreat program. This new opportunity offers artist residencies of one to four weeks in January.

Anderson continues its commitment to identifying and supporting talent from a wide range of geographies, disciplines, genres, career stages, and identities. Selected artists came from four states and one foreign country. They included filmmakers and fiction writers, printmakers and composers, non-fiction writers, textile artists, and more. Residents' work ranged from practices rooted in tradition to those pushing the boundaries of technology and contemporary practice. More than 64% of artists-in-residence identified as Black, Indigenous, Latinx, multi-racial, and/or People of Color.

These facts give a sense of the diversity of the program, but the true impact of time and space can't be easily measured and won't be fully understood for years. In the past year, Anderson also received four recently published books that resulted from residencies years earlier.



“This residency was crucial to the development of my work. Without the tangible support provided by the staff none of it would have been possible.”

—Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo, October 2022 resident

Anderson Center asks residents to describe their experience in three words. Here's what they said:



Outreach Programs



Public programs for Fiscal Year 2023 kicked off with a new partnership and signature event: the first annual Red Wing Area Studio Tour launched in July 2022 in collaboration with Red Wing Arts.

The completion of a new gallery in January meant more rotating exhibitions at the Anderson Center, more opportunities for artists to exhibit, and more art available locally. One of these exhibitions, *Threads of Connection and Belonging* by Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo, was chosen for inclusion in the first Wakpa Public Art Triennial, a program of Public Art Saint Paul. Anderson Center was one of only two sites in Greater Minnesota featured in the new, national public art event.

Anderson Center uses the word “artist” to mean creatives working in visual, literary, and performing arts, and those whose work doesn’t fit neatly into categories and boxes. Talented professional artists in every discipline from across Minnesota and beyond joined us to present engaging, meaningful arts experiences at the Tower View Historic Site and throughout the Red Wing community.



Above, from top: Sun Yung Shin reading at Books in the Barn, October 2022; Charlie Parr in concert in April 2023; author Stephen Shaskan signs a book for a young fan at the Minnesota Children’s Book Festival in September 2022. All photos by Stephanie Rogers.

Here is how people described the Anderson Center’s programs over the past year:



This page, clockwise from top: Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo (Resident 2022, center) exhibited examples of her “Wandering House Project” in June 2023 ahead of the completion of a quilt and online archive reflecting her work in Red Wing. Public Artist Resident Seitu Jones led a workshop with Students from the Red Wing High School Black Student Union in May 2023. Sheila the Party Lady painting faces at the Minnesota Children’s Book Festival. Local artist Kevin Ihrke at the First Annual Red Wing Area Studio Tour.

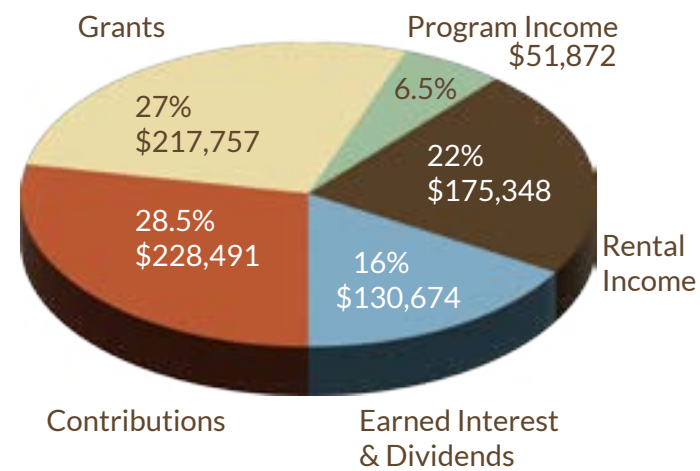
“It was amazing and inspiring to meet an actual author in person and hear about how they create their pieces.”

—A Red Wing High School Sophomore during Books in the Barn

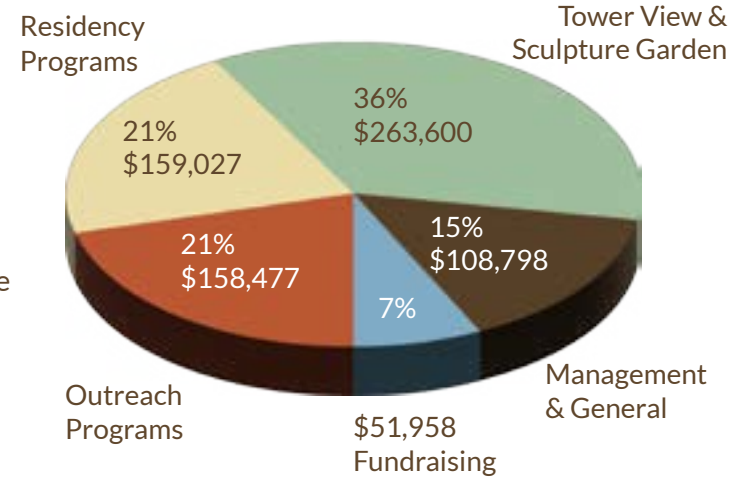


By the Numbers

INCOME: \$804,143

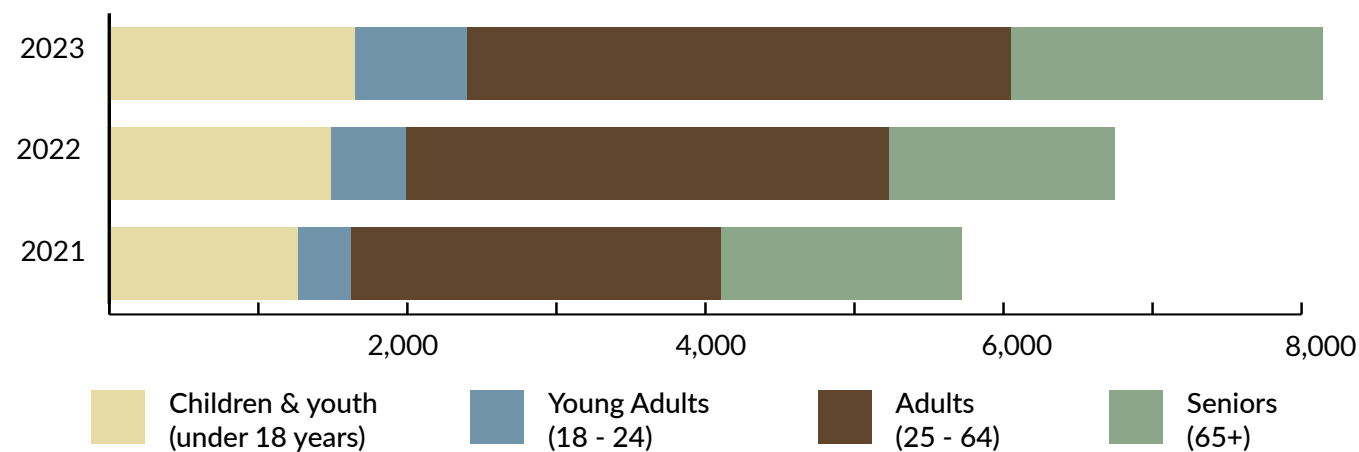


EXPENSE: \$741,860

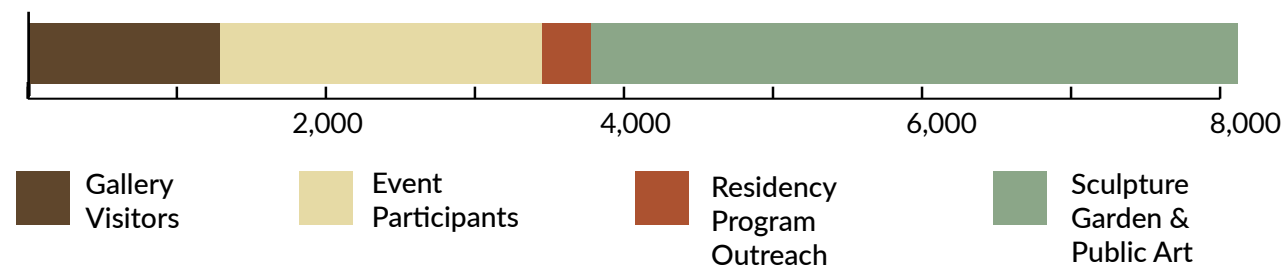


DIRECT PAYMENTS TO ARTISTS & SCHOLARS: \$91,389

ESTIMATED PARTICIPANTS BY FISCAL YEAR



ESTIMATED PARTICIPANTS BY PROGRAM - FY23



Guests at the 2023 A.P. Anderson Award on the rooftop deck, photo by Chap Achen.

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“Our family had a great time! This was our first Children’s Book Festival and we’re so glad we came today”

—A visitor to the Minnesota Children’s Book Festival in September



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 Joe Loer – Property & Finance Director
 Adam Wiltgen – Program Director
 Laurie Andrews – Visitor Assistant
 Ron Carpenter – Facilities Manager
 Janell Hammer – Visitor and Admin. Coordinator
 Kailey Laqua – Custodian
 Amanda Nodolf – Accountant
 Dale Swanson – Maintenance Assistant
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Staff and Board Lists are as of June 30, 2023.

Above: Photographer Deb Lee Carson in her studio during the Red Wing Area Studio Tour. Left: Participants try out stilting at the Minnesota Children’s Book Festival, photos by Stephanie Rogers.

Opposite: Aerial photo of the Anderson Center’s home at the Tower View Historic Site by Chap Achen.



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 Red Wing High School
 Red Wing Library
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 Three Rivers Fibershed

Tower View Alternative High School
 Universal Music Center
 Zeitgeist

Above: Camilla Leiva puts the finishing touches on the Plant Wisdom Mural in downtown Red Wing as part of the Anderson Center's Public Artist Residency Program.

Government and Foundation Support



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