



Peggy R.

**McConnell
Arts Center**
of Worthington

ON STAGE

ON VIEW

IN CLASS

2017 - 2018
Annual Report

YOU MAKE ART HAPPEN

Dear Art Lovers,

Collaboration and creativity are alive and well at the Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center! The 2017-18 year brought new and exciting partnerships to our Columbus arts community through programming ON VIEW, ON STAGE, and IN CLASS. With the help of friends and supporters like you, the McConnell Arts Center continues to bring people together through experiences that spark learning and creative conversations.

In our galleries, visitors enjoyed hundreds of works of art in mediums ranging from photography and mixed media to ceramics, encaustic, painting and more. We traced the evolution of the artist's journey through works over time with members of the Worthington Area Art League, featured the soulful expression of community arts educator Duarte Brown, and brought nature into our galleries with photography from our own Metro Parks.

Each new exhibition inspires creative workshops, specialized programming and new opportunities for collaboration. Record numbers of school groups toured through our galleries last year with interactive docent tours led by members of Friends of the MAC, enhancing the arts curriculum for schools in our area.

Performances on the Bronwynn Theatre stage introduced audiences to noteworthy authors through collaboration with the Friends of the Worthington Libraries. Modern dance returned to the stage with Hixon Dance's 10th anniversary year, and musical performances flourished with the continuation of the MAC's Chamber Orchestra and Jazz at the MAC series. Programming on our stage has evolved over time, growing year by year through increased audiences and financial support.

As a multi-disciplinary arts center dedicated to the appreciation and presentation of art in every form, we are humbled by your unwavering support and encouragement of the MAC. Thank you for your time, your attendance, and your financial investment in the arts in our community.

Please enjoy these highlights from the past year – and know that you help to MAKE ART HAPPEN!

Sincerely,



Jill Brandt
President, Board of Trustees



Jon Cook
Executive Director

Operating support provided by:



Bunting at Blendon by Sandy Ashley



IMPACT

PERFORMANCE
VISUAL ART
MUSIC
DANCE
The McCowan Art Center

**35%
INCREASE**

in
performing
arts attendance



1500
WORKS OF ART
on exhibition

85,000 PEOPLE
attended during fiscal year



526
PARTICIPATING
ARTISTS



1500
STUDENTS

**NEARLY
200**
classes,
workshops and
camps offered



Total estimated
economic impact of
\$2.9
MILLION
according to
Americans for the Arts



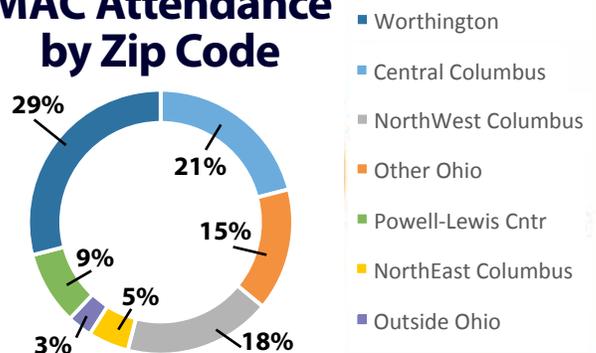
26,000
Worthington Arts
Festival visitors

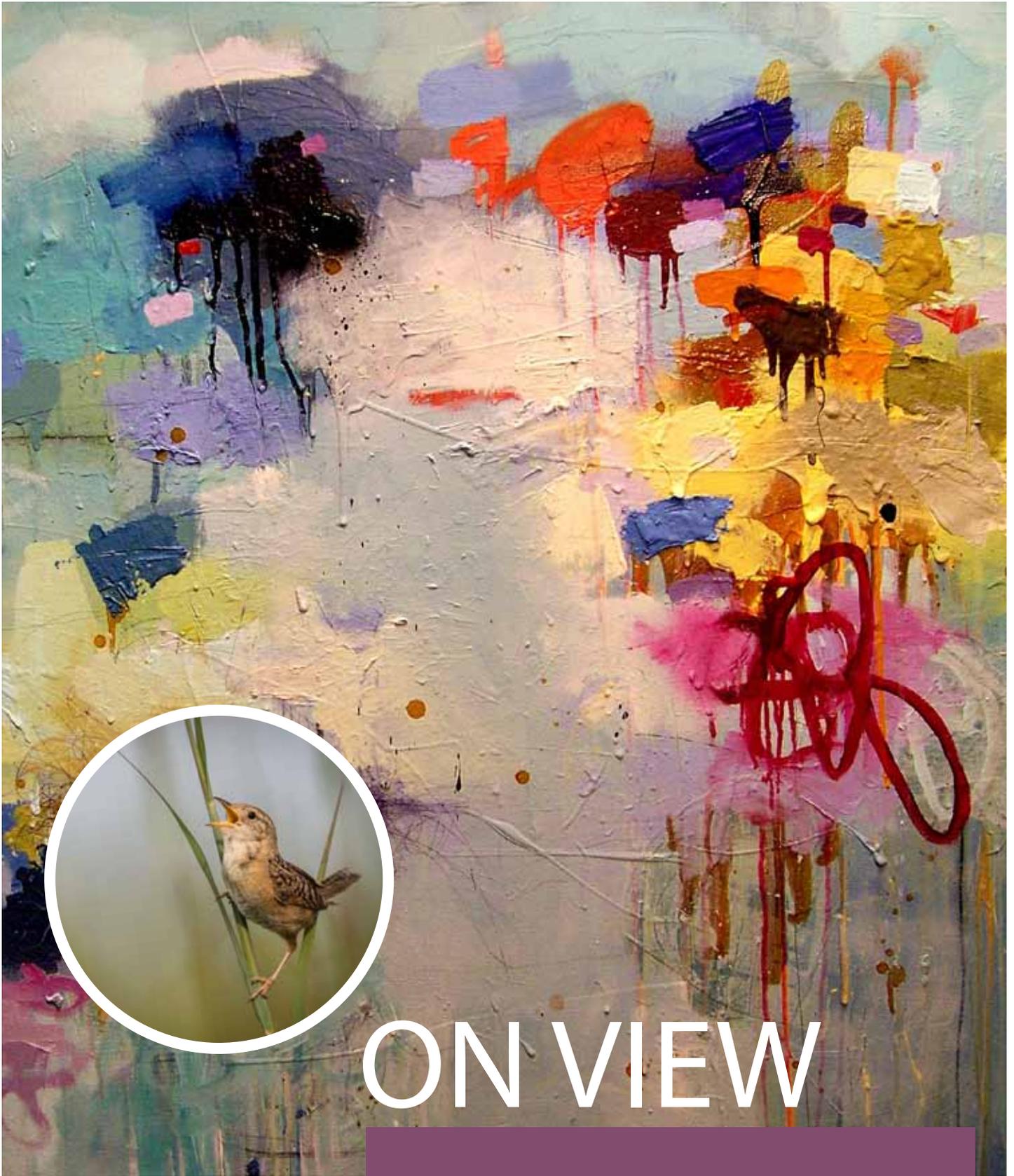
950
SCHOOL
STUDENTS

toured the MAC galleries
in the
2017-2018 school year



MAC Attendance by Zip Code

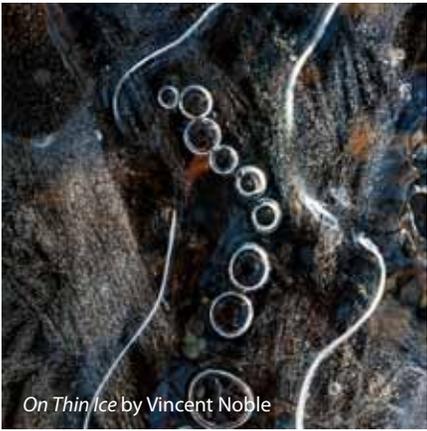




Cloudscape by Todd Camp,
Top 40 by Katherine Cubert

ON VIEW

Talented local artists inspired collaboration and conversation in the MAC galleries.



On Thin Ice by Vincent Noble

The visual arts series brings the work of talented local artists to the walls of the McConnell Arts Center. With established artists in the main gallery and emerging artists and students in the corridors, the walls of the MAC presents the extraordinary talent across a variety of mediums in the Columbus art scene.

Featured in the fall of 2017 were the talented Todd Camp and Duarte Brown in the Main and Corridor Galleries. Todd's mixed-media pieces represented his growth as an artist, the culmination of thirty years of artistic experience. Duarte's soulful works evoked a sense of community, focusing on the importance of individuality within a group.

In the spring, the Main Gallery was



Long Neck 2
by Richard Duarte Brown

filled with nature photography through a collaboration with the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks. *Depth of Field* featured works selected from an array of professional and amateur central-Ohio photographers, all taken within our own Metro Parks.

Returning to the galleries again this year were the *Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition (Region 1)* and the MAC Student and Faculty Shows. We also traced the journey of the artist through the works of the Worthington Area Art League, uncovered the stories behind Kelly Nye's enameled silhouettes, and enjoyed the whimsy and skill of the artists from the Goodwill Art Studio.

*Exhibition support for Todd Camp: *Into the Sky* provided by Yocum Communications*




A face became familiar as one walked through Duarte Brown's expansive works erupting in the corridor galleries last fall. Donte Woods first came to know Duarte as a subject and model for Duarte's paintings. Their connection inspired Donte to become an artist in his own right, pursuing filmmaking. Donte is also an accomplished public speaker. In their own way, they each capture the stories of people in the community in order to share them with us and connect with us, the viewer. Inspired by the connection and artistic and social influence the subject can have on the artist and vice versa, a public conversation was held last November with Duarte and Donte, moderated by Programming and Outreach Director Missy Donovan on the Bronwynn Theatre stage.





ON STAGE

Music, Film, Authors, Dance, and Theatre each found a home on the Bronwynn Theatre stage.



The Bronwynn Theatre stage was bustling throughout the year. In addition to the MAC's full schedule of programming, more than 50 community arts organizations, cultural groups and businesses used the McConnell Arts Center for their special events, meetings and performances.

The MAC's Chamber Orchestra presented its fifth season, pairing poetry and music in the spring concert through a partnership with Worthington Schools. The words of high school poetry contest winners were set to music in original compositions by local composers, and recited during the performance by WOSU's Jennifer Hambrick.

Jazz at the MAC returned this year, led by Tony Hagood and featuring the music of Duke Ellington, Dave Brubeck, Gershwin, and Nat King Cole. Audience favorites Hard Day's Night and the Mad, Mad Men Swingin' Holiday Show added sold out performances to the schedule. The MAC was also honored to host the Columbus Symphony Orchestra winds ensemble and Carpe Diem String Quartet on the Bronwynn Theatre stage.

Our friends in Gallery Theatre at the MAC performed *Casablanca: The Back Story*, followed by *Gems, Jewels, and Jealousy*. The MAC continued to enjoy increased attendance to the Exhibition on Screen film series, which highlighted the lives and works of Degas, Picasso, Rembrandt, and Van Gogh.

Family friendly programming came to the stage last year in the form of the "Hangover Brunch" featuring the music of Topher James and the Biscuit Brigade with flying pancakes for brunch on the patio, a bloody Mary bar, and a kid's art project in the gallery. The MAC's first ever PJ Party in January was also a resounding success. Kid favorite The Shazzbots performed to a sold out crowd of young ones wearing pajamas and fuzzy slippers, introducing new families to the MAC! Free pizza and popcorn, a laser light dance floor in the gallery, and an art activity rounded out the big night.



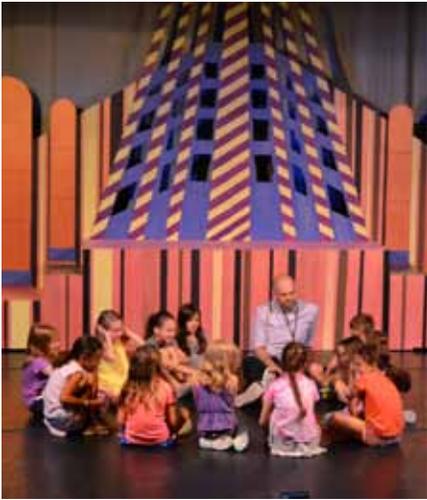
Last spring Hixon Dance presented a new original piece, *False Prophets*, a modern dance performance designed specifically for the Bronwynn Theatre. Sarah Hixon, founder, and her husband Jacob Reed spent hours at the MAC rehearsing and assembling the intriguing set for the piece. But that wasn't the last we saw of them. The next week, Jacob's students at Worthingway Middle School loaded their production of Peter Pan onto the Bronwynn Theatre stage, and the week after that, the MAC Chamber Orchestra debuted new original compositions by Jacob! The diversity of programming at the MAC is evident just within the work of one single couple! About the MAC, Jacob said, "We're not just here because it's convenient. We're here because there's an understanding at the MAC that the arts are for everyone."





IN CLASS

MAC students take multiple classes with a variety of instructors as they continue to grow as artists.



Class programming is fueled by the creativity of a full roster of artist teachers from central Ohio. With their help, the McConnell Arts Center is able to offer the highest quality in arts education for members of the community. The core classwork continues to grow, with waiting lists for several classes each session, and there is always an opportunity to attend new workshops and master classes inspired by exhibitions in the gallery and other special events.

Last summer, the MAC expanded its camp offerings and formed a new partnership with Worthington Pools. In addition to focusing on film-making, musical theatre, dance, and painting, campers got to spend afternoons splashing in the pool, rocketing down the water slides, and playing on the lawn with friends!

We endeavored to diversify class offerings at the MAC this year as well. BalletMet featured selections from *The Wizard of Oz* as part of their Fun Intro Sessions for Kids series. Additionally, we expanded and stream-lined the Open Studio calendars in the ceramics and painting studios, giving students time to work independently on their passion projects!



Last spring, the Main Gallery was home to *Depth of Field*, a nature photography exhibit curated in collaboration with the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks. Funding from Ohio Alliance for Arts Education allowed us to extend programming outside the MAC walls—with nature walks through the metro parks. Lead by naturalists and MAC Instructor Stacey Besst, students learned the fundamentals of nature photography, allowing them to hone their skills outside of the classroom.

Workshops supported by:



and Worthington Women's Club



Programming Partners in 2017-18

Creative partnerships are critical to programming at the McConnell Arts Center. By partnering with other successful organizations, we are able to elevate the level of programs offered, and provide more diverse experiences for our audiences. 2017-18 programming partners include: BalletMet, Carpe Diem String Quartet, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Columbus Children's Theatre, Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Hixon Dance, Learning Never Ends, Songs at the Center, Thurber House, WeJoySing, Worthington Chorus, Worthington Community Theatre, Worthington Libraries, and Worthington Pools.

Worthington Arts Festival 2018

In the McConnell Arts Center's third year presenting the Worthington Arts Festival, attendance and artist submissions continued to grow. Hosted on the Art Lawn of the MAC and Thomas Worthington High School, the festival featured 130 artists from across the country and showcased everything from photography to jewelry, from watercolor paintings to wood and metal working.

For the Festival's preview picnic on Friday night, the MAC joined with The Whitney House to provide a gourmet picnic dinner to more than 200 people. Attendees had the opportunity to dine on fantastic food and mingle with the featured artists, getting a first-look at what was to come that weekend.

Festival days on Saturday and Sunday were filled with art, food, fun, and heat as central-Ohioans gathered to buy art, tour the MAC, and meet the artists. Kids even had a chance to explore their own artistic



Preview Picnic sponsored by:



side in the family tent, which featured mono-printing, silk screening, and etching activities! Dancers from the Hixon Dance company could be seen performing in the grass, providing entertainment for kids and adults alike. Help from the Rotary Club of Dublin Worthington made the weekend fly by seamlessly.

As the Worthington Arts Festival continues to expand, the MAC appreciates the positive response from community members and artists alike. We look forward to continuing this growth in the years to come.

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Photos by Randall Schieber

The building was filled with songs and scenery for the sixth annual Arts Enchanted Evening! Guests broke into song as they strolled through the building visiting favorite scenes from the silver screen. In addition to generous sponsorships from companies and individuals, MAC's biggest night was also supported with the raffling of art donated by local artists, helping to raise \$38,000 in support of MAC's programming – a new record! Live musical performances, tap and ballet dance numbers, and even a little puppetry helped to pay tribute to *The Sound of Music*, *Singin' In the Rain*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Grease!*

GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR
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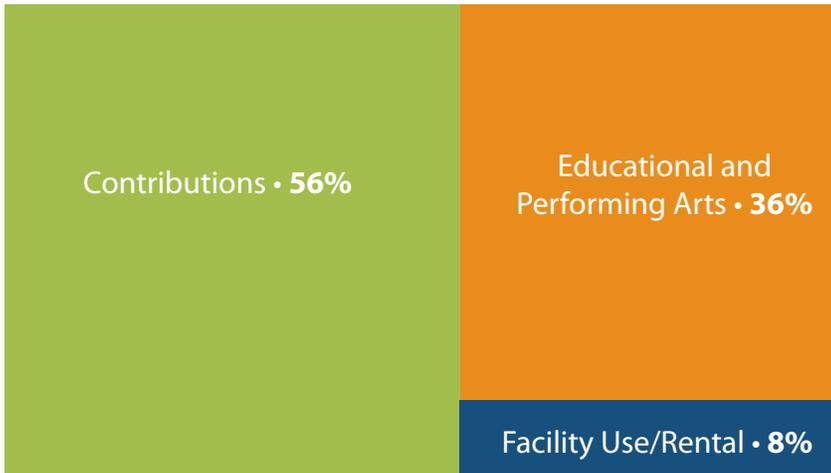
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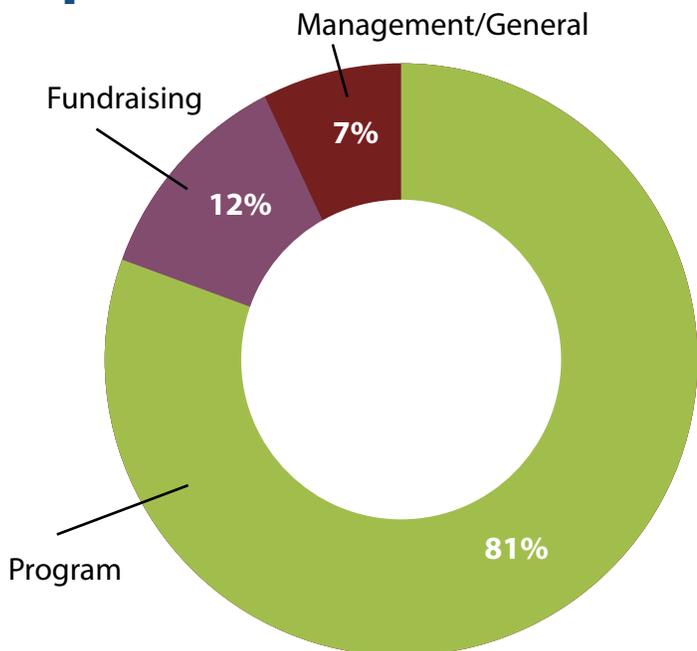
FINANCIALS

Income



Total Operating Income for 2017-2018
\$783,831

Expense



Total Operating Expense for 2017-2018
\$774,184



During the 2017-2018 school year, nearly 1,000 students toured the MAC galleries led by volunteer docents, artists and staff. During the Todd Camp and Duarte Brown exhibitions, students mixed colors on a plate and searched the galleries to match their colors to the art, showing the limitless use of color in the work. Docent tours for students were started by volunteers of the Friends of the MAC, and the activities have more than doubled since last year!

Outreach continued through Master Classes offered to 7th and 8th graders at Kilbourne Middle School in flute, clarinet and trumpet by MACCO music director Antoine T. Clark and MACCO musicians.



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Operations and Technical Assistant



Volunteers and Interns

With more than 2,000 hours of access to art through gallery exhibitions, live performances, art classes, and special events each year, the small but mighty staff at the MAC rely heavily on a strong intern program and active volunteer base.

Interns serving with the MAC range in experience from high school to post graduate, and the time they spend at the MAC qualifies as an additional 1.5 FTE (full time employee). This year, interns joined us from a week to several months, and worked to develop education programs and activities, coordinate visual arts installations, and assist with special events.

More than 120 ongoing volunteers help to make the MAC run smoothly by assisting with the coordination of special events, board and committee service, answering phones to sell tickets and register students for classes, serving as users and bartenders, conducting student tours of the galleries and installing artwork. Members of our community invest their time to help MAKE ART HAPPEN.



2017-2018 SUPPORTERS

The Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center is grateful to its loyal supporters, members, and friends for their ongoing support of the arts in our community. Donors listed below reflect gifts or pledges of \$250 or more received during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018).

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\$250 - \$499

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Peggy R.
**McConnell
Arts Center**
of Worthington



Mission:

To change lives and make memories
through creative arts experiences

Vision:

The Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center of Worthington
brings people together through experiences that spark
learning and explore creative conversations.

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www.mcconnellarts.org