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Laura Zimmermann
Dear Friends,

I am so excited to share our 2018 Year in Review with you, reflecting back on a year that saw Springboard for the Arts push ourselves and grow in ways that will sustain, nourish, and expand our work.

From our Fergus Falls office, we developed new partnerships with the Minnesota Preservation Alliance, continued to build rural-urban exchange and host artists through the Hinge Arts Residency, delivered workshops across Minnesota, and expanded our office footprint to include new space for exhibitions and gatherings.

In our Saint Paul office, we worked with partners such as Hennepin County, the Saint Paul Libraries, and Ramsey County on creative placemaking and community art processes, brought artists and healthcare together at the People’s Center, and continued offer workshops and consultations to support artists making a living and a life.

And we bought a building. In May of 2018 we acquired the former Saxon Ford dealership on University Avenue. Located at the intersection of the Little Mekong, Frogtown, Rondo, and downtown neighborhoods of St. Paul, this is the site where we held our One Year Celebration for the Irrigate artist-led creative place-making work in 2012, and the seeds that were planted then are truly growing. We are in the process of a capital campaign to make this long-shuttered site into a creative hub and community platform.

We spent much of the year working with Helicon Collaborative to develop a vision document that frames where we see our work at the intersection of creative development and community development. That report, Creative People Power, further articulates where we see our work going. We believe that to do this work ethically, intentionally, and for the long-term, our work and partnerships must be asset-based, equity-driven, and relationship-powered. This is driving our work, and our capital campaign.

I am proud that we continue to grow and expand our resources and the way they are shared nationally. Our earned income from 15% of our budget in FY17 to 27% of our budget in FY18. We offered intensive trainings in our professional development and artist-led community development work, and increased our speaking and consulting work. We look forward to more, to the future, and to your continued partnership. Thank you!

Laura Zabel, Executive Director
PRINCIPLES

Our way of working is equally important as what we do. There are 9 key principles that drive our work.

Artists are assets
Artists exist in every community, and art is inseparable from the communities in which it is made. Our work helps illuminate the social and economic value of art and creativity.

By artists for artists
Everyone who works at Springboard is an artist. We recognize the expertise and experience of artists and incorporate that into creating effective, relevant programs to meet artists’ needs.

The broadest definition of who is an artist
Everyone has creative capacity and there are many different ways to be an artist. We also know that there are many kinds of success for an artist, and we help artists define success for themselves – financial success, recognition, a supportive community, respect, social change, and more.

More is more
We make and share tools designed to benefit as many artists as possible. We believe interconnected communities of artists create an impact in ways that single interventions do not. By freely sharing our work and creating connections among artists and communities, we work to make substantial, system-wide change.

Equity = vibrant communities
Beyond accessibility, our programs address systemic and structural inequities and seek to build equity, agency and power in communities, neighborhoods and systems.

Reciprocal relationships
We seek mutual respect, trust, commitment, and reciprocity with all our partners. We don’t go it alone. We create and customize programs with partners based on mutual goals, and we invite partners to strengthen and change our work.

Cross-sector collaborations that last
We help artists collaborate with existing resources and systems, both because there is abundant potential in those resources, and because we believe they will be strengthened by artists’ contributions. We focus on building bridges and mechanisms that help relationships continue to thrive without us.

Boldness and creativity
Our work is characterized by optimism that change is possible, and belief that the boldness and creativity of artists can address the challenges facing our communities. We also know that in order to engage people, this movement has to be fun.

Real Half & Half
We value hospitality and an attitude of abundance over scarcity. Our goal is always to create an environment, real or virtual, that is welcoming to newcomers and existing partners and friends alike. Hot coffee and real Half & Half out of the carton is something we always have available – a symbol of offering the best of what we have to our guests and our staff.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
(We couldn't do it without you)
Donors for FY18 Fiscal Year
July 1, 2017 -
June 30, 2018

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20,492 Artists served

24,682 Community members engaged

18 Hinge Arts resident artists

18 trainees at Work of Art Intensive

19 of Year of Play projects
150 Workshops & Panels

201 Artist consultations

260 artists assisted with MNsure

2,295 toolkits shared via Creative Exchange
$1,185,484 managed for 200 Incubator projects

Leila Awadallah & Jose Alvillar selected as 20/20 Fellows

SpringBOX acquired in Saint Paul

Court St. expansion in Fergus Falls
Financials

Total Income $1,823,221
73% Grants & contributed
27% Earned

Total Expense $1,741,281
56% Personnel
27% Artists & contractors
17% Program & support

Visit www.springboardforthearts.org for full financials.
Community Development Partnerships

-Hennepin County, Cultivate
-People’s Center Health Services & Ready Go
-Saint Paul Public Library, Rondo Renaissance
-Ramsey County, Dale Street Bridge Reconstruction
-Delta Regional Authority, Creative Placemaking workshops
-Minnesota Preservation Alliance, Artists on Main Street
Naomi Schliesman – 2018 Lake Region Arts Council Legacy Grant
Michele Anderson – Shannon Institute
Dominic Faciò – “30 under 40” Remarkable residents of Otter Tail County
Dominic Faciò – Produced/directed first ever Fergus Falls drag show – Ms. Lexi D’s Catwalk Party
Carl Atiya Swanson – Camp Wellstone Grassroots Organizing Training
Nancy XiaoRong Valentine – FUSION Residency in Japan
Nancy XiaoRong Valentine – Painting published in HOME Zine
Adia Morris Swanger – Welcomed baby Emile!
John Bell – Exhibition at Concordia University
Laura Zabel – BALLE Local Economy Fellowship
Laura Zabel – ASU Creative Placemaking Policy Fellowship
People Power + Creative Power = Creative People Power

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