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ARTS WISCONSIN WELCOMES JAY SALINAS OF REEDSBURG AS NEW BOARD MEMBER

Arts Wisconsin, Wisconsin's leading community cultural development organization, welcomes Jay Salinas of Reedsburg to the Board of Directors, for a term of three years as of February 2018. The Board of Directors, representing the breadth and range of Wisconsin's multi-faceted arts and creative community, guides and advances Arts Wisconsin's mission of civic engagement through the arts and creativity for everyone, everywhere in the state, and advancing the arts as essential components of Wisconsin's economic, educational and civic success.

Jay Salinas, co-founder of the Wormfarm Institute in Reedsburg, is an artist, farmer and educator. He and his partner Donna Neuwirth started the Neu Erth Wormfarm, a CSA based in Sauk County, Wisconsin, which has completed its 24th season. In 2000 Jay and Donna formed the Wormfarm Institute, an award-winning nonprofit whose mission is to integrate culture and agriculture. The foundational farm-based Artist Residency Program has seeded a range of community cultural events such as the nationally recognized *Fermentation Fest – A Live Culture Convergence* which celebrated its seventh year in 2017. Wormfarm also works to build regional and statewide networks through the Rural-Urban Flow initiative.



Jay has worked to develop sustainable agriculture in urban and rural communities across the nation, working with both Growing Power in Milwaukee and the Farley Center's Gaining Ground project in Madison. Trained as a sculptor, Jay has developed and implemented innovative and successful art curricula for both at-risk youth and at the university level. He has also taught sustainable farming techniques to farmers across the country and continues to work with growers with diverse backgrounds and abilities to build sustainable food systems. Jay was born in and raised near Chicago and holds a BFA and an MFA in sculpture.

Arts Wisconsin also said goodbye and thanks to retiring board member Megan Kulick of Mineral Point, at the end of 2017.

Arts Wisconsin is Wisconsin's leading independent multi-disciplinary arts organization working for and speaking up for the arts, arts education and creative economy statewide. Since its founding in 1992, Arts Wisconsin has provided advocacy, professional development, management and leadership services, communication and visibility, and resources and tools to people, organizations and communities making the arts happen throughout Wisconsin.

For more information on the arts in Wisconsin and Arts Wisconsin, contact Anne Katz, Executive Director, at 608 255 8316 | akatz@artswisconsin.org | www.artswisconsin.org.