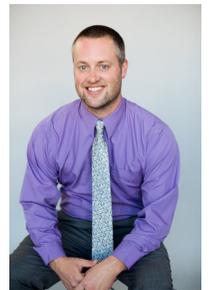


## ARTS WISCONSIN WELCOMES KARI HANSON OF MILWAUKEE AND GREG WRIGHT OF STEVENS POINT AS BOARD MEMBERS

Arts Wisconsin, Wisconsin's community cultural development organization leading statewide service, advocacy, connections and development for the arts, arts education, and creative economy, welcomes Kari Hanson of Milwaukee and Greg Wright of Stevens Point to the Board of Directors, for a term of three years each which began in July 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. *New board members are:*

- **Kari Hanson, Milwaukee**, is Director of Milwaukee Public Schools' Turnaround Arts program. A visual artist, teaching artist, arts education advocate, and community organizer, Kari believes strongly in the transformative potential of the arts to empower individuals and unite and build communities. Having served in various roles in education, youth work, and the arts, she approaches her work with a broad range of perspectives. The vision of this work has always been to support to ensure that high quality arts experiences are accessible to all K-12 students in Milwaukee and to raise the profile of the arts as not just an add-on, but an essential part a community-wide effort of the human experience. As an artist herself, creating artwork in her home studio is a way for her to meditate on issues and ideas and re-focus and rebuild her energy. Her artwork has been shown nationally and internationally as well as featured in several publications on political art.
- **Greg Wright, Stevens Point**, is the Executive Director of CREATE Portage County, a nonprofit arts advocacy and creative placemaking organization focused on making creativity central to life in Portage County. As a creative individual himself, Greg understands the draw of communities that value and support their innovators, artists, and entrepreneurs. Much of Greg's work has focused on developing small-town applications of big-city placemaking and entrepreneurship investments, with the target of imagining a thriving new-economy model for small and rural communities. A Levitt AMP grantee, CREATE has shared its vision with community leaders and listeners at the Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit, Wisconsin Public Radio, Arts Wisconsin, Empty Storefronts, Wisconsin Educators of Business & IT, the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters, and partner communities across the country. In 2015, *Milwaukee Biz Times* named Greg the "Innovator to Watch" for the arts in Wisconsin.



Arts Wisconsin said goodbye and thanks to retiring board member Jenny Toutant of Milwaukee. Arts Wisconsin is always on the lookout for interesting, active residents who represent the diversity and creativity of Wisconsin. Contact Anne Katz at [akatz@artswisconsin.org](mailto:akatz@artswisconsin.org) for more information.

Board officers for 2018-2019 are:

- Ann Huntoon, Tomahawk *President*
- Melinda Childs, Rhinelander *Vice President*
- Beth Dary, Kenosha *Secretary*
- *Treasurer TBA*

Arts Wisconsin is Wisconsin's community cultural development organization and the leading independent organization working for and speaking up for the arts, arts education, creative economy, and creative placemaking 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](mailto:akatz@artswisconsin.org) | [www.artswisconsin.org](http://www.artswisconsin.org).**