

For immediate release

Contact: Anne Katz, 608 255 8316 | akatz@artswisconsin.org

September 26, 2018

ARTS WISCONSIN PRESENTS 2018 ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY AWARDS

presented in partnership with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities

made possible with support from Heid Music, Redevelopment Resources, Vierbicher Associates, and BigRentz.com

Arts Wisconsin, Wisconsin's statewide community cultural development organization, will present the tenth annual **Arts in the Community Awards** on Thursday, October 25, 2018, during the League of Wisconsin Municipalities' 120th annual conference, at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI.



These awards, presented by Arts Wisconsin in partnership with the League of Municipalities, honor Wisconsin communities and civic leaders for championing the arts as integral to economic, educational and community vitality and success. The Arts in the Community awards are unique works of glass art designed and created by Maatwerk Studios in Blue Mounds, WI.

"The Arts in the Community Awards celebrate visionary leadership in and committed advocacy for the arts in all corners of the state," says Arts Wisconsin Board President Ann Huntoon. "We're proud to partner with the League of Municipalities to present these awards, and appreciative of the sponsors who make the awards possible."

2018 awardees are:

Ken Juon, President, ArtStart Board of Directors, Artstart, Rhinelander

Ken Juon was one of four founders who made a vision the reality of ArtStart. Ken's leadership helped bring together business people, artists, arts patrons, educators, and civic leaders who transformed the historic Federal Building in downtown Rhinelander into a destination arts and cultural center. The mission of ArtStart is to inspire, challenge and educate through cultural events and highly-distinctive, curated visual art exhibitions with the purpose of strengthening and sustaining the community.



Artstart came into being when the City of Rhinelander purchased the historic Post Office building from the federal government and leased it to ArtStart for a nominal rent. Opened in 2011, programs include a variety of exhibits, musical events, film screening, and classes for kids throughout the Northwoods. Artstart led the way to establish the School of the Arts Legacy Program, which continues the tradition of artistic programming at all levels of accomplishment and connections with kindred spirits from around the region. ArtStart is now established as a community anchor institution made possible by public/private partnerships and generous community involvement and support.



Raised in Iowa, Ken's background as a sculptor and arts administrator in New York City and his community spirit have served Rhinelander well. Ken has been long been a strong collaborator in Northwoods economic and community development, including Artstart's involvement in Forward Rhinelander, Downtown Rhinelander, the city's Business Improvement District, and Main Street Rhinelander.

Ryan Heise, Village Administrator, Village of Egg Harbor

Since Ryan Heise arrived in Egg Harbor in 2015, he has made it a priority to cultivate community through public art, sustainability programs, and community engagement. Ryan has been instrumental in providing guidance to the village's Public Arts Initiative group as a start-up and as a nonprofit organization, as the designated liaison between the Village and the Public Art Initiative. Ryan's leadership has made it possible for PAI to work in partnership with the village on programs and services.



Ryan was a guiding force in the development and completion of the Donald and Carol Kress Pavilion, has helped to revitalize numerous locations that connect the village with the waters of Green Bay, assisted the Public Art Initiative in designing public art infrastructure in the village, connected Egg Harbor to the Green Tier sustainability program, and in general, has promoted a culture of transparency and involvement in the village that benefits all residents and visitors to the community.

Generous sponsors of the 2018 awards are:

- [Heid Music](#), of Appleton, Green Bay, Madison, Oshkosh and Stevens Point, WI, providing musical instruments and quality music instruction throughout the state
- [Redevelopment Resources](#) of Wausau and Madison, WI, providing customized economic development and strategic planning solutions for the development and redevelopment of communities
- [Vierbicher Associates, Inc.](#) of Madison, Metro Milwaukee, Prairie du Chien, and Reedsburg, WI, providing consulting services to guide and deliver quality land and community development.
- [BigRentz.com](#) – the nation’s largest equipment rental network.

Previous Arts in the Community award winners are:

- **2017:** Mark Elliott, Executive Director, Northwest Passage, Webster; and Stephanie Samarripa, Anti-Graffiti Program Coordinator, City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services
- **2016:** Creative Downtown Appleton, led by Josh Dukelow, community activist, and Paula Vandehey, City of Appleton Public Works Director; and Alan Nugent, civic leader and a founder of the Widespot Performing Arts Center in Stockholm
- **2015:** the City of West Bend, for long-term commitment to promote the visual and performing arts in West Bend; and the Waunakee Creative Economy Initiative, a village-led, ongoing effort to grow Waunakee's creative economy.
- **2014:** Circuit Court Judge Joseph Boles and Pierce County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, based in Ellsworth, WI, for using the arts to improve law enforcement training in de-escalating mental health crisis calls; and Reedsburg Mayor Dave Estes, Reedsburg City Administrator Ken Witt, and Reedsburg Chamber of Commerce Director Kristine Koenecke for support of *Fermentation Fest - A Live Culture Convergence* and the *Farm/Art DTour*.
- **2013:** Rice Lake Main Street Program, Rice Lake; and the Sheboygan Performing Arts Association, Sheboygan
- **2012:** State Sen. Sheila Harsdorf, River Falls; State Sen. Bob Jauch, Poplar; Marlene Doerr Kreilkamp, Founder/former Director, SHARP Literacy, Milwaukee; and Anastasia Shartin, Visual Arts Director, Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson
- **2011:** Bill Schierl, President, Arts Alliance of Portage County, Stevens Point; and former Mayor Jeff Scrima, Waukesha
- **2010:** Lois Smith, founder of "Walls of Wittenberg," Wittenberg; Julia Taylor, President, Greater Milwaukee Committee, Milwaukee; the Green Bay Neighborhood Leadership Council's Beautification Committee, Green Bay; and The Hometown Gazette newspaper, Clayton
- **2009:** Carol Kratchowill, Vice President, Sauk County Art Association, Merrimac; and Former Menomonie Mayor Dennis Cropp and former Dunn County Board member B. Jane Hoyt, for the Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts, Menomonie.

About the presenting organizations:

- **Arts Wisconsin** is Wisconsin's community cultural development organization. Celebrating 25 years in 2017, Arts Wisconsin works to ensure that everyone, everywhere in the state has the opportunity to participate in the arts, speaks up and advocates for, and advances the arts, creativity and culture throughout Wisconsin, and connects and serves the wide-ranging, diverse, creative people, organizations, businesses and communities making the arts come alive in every corner of the state. www.artswisconsin.org.
- The **League of Wisconsin Municipalities** is a nonprofit and nonpartisan association of cities and villages that acts as an information clearinghouse, lobbying organization, technical assistance provider, and legal resource throughout Wisconsin. www.lwm-info.org.

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

