



ZACC

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

NATURE IS THE

Dear Friends,

When we opened the doors of our new downtown building in the fall of 2019, we celebrated years of hard work and community effort. We celebrated the birth of a new space that was designed to respond specifically to all of the creative needs of our community, and we never could have anticipated that within a few months, the needs of our community would change dramatically.

In 2020, the pandemic upended our world, and many of the ZACC's programs and anticipated revenue streams were affected negatively. As devastating as this was, with the support of many, we managed to adapt, pivot, and respond to our community's shifting needs at every turn.

2020 definitely wasn't easy, but I am beyond proud of all of the adjustments that the ZACC staff and board made to safely continue to **cultivate community through accessible art experiences for all** and support those who needed us the most.

As we find our way back to "normal" the ingenuity, connectivity, and resiliency that we developed in 2020 will continue to guide us.

Thank you for being with us on this journey.

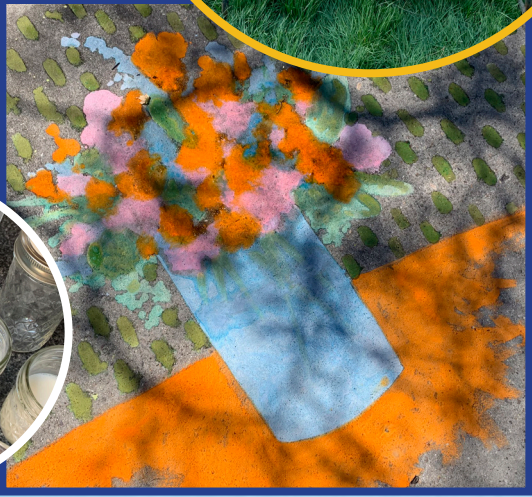
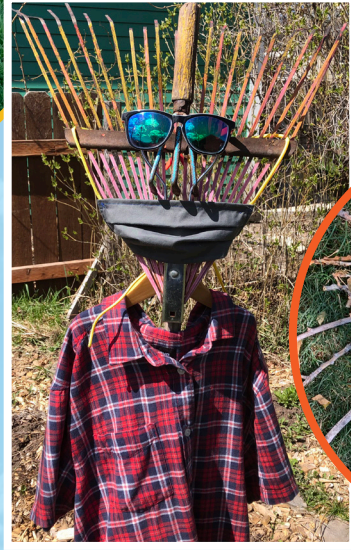
With gratitude,
Kia Liszak
ZACC Executive Director

Cover photo taken by Abi Baumann.



CULTIVATING
COMMUNITY THROUGH
ACCESSIBLE ARTS EXPERIENCES
FOR ALL.

Being outdoors played a big role in how we interacted safely with our community! We partnered with Missoula In Motion to make garden buddies and chalk art for our neighbors walking and riding by. We changed our front windows into a gallery when we couldn't open our doors, and we moved our camp performances to Caras Park with help from our friends at the Downtown Missoula Partnership.





The 2020 ZACC Mini Show had to shift to an online event overnight when governor Bullock issued a stay at home order. We put the auction online and taught ourselves Zoom in a day and each of us tuned in from home. Luckily we had a little help from our friends who also tuned in from home and gave wonderful and loving performances. In the end, we pulled it off thanks to all of you who showed up for the ZACC in every way you could!



CHAT

Thanks to our sponsors!

- Bravo! Catering · Clearwater Credit Union · GILD · Kettlehouse Amphitheater · Logjam Presents · Palmer Electric · Republic Services · Top Hat · The Wilma · ATG · Betty's Divine · Missoula Copy Center · Northwestern Energy · Providence St. Patricks Hospital · The Washington Corporations · Anderson Zurmuehlen · Bitterroot Flower Shop · Black Coffee Roasting Co. · Blackfoot Communications · Boyle, Deveny, & Meyer, PC · Burns St. Bistro · Ear Candy · Radius Gallery · Submittable · Sushi Hana · Big Dipper Ice Cream · Create Art Bar · Good Food Store · JGH · Le Petite Outre · Liz Dye & Portico Real Estate · Masala · Missoula Pediatric Dentistry · Park Side Credit Union · Willow Creek Capital Management Inc.




With the help of United Way of Missoula County and Clearwater Credit Union, we launched an artist relief fund to support and celebrate local artists, distributing more than \$10,000 to artists of all disciplines in our community who were affected by cancelled shows.

We taught ourselves new systems and created a way for musicians and performers to continue to connect with audiences through our Social Distance Sessions, a weekly live-stream event from the ZACC Show Room. Over 8 months, the ZACC held 31 Social Distance Sessions and paid over \$10,000 to performing artists. ZACC staff, Christopher Baumann and Mikyla Veis, won an art star award from Arts Missoula for their efforts! These performances are cataloged on our YouTube channel, and can be enjoyed anytime for free!

Thank you to our partner, MCAT,
and major sponsor, Roemer's Point S Tire & Auto Service.

Social Distance Sessions





"My girls have asked me repeatedly if they could drop out of school and just attend the ZACC Art Academy. It's, once again, a fabulous ZACC program where they are getting the perfect balance of instruction and structure and then all the space they crave to be creative and free. They love it and we're so grateful to have it as an option during this interesting school year."

-- Melanie B., parent

"The Art Academy has been a bright spot in this tough year. When we pick Theo up at the end of the day, he is filled up on creativity and connection, two of the most wonderful antidotes to this pandemic."

-- Hilly M., parent

"Your art program is by far my son's favorite activity. He's gained more confidence and his creativity has thrived. He receives a ton of fulfillment from being at your art academy. I think the best part is he feels accepted and it's a safe space for him to be himself."

-- K.P.N., parent

"I really like making art and how friendly everyone is at the ZACC. If you don't get done with a project, Taylor can save it for you so it doesn't get ruined and you can do it the next day. And we always come home with artwork and sometimes cards because if we have free time we can make cards for each other."

-- Lily G., student

"He just LOVES the ZACC art academy. He brings home beautiful pieces of art that we hang on our wall by our dining room table and admire. He still struggles saying goodbye when I drop him off, but each day he comes down the stairs full of excitement, ready to show off his newest artwork."

-- Kristal S., parent

In the fall, we launched the Art Academy: a week-day program for kids and parents whose schedules had been affected by covid and needed a safe, educational space to go during the school-week. The Art Academy was offered 5 days a week for 8 months and over 100 youth attended either for free or at reduced cost.

ZACC
ART ACADEMY

Make Art Your Superpower!



APRIL WERLE



STELLA NALL



CRISTINA MARIAN



WILLOW KIPP

The “Feeling Welcome” mural project took place in the ZACC alley over the summer and features the work of four incredible artists, April Werle, Cristina Marian, Willow Kipp, and Stella Nall. The ZACC commissioned these four artists to create works on the subject of “feeling welcome” after reaching out to traditionally underserved communities and disenfranchised Missoula residents to include them in shaping the design. These murals will provide inspiration and hope for years to come.

When we thought we were going to have to cancel the Missoula Monster Project, or numerous gallery shows, we forced ourselves to think again and found ways to persevere.



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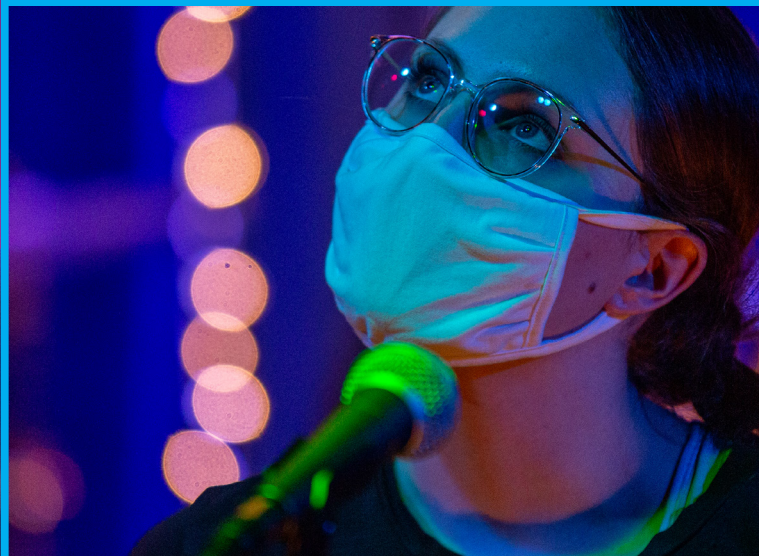
MISSOULA MONSTER PROJECT





As we quietly celebrated one year in our new building, we introduced our new van that allowed us to deliver pottery and art projects to go, and offered rides to and from ZACC camps for families who needed extra support.





We recorded our first album in the ZACC recording studio with our very own beloved lead rock camp instructor, Erin Szalda-Petree. And we celebrated with a socially-distanced album release party.



The pandemic didn't stop us from partnering with our good friend, Santa! We brought him in for a photo shoot so we could offer safe cardboard versions of him for family photo shoots, and he helped us deliver paint-your-own pottery kits to many happy kids with holiday spirit!



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\$5,000- \$19,999

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ZACC Staff

Kia Liszak - Executive Director + Heather Stockton - Director of Operations + Mikyla Veis - Marketing, Events, & Community Outreach Coordinator + Joe Kirk - Education & Volunteer Coordinator + Patricia Thornton - Gallery & Print Shop Manager + Dana Childs - Customer Service + Christopher Bauman - Event Center Technician



**Zootown Arts
Community Center**

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zootownarts.org