

Arts Rockford dba West Michigan Arts Council

Board Member Application

Arts Rockford was founded in 2014 as a continuation of our original nonprofit corporation, Creative Art Center – Rockford which was originally founded in 1994. Recently, the board of directors voted to change the corporate name to West Michigan Arts Council as a reflection of our growth and expanded presence in the eight counties surrounding the Grand Rapids area. As we continue to grow, we hope to provide even more arts groups in West Michigan with the services we offer to our members; groups and individuals.

The corporation is licensed with an “assumed name” with the state of Michigan and currently operates as Arts Rockford dba (doing business as) West Michigan Arts Council (WMAC).

Our mission is “Engaging the community, encouraging local artists, inspiring community arts organizations and bringing art in all its forms to the Rockford area.”

We carry out that mission through the following:

1. Acting as an advisor to artists, musicians and performers in the West Central Michigan area (8 counties) in connection with the artistic and cultural development of the community and its surrounding area;
2. Acting as a parent organization to affiliated member organizations, assisting them with developing programs, events and organizational structure;
3. Offering support to member organizations encouraging community involvement and creativity through assistance with marketing (online and print), legal advice, fundraising programs, grant writing counseling, scheduling of events and communication between local arts groups;
4. Acting as the primary fundraising entity to build a donor program and raise funds to maintain the arts center;
5. Acting as a sponsor and encouraging cultural and educational activities in the area including Kent, Allegan, Berry, Ionia, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo and Ottawa counties.
6. Acting as a means towards the end result of making the described area more habitable and improving the quality of life by sponsoring cooperative planning, research, public education programs, and fostering a creative atmosphere;
7. Undertaking other services and programs deemed necessary by the organization to encourage participation and appreciation of the arts by all citizens in the area.

Arts Rockford has a nine member board, with members appointed to three–year terms. New members are typically recommended by a current board member and are voted in by a simple majority of the existing board. Board members serve on a volunteer basis and meet monthly. Currently, meetings are being held virtually using the Go To Meeting program which allows us to see and converse with each other online. Board members can participate in these online meetings using any computer or cell phone with internet access. WMAC board members are advised of the monthly meeting date and time in advance of all meetings. Members receive information including a copy of the bylaws, contact information for the board and other pertinent issues.

Board leadership consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions are voted upon by board members on an annual basis in December. WMAC also has an Executive Director, Linda Humbert.

Board members are required to attend monthly meetings. Any circumstances requiring absence of more than two consecutive meetings should be discussed with the Chair of the board to determine future commitment level. Board members also have additional duties beyond monthly meetings. Currently the Covid 19 pandemic has affected personal contact including events, classes, exhibits, etc. which has made community outreach difficult. Currently WMAC is in the process of making as many of our annual programs available online as possible. However prospective members of the board should be aware that typically we are all required to volunteer time and talents to meet the mission of the organization by volunteering to assist with one or more of the following areas:

1. Events
2. Fundraising
3. Sponsors & Silent Auction donors
4. Classes & Lessons
5. Community Outreach
6. Publicity & Advertising
7. Recruitment of Member Organizations
8. Individual annual memberships
9. Gallery; selection of artists, hanging and receptions
10. Grants; local, state and federal
11. Performing Arts Auditorium plan development
12. Legal

Committee members need not be board members. Individuals interested in serving in a capacity less time intensive than acting as a Board Member are encouraged to volunteer for committee service.

Please complete the following application form to serve on the West Michigan Arts Council Board of Directors. Then email the form to Linda Humbert, Executive Director at wmartscouncil@gmail.com or mail the completed form to:

Linda Humbert
West Michigan Arts Council
528 Bridge Street, Suite 4
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

APPLICATION

Name:

Address:

City State ZIP:

Phone:

Cell Phone:

E-Mail:

Artistic Interest (visual artist, musician, performer, general support, etc):

Do you have leadership experience?

Do you have past or current experience working with nonprofit organizations?

Can you commit 10- 20 hours per month to serve on the Board of Directors?

What are your specific areas of interest?

Are you interested in working on a specific event?

Are you interested in serving on one or more specific committees?