



The ACCC serves artists of all mediums at all levels, providing opportunities to create, perform, respond, and connect to art.

Join us!

ArtMatters Newsletter | January 2025



A Message to the Arts Community

Kathy Oliphant, Executive Director



Dear Members and Friends,

As we welcome 2025, I want to take a moment to wish each of you a Happy New Year filled with creativity and meaningful connections.

On December 12, I had the pleasure of attending the Member's Show reception at the ACCC Gallery in the Chaska Community Center. This year, we received more submissions than ever, showcasing the incredible talent of our members. Thank you to everyone who shared their work with a public audience - it's inspiring to see your

creativity on display. You can continue to enjoy these amazing pieces at participating libraries across Carver County.

A special thank you goes to Liya Oertel and her team for their dedication to curating this show. From coordinating submissions to handling the artwork, their efforts made this event a huge success. Thank you for your hard work!

On December 21, we hosted a memorable fundraising event at the historic Kelzer Farm in Victoria. Guests were treated to an evening of wonderful food, warm company, and the music of local band Traveled Ground.

Heartfelt thanks is extended to Steve and Barb Kelzer for opening their beautifully restored home and creating such a welcoming atmosphere. And, of course, thank you to Traveled Ground for providing a fantastic soundtrack to the evening. Events like this remind us how art and community go hand in hand.

As we step into this new year, I want to thank you for being an essential part of our creative community. Your support, through membership and participation, makes it possible for the ACCC to bring art, music, and literature to Carver County and beyond. Together, let's continue to spread the magic of the arts in 2025!

With Gratitude,

Kathy Oliphant



All are invited:

Saturday, January 11, 2025 | 9:00-11:00
a.m.

A Better Society Conference Room
453 Park Road, Chanhassen

Want to meet other current and budding writers to create community, share resources, network, and find ways to share your voice?

Join us for a gathering where writers of all abilities and experience levels can connect and grow together - without judgment. It's a safe space to encourage one another, without replacing any current writing groups.

Let's grow our written and spoken word community!

Call for Art



The Arts Consortium of Carver County is excited to announce our upcoming Youth Art Exhibit! This special exhibit, running from February 1 to February 28, is an opportunity for young artists to showcase their creativity and talent.

We welcome submissions from artists of all ages within the youth category, working in any medium. Whether you're exploring painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, or mixed media, this is your chance to shine in a public gallery setting!

For more details or to submit your work, please contact Liya Oertel at 612-867-9278.



Introducing Gail Lipe

Gail Lipe is an eclectic artist who loves stories and believes words are powerful. She has always wanted to string words together in a way that makes people feel, or understand. She wrote her first stories in grade school and has continued writing throughout her life.

She began merging words and art with making hand-made paper out of old jeans and creating book structures, dabbling with painting along the way. The natural world has always inspired Lipe, and clay found its way into her hands in 2009. She started creating pottery while she was living in Malaysia, and the idea of creating jewelry out of shell shards found on the beach started percolating about the same time. Seeing the

beauty in the shell pieces discarded after the ocean had broken and sand blasted the creatures' vacant homes, she wanted to create something beautiful with them.

The last couple of years, Lipe has concentrated primarily on writing poetry, pottery and shell jewelry. The publication of her first full-length collection of poetry titled, Life Seasons, is coming out in a couple of months. You can see some of her work on her website: www.naturescanvas.org

Mud Monster

©Gail Lipe

a musty, earthy smell escapes its plastic prison
as I open a new block of clay
calming me, connecting me to the earth
taking me home

a slab is cut
fingers curl the slab as hands begin
to wedge the clay like playing in mud as a child

a memory flashes
a young son and daughter fly into the house
mud covered faces, arms, legs
eyes sparkling with glee "we're mud monsters!"

slapping the clay on the wheel, moistened hands surround it
as it starts to spin, the world disappears
alone with the clay, I become the mud monster
pushing and pulling, challenging the clay to become what I want
though often I follow its lead, allowing the clay to become what it wants

from dust we were created, connected to the earth forever,
holding a piece of earth in my hands, molding it into something beautiful
I feel its energy
energy that flows through everything
renewing, grounding

Artist Conversations is a welcoming space where artists gather to discuss their work, seek advice, and share insights about their creative practice. Join this friendly group to gain feedback, and connect with other artists. This month's meeting will take place on Monday, January 13 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Liya's house.



For additional details, contact:

Abigail: (952) 380-7924

Liya: (612) 867-9278

Do you have an arts event you'd like to promote?

As a member of the Arts Consortium of Carver County (ACCC), you can share an event through our monthly newsletter. Join us, and we can help you reach over 1,200 art enthusiasts and supporters.

Join Us

Arts Consortium of Carver County

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