

Ways you can help Interact thrive!

Interact is the **only** combined Theater and Visual Arts organization for artists with disabilities in the U.S. that produces work at this level of quality and professionalism.

- See our Performing Arts Shows
- Come to our Gallery events and bring friends
- Buy original artwork at our reasonable prices
- Shop our Great Big Holiday Art Sale
- Advocate for Interact at the MN Legislature
- Sign up for our newsletter at www.interactcenterarts.org

Does your employer support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?

- Invite them to come visit us in action during a weekday
- Hang art in your company's space
- Visit and give a talk about Interact
- Share your talents by joining our Board or Advisory Council

And of course... **give generously** and encourage friends to do the same.

Want to learn more?

Sign up for our email list: interactcenter.org click **Get Involved**
Contact Artistic Director JEANNE CALVIT

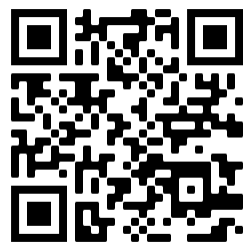
jeanne@interactcenter.com • 612-599-5167

Contact Advancement Director RALEIGH WOLPERT

raleigh@interactcenter.com • 651-209-3575 (x121)

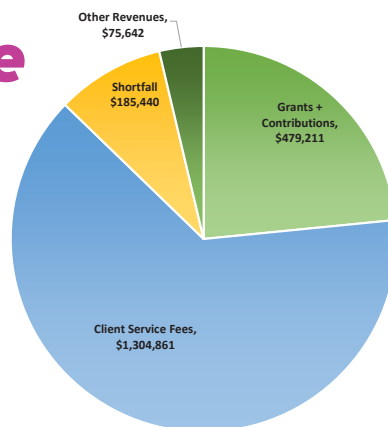
to donate

To donate, please
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2022 revenue

Projected through
12.31.2022



the mission

CREATING ART THAT CHALLENGES
SOCIETY'S VIEWS OF DISABILITY

Our Vision

We push the boundaries of traditional art forms by including the unique perceptions of our artists.

We expand the meaning of "accessibility" beyond physical structures for artists with disabilities by playing an active role in the creative process.

Artists share in the audience's appreciation of the work which has a healing and integrating effect.

We exemplify the idea of community integration by supporting artists with and without disabilities working side by side every day.

Our Values

- Excellence in artistic expression
- Radical inclusion
- Unlocking human potential
- Social justice
- Fiscal prudence

In all of our work, Interact:

- Creates art in a spirit of radical inclusion.
- Inspires artists and audiences to explore the full spectrum of human potential.
- Transforms lives by expanding ideas of what is possible.



DECEMBER
2022

2022 Community Report | a letter from jeanne

In 1995, after fifteen years working in the community creating theater and visual arts projects for people with a wide range of disabilities. I worked with so many talented actors, singers, painters, sculptors, and writers, that I asked myself, why are there no places in Minnesota for these creative people to use their talents and expand the definition of who can be a professional artist, here in one of the leading centers for the arts in the country?

The arts in Minnesota bring \$2 billion into our economy each year and are cited as one of the main reasons Minnesota is recognized for our quality of life. Why do creative people with disabilities not have a voice at the table in this vibrant and increasingly diverse artistic community?

I decided to form my own company to address this situation, and I reached out to people with experience and information. Many creative people with disabilities fail in jobs that are menial or repetitive in nature. They opt to stay home rather than do jobs that do not challenge them. Interact is full of very successful artists that were unfulfilled and unhappy in their former jobs. When Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts finally opened in 1996, the groundswell of response was overwhelming, and we expanded our space within the first two years.

Twenty-seven years later we are over one hundred artists strong, and the demand is growing. We remain the only organization of our kind in the country – offering both professional Theater and Visual Arts opportunities. Our staff are all professional practicing artists, and we embrace the idea of radical inclusion – blending people with and without disabilities – in our collaborative process.

Today, Interact Theater Artists perform in leading venues like the Guthrie theater and The Luminary Performing Arts Center (formerly The Lab Theater). We have also toured nationally and internationally. Our Visual Artists exhibit work in local and regional galleries like White Pages, Soo Vac, Rochester Contemporary Arts, Gamut Gallery, Franconia Sculpture Park, and the Minnesota Museum of Modern Art.

Creativity has always been our hallmark, and creativity kept us alive during the challenging years of COVID. 70% of our funding comes from the MN Department of Human Services and that funding has decreased by 20% over the past five years. We are working hard to diversify our funding base through earned income and increased sponsorships and donations.

We remain steadfast to our commitment to pay all our artists at industry-standard fees for their performances and sales of artwork, and to aim higher to pay competitive wages for our highly skilled staff.

“A creative life is an amplified life, it's a bigger life, an expanded life, and a hell of a lot more interesting life.”

–Elizabeth Gilbert

It has been a challenge, and yet - WE'RE STILL HERE!

Through it all, support from folks like you have kept us going. And we need your continuing support more than ever as we rebuild and renew.

Today, we're asking you to help us continue to thrive in our mission to create art that challenges perceptions of disability. If you have expertise or community connections that would help us build our board of directors or advisory council, give us a call and let's talk! If you know a talented theater artist with a disability, let us know. We are growing

our theater company. Please come to our open houses, shows, and arts exhibitions and bring friends!

*And of course, please support us with your financial contributions. Your investment will help sustain our vision to transform lives by unlocking human potential through the arts. Thank you for your generosity, friendship, and creative spirit! **Have a joyful Holiday season!***

– Jeanne Calvit
Founder, Artistic/Executive Director

It has been a challenge, and yet - We're Still Here!



*** thank you, funders & sponsors! ***



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund



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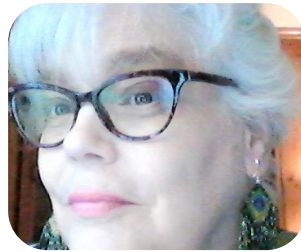
welcome

Interact is thrilled to welcome Joseph Price as our new Managing Director

“Interact’s vision and commitment to unlocking human potential in the Twin Cities community is exciting to me. I was born and raised in Minnesota and I’m looking to bring back a wealth of experience and a passion for arts inclusion. My daughter has autism and her passion for visual arts has been life changing. I am forever grateful to the art teacher that appreciated her unique point of view and saw her talents. As a parent of a child with special needs, I truly appreciate Interact’s commitment to radical inclusion. My connections to the Twin Cities are strong, both personally and professionally. Interact’s work is vital and I am thrilled to join this incredible organization!” – **Joseph Price**

Longtime Interact Managing Director Glenis Zempel retiring after 9 years

“Glenis has worked with passion and dedication during one of the most challenging times of Interact’s history! Her grit and determination in the face of a major crisis are one of the main reasons we have survived. All of us at Interact will be forever thankful for all that she has done.” said Jeanne Calvit, Executive Director • • • “Interact is family and I will miss everyone. I love being surrounded by art and artists on a daily basis and feel creative when I am working here. In retirement, I will have time for my art: photography, writing, and maybe even returning to my roots as a costume designer. Love to all.” – **Glenis Zempel**



We’re Still Here

We were overjoyed to return to the stage this October after three years! “We’re Still Here,” expressed our artists’ creative visions by aligning stress and worries from our current world which mirrored the social climate of the 1930’s—with the exuberant joy and sometimes purely eccentric musical stylings of that time. The staff and artists worked together with artists and musicians from the Twin Cities theater community to expand on work from the June work-in-process hosted by Carleton College in the gorgeous plains of Northfield, Minnesota. At the newly renovated Luminary Arts Center (formerly The Lab Theater) in downtown Minneapolis, we performed “We’re Still Here” to rapt audiences who wept, laughed, and praised the message of the show. With collective grief and worldwide change and the number of times we, as artists dependent on live performance truly lived, **“the door you closed, I am opening again, adore me or ignore me, I am proud of who I am.”** We are incredibly proud to close out our artistic season and cannot wait to see what 2023 will bring us.



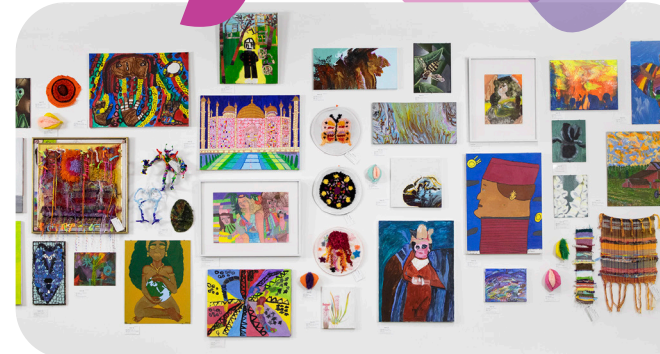
Looking for Performing Artists!

The Interact Theater Department has openings now for TALENTED and COMMITTED performers with disabilities to join our award-winning theater company. We have several openings for people that have skills and talent in **singing, dancing, and performing**. We would love to have potential actors and actresses with disabilities join our troupe! • • • If you know people who would love to perform and get paid for their work, please have them contact Colleen Krick, Licensing and Recruitment Director at 651-209-3575 or go to our online application at www.interactcenterarts.org Thank you!

news from the gallery

by Gallery Director, Brittany Kieler

This year has brought an exciting series of collaborations with institutions and artists in the Twin Cities and beyond. We partnered with the Minnesota Museum of American Art to organize In Our Minds, an exhibition that explores artmaking as a form of play and features seven Interact artists alongside six artists practicing outside our studio. Artist Janice Essick (practicing at Interact since 2005) presented the inaugural solo exhibition at Interact Gallery, nearly selling out of her 36-piece retrospective and generating still more enthusiastic support for her work after an interview with KSTP. In May, artist Michael Engebretson (practicing at Interact since 2016) took over Interact Gallery as our first artist in residence. Engebretson expanded his kaleidoscopic utopian paintings into largescale works, building on a collection that he will present in his first solo exhibition at Interact Gallery in Spring 2023. He also hosted Robert Cozzolino, Curator of Paintings at Minneapolis Institute of Art, and Mark Schoening, an artist and Proprietor at the Porch Gallery, for studio visits. Numerous Interact artists presented work in other exhibitions both locally and nationally, including shows at Franconia Sculpture Park, Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, Norway House (Minneapolis) and Art Enables (Washington, D.C.), among others.



visual arts

The Visual Arts Department jumped back into action this year, starting with our Summer puppet festival, Uniquinox: Tarot Alive! A day full of giant puppets, performances, tarot reading, games, and live music accompanied by a gallery exhibition helped us celebrate the summer solstice with our community!

“Co-Action” opened at the Gamut Gallery on October 21st, showcasing individual and collaborative work by Interact artists and staff. Featuring everything from painting to sculpture to fiber art, the show allowed artists and staff to create work that encouraged visual dialogue between two creators while letting their individual artistic expression shine through.



Noah Durand “This is my first time being an actor in a show! I loved playing a blind beggar because I made the audience laugh. Audience members said, ‘I’m your biggest fan’. I can’t wait to have a much larger role in the next play so I can make more people laugh”



Jen Levin “I loved being onstage and having everyone cheering for me. I had a wonderful experience working with the Interact staff in creating the show. I learned how to be alive on stage. I felt my creativity grow and I’m looking forward to developing my singing skills.”



Carl Clark “I started doing graffiti as a teenager. I realized that I loved art. At Interact, I became an artist. I have a community of people that are artists here. I feel like I finally fit in.”

>>>
interact
artists