

## Arts and Culture Alliance of Manistee County      January 2021

Greetings ACA members,

We are sending this letter by email to update you on ACA's projects and plans to promote arts and culture in Manistee County. Even though the pandemic caused many changes, here are some positives:

We developed a new website at [www.allartsmanistee.com](http://www.allartsmanistee.com). It incorporates our history, our member events and a resource list of artists, musicians, and museums. One area that needs to be added is members who are not in the above categories. In order to include this, we need permission to list your name, address, telephone, and email. This was on the previous website and it proved to be an easy way to find this information. Please reply to this email or call 231.299.4484 if you **do not** want your contact information on the website.

Another positive for 2020 was ACA's support of the Spirit of the Woods Music Festival. Although it was cancelled due to Covid, money had been expended to book the artists. The board felt it was important to support the musicians and help out one of our members in this way. The ACA also supported the Manistee Benzie Area Children's Chorus which had an interrupted season and a shortage of funds.

Regarding other ACA member events: Shoreline Showcase Concerts and the Kaleva Log Cabin concerts were held, both of which were outdoors and followed Covid 19 guidelines. The Kaleva Historical Society installed the first of 3 mosaics by artist Tricia Boucha on the Centennial Walkway in Kaleva. Finally, Marilla Historical Society has engaged a local artist to paint an historic mural at their museum to honor the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marilla Township.

An exciting new project in keeping with our goal of promoting public art is planning a sculpture to honor James Earl Jones and his mentor Donald Crouch. The sculpture will be placed at Brethren High School, which is where Mr. Crouch encouraged his student, James Earl, to speak in public by reading aloud a piece of poetry he had written. Drawings are being created, a sculptor is being sought and ways of getting the word out to potential sponsors and donors are being developed. Stay tuned for how you can be part of honoring this Manistee County person of note.

Another accomplishment this year was publishing a Quilt Card, which directs people to ten historic sites in the county. Organizations chose and painted these quilt squares on or near places that have historical significance. The card will enable those interested to follow the Quilt Trail and learn about these historic sites.

The last objective of this newsletter is to let you know that the annual Ice Breaker will not be held this year. Since this is the time to renew memberships, we sincerely hope you will continue your support by sending your dues to Linda Cudney, 19708 Cadillac Highway, Copemish MI 49625.

**The dues are: \$15 individual, \$20 family, \$25 organization, \$50 to use 501c3.**

The board thanks you for your interest in supporting arts and culture in Manistee County.

Sincerely, Cynthia Asiala