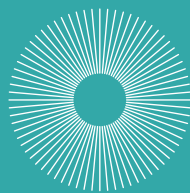




# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



wisconsin academy  
of sciences arts & letters

Connecting Wisconsin people and ideas for a better world.





## Working to improve life in Wisconsin

Since the Wisconsin Academy was founded in 1870, we've been working hard to improve life in Wisconsin by sharing the best ideas across the sciences, arts, and letters. In this, our 2015–2016 annual report, we share highlights from our events and exhibitions, our magazine and reports. These are all ways we fulfill our mission to bring people together at the intersection of the sciences, arts, and letters to inspire discovery, illuminate creative work, and foster civil dialogue on important issues.

### Fostering civil dialogue on important issues

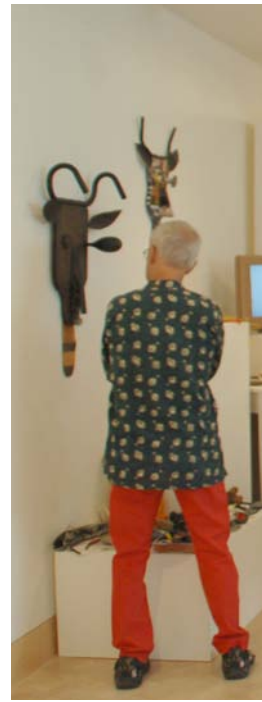
Let's consider that civil dialogue is not the first phrase that comes to mind for most people when someone says, "climate change." But, it does for us.

In December 2015 and January 2016 the Wisconsin Academy co-hosted two live-streamed public forums on the historic Paris climate accord. Held through our Climate & Energy Initiative in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Global Health Institute, these two forums connected us to five Wisconsin-based leaders from academe and industry who were in Paris to participate in the 21st Convention of the Parties (COP21). In these forums we explored dimensions of the emerging international climate accord and its impact on human rights, carbon reduction targets, business and industry, human health, and species and habitat. More than 1,000 people attended these forums and viewed them online around the state—and world. They had a rare opportunity to see informative presentations, ask thoughtful and provocative questions, and participate in a civil discussion around a complex and charged issue. Dozens of people approached staff members after these forums to thank the Academy and our partners at the Global Health Initiative for providing opportunities to learn about and discuss Wisconsin's response to a globally changing climate.

Later, in the spring of 2016, we hosted a public conference exploring the indelible connection between science and policy. We convened the Science, Policy & Water Summit through our Waters of Wisconsin Initiative, which noted the shrinking role of science in the realm of policy—most notably in environmental regulatory programs in Wisconsin and beyond. We heard a remarkable talk about what science is and how it works from atmospheric scientist and Wisconsin Academy Fellow Steve Ackerman. This was followed by a bipartisan panel of current and former legislators that frankly explored a topic that is important not just to the scientific community, but to all Wisconsinites. A few weeks later, Curt Meine from our Waters of Wisconsin Steering Committee, spoke to an overflow audience at Sheboygan's Mead Public Library about our analysis on the state of Wisconsin's waters, and what we have learned from science, but also from the cultural and ethical considerations of our most precious resource.

All of these forums and talks show that people in Wisconsin are hungry for a chance to dig in to important issues in ways that inform, rather than inflame, the conversation. This is why civil dialogue is so important right now, and why the Academy is such a trusted resource for informed and engaged citizens.

**READ ON**



## Cultivating Wisconsin's creative capacity

It was another year of great exhibitions at the Academy's James Watrous Gallery in Overture Center for the Arts. More than 9,000 visitors came to see the work of twelve Wisconsin artists in five exhibitions, many of which feature side-by-side exhibitions of two artists selected through a formal Call for Artists.

At least once a year we curate a special exhibit that includes the works of multiple artists on a particular theme that intersects with the sciences or letters aspects of our mission. Fall 2015 featured *LOGJAM*, an exhibition of works created with saplings, brush from invasive species, and old-growth stumps by artists Brenda Baker, Kevin Giese, and Mark Iwinski. We explored this topic further with two Academy Talks: one with folklorist and Academy Fellow Jim Leary (who introduced us to logging camp songs—a few a bit too colorful for broadcast!), and another on the history of Wisconsin's changing forests with UW–Madison professor of forest and landscape ecology, David Mladenoff.

While most experience the James Watrous Gallery as visitors, one of our primary objectives for the gallery is to elevate and showcase the work of Wisconsin artists. Our exhibiting artists frequently tell us how much they value the opportunity to work with a professional curatorial team to develop an exhibit in a beautiful gallery space at Overture Center. This exposure and support enhances their development as professional artists, and Wisconsin and art lovers benefit, too.

This same commitment to elevating Wisconsin's creative work can be found in our magazine, *Wisconsin People & Ideas*. Wisconsin writers—whether poets or fiction writers, feature writers or investigative journalists—come together in every issue to tell Wisconsin's story. The magazine also sponsors the best statewide fiction and poetry contests, rewarding excellence in creative writing with cash awards, writers residencies, and a reading at the Wisconsin Book Festival.

**READ ON**





## James Watrous Gallery Exhibitions 2015-2016 Season

***Gone Wild: David McLimans***

July 17, 2015 to August 23, 2015

***LOGJAM: Brenda Baker, Kevin Giese & Mark Iwinski***

September 10, 2015 to October 25, 2015

***Sandra Byers: The Nature of Things***

November 5, 2015 to December 27, 2015

***Rina Yoon: Between In and Yeon***

November 5, 2015 to December 27, 2015

***Debbie Kupinsky: Recollections***

January 15, 2016 to March 6, 2016

***Allison Welch: Meet Allison, an American Girl***

January 15, 2016 to March 6, 2016

***Tom Berenz: Towards the North***

March 18, 2016 to May 8, 2016

***Shane McAdams: Beat a Path, and Make It Fast***

March 18, 2016 to May 8, 2016

***The Archive as a River: Paul Vanderbilt and Photography (Appleton)***

March 31, 2016 to May 8, 2016

***Gwen Avant: Either Way***

May 20, 2016 to July 3, 2016

***Gregory Klassen: Heliotropism***

May 20, 2016 to July 3, 2016



## Opportunities for lifelong learning

This year our Academy Talks participants explored a broad range of topics, from music of the historic logging camps of the Northwoods to the power of theater and the visual arts in small communities to the ways in which health care disparities affect us all. We also featured a series of three talks focused on how writing can shape our future, whether it is our communities, our relationship with the natural world, or how we communicate about issues. In order to continue the exploration and conversation, video recordings of most of these Academy Talks are available on our website and on Wisconsin Public Television's University Place.

In the fall of 2015 we hosted the Academy's first member meeting in more than a decade. More than fifty members joined us during the two-day gathering in Madison. On the first evening, two of our distinguished Fellows, Alta Charo and Kathy Kelsey Foley, spoke about the value of the Wisconsin Idea. Each provided compelling cases and personal stories that articulated how Wisconsin's historic, deep investment in inquiry and its practical applications elevates the lives of all its citizens and attracts high quality leadership to the state. We celebrated the long-time Academy memberships of Millard and Barbara Susman and Louis and Fran Rall. We also presented Jerry Marra, our archives volunteer, with a Citation of Appreciation. On Saturday we explored a few hidden gems on and near the UW-Madison campus, including the Geology Museum, the Kohler Art Library artists' books collection, the Academy's archives at the State Historical Society, and the Center for Limnology on Lake Mendota. Art and poetry workshops, an exploration of our imperiled waters, and a discussion about the future of the Wisconsin Idea rounded out the formal meeting. With the positive feedback we received, we hope to offer more gatherings like this one in the future for Academy members and friends alike.

In the spring of 2016 we also inducted an unprecedented eleven honorees as distinguished Wisconsin Academy Fellows, which is another way we celebrate creative leadership across the sciences, arts, and letters.

**READ ON**



## Academy Talks, Initiative Forums, and Other Events 2015-2016 Season

***Managing Water Like Nature* with Kevin Shafer**  
September 8, 2015 • Greenfield Public Library

***Songs of the Northwoods* with James P. Leary**  
September 15, 2015 • Overture Center, Madison

***Waters of Wisconsin Summit***  
September 21, 2015 • Pyle Center, UW-Madison

***Visual Art & the Wisconsin Idea* with Maryo Gard**  
September 24, 2015 • Overture Center, Madison

**LOGJAM: USDA Forest Products Lab Tour**  
October 16, 2015 • UW-Madison

***Nelson Institute Jordahl Lecture* with Timothy Egan**  
October 22, 2015 • Monona Terrace Convention Center

***Wisconsin People & Ideas Contest Readings***  
October 23, 2015 • Wisconsin Book Festival, Madison

***Wisconsin Academy Member Meeting***  
November 6 & 7, 2015 • UW-Madison Campus

***The State of Wisconsin's Forests* with David Mladenoff**  
November 8, 2015 • Overture Center, Madison

***Local Government Summit on Energy & Resilience***  
November 18, 2015 • UW-Stevens Point

***Live from Paris (webcast)***  
December 9, 2015 • WI Institutes for Discovery, Madison

***The Promise of Paris: A Panel Discussion***  
February 9, 2016 • WI Institutes for Discovery, Madison

***Writing Wisconsin's Climate* with Sharon Dunwoody**  
February 28, 2016 • Overture Center, Madison

***The Burden of Poor Health* with Theresa Duello**  
March 8, 2016 • Woodson Art Museum, Wausau

***Poetry and Pi(e)* with Kimberly Blaeser**  
March 14, 2016 • Academy Steenbock Offices, Madison

***Writing Wisconsin's Waters: A Panel Discussion***  
March 22, 2016 • Overture Center, Madison

***Wisconsin Academy Fellows Awards Ceremony***  
April 17, 2016 • Pyle Center, UW-Madison

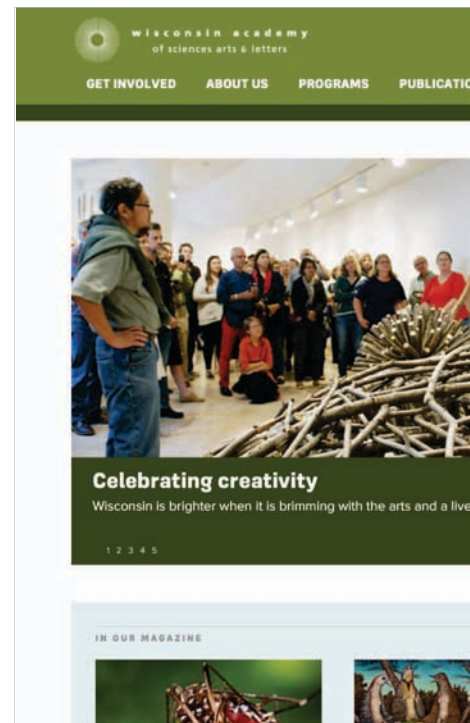
***Writing Wisconsin's Communities: A Panel Discussion***  
May 3, 2016 • Overture Center, Madison

***Science & Policy Initiatives Forum and Talk***  
May 10, 2016 • Union South, UW-Madison

***The Waters of Wisconsin* with Curt Meine**  
May 17, 2016 • Mead Public Library, Sheboygan

***Inside the Creative Process* with Jennifer Uphoff**  
May 19, 2016 • Gerold Opera House, Weyauwega





## Making better bones

Garden designers and home remodelers will often look at a challenging site and say, “Yes, it needs work. But it has *good bones*.” Bones are the structure and basic design elements that make everything else come together and function well. In addition to our programs, we made significant investments in the *bones* of the organization that many rarely see, yet are essential to healthy operation and potential for growth.

In a dynamic world where digital communication is changing all the time, keeping pace is essential for an organization whose mission embraces “connecting Wisconsin people and ideas.” In 2015 and early 2016 we embarked on a major website re-design to make our digital visitor experience a better one. We set the goal of making site navigation easier and more nimble. We linked together thematic content to enhance opportunities for learning more about a certain subject through our vast collection of images, articles, and videos. And we made event registration and other forms of online participation a snap. Analytics help us track what’s working (or not) and make continual improvements.

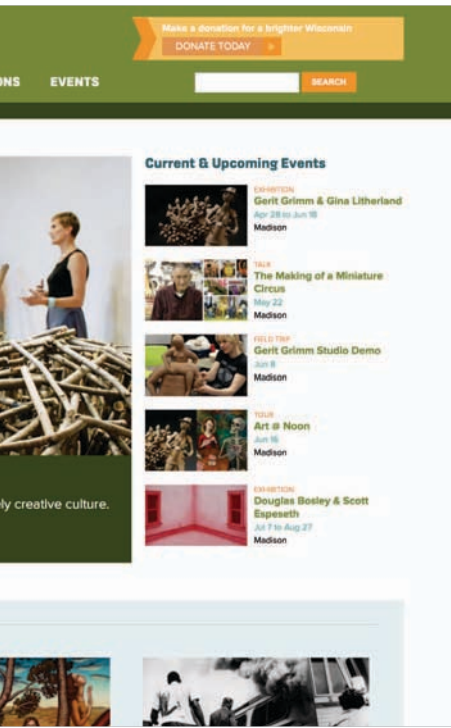
Like a great website, a highly functional contact management system is another essential for a healthy nonprofit. Yet say the word “database” and most peoples’ eyes glaze over. While we don’t have customers in the sense of a commercial business, we do have a database with thousands of contacts—Academy members, program participants, magazine writers, exhibiting artists, and many more. Nothing can sour a relationship like a misspelled name, an expected magazine that never arrived, or the same e-mail message popping up six times. That’s why we’ve improved our data systems and e-messaging capacities over the past year in order to make sure you are getting the right message from us at the right time.

For an organization born 146 years ago, we’ve got some great bones. And we owe these bones—and our amazing programs and publication—to our donors, members, and program sponsors who keep us healthy and thriving.

Thank you for a great 2015–2016 season.

*The Wisconsin Academy Board and Staff*





## Wisconsin Academy Staff



Jane Elder • Executive Director



Meredith Keller • Initiatives Director



Rachel Bruya • Exhibitions Coordinator  
James Watrous Gallery



Don Meyer • Business Operations Manager



Zachary Carlson, Web Editor



Matt Rezin • Data & Office Systems Coordinator



Jody Clowes • Director  
James Watrous Gallery



Amanda E. Shilling • Development Director



Aaron Fai • Project Coordinator



Jason A. Smith • Communications Director  
Editor, *Wisconsin People & Ideas*

## Academy Leadership



We are fortunate to have talented and dedicated business and civic leaders working together to further the Wisconsin Academy's mission to inspire discovery, illuminate creative work, and foster civil dialogue on important issues.

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## Academy Fellows



Established in 1982, the Fellows award represents the highest level of recognition conferred by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. Drawn from a pool of statewide nominees, Fellows are elected for their extraordinary levels of accomplishment in their fields as well as lifelong commitments to intellectual discourse and public service. For a complete list of Wisconsin Academy Fellows, visit [wisconsinacademy.org/fellows](http://wisconsinacademy.org/fellows).

## Wisconsin Academy 2016 Fellows

### **Marcia Bjornerud**

Professor of Geology and Environmental Studies at Lawrence University; author and essayist

### **Stephen R. Carpenter**

S.A. Forbes Professor of Zoology and Director of the Center for Limnology at UW–Madison

### **Parry Karp**

Professor of Chamber Music and Cello at UW–Madison; cellist, Pro Arte Quartet

### **Jesse Lee Kercheval**

Zona Gale/Marjorie and Lorin Tiefenthaler Professor of English at UW–Madison; poet

### **Ginny Moore Kruse**

Former Director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center at UW–Madison

### **Patty Loew**

Professor of Life Sciences Communication at UW–Madison; producer and broadcast journalist

### **Robert D. Mathieu**

Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of Astronomy at UW–Madison

### **Stephen Nold**

Microbial ecologist and Chair of the Biology Department at UW–Stout

### **Paula McCarthy Panczenko**

Director at UW–Madison's Tandem Press

### **Russell Panczenko**

Director and Chief Curator at UW–Madison's Chazen Museum of Art

### **Gloria E. Sarto**

Professor Emeritus in the School of Medicine and Public Health Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UW–Madison

# In Appreciation of Our 2015–2016 Donors and Sponsors

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters is pleased to publicly acknowledge those individuals and organizations who gave a cash or in-kind contributions of \$100 or more between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016. Your generosity is an investment in our operations and in quality programs and publications that explore, explain, and sustain Wisconsin thought and culture.

Thank you for joining us in mission to connect Wisconsin people and ideas for a better world.

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## The Full Circle Society

*The Full Circle Society is our way to recognize and thank those who have included the Wisconsin Academy in their estate plan. They provide resources needed to be able to share the best in Wisconsin thought and culture for generations to come.*

Thank you to the forward thinking individuals who are leaving a legacy through an estate gift to the Wisconsin Academy:

**Ira Baldwin\***

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**Terry Haller**

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Members and friends of the Wisconsin Academy are encouraged to consider including a gift to the Wisconsin Academy in your estate plans. An investment through your will, trust, or by beneficiary designation benefits the health of our endowment, while ensuring the future of our programs and publication.

If you are not listed, but have made a commitment or would like more information about leaving your legacy to the Wisconsin Academy, please contact Amanda E. Shilling at 608-263-1692 x16.

*\*gifts realized*

## Wisconsin Academy Foundation

The Wisconsin Academy Foundation is a separate 501(c)3, established in 1992, is dedicated to the stewardship of the Academy's endowment as a way to provide the Academy with a steady source of income in perpetuity. Currently, this income represents approximately one-third of total annual funds needed for Academy programming and operations.

A special thank you to the many donors who contributed to the Great Performance Fund at the Madison Community Foundation, which is separate from the permanent endowment held by the Wisconsin Academy Foundation. The Great Performance Fund directly supports Academy Talks and James Watrous Gallery programming at Overture Center for the Arts.

# 2015–2016 COMMUNITY PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS & PRESENTERS

Thank you to the multitude of individuals and organizations that support the Wisconsin Academy and its programs.  
Your invaluable commitment of time, talent, and services makes all the difference.

## James Watrous Gallery

### Exhibiting Artists

Gwen Avant  
Brenda Baker  
Tom Berenz  
Sandra Byers  
Kevin Giese  
Mark Iwinski  
Gregory Klassen  
Debbie Kupinsky  
Shane McAdams  
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Paul Robbins  
Nathan Schulfer  
Jason Stringer  
Doug Stingle  
Jeff Thompson  
Mike Wiggins  
Mike Wiza

### Program Partners & Volunteers

Peter Bakken  
Oscar Bloch  
Bill Davis  
Chuck Dunning  
Tom Eggert  
Global Health Institute  
Frank Greb  
John Greenler  
Sherrie Gruder  
Brenna Holzhauser  
John Imes  
Jenny Kehl  
Peter Kilde

Kathy R. Kuntz  
Rick Kyte  
Megan Levy  
Paul Linzmeyer  
Michelle Miller  
Ted Petith  
Randy Poelma  
Gary Radloff  
Keith Reopelle  
Kimberly Santiago  
Mary Woolsey Schlaefer  
Denise Schmidt  
Jenny Seifert  
Erick Shambarger  
Kirsten Shead  
Jeremy Solin  
Mike Strigel  
Gail Sumi  
Roy Thilly  
UW-Stevens Point  
Jason Vargo  
Don Wichert

## Wisconsin Academy Talks & Special Events

### Speakers

Steve Ackerman  
Peter Annin  
Jerry W. Apps  
Kimberly M. Blaeser  
Stephen R. Carpenter  
Fabu Phillis Carter  
Robin Chapman  
Alta Charo  
Theresa M. Duello  
Sharon Dunwoody  
Timothy Egan  
Maryo Gard Ewell  
Marian Farrior  
Kathy Foley  
Kathryn Gahl  
Jennifer Uphoff Gray  
Bob Gurda  
Rebecca Herb  
Nikki L. Kallio  
Parry Karp  
Anne Katz  
Dion Kempthorne  
Jesse Lee Kercheval  
Helen R. Klebesadel  
James P. Leary  
Patty Loew  
John J. Magnuson  
Gerard McKenna  
Curt Meine  
David Mladenoff  
Dale Schultz

Kevin Shafer  
George Sibley  
George Tzougros  
Timothy Yu

## Program Partners

A Room of One's Own  
American Players Theatre  
James Brozek  
Forest Products Laboratory  
Forward Theater Company  
Greenfield Public Library  
Susan Howard  
Hubbard Avenue Diner and  
Bakery  
Kohler Art Library  
Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art  
Museum  
Madison Museum of  
Contemporary Art  
Madison Opera  
Mead Public Library  
Nelson Institute for  
Environmental Studies  
Orange Tree Imports  
University of Wisconsin  
Geology Museum  
UW–Madison Center for  
Limnology  
Wega Arts  
Wisconsin Historical Society

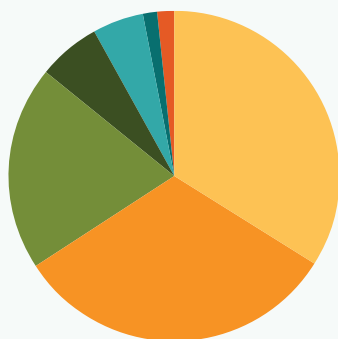
## Volunteers, Interns, & Gallery Attendants

Amanda Dailey  
Augusta Brulla  
Elliott Puckette  
Erin Olshefski  
Hannah Borgault  
Jacob Turner  
Jerry Marra  
Joe Moskwa  
Annaleigh Wetzel

Many individuals  
shared their time and  
talents with multiple  
Academy programs,  
they are only listed once.



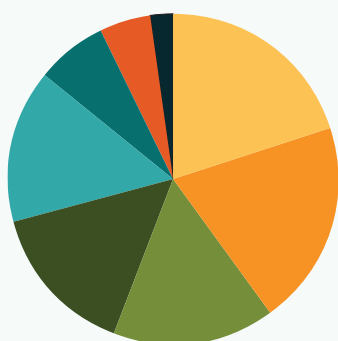
# WISCONSIN ACADEMY 2015–2016 Year-End Financial Statement



## Fiscal year 2016 Revenues

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2016

Academy Foundation Distributions	<b>34%</b>
Contributions	<b>32%</b>
Grant Revenue	<b>20%</b>
Donated Services	<b>6%</b>
Membership Dues	<b>4%</b>
Earned Income	<b>2%</b>
Conferences & Events	<b>2%</b>



## Fiscal year 2016 Expenses

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2016

Administration	<b>20%</b>
Gallery & Arts Programs	<b>20%</b>
Magazine & Digital Communication	<b>16%</b>
Membership & Development	<b>15%</b>
Academy Initiatives	<b>15%</b>
Academy Talks & Fellows	<b>7%</b>
Communications	<b>5%</b>
Program Development	<b>2%</b>

## About this Report

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters is an 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization (EIN 39-1054856) dedicated to connecting Wisconsin people and ideas for a better world. Our endowment is managed by the Wisconsin Academy Foundation, a separate 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization (EIN 39-1681809).

In an effort to provide transparency and context for our operations, the Wisconsin Academy publishes an annual report. For a digital version of our 2015–16 annual report visit [wisconsinacademy.org/2016report](http://wisconsinacademy.org/2016report).

## Statement of Activity

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2016

### Revenue

Academy Foundation Distributions .....	\$ 269,760
Contributions .....	254,737
Grant Revenue .....	153,093
Donated Services .....	49,088
Membership Dues .....	33,121
Earned Income .....	14,258
Conferences & Events .....	12,830

Total Revenue.....\$ 786,887

### Expenses

Program-related Expenses.....	\$ 441,108
Administration.....	145,873
Membership & Development.....	110,631
Communications.....	32,973

Total Expenses.....\$ 730,585

Change in net assets.....\$ 17,396

Net assets – Beginning of year.....\$ 209,226

Net assets – End of year.....\$ 226,622

## Statement of Financial Position

as of June 30, 2016

### Assets

Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 174,774
Other current assets .....	8,783
Unconditional promises to give.....	16,838
Fixed assets, net .....	108,973

Total Assets.....\$ 309,368

### Liabilities

Line of credit .....	\$ 0
Accounts Payable .....	3,125
Unearned revenue .....	11,043
Other liabilities.....	12,276

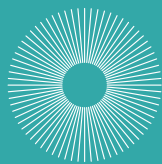
Total Liabilities.....26,444

Total Net Assets.....282,924

Total Liabilities and Net Assets.....\$ 309,368

This is a summarized financial presentation. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

Auditors: Wegner CPAs, LLP



**wisconsin academy**  
of sciences arts & letters

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