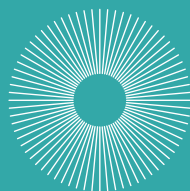




# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

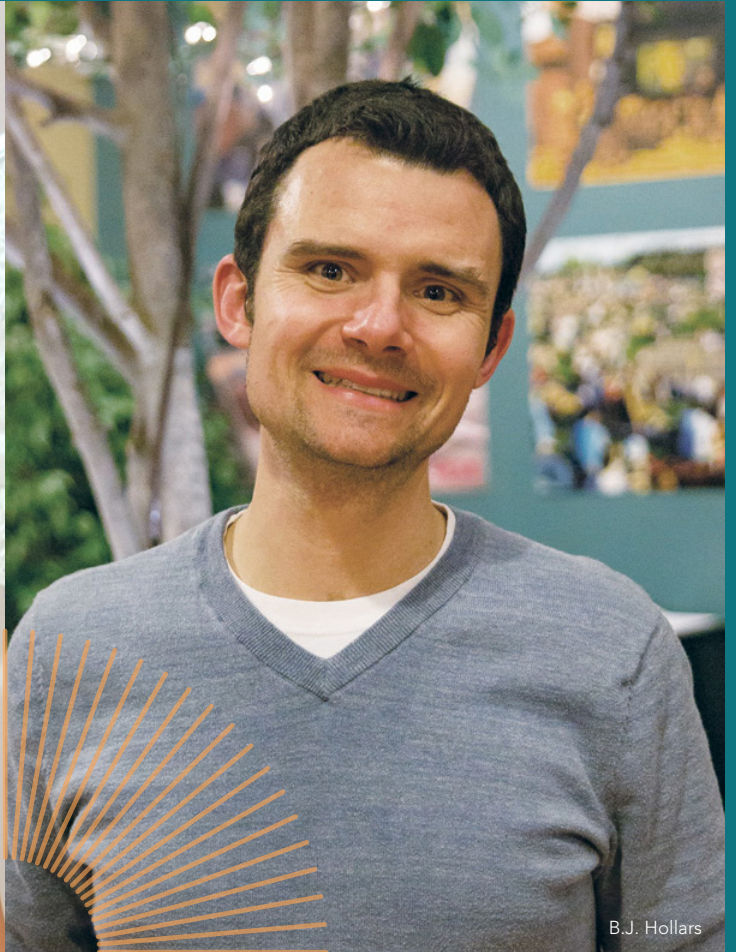


w i s c o n s i n a c a d e m y  
of sciences arts & letters

Connecting Wisconsin people and ideas for a better world.



Leslie Iwai



B.J. Hollars



Roy Lukes/Ridges Sanctuary



## THE ACADEMY'S MISSION

**We 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.**



### Big picture, long view

The Wisconsin Academy has a deep history in Wisconsin that affords us a unique perspective. For 147 years, the Academy has shared important ideas from the sciences, arts, and letters with the people of our state. In the spirit of the Wisconsin Idea, we have elevated important topics for wider consideration, identified trends in social and environmental conditions that need analysis and response, and showcased exceptional creative work that enriches and informs.

The topics that we explore tend to be big-picture and long-view in nature, and draw on diverse sources of expertise and practice. Because the Academy takes the long view, we can provide benchmarks to measure progress in Wisconsin, and we can also spot topics on the horizon that are likely to need leadership going forward. We strive, as our founders did long ago, to gather and share knowledge in the service of a better state for everyone.

Our work over the past year exemplifies this approach, and we deeply appreciate your support—which makes this work possible. We hope you share our pride in these achievements.

Thank you

*Jane Elder*  
Executive Director

All photos by Amanda E. Shilling unless otherwise indicated.



## Academy Talks: Growing Our Creative Power

A thriving creative culture is central to Wisconsin's economic growth, from fueling knowledge-based economic development, to sparking innovation and entrepreneurship. It's also key to creating vibrant places where people want to live, work, and raise families. We teamed up with the Wisconsin Arts Board, Arts Wisconsin, and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities to tap their knowledge on how investments in a range of creative endeavors are strengthening Wisconsin. Through six compelling free public talks at Overture Center for the Arts, we learned:

Investments yield big benefits: Access to the arts in our communities builds a sense of place, retains residents, and attracts talent. Investments in liberal arts education yield graduates who bring communication skills, ethics, empathy, and the ability to solve problems across disciplines to their work and lives. These leadership skills help build a healthy democracy.

Nurturing creativity in our kids grows the capacity for risk-taking and open-ended problem-solving and fearless autonomy. Entrepreneurs thrive in work cultures that embrace diversity, inclusivity, trust and social interactions, but they also need help with the basics such as legal advice, access to capital and technology, and affordable health insurance.

In science, one of the most critical creative acts is not problem solving but problem selection. Higher education would do well to teach "how to discover" along with "what you must know."

So yes, there are many ways we can grow Wisconsin's creative power, and our speakers and audiences are already showing us the way.



## Academy Talks, Initiative Summits, and Other Events 2016-2017 Season

***Waters of Wisconsin Summer Summit***

August 31, 2016 • UW–Madison Pyle Center

***Cultivating Creative Economies with Sheila Smith***

September 20, 2016 • Overture Center, Madison

***The Power of the Liberal Arts with Tom Pleger***

October 4, 2016 • Overture Center, Madison

***Nelson Inst. Jordahl Lecture with Jonathan Jarvis***

October 10, 2016 • UW–Madison Memorial Union

***Wisconsin People & Ideas Contest Readings***

October 21, 2016 • Wisconsin Book Festival, Madison

***Stitching Wartime History with Mary Lou Roberts***

November 6, 2016 • UW School of Human Ecology

***The Entrepreneurial Edge panel discussion***

November 15, 2016 • Overture Center, Madison

***Lifeguarding Wisconsin Waters with Jane Elder***

December 1, 2016 • Milwaukee Interfaith Conference

***Wisconsin Academy Holiday Open House***

December 7, 2016 • Academy Steenbock Offices, Madison

***Lifeguarding Wisconsin Waters with Jane Elder***

February 12, 2017 • Bethel Lutheran, Madison

***Raising Creative Kids panel discussion***

February 28, 2017 • Overture Center, Madison

***Poetry & Pi(e) with Karla Huston***

March 14, 2017 • Academy Steenbock Offices, Madison

***Poetry and Pi(e) with Susan Firer & Matt Cook***

March 14, 2017 • Woodland Pattern, Milwaukee

***Creativity & Main Street panel discussion***

March 28, 2017 • MMoCA Lecture Hall, Madison

***Climate & Energy Local Government Summit***

April 5, 2017 • Thelma Sadoff Center, Fond du Lac

***The Art of Discovery panel discussion***

April 11, 2017 • Overture Center, Madison

***Inside the Creative Process with Bruce Dethlefsen***

April 20, 2017 • Mead Public Library, Sheboygan

***Growing Our Creative Power series wrap discussion***

May 2, 2017 • Madison Public Library, Central Branch

***Climate Forward Community & Media Briefing***

June 28, 2017 • Madison Public Library, Central Branch



### James Watrous Gallery: Telling our story with art

The James Watrous Gallery continues to support Wisconsin artists and create exhibitions that tell important stories about our state and its culture. In fall 2016, we showcased the raised beadwork of the Wisconsin Oneida. Developed in partnership with the Oneida Nation Arts program and Oneida Nation Museum, the *Beading Culture* exhibition told a story of creativity as an act of survival, connection across geography and generations, and layered meaning through each beautifully crafted piece. The sixteen participating artists were generous with their stories and skills as well with as their work. The extensive programming for this show included a hands-on beading workshop, an artists' panel, and gallery talks by folklorist and co-curator Anne Pryor, art historian Melanie Herzog, and Watrous director Jody Clowes. We also produced a nine-minute video—our first!—to screen in the gallery during the exhibition.

From the artists' close involvement with the exhibition co-curators to the contributions of videographer Tom Moss and scholars from across Wisconsin, *Beading Culture* was a profoundly collaborative project. We received financial support for *Beading Culture* from the National Endowment for the Arts (a first for the Academy), Wisconsin Humanities Council, Dane Arts, and Madison Arts Commission, as well as several generous private donors. *Beading Culture* also traveled to the Oneida Nation Museum in Oneida, Wisconsin, where it will be on view through September 2018.

In winter 2017, we joined the celebration of Wisconsin Public Radio's one hundredth anniversary with the *Let's Draw* exhibition. Featuring a diverse selection of drawings by six Wisconsin artists, the exhibition also shared student works, recordings, and ephemera from WPR's original "Let's Draw" radio program, which provided art lessons for thousands of Wisconsin schoolchildren from 1936 to 1970. With the help of WPR's Erika Janik, four of the featured contemporary artists also wrote and recorded their own audio art lessons, which were presented in the gallery during the exhibition and remain available online. The opening reception featured a live recreation of a 1936 "Let's Draw" broadcast, and our staff offered several tours and gallery talks in addition to two drawing workshops. *Let's Draw* would not have been possible without the generous assistance of staff from Wisconsin Public Radio, the Museum of Wisconsin Art, and the UW-Madison Archives.



## James Watrous Gallery 2016-2017 Season

### John Craig & Valerie Mangion July 15–August 28, 2016

Opening reception and artists' talks • July 16  
Artists' talks • July 23  
Snapshot Wisconsin gallery talk • August 18  
Art@Noon • August 26

### Beading Culture September 16–November 6, 2016

International Iroquois Beadwork Conference • September 17  
Opening reception and artists' panel • September 24  
Iroquois Raised Beadwork workshop • September 24  
Gallery talk with Anne Pryor • October 12  
Gallery talk with Melanie Herzog • October 22  
Art@Noon • October 28

### Leslie Iwai: Daughter Cells November 18, 2016–January 22, 2017

Opening reception and artist talk • December 2  
Art@Noon talk with Leslie Iwai • January 20  
Frostiball • January 31

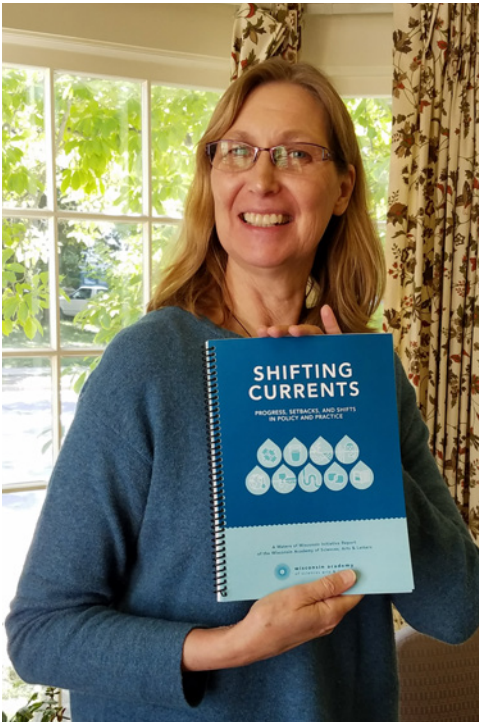
### Let's Draw February 10–April 9, 2017

Opening reception and WPR performance • February 18  
Madison Kids Expo drawing event • March 4 & 5  
Drink & Draw and gallery talk • March 9  
Family Drawing Night with Josh Duncan • March 31  
Art@Noon • April 7

### Gerit Grimm & Gina Litherland April 28–June 18, 2017

Opening reception and artists' talks • April 28  
Gerit Grimm demonstration @ ArtLofts • June 8  
Art@Noon • June 16





## Wisconsin Academy Initiatives

The Academy's Wisconsin Initiatives bring Wisconsin residents together with a diverse array of experts and stakeholders to find solutions to statewide problems. Formerly known as the Wisconsin Idea at the Wisconsin Academy, our Initiatives program addresses the unique challenges we face as Wisconsinites and citizens of the world.

### Waters of Wisconsin Initiative

In September 2016, we published *Shifting Currents*, the culmination of a four-year renewal of the Academy's Waters of Wisconsin project that takes the long-view, big-picture approach to water. Ten years after the inaugural Waters of Wisconsin Initiative (2000–2003) we undertook an in-depth look at how conditions have changed in Wisconsin, noting areas of significant progress, challenges that have stayed with us, and emerging issues across water quality, water quantity, and the health of freshwater ecosystems.

In an attempt to address the growing challenges and emerging concerns surrounding water in Wisconsin, our 2016 *Shifting Currents* report recommended nine actions:

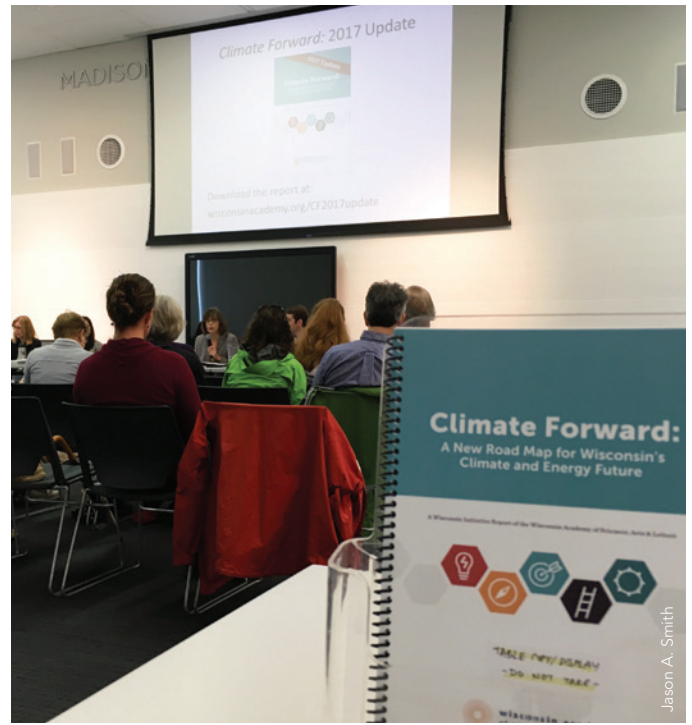
1. Develop an Integrated Water Management Framework
2. Safeguard Drinking Water
3. Control Nutrient Pollution
4. Apply Watershed-Scale Strategies
5. Plan for Climate Change
6. Manage Invasive Species
7. Modernize Water Infrastructure
8. Commit to Transparency and Public Participation
9. Invest in Water Literacy

Through our *Shifting Currents* report and Waters of Wisconsin Initiative, the Academy continues to safeguard Wisconsin's fresh water ecosystems and water supply for future generations.





Jane Elder



Jason A. Smith

## Climate & Energy Initiative

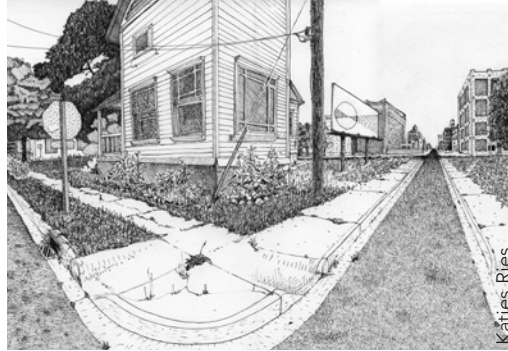
Through our Climate & Energy Initiative, we hosted our second local government summit on energy and resilience. On April 5 at the Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts in Fond du Lac, over seventy elected officials, energy experts, utility representatives, and other local decision-makers convened to discuss pressing issues and strategies for building resilient communities. Panels reviewed the changing world of energy decisions, local government innovation, solar energy, financing strategies for renewable energy and energy efficiency, and equity through energy-efficient and affordable housing. A communications workshop provided practical strategies for effectively sharing local stories of success. Participants exchanged business cards, shared resources, and gathered around tables to discuss strategies during the breaks. Leaders returned to their communities equipped with new contacts and ideas for moving Wisconsin forward in energy innovation and addressing climate change impacts.

The Academy is always working to share new and important ideas. To this end, in June 2017 we published an update to the *Climate Forward* report (2014) and hosted a packed and lively public briefing on June 28 at Madison's Central Library. Reviewing topics of conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, transportation, utility leadership, carbon pricing, and research and education, the report notes progress and setbacks since 2014, and also highlights emerging opportunities. Briefing attendees included Academy members, leaders from various groups working in the field, and guests from the legislature. Presenters and participants alike complimented the Academy for its leadership on this topic, and its broad, nonpartisan examination of the challenges at hand.

In an effort to share our science-based recommendations with experts, leaders, and stakeholders across diverse sectors, both the *Shifting Currents* and *Climate Forward* reports are available for free download at [wiscasinacademy.org/reports](http://wiscasinacademy.org/reports).



Kara Vincent Art



Katies Ries



Young Shakespeare Players

## A chronicle of Wisconsin thought & culture

*Wisconsin People & Ideas* magazine continues to cover the fascinating ideas that are shaping our state. From exploring scientific advances, to providing a venue for contemporary Wisconsin fiction writers and poets, our magazine helps provide the big picture of what is going on in Wisconsin. This year we unveiled an accessible, interesting, and visually appealing new design for the magazine. New features developed in conjunction with Huston Design, along with our always-excellent essays, fiction, and poetry, reflect a magazine that is made by and for the people of Wisconsin.

Highlights from 2017 include articles and essays, stories and poems, photographs and paintings from some of the leading thinkers and doers in Wisconsin today:

- "Partners in Nature," the story of Door County naturalists Roy and Charlotte Lukes, by Myles Dannhausen (Baileys Harbor)
- "Open House," the first-place fiction contest winner, by Allison Slavick (Cable)
- "In the Science Museum," the first-place poetry contest winner, by Karen Loeb (Eau Claire)
- "Remnants," a photo essay contemplating species loss, by Amy Fichter (Menomonie)
- "Shatterproof," the story of Milwaukee short crime writer Jack Ritchie, by Richard Boudreau (La Crosse)
- "Cheesehead Lit 101," a survey of essential Wisconsin authors, by Marc Seals (Baraboo)
- "Fighting the Formidable Flying Foe," an overview of mosquito-borne disease research in Wisconsin, by Silke Schmidt (Madison)
- "Bus Ride," an essay on Appleton Freedom Rider James Zwerg, by BJ Hollars (Eau Claire)

We look forward to 2018, our 64th continuous year of publishing the best quarterly magazine of the issues and ideas that matter to the people of our state.



John Hertz/Wisconsin State Journal



UWEC Photography

# Wisconsin people & ideas

The magazine of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters

## Fighting the Formidable Flying Foe

Mosquito research in Wisconsin



Mayana Chocolate  
Freedom Riders  
Grimm & Litherland

## Wisconsin Academy Staff

(As of June 30, 2017)



Jane Elder • Executive Director



Bethany Jurewicz • Business & Event Manager



Augusta Brulla • Head Gallery Attendant  
James Watrous Gallery



Matt Rezin • Data & Office Systems Coordinator



Chelsea Chandler • Initiatives Coordinator



Amanda E. Shilling • Development Director



Jody Clowes • Director  
James Watrous Gallery



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



Angela Johnson • Exhibitions Coordinator  
James Watrous Gallery

## Volunteers, Interns & Gallery Attendants

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Meri Rose Ekberg (GA)  
Anna Fisher-Roberts (GA)  
Claire Kittell (GA)  
Jerry Marra (V)  
Joe Moskwa (V)  
Emmett Mottl (I)

Justin Parks (GA)  
Andrew Ruesch (GA)  
Anna Schenk (GA)  
Nivedita Sharma (I)  
Casey Varecka (I)  
Branden Wise (GA)

Staff photos by Patrick Stutz Photography

# Academy Leadership



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

## Wisconsin Academy Board

As of June 30, 2017

### OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

- President** Tim Size, Sauk City
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- Immediate-past President**  
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Richard Burgess, Madison
- Vice President for Arts**  
Marianne Lubar, Milwaukee
- Vice President for Letters**  
L. Jane Hamblen, Madison
- Foundation Board President**  
Andrew Richards, Monona

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- Malcolm Brett**, Oregon
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- Robert D. Matthieu**, Madison
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- Nathan Wautier**, Madison
- Marty Wood**, Eau Claire

Jane Elder\*\*

## Wisconsin Academy Foundation

As of June 30, 2017

### OFFICERS OF THE ACADEMY FOUNDATION

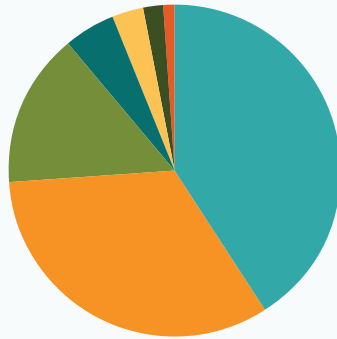
- Foundation President** Andrew Richards
- Foundation Vice President** Jack Kussmaul
- Foundation Treasurer** Richard Donkle
- Foundation Secretary** Freda Harris

### FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

- Mark Bradley
- Patricia Brady\*\*
- Jane Elder\*\*
- Arjun Sanga
- Tim Size\*
- Linda Ware\*

\* Ex-officio (voting) / \*\*Ex-officio (non-voting)

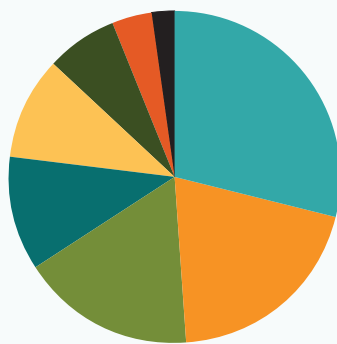
# WISCONSIN ACADEMY 2016–2017 Year-End Financial Statement



## Fiscal year 2017 Revenues

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2017

Contributions	41%
Academy Foundation Distributions	33%
Grant Revenue	15%
Membership Dues	5%
Donated Services	3%
Earned Income	2%
Conferences & Events	1%



## Fiscal year 2017 Expenses

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2017

Administration	29%
Gallery & Arts Programs	20%
Magazine	17%
Membership & Development	11%
Academy Initiatives	10%
Academy Talks & Fellows	7%
Communications	4%
Program Development	2%

## Statement of Activity

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2017

### Revenue

Academy Foundation Distributions .....	\$ 262,621
Contributions .....	327,597
Grant Revenue .....	115,904
Donated Services .....	27,477
Membership Dues .....	35,311
Earned Income .....	19,690
Conferences & Events .....	<u>3,837</u>

Total Revenue.....\$ 792,437

### Expenses

Program-related Expenses.....	\$ 446,438
Administration.....	226,691
Membership & Development .....	89,987
Communications.....	<u>30,953</u>

Total Expenses .....

Change in net assets .....

Net assets – Beginning of year .....

Net assets – End of year.....

## Statement of Financial Position

as of June 30, 2017

### Assets

Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 182,690
Other current assets .....	20,117
Unconditional promises to give.....	19,971
Fixed assets, net .....	93,171

Total Assets .....

### Liabilities

Line of credit .....	\$ 0
Accounts Payable .....	2,107
Unearned revenue .....	24,461
Other liabilities.....	<u>10,477</u>

Total Liabilities .....

Total Net Assets .....

Total Liabilities and Net Assets.....

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

Auditors: Wegner CPAs, LLP

## In Appreciation of Our 2016–2017 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 contribution of \$100 or more between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017. 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.

### THE MINERVA SOCIETY

#### Our most generous donors who contribute annual gifts or grants of \$10,000+

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Alan & Beth Wolf  
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M. Crawford Young  
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George & Dorothy Zografi  
Dave Zweifel

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Aaron Fai  
Kimberly Blaeser  
G. Lane Ware  
Patricia Brady  
Terry Haller (6)  
Tim Size (2)  
Tom Pleger (3)

Did we miss your name? Please call us at 608-263-1692 with corrections or omissions.

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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**

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Douglas Bosley  
Tony Conrad  
John Craig  
Rodrick Elm  
Scott Espeseth  
Sandra Wescott Gauthier  
Nina Ghanbarzadeh  
Gerit Grimm  
Karen Ann Hoffman  
Leslie T. Iwai  
April Jordan  
Judith L. Jourdan  
James Kelly  
Christine Klimmek  
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### **Program Partners**

Huston Design  
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Shake Rag Alley School for  
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Trout Museum of Art  
Wisconsin Book Festival  
Wisconsin Public Television  
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## **Wisconsin Initiatives**

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## **Wisconsin Academy Talks & Special Events**

### **Speakers**

Marcia Bjornerud  
Matt Cook  
Bruce Dethlefsen  
Tony Evers



Susan Firer  
 Deborah Gilpin  
 Fran Hill  
 Karla Huston  
 Tryg Jacobson  
 Jonathan Jarvis  
 Anne Katz  
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 Ruth Maegli  
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 A Room of One's Own  
 UW Center for Jewish Studies  
 UW–Madison School of Human  
 Ecology  
 Wisconsin Arts Board  
 Woodland Pattern, Inc.

The many individuals  
 who shared their time and  
 talents with multiple  
 Academy programs are  
 listed only once.



Ira Baldwin



Elizabeth McCoy



Harry Steenbock



Nancy Noeske

## The Full Circle Society

*Connecting your values to your legacy*

The Full Circle Society was established to recognize and show appreciation for individuals and couples who have made provision in their estate plans to provide a gift to the Wisconsin Academy to benefit future generations. It connects people from all areas of knowledge and all walks of life—all whom celebrate thought, culture, and nature in our state through their support of the Wisconsin Academy.

Thank you to the following individuals for their forward-thinking generosity.

Ira Baldwin\*  
 Mary and Jerry Foote  
 Constance & Dudley Godfrey\*  
 Terry Haller  
 Gunnar & Lorraine Johansen  
 Jack Kusmaul  
 David Lundahl

Elizabeth McCoy\*  
 Ron & Dorothy Daggett\*  
 Nancy Rae Noeske\*  
 Jim and Joy Perry  
 Harry Steenbock\*  
 Linda L. Ware  
 Patricia Weisberg\*

*\*gift has been realized*

Members and friends are encouraged to consider including the Wisconsin Academy and Wisconsin Academy Foundation in your estate plans. Every planned gift has the power to complete the circle that connects us to our past and our future.

If you are not listed in the Full Circle Society, 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. You can also contact her if you are interested in growing either of our newly named endowment funds.

## Named Endowment Funds

In 2017, Wisconsin Academy Foundation established two endowment funds:

**Terry Haller Fund for the Arts** to celebrate the retirement of long-serving Board member Terry Haller and the **Thomas Pleger Memorial Fund** to celebrate the life of former Board member Tom Pleger (1969-2017).

## Wisconsin Academy Foundation

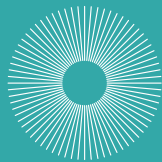
The Wisconsin Academy Foundation is a separate 501(c)3, established in 1992, is dedicated to the stewardship of the Academy's endowment as a way to provide the Academy with a steady source of income in perpetuity. Currently, this income represents approximately one-third of total annual funds needed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

## About this Report

The Wisconsin Academy 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 2017 annual report visit [wisconsinacademy.org/2017report](http://wisconsinacademy.org/2017report).



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