THE ACADEMY’S 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.
Dreams, Knowledge, Access: The Academy in 2018

The American Dream is a concept that has shaped our hopes and aspirations for more than two centuries. For some, it speaks to the foundational concepts of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. For others, it means having a nuclear family, a house with a two-car garage, and a thirty-year mortgage.

Over the last year, the Academy has been exploring what the American Dream means for the people of Wisconsin. We found that many of our participating artists, farmers, researchers, and teachers, as well as the hundreds of event attendees and gallery visitors we talked to, said that that road to the American Dream is paved with knowledge and opportunity.

At the Academy, we understand the role that knowledge plays in building better lives—and we believe that knowledge is meant to be shared. Our programs and publications provide myriad learning opportunities for Wisconsinites of all walks of life. People turn to us to better understand the value and context of today’s scientific research and to find insight and inspiration from Wisconsin’s visual and literary arts. From our quarterly magazine, Wisconsin People & Ideas, to our Academy Talks, James Watrous Gallery, and Climate & Energy Initiative, we’re sharing more essential knowledge, and providing more learning opportunities, to those striving to achieve their American Dream in Wisconsin.

Jane Elder
Executive Director
Academy Talks: The American Dream in Wisconsin

We began our exploration of the American Dream with historian and Wisconsin Academy Fellow John Gurda. His talk, Neighbors and Strangers, took us on a journey of Milwaukee’s settlement by generations of immigrants and reminded participants how diversity, while sometimes difficult to attain, contributes to vibrant and healthy communities. Cultivating the Dream brought together sociologist Michael Bell and farmer/economist Sarah Lloyd for a lively discussion about agricultural policy and farm economics.

La Farge artist Terese Agnew’s exhibition at the James Watrous Gallery, Writing in Stone, offered the opportunity to reflect on remarkable voices of progress and courage in Wisconsin’s history, while also asking today’s generation to consider its role in shaping a new dream for Wisconsin. An evening discussion panel during the exhibition featured Agnew, journalist Patty Loew, and labor organizer Jesus Salas, and explored the powers that support and restrict access to the dream.

We warmed up the start of our winter season with Healthcare Access and Reform, a talk led by UW–Madison health policy researcher Donna Friedsam and featuring Family Health Center of Marshfield director Greg Nycz and Lisa Peyton-Caire, founder of The Foundation for Black Women’s Wellness. During his packed The Pursuit of Happiness conversation with Anne Strainchamps in Overture Center’s Capitol Theater, neuroscientist Richard Davidson suggested that perhaps contentment is the key to happiness.

In spring we hosted Science and the American Experiment, a day-long conference exploring how research, policy, and communication shape our views of science during an era of shifting cultural views. We concluded our series with a talk about the Dreams of the Next Generation by Michael Johnson of the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County, who said that young people dream of access to education, freedom, and opportunity, as well as living a life of purpose and good will.

With leaders and thinkers like this, we can affirm that the American Dream has good stewards in Wisconsin who are opening doors that help us all to aspire and achieve our dreams.
Academy Talks and Events

**Neighbors and Strangers** with John Gurda  
September 19, 2017 • Overture Center, Madison

**What’s Going On in Our Great Lakes?** with J. Val Klump  
September 27, 2017 • Mead Public Library, Sheboygan

**Cultivating the Dream** with Michael Bell and Sarah Lloyd  
October 17, 2017 • Overture Center, Madison

**Nelson Institute Jordahl Public Lands Lecture** with Carolyn Finney  
October 19, 2017 • UW–Madison Union Theater

**Wisconsin People & Ideas Contest Readings**  
November 3, 2017 • Wisconsin Book Festival, Madison

**Who’s Dream Is It? Panel Discussion**  
November 4, 2017 • Overture Center, Madison

**WIPPS The Constitution, the Congress, and the Presidency**  
November 13, 2017 • UW Ctr for Civic Engagement, Wausau

**Healthcare Access and Reform Panel Discussion**  
February 27, 2018 • Overture Center, Madison

**Poetry and Pi(e)** with Oscar Mireles & Angela Vasquez  
March 14, 2018 • Academy Steenbock Offices, Madison

**The Pursuit of Happiness** with Richard Davidson  
March 20, 2018 • Overture Center, Madison

**Science & the American Experiment Conference**  
April 6, 2018 • UW–Madison Pyle Center

**Fellows Award Ceremony**  
April 6, 2018 • UW–Madison Pyle Center

**Dreams of the Next Generation** with Michael Johnson  
April 10, 2018 • Overture Center, Madison

**Understanding the Art of Vision** with Shiela Reaves  
April 19, 2018 • Mead Public Library, Sheboygan

**Celebrating the American Dream in Wisconsin**  
May 6, 2018 • American Family DreamBank, Madison
James Watrous Gallery: Telling Stories, Supporting Artists

Located on the third floor of Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, the James Watrous Gallery continues to support Wisconsin artists and create exhibitions that tell important stories about our state and its culture.

Watrous Gallery exhibitions always have an extra dimension. During our 2018 season, one show served to explore the arc of where we have been as a progressive state and another where our imagination might take us in the future.

Terese Agnew’s *Writing in Stone* exhibition was literally monumental. Agnew’s massive, stone-like monuments fully inhabited the confines of the Watrous Gallery, offering visitors an intimate path through big ideas. The stones’ engraved quotes memorialized poignant voices—of people both famous and little known—from Wisconsin’s past that have shaped our cultural values today. Featuring quotes from Belle Case LaFollette and Lee Dreyfus to the first enslaved woman to arrive in Wisconsin on the Underground Railroad, each monument invited contemplation of foundational Wisconsin events and ideas. One visitor shared that he was moved to tears by the power of these ideas and the way they were presented; another remarked that she felt affirmed and not alone in her values.

A few months later we were looking ahead—75 years ahead to be exact—through our *Future Possible: Imagining Madison* exhibit, which was supported in part by a grant from the Madison Community Foundation. They invited us to develop an exhibition that imagined Madison far into the future, so we commissioned works from a group of artists, landscape designers, and architects that together offered glimpses into an imagined future. From water taxis and living architecture to an ecological renaissance for the Yahara Lakes, their visions of a future Madison converged for a captivating and popular exhibition.
James Watrous Gallery Exhibitions & Events

Douglas Bosley & Scott Espeseth
July 7–August 27, 2017
Opening reception and artist talks • July 14
Art@Noon • August 25

Terese Agnew: Writing in Stone
September 23–November 5, 2017
Opening reception with artist talks and living statue performances • September 23
History Sandwiched In
@ Wisconsin Historical Museum • September 26
Gallery Night • October 6
Halloween Tour • October 31
Art@Noon • November 3

Holly Cohn & Letha Kelsey
November 17, 2017–January 28, 2018
Opening reception and artist talks • December 1
Art@Noon talk with Holly Cohn • January 26

Future Possible: Imagining Madison
February 16–April 15, 2018
Opening reception and artist panel • February 16
Gallery talk with Helen John • March 11
Art@Noon with Jeremy Wineberg & Anders Zanichowsky • April 13

Helen Lee & Anne Kingsbury
May 4–June 24, 2018
Gallery Night • May 4
Helen Lee glassblowing demonstration @ ArtLofts • May 9
Opening reception and artist talks • May 11
Bike the Art tour • May 19
Toddler Storytime with Madison Public Library • June 14
Art@Noon • June 22
Climate & Energy Initiative: Aspiring to Solutions

In its sixth year, the Academy’s Climate & Energy Initiative continued to focus on the role that Wisconsin local governments are playing as vanguards in clean energy innovation. Whether or not the words “climate change” are ever spoken among city or village leaders, rising energy costs, consumer demand for renewables, and the need for practical resiliency are driving local governments toward energy efficiency and conservation solutions and energy sources such as solar and wind power.

As a nonpartisan convener and a curator of leading ideas in the field, the Academy links a wide range of innovators and technical experts with on-the-ground decision-makers to support the exchange of ideas and meaningful action. We hear from Initiative participants that we are filling a unique and vital niche in Wisconsin, and adding value to the work of the many collegial organizations in our growing network. During our 2018 program year, we traveled across Wisconsin, hosting workshops in Eau Claire and Platteville, presenting our research in Door County and Stevens Point, and meeting with partners statewide.

In 2017 the Academy also launched a series of six environmental breakfasts under the theme “We’ll Always Have Paris,” exploring how cities, counties, faith communities, academic institutions, businesses, and individuals are taking action to aspire to the goals of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. These small, early morning gatherings at our Madison office have provided the opportunity for rich discussions among attendees, and serve as another way to connect leaders and cultivate knowledgeable citizens.

Our 2018 program year activity culminated in Leading the Charge, a two-day local government summit on April 23 and 24 at UW–Eau Claire. Summit attendees participated in workshops on measuring energy efficiency and clean energy workforce development and talked with presenters such as La Crosse Mayor Tim Kabat to learn how their communities can develop a resiliency plan and inculcate a culture of sustainability. Wisconsin Public Television recorded selected summit presentations, which are available online at wisconsinacademy.org/locgovsum2018.
Wisconsin Academy Initiatives
Workshops, Summits & Leadership Meetings

WOW Leadership Network Meeting
September 11, 2017 • UW–Madison Union South

Climate Forward: 2017 Update Teleseminar
September 25, 2017 • Wisconsin Green Muslims

Environmental Breakfast: How Individuals Can Lead
September 28, 2017 • Wisconsin Academy Offices

Clean Energy Mobilization Workshop
October 11, 2017 • Platteville Public Library

Environmental Breakfast: How Businesses Can Lead
October 26, 2017 • Wisconsin Academy Offices

Climate Forward and Energy Policy Lecture
November 7, 2017 • UW–Stevens Point

Climate & Energy Leadership Network Meeting
November 21, 2017 • Wisconsin Academy Offices

Environmental Breakfast: How Counties Can Lead
November 30, 2017 • Wisconsin Academy Offices

Climate Forward: 2017 Update Presentation
January 11, 2018 • Björklunden, Baileys Harbor

Climate Forward: A Road Map for Wisconsin (class)
January 12, 2018 • The Clearing, Ellison Bay

Environmental Breakfast: How Faith Communities Can Lead
January 25, 2018 • Wisconsin Academy Offices

Environmental Breakfast: How Universities Can Lead
February 22, 2018 • Wisconsin Academy Offices

Environmental Breakfast: How Cities Can Lead
March 22, 2018 • Wisconsin Academy Offices

Leading the Charge: Local Government Summit
April 23-24, 2018 • UW–Eau Claire

Climate & Energy Leadership Network Meeting
May 21, 2018 • Wisconsin Academy Offices
A chronicle of Wisconsin thought & culture

Wisconsin People & Ideas magazine continues to cover the fascinating ideas that are shaping life in our state. From exploring scientific and technological advances across the state to sharing essays on contemporary Wisconsin culture to providing a venue for emerging fiction writers and poets, our magazine is a veritable guide to important Wisconsin ideas. Highlighted articles (locations covered in parenthesis) from magazines published during our 2018 season include:

- “The Nature of Art,” a profile of bio-inspired artist Peter Krsko (Wonewoc), by Steven Potter
- “Mudstone” the winner of our 2018 fiction contest, by Bob Wake (Cambridge), and “The New American Nostalgia,” the winner of our 2018 poetry contest, by Nicholas Gulig (Ft. Atkinson)
- “Dancing to Hot Glass,” a profile of glass artists/educators Jeremy Popelka and Stephanie Trenchard (Sturgeon Bay), by Alyssa Skiba
- “Dining on the Rails,” how one family revived the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad (Trego), by Brenda K. Bredahl
- “Elegy for a Family Farm,” reflections on life and loss by Richard Quinney (Elkhorn)
- “Seeing with the Brain,” the research behind how the BrainPort V100 (Middleton), an electro-tactile device, helps blind people to “see,” by Steven Potter
- “Wisconsin’s Hard Cider Renaissance” and “How to Raise a Pizza,” two articles that explore statewide innovation in Wisconsin-based food production, by Candice Wagener
- “John Harmon: Symphony of Awareness,” a profile of composer and Academy Fellow John Harmon (Winneconne), by Matt Ambrosio
- “Nuts for Hickory,” a look at the growing shagbark hickory industry in Wisconsin (Princeton), by Max Witynski
- “Language as Order and Play,” a dual profile of Watrous Gallery-exhibiting artists Helen Lee (Madison) and Anne Kingsbury (Milwaukee), by Dominique Haller

We look forward to our 65th continuous year of publishing the best quarterly magazine of contemporary Wisconsin thought and culture—Wisconsin People & Ideas.
I appreciate the contests that Wisconsin People & Ideas hold each year. They are a galvanizing force for Wisconsin poets and fiction writers, and I always look forward to reading the prizewinning poems and stories.

—Karen Loeb, Eau Claire

I felt lucky that a copy of the magazine found me, as I didn’t know it even existed. That issue made me want more!

—Ricky Vander Velden, De Pere

Wisconsin People & Ideas is always a handsome piece, and an excellent presentation of the many interests the Wisconsin Academy speaks to. The cover photo of Richard Quinney (Winter 2018) is both beautiful and poignant. It matches the quality of the accompanying article.

—Sue Cleary-Koch, Saukville
Wisconsin Academy Fellows: A New Class for 2018

Established by the Academy in 1982, the Wisconsin Academy Fellows Award recognizes educators, researchers, mentors, artists, and civic or business leaders from across Wisconsin who have made substantial contributions to the cultural life and welfare of our state and its people.

Award-winning nominees generally demonstrate careers marked by an unusually high order of discovery; invention; technological accomplishment; creative productivity in literature, poetry, or the fine or practical arts; historical analysis; legal or judicial interpretation; philosophical thinking; or public service.

Anyone can nominate a prospective Fellows Award winner for consideration. A Wisconsin Academy committee broadly representative of the sciences, arts, and letters reviews nominations and selects winners every other year.

Our 2018 Academy Fellows Award winners were recognized at an April 6, 2018, event in the Pyle Center on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus.

See a complete list Academy Fellows at wisconsinacademy.org/fellows
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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.

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The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters is pleased to publicly acknowledge the community of donors who gave cash or in-kind contributions of $100 or more between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018. These gifts supported our ongoing operations as well as our many quality programs and publications that explore, explain, and sustain Wisconsin thought and culture. Thank you to everyone who supported our work. Together we are connecting Wisconsin people and ideas for a better world.

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Jason Vargo
Don Wichert

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
Wisconsin Academy Talks & Special Events
Speakers
William Barker
Michael M. Bell
William J. Berry
Mary W. Blanchard
Robin Chapman
Richard Davidson
Sarah Day
Donna Friedsam
Max Garland
John Gurda
Dee Hall
Jo Handelsman
Greg Jeschke
Michael Johnson
Val Klump
The Honorable Debra Kolste
George Kraft
Sarah Lloyd
Patricia Loew
Oscar Mireles
Dipesh Navsaria
Greg Nycz
Abbas Ourmazd
Logan Peterman
Lisa Peyton-Caire
Shiela Reaves
Jesus Salas
Arjun Sanga
Dietram Scheufele
Douglas Stafford
Anne H. Strainchamps
Angela Trudell Vasquez

Program Partners
American Dream Bank
EVP Coffee
Hubbard Avenue Diner
Micca Hutchins
Paul Jadin
Bernie Markevitch
Mead Public Library
Monroe Street Framing
MNReynolds Photography
Lisa Nelson
Fred Tyzka
Wisconsin Public Television
WisconsinEye
Working Draft Beer
WrenSong Creations

Those who share their talents with multiple Academy programs are only listed once.

The Full Circle Society
Connecting your values to your legacy

The Full Circle Society recognizes and thanks those who have included the Wisconsin Academy in their estate plan. Their generosity provides the financial cornerstone for building a future of possibilities and furthering our promise to enrich the scientific and cultural fabric of our state.

Thank you to all our Full Circle Society members for leaving a legacy gift to ensure a rich and lively creative culture that enhances Wisconsin today, and tomorrow.

Ira Baldwin*
Ann Bardeen-Henschel*
Ron & Dorothy Daggett*
Mary and Jerry Foote
Constance & Dudley Godfrey*
Terry Haller
Gunnar & Lorraine Johansen
Jack Kussmaul

David Lundahl
Elizabeth McCoy*
Nancy Rae Noeske*
Jim and Joy Perry
Elizabeth Souter*
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.
WISCONSIN ACADEMY 2018 Year-End Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2018

Assets
Cash and cash equivalents $ 228,152
Other current assets 11,654
Unconditional promises to give 4,000
Fixed assets, net 77,641
Total Assets $ 321,447

Liabilities
Line of credit 0
Accounts Payable 12,870
Unearned revenue 8,972
Other liabilities 14,869
Total Liabilities 36,711
Total Net Assets 284,736
Total Liabilities and Net Assets $ 321,447

This is a summarized financial presentation. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request. Auditors: Wegner CPAs, LLP

Fiscal Year 2018 Revenues
Fiscal year ending June 30, 2018

Revenue
Academy Foundation Distributions $ 272,692
Contributions 247,361
Grant Revenue 162,633
Membership Dues 24,344
Donated Services 34,595
Earned Income 7,523
Conferences & Events 12,905
Total Revenue $ 762,053

Fiscal Year 2018 Expenses
Fiscal year ending June 30, 2018

Expenses
Program-related Expenses $ 483,222
Administration 247,361
Membership & Development 84,761
Communications 32,832
Total Expenses $ 756,221

Change in net assets $ 5,832
Net assets – Beginning of year $ 278,704
Net assets – End of year $ 284,736

Statement of Activity
Fiscal year ending June 30, 2018

Revenue
Academy Foundation Distributions $ 272,692
Contributions 247,361
Grant Revenue 162,633
Membership Dues 24,344
Donated Services 34,595
Earned Income 7,523
Total Revenue $ 762,053

Expenses
Program-related Expenses $ 483,222
Administration 247,361
Membership & Development 84,761
Communications 32,832
Total Expenses $ 756,221

Change in net assets $ 5,832
Net assets – Beginning of year $ 278,704
Net assets – End of year $ 284,736

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 2018 annual report visit wisconsinacademy.org/2018report.