



**WISCONSIN
ACADEMY**
OF SCIENCES,
ARTS & LETTERS

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

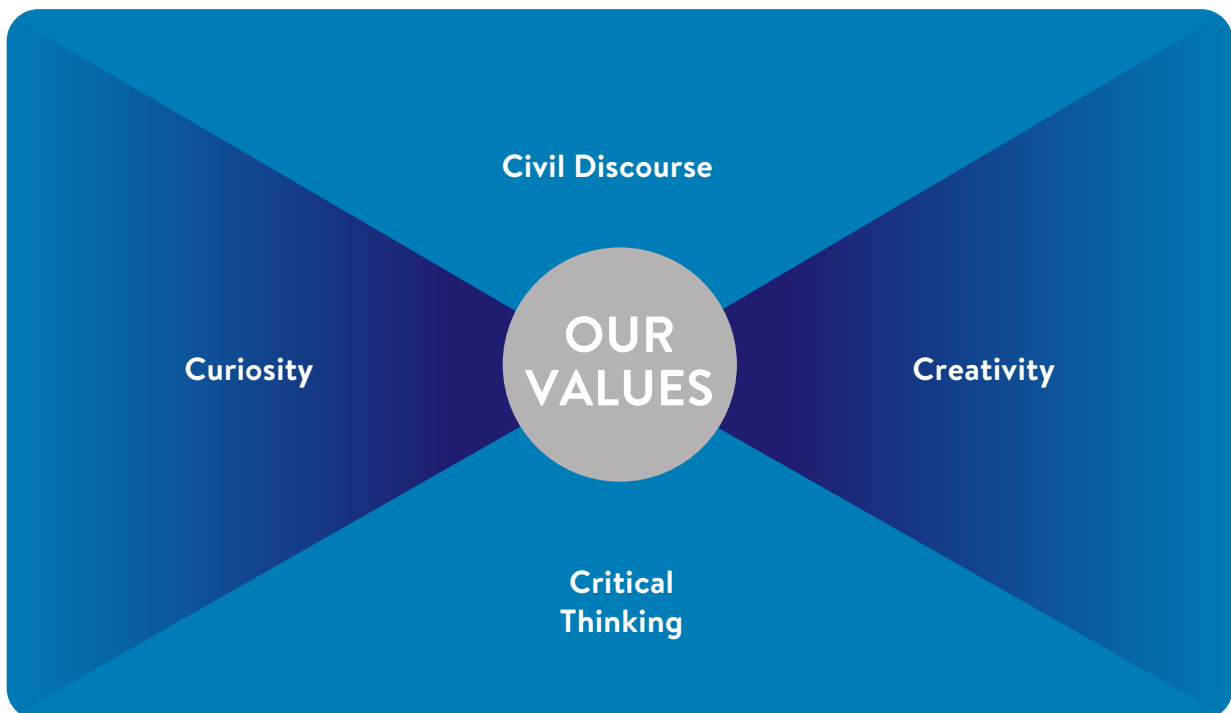
A place to connect with experts and learn from each other

OUR MISSION

To create a better world by
connecting Wisconsin people and ideas.

OUR VISION

A brigher future inspired by
Wisconsin ideas.



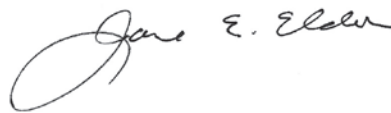
WISCONSIN'S "BEST KEPT SECRET"

It happens more often than not. When I tell someone that I've just met that I'm with the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, you can see them trying to figure it out—just what is this organization and have I heard of them? People who know us tell us how much they value what we do. But to many in the state, we are an unknown organization.

In 2018, we resolved to find better ways to tell our story and reach more people. Yes, 149-year-old nonprofits can embrace a deep dive into the world of branding and social media! We're excited to move into our 150th year with a new look, new ways to connect with people, and a straightforward focus on the big impacts of our work.

As we looked at the breadth of our programming, we identified four key ways we achieve long-term impact in Wisconsin. We **celebrate creativity and achievement** across the disciplines, showcasing and acknowledging the works of artists, writers, scholars, and other leaders. We elevate ideas—grounded in science and culturally informed—that have the capacity to **improve lives and help Wisconsin thrive**. We amplify good ideas through our publications, public talks, and web resources that **inform and empower citizens**, stakeholders, decision-makers, and life-long learners. And, across all our work, we **affirm the value of the sciences, arts, and letters** in our lives.

We're proud of the way we serve Wisconsin and eager for people across the state to know more about us and benefit from our work so the impacts can grow and grow. And we're glad to have you along with us on this journey.



Jane Elder
Executive Director

ELEVATING WISCONSIN ARTS

The James Watrous Gallery, in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts, continues to celebrate Wisconsin artists and create inspiring exhibits that affirm the importance of art in our state.

We strive to elevate Wisconsin artists by showcasing their works in the gallery and introducing them to new audiences. Drawing from our juried Call for Wisconsin Artists, this year we presented the works of four artists in our solo exhibitions and eighteen artists over the course of our three ambitious curated exhibitions. Highlights included a thoughtful selection of work by ten regional photographers, guest curated by Andy Adams of FlakPhoto; an in-depth retrospective of Gaylord Schanilec's fine press books about the Upper Mississippi; and *Uprooted: Plants in a Changing Climate*, a group show of new work focused on plant communities under threat in Wisconsin. An unexpected benefit of *Uprooted* was the opportunity for five painters and printmakers to meet and explore their approach to this subject with each other and to connect with naturalists working in this field.

We also strive to engage wider audiences who appreciate Wisconsin art. In planning for each new exhibition, we start by asking: *What can we do to help our audience access and appreciate the artist's intent? What connections—to other disciplines, to art history, to cultural, political, or social concerns—will elucidate the artists' concerns? What will make our visitors feel welcome to engage the art on their own terms, to ponder, to wonder, and—best of all—leave wanting to learn more?*

Our array of gallery talks, tours, and events create opportunities to connect with artists, experts, and our own gallery staff. We're very excited about the success of Art Bites, our new series of informal brunches in the gallery that offer people a seat at the table—literally—with our artists. Other highlights this year included a talk and demonstration at Tandem Press, where master printmakers Jason Ruhl and Joe Fry shared their experience with a Vandercook press similar to the one used by Gaylord Schanilec; a hands-on nature journaling workshop at the UW Arboretum with watercolor artist and educator Helen Klebesadel; and a talk by literary scholar Lynn Keller about poets who (like the artists in *Uprooted*) are wrestling with the reality of climate change.



**The James Watrous Gallery
is a destination gallery.**

—Bethann Moran-Handzlik, Fort Atkinson



GALLERY EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

Will Pergi & Rob Nielson

July 6–August 19, 2018

Reception and artists' talks July 13

Art@Noon August 17

New Midwest Photography

September 7–October 28, 2018

Guest curated by Andy Adams

Artists: Clarissa Bonet, Jess T. Dugan, Tytia Habing, Jon Horvath, Julie Renee Jones, Dave Jordano, Nathan Pearce, Barry Phipps, Jason Vaughn, & Lindley Warren

Reception and curator's talk September 7

Gallery Night October 5

Art Bites brunch October 13

Art@Noon with Andy Adams October 26

Maggie Sasso & Nathaniel Stern

November 16, 2018–January 27, 2019

Reception and artists' talks November 30

Art@Noon January 25

Gaylord Schanilec: A Natural History

February 15–April 7, 2019

Reception and artist's talk February 15

Art Bites brunch February 16

Art@Noon April 5

Tandem Press printmaking demonstration April 6

Uprooted: Plants in a Changing Climate

April 26–June 23, 2019

Artists: Cynthia Brinich-Langlois, Helen Klebesadel, Bethann Moran-Handzlik, Katie Musolff, Lynne Railsback, Marian Miner & Terri Hom

Art Bites brunch April 28

Gallery Night May 3

Reception & artists' panel May 17

Nature Journaling with Helen Klebesadel May 19

Poetry, Plants & the Anthropocene talk with Lynn Keller May 19

Art@Noon with Heather Swan June 21

AMPLIFYING WISCONSIN IDEAS

The only magazine of contemporary Wisconsin thought and culture, *Wisconsin People & Ideas* continues to support our vision for a brighter future inspired by Wisconsin ideas.

Since 1954, this magazine has published thoughtful stories about our people and culture, original creative writing and artwork, and informative articles about Wisconsin innovation. The magazine also hosts annual Fiction & Poetry Contests that provide opportunity and encouragement for new and emerging writers.

When viewed together, the four issues from our 2019 season provide a snapshot of who we are as a people today. Readers found a treasure trove of information and innovation from across the disciplines that they can use to improve their lives and careers—and satisfy their curiosity about our state and world.

- Developed in collaboration with WisContext, our “Wild Wisconsin Ginseng” article (Summer 2018) helped readers understand the medical claims made about one of our most prized—and most poached—native plants.
- In “The River that Flows Uphill” (Summer 2018) we shared explosive new research by geologist Eric C. Carson that proves that Wisconsin River once flowed from west to east.
- Our Winter 2019 issue introduced readers to Margaret Rozga, the new Wisconsin Poet Laureate, and featured some of her moving poems.
- Our Fiction and Poetry Awards brought opportunity, encouragement, and money to six Wisconsin writers who shared their award-winning works in the magazine as well as at the 2019 Wisconsin Book Festival.

The Wisconsin people found in the magazine should be a source of pride for us all, and their ideas will be talked about this year and beyond.



I LOVE the magazine!

—Laura Lee, Wausau



IDEAS THAT HELP US THRIVE

Our Climate & Energy Initiative continues to bring people together to find solutions to climate change in Wisconsin.

We convened our fourth local leadership summit at the beautiful Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve in Appleton on a very cold and snowy January day in 2019. Many participants described it as our best summit yet.

The opening remarks from Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes helped rekindle the sense of urgency for a serious conversation on climate and energy. The level of the discussions throughout the summit—in terms of understanding this complex challenge and the practical strategies to advance solutions—was an indicator that our investment in this work over the last seven years is paying off in leadership, knowledge, collaboration, and strategic thinking. For this event, the discussions were dynamic and stories powerful. Presenters and participants from many sectors and organizations came together to find solutions, reflecting various ethnic and gender perspectives from rural and urban communities alike. We all have a stake in our clean energy future, and the site itself also provided an opportunity to glimpse one model for energy resilience through tours of the microgrid that powered our meeting.

Our environmental breakfast series hosted four talks on the theme “Drawdown in Wisconsin,” exploring ways to reduce Wisconsin’s carbon footprint. These small sessions provide a unique opportunity to learn from experts and fellow participants, and a way to contextualize big, wonky ideas and what they mean for Wisconsin. Our presenters and participants come from a place of curiosity and we truly have civil conversations about big topics—from regenerative agriculture to food waste—that lead to new connections and better-informed citizens.

Speaking of being informed, we placed a focus on energy democracy this year to help people better understand the decision-making process around energy systems and ways they can have a voice in this process. Through our Energy Democracy web portal, we’re helping people to understand and change a very complicated system—which is extremely important if we are to address the long-term challenge of climate change.



I was impressed with the speakers, topics, and Wisconsin leaders who came together to share lessons.

—Stacy Reece, Sustainability Program Coordinator
for the City of Madison



Wisconsin Academy Initiatives Workshops & Summits

Environmental Breakfast: Electric Vehicles with Debbie Branson
October 25, 2018 • Wisconsin Academy Offices, Madison

Environmental Breakfast: Microgrids with Gary Radloff
November 29, 2018 • Wisconsin Academy Offices, Madison

Powering Local Leadership Summit
January 24-25, 2019 • Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Appleton

Environmental Breakfast: Regenerative Agriculture with Diane Mayerfield
February 28, 2019 • Wisconsin Academy Offices, Madison

Environmental Breakfast: Reduced Food Waste with Chris Brockel
March 28, 2019 • Wisconsin Academy Offices, Madison

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH FRESH IDEAS

Academy Talks are designed to connect experts and audiences, and support ways they can learn from each other to make our lives—and Wisconsin—better. Our fall 2018 to spring 2019 season of talks at Overture Center continued our examination of challenges and opportunities in higher education.* Our fall panel discussion, *The Practical and Liberal Arts*, explored the power of the humanities to grow critical thinkers and communicators—and cultivate the skills that make young people highly employable. It also disabused the artificial divide between STEM and liberal arts as our panelists examined future needs in higher education. Our spring panel considered the challenges students face in higher education, from access to the college experience, to the burden of student debt, to the near-epidemic levels of depression and anxiety on American campuses. Each event offered fresh and hopeful perspectives to parents, academic leaders, and interested community members at a time when higher education faces many challenges.

Our partnership with Sheboygan's Mead Public Library Foundation presented investigative journalist Dee Hall in the fall to talk about journalism in these complicated times. The audience was eager to discuss the role of the news media in democracy. Spring speaker, geneticist Jason Fletcher, spoke about his book: *Molecular me: the Implications of the Genomics Revolution*, explaining complex topics such as CRISPR gene editing and the ethical questions surrounding the new technology, which prompted lots of questions, including those from a young scientist in the audience.

We celebrated Wisconsin poetry with two *Poetry & Pi(e)* events on March 14 providing the comfort of pie and pleasure of poetry with readings by poets Margaret Rozga at the Academy offices and Dasha Kelly Hamilton at the Pablo in Eau Claire.

We also tapped Academy staff expertise to share fresh ideas with new audiences at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library in Eau Claire when *Wisconsin People & Ideas* editor Jason A. Smith discussed storytelling for nonfiction writers. Our director Jane Elder visited the library to discuss the state of the Great Lakes and how citizens can protect them. Jane also moderated a seminar on funding strategies to protect fresh water hosted by UW-Stevens Point.

*The Reaching Higher through Education series was made possible with support from Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, and Wisconsin Initiative for Science Literacy/Science is Fun. Additional funding for events at Overture Center for the Arts is supported by the Great Performance Fund.

The poetry was even better than the pie at *Poetry & Pi(e)* with Dasha Kelly Hamilton

—Ashley Curtis, Eau Claire

Academy Talks and Events

***The Practical and the Liberal Arts* with Turina Bakken, Scott Bierman, Paul Jadin, Dispeh Navsaria & Kevin Reilly**
September 18, 2018 • Overture Center, Madison

***The Story's the Thing* with Jason A. Smith**
September 20, 2018 • L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, Eau Claire

An Evening with U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith
October 11, 2018 • Door Country Auditorium

***Investigating the State of Wisconsin's Democracy* with Dee Hall**
October 16, 2018 • Mead Public Library, Sheboygan

***Cold Hard Facts* with Steve Ackerman and Steve Carpenter**
January 15, 2019 • James Watrous Gallery, Madison

***Poetry and Pi(e)* with Dasha Kelly Hamilton**
March 14, 2019 • The Pablo at the Confluence, Eau Claire

***Poetry and Pi(e)* with Peggy Rozga**
March 14, 2019 • Wisconsin Academy Offices, Madison

***Molecular Me: Implications of the Genomics Revolution* with Jason Fletcher**
April 17, 2019 • Mead Public Library, Sheboygan

Real Life Library: Connecting through Curiosity
May 18, 2019 • Verona Public Library

***Our Magnificent and Vulnerable Great Lakes* with Jane Elder**
May 1, 2019 • L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, Eau Claire

Celebrate Water Door County Conference
June 4, 2019 • The Landmark Resort, Egg Harbor



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, 2019

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As of June 30, 2019

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(As of June 30, 2019; staff photos by Patrick Stutz Photography)



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In Appreciation of our 2018-2019 Donors & Sponsors

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters is pleased to publicly acknowledge the community of donors who gave combined cash or in-kind contributions of \$100 or more between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our many endeavors this past year. Together we are building a brighter future inspired by Wisconsin ideas. Special thanks to everyone who invested in our future by providing funding for our special 2018 matching gift project appeal. With your help, we reached our goal and have successfully implemented the project to enhance our brand and marketing efforts leading into our 150th anniversary.

THE MINERVA SOCIETY

Annual contributions of \$10,000+

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Did we miss your name? Please call us at 608-733-6633 with corrections or omissions.

The Full Circle Society

Connecting your values to your legacy



Elizabeth McCoy



Ira Baldwin



Nancy Noeske



Harry Steenbock

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.

Ira Baldwin*
Ann Bardeen-Henschel*
Ron & Dorothy Daggett*
Mary and Jerry Foote
Constance & Dudley Godfrey*
Terry Haller
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Thank you to all our Full Circle Society members for leaving a legacy gift. 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 608-733-6633 x16. You can also contact her if you are interested in growing either of our named endowment funds.

Named Endowment Funds

In 2017, Wisconsin Academy Foundation established two endowment funds:

The Terry Haller Fund for the Arts to celebrate the retirement of long-serving Board member Terry Haller

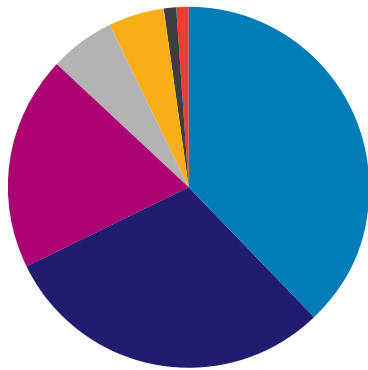
The Thomas Pleger Memorial Fund to celebrate the life of former Board member Tom Pleger (1969-2017).

Wisconsin Academy Foundation

Established in 1992, the Wisconsin Academy Foundation is a separate 501(c)3 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.

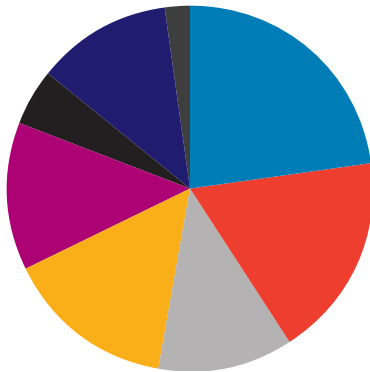
WISCONSIN ACADEMY 2019 Year-End Financial Statement



Fiscal Year 2019 Revenues

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2019

Contributions	38%
Foundation Distributions	30%
Grant Revenue	19%
Membership Dues	6%
Donated Services	5%
Conferences & Events	1%
Earned Income	1%



Fiscal Year 2019 Expenses

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2019

Administration	23%
Gallery & Arts Programs	18%
Magazine	12%
Membership & Development	15%
Academy Initiatives	13%
Academy Talks & Fellows	5%
Communications	12%
Program Development	2%

About this Report

The Wisconsin Academy is an 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization (EIN 39-1054856) dedicated to creating a better world by connecting Wisconsin people and ideas. 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 2019 annual report visit wisconsinacademy.org/2019report.

Statement of Activity

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2019

Revenue

Academy Foundation Distributions	\$ 263,667
Contributions.....	332,922
Grant Revenue.....	156,099
Donated Services.....	45,495
Membership Dues.....	47,712
Earned Income.....	10,412
Conferences & Events	11,736

Total Revenue..... \$ 868,043

Expenses

Program-related Expenses	\$ 402,650
Administration.....	184,808
Membership & Development	125,616
Communications.....	99,957

Total Expenses..... \$ 813,031

Change in net assets.....	\$ 12,910
Net assets – Beginning of year.....	\$ 284,736
Net assets – End of year.....	<u>\$ 297,646</u>

Statement of Financial Position

as of June 30, 2019

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 204,552
Other current assets.....	29,411
Unconditional promises to give.....	41,000
Fixed assets, net	64,304

Total Assets..... \$ 339,267

Liabilities

Line of credit	\$ 0
Accounts Payable	12,958
Unearned revenue	10,343
Other liabilities	18,320

Total Liabilities..... 41,621

Total Net Assets..... 297,646

Total Liabilities and Net Assets..... \$ 339,267

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



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