



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, July 05, 2022
3:45 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

PUBLIC INPUT: (if anyone wishes to address the Commission)

SETTING THE AGENDA:

CORRESPONDENCE:

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve May 3, 2022 Minutes

FINANCIALS:

2. The Arts & Culture Commission's Financial Balance to date is \$6,806.00.

BUSINESS:

3. Mayor's Art Award
4. Juneteenth
5. Art Plan and Goal Setting
6. KAXE Art Project
7. Duane Goodwin

UPDATES:

8. Artist in Residence
9. Public Art Design Workshop - Stormwater Art Design Class
10. Art Liaison

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 03, 2022
3:45 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:48pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

Commissioner Anne-Marie Erickson

Commissioner Jennifer Gorman

Commissioner Myrna Peterson

Commissioner Ed Zabinski

City Administrator, Tom Pagel

ABSENT:

Commissioner Gail Otteson

Commission Chair Kari Hedlund

Commissioner Tom Sippola

PUBLIC INPUT: (if anyone wishes to address the Commission)

None

SETTING THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Peterson to accept the Agenda as written, second by Commissioner Gorman. All in favor, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Peterson and second by Commissioner Gorman to accept the April 5th Minutes as written. All in favor, motion passed.

1. April 5th, 2022 Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Peterson to accept the April 5th, 2022 Minutes, second by Commissioner Gorman. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIALS:

Reviewed that there was no change to financials.

2. There was no change to the Arts & Culture Commission's Financials from March, the balance is the same, \$7,056.00.

There was no vote on the financials as it had not changed since the April 5th, 2022 Meeting.

BUSINESS:

3. Juneteenth Request for Funding - Seraphia Gravelle, Kootasca Community Action Team

Seraphia Gravelle, Community Equity and Anti-Racism Organizer at Kootasca Community Action, met with the Commission to request funding for the Juneteenth Celebration on June 19th, 2022. They have raised \$1,150.00 and are asking the Commission to fund \$850.00. The Commission agreed to fund their event and will also encourage the Human Rights Commission to split the \$850.00 with them.

Motion was made by Commissioner Peterson and second by Commissioner Erickson to make a donation of \$425.00 to the Juneteenth Celebration on June 19th, 2022, to the event sponsor, Kootasca Community Action and encourage the Human Rights Commission to match this contribution. All in favor, motion passed.

4. Commission Size - Recruitment

The Commission can retain up to nine Commissioners, so there is room for two new Commissioners. All new applicants need to submit an application, encourage them to email or drop off their applications. A copy of the application is also on the city's website. Commissioner Erickson's neighbor is Aaron, the canoe sculptor, he would be a good candidate as well as Seraphia. She has not submitted her application, but is interested. Also, there is no requirement to be a Commissioner, no need to be a city resident, it is okay to live outside the city limits.

5. Art Plan & Goal Setting

Discussion regarding the Neighborhood Public Art Projects. Commissioner Erickson has not heard back from Lea Friesen whether she is interested or not to represent the SE. There would be one City Councilor per City Quadrant. Commissioner Gorman left two messages with Councilor Blake, but has not heard from him. She will try emailing him again and tag-team with Commissioner Zabinsky to get a hold of him and Councilor Toven.

The Neighborhood Meetings should be near the possible gathering spots that are listed in the attachment that Commissioner Erickson handed out and if the weather does not cooperate, there should be a Plan B. The Commissioners need to nail a date for the meetings and find ways to invite the neighbors and also use social media to promote what the Commission is trying to do. Commissioner Gorman said that she would talk to the paper regarding an article.

The pairings are as follows; Commissioner Erickson to talk to Councilor Blake, Commissioner Gorman to talk to Mayor Christy, Commissioner Otteson to talk to Councilor Toven and Commissioner Zabinsky to talk to Councilor Connelly.

6. KAXE Art Project

The KAXE Art Project is moving right along and will be in place prior to Riverfest, with assistance from the Library. City Administrator Tom Pagel gave a brief synopsis of Riverfest and it's still being updated.

UPDATES:

7. Artist in Residence - David Dobbs

The Artist in Residence should be new tenants in June, but if there are no applicants, they will stay.

8. Mayor's Art Award

Discussion of the Mayor's Arts Award. The Commission decided to put out another Facebook post and Emily was mentioned to do an article on the history of the award. The Award will be decided at the June meeting.

9. Duane Goodwin

The Duane Goodwin site will be blessed by Paul Day, Elder and Tribal Judge, on Wednesday May 4th at noon.

10. Public Art Design Workshop - Stormwater Art Design Class Follow-Up

The Public Art Design Workshop was full, looking forward to an update from Lea Friesen.

11. Art Liaison

The Arts Liaison will potentially be a shared employee with the MacRostie Art Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Approve Minutes
2. Approve Financials

BUSINESS

3. Mayor's Art Award
4. Juneteenth
5. Art Plan and Goal Setting

UPDATES

6. Artist in Residence
7. KAXE Art Project
8. Duane Goodwin
9. Public Art Design Workshop - Stormwater Art Design Class
10. Art Liaison

ADJOURN:

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by

Cynthia Lyman

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MAY 31, 2022**

With Comparative Totals for the Period Ending December 31, 2021

	Actual <u>5/31/2022</u>	Actual <u>12/31/2021</u>
Arts & Culture Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Supplies	-	149
Seminar/Meetings/School	-	-
Mayor's Art Award	444	867
Vessel Concept Bike Rack	-	7,486
Storm Drain Design Class	-	1,200
Art Mapping Project	-	-
Public Art Nameplates	-	3,789
Statue Blessing Ceremony Blanket	250	
Operating Transfer to Capital Proj 418	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance Available	<u><u>6,806</u></u>	<u><u>(5,992)</u></u>

Criteria	Mary Jo Jess	Ken Clifton	Stained Glass w/Class	Lea Friesen	Kathy Dodge
Supports and promotes Local Arts Organizations, etc. (Up to 5 pts.)	0	0	0	0	0
Community Advocacy/Outreach (Up to 5 pts.)	0	0	0	0	0
Would elevate awareness of nominee (Up to 5 pts.)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Previous Winners

- Grand Rapids State Bank
- Mike & Mary Ives
- Brewed Awakenings
- KAXE
- Miltich/Marshall

From: Hagenbuck <deb@hagenbuck.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Tom Pagel <tpagel@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us>
Cc: Hagenbuck <bill@hagenbuck.com>
Subject: Mayor's Art Award's 2022 Nomination

I would like to nominate Stained Glass with Class LLC—Katelyn Lydia, owner. Stained Glass with Class is a gift shop in the former Hopperton's store location which specializes in stain glass items that Katelyn and her staff personally creates. In addition, the store carries other select glass pieces. She also offers stain glass classes to all ages, assisting students with all aspects of glass art design. Stained Glass with Class participates in the First Friday Art Activity and is strategically located next door to the MacRostie Art Center, where you can also enjoy seeing select pieces of her glass work.

Regards,

Deb Hagenbuck
218-910-8482

P.S. My husband and I are currently actively enjoying spending time weekly at Stain Glass with Class.

I recommend local artist Lea Friesen for the 2022 Mayor's art award. Her community programming in education through IASC Community Education, Macrostie Art Center and Elder's Circle stretches from elders to children and all ages. My niece recently enjoyed Lea's childrens' MAC program series: Mural Street Community Paint Project, Childrens' Chakra and Meditative Painting class, and pet portrait painting. I am guest lecturing at her May 15th Creative Wellness day retreat. Friesen is partnering with Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation, MacRostie Art Center, and Colleena Bibeau for the July 2022 Mallard Island program week (see attachment). My most recent art investment, Prepare (2020) by artist Lea Friesen. (See IMG.2957) I serve on the MAC Board of Directors through 2024.

Statement of work:

CREATE MEANING.

I am a firm believer in the value of making art for art's sake as it can be natural to question the value of creative pastimes. However, it is essential that if one's creative outlet is not valued by others or society in general, we must figure out a way to create our own meaning.

Anishinaabeg + Indigenous Wellness | Creative Art Pathways

Sunday, July 17 - Saturday July 23, 2022

Co-Hosts: Biishigishkiibikaakweyaa, Cindy Bibeau, Lea Friesen

Miigwech,

Colleena Biishigishkiibikaakweyaa

Anishinabeg + Indigenous Wellness | Creative Art Pathways

Sunday, July 17 - Saturday July 23, 2022

Ojibwe Ceremonies | Elder In Residence, Dennis Jones, times-subject to change.

Co-Hosts: Colleena and Cindy Bibeau

Artist in Residence: Lea Friesen





May 31, 2022

Dear members of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission,

To honor of the memory of one of our community's biggest supporter of arts and culture development, I am writing to nominate Kathy Dodge for the 2022 Mayor's Arts Award.

Kathy was an inaugural member of the City of Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission, where she was one of the first – if not the first – Chairs. As such, she led with City personnel, the City Council, and Commissioners to establish a ten-year Arts and Culture Roadmap, an arts adoption plan, and a public art placement plan, which is currently being executed. She was also the Commission's first liaison to a new artist residency space on the 3rd Floor of Central School. She was never afraid to try new ideas and inspired a group of local volunteers to maintain a creative pop up park in the old Kremer's parking lot for a few years.

As a founding member of Grand Rapids Arts, Kathy was instrumental in starting – with MacRostie Art Center and other local arts organizations – what are First Friday Art Walks in Grand Rapids.

After Kathy retired from teaching, she was Executive Director of the Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program for six years. In addition to her devotion to the many talented students, a highlight was her effort to bring the Minnesota Orchestra to Grand Rapids for their first "Common Chords" residency in 2011.



Although this award is distinctly connected with the City of Grand Rapids, Kathy's statewide work to advocate for the arts benefited Grand Rapids directly. She served on the Minnesota Citizens for the Arts Board, including as Chair, during which time Grand Rapids – as one of the first rural areas – completed its first economic impact study of the arts.

She also volunteered countless hours to review proposals on behalf of the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, which helped her build and share knowledge that led other local arts organizations to securing funding for the arts from outside Itasca County.

These efforts earned her recognition in 2016, as she was awarded the Maddie Simons Award for Arts Advocacy from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council.

Finally, and perhaps most visibly, if you knew Kathy, or Dodger as most knew her, she always showed up and she always contributed. She attended every orchestra concert she could, every First Friday event she could, personally visiting and thanking stores and businesses who participated. She attended every art event she could and was deeply supportive of the many folks in the area who make a living being an artist. She and her husband, Steve Downing, purchased numerous pieces of art over the years from local artists, which makes their home a beautiful, welcoming place to visit.

Dodger embodied her fingertips what it is to be an arts advocate. She understood instinctively the heart of an artist and made a life of supporting them for the benefit of us all.

I am honored to nominate Kathy Dodge for the 2022 Mayor's Arts Award in her memory. She passed away earlier this spring; our arts community will miss her for a long time.



Sonja Merrild

RECEIVED

Item 3.

FEB 25 2022

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission
420 N. Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids MN 55744

To Whom It May Concern,

I nominate Ken Clafton for the 2022 Mayor's Art Award. His music career started with playing piano and accordion in various talent shows in high school. He continued by giving piano lessons at Crippa Music from 1956-1963 until leaving for the Vietnam War. Following his return to the area, he has played in countless bands and various dances throughout the Northland. In 2001, he joined The Mostly Country Band and from 2001-2019 they played at nursing homes throughout the Grand Rapids area and Iron Range up to three days a week. While he used his talent to spread joy to the many residents of the multiple congregate care facilities in the region over nearly two decades, one moment particularly stands out to me. On March 31st 2020, when Covid19 no longer allowed in person visits at nursing homes, he played alone with his accordion outside The Emeralds nursing home, moving from window to window playing for residents. I think if you have heard him play the piano you agree that his talent is tremendous, but if you consider the service he has made to the local nursing home community through music you will also agree that he is very deserving of this award.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kayla Warren

To: Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission
420 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Email: Tom Pagel, City Administrator
tpagel@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us

Date: March 8, 2021

Re: **NOMINATION OF Lee & Mary Jo Jess for 2021 Mayor's Arts Award**

The 2021 Mayor's Arts Award is granted to an area business or individual(s) that made a significant impact on the arts in the Grand Rapids area. That includes supporting and promoting local arts organizations, programs and individual artists through funding, advocacy and community outreach. An outstanding candidate for this recognition would be Lee and Mary Jo Jess.

Lee and Mary Jo arrived in Grand Rapids in 1967 and immediately set about making serious marks in our arts community. They became involved with the then-new summer arts festival "Mississippi Melodie Showboat", a variety music event launched in 1965 that featured community performers arriving to the stage on the banks of the Mississippi River singing from a paddlewheel boat. The Jess's performed on the Showboat Stage frequently over the following fifty-some years, and Mary Jo went on to become a key member of the "Paddle Wheelers" to continue productions when the founder Lois Gildemeister was forced to bow out of directing.

In 1982, Lee Jess joined with Ernie Jacobson to create Tall Timber Days. This early August, three-day event continues to this day celebrating the lumber traditions that began in our area in the 1800's. Infusing the arts into the festival, with musical performers including the Applechords and other musicians, woodcarvers, chainsaw artists, arts and craft vendors and a wide array of food vendors, the celebration concludes with a Sunday afternoon parade attended by thousands.

Meanwhile, Mary Jo has directed church choirs at both Zion Lutheran Church and Community Presbyterian Church (where she continues to direct while Lee sings in the choir).

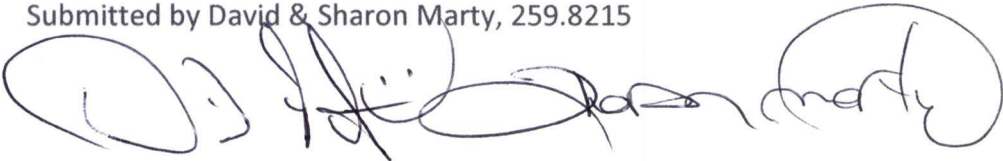
Lee and Mary Jo have been very active with the Grand Rapids Players through the years (see attached). Mary Jo has been involved with two major productions of "The Music Man", FOUR productions of "Amahl and the Night Visitors", a memorable production of "Chicago" and a stunning production of "Mama Mia", and many MANY more.

One of the gifts of the Jess's is that they have never been content to wait for projects to come along. Mary Jo was frequently invited to participate and help create fun and fund-raising collaborations for the stage including "Nonsense", "Forever Plaid" and "Forever...Patsy" and more.

And the Jess contribution is not limited to performances and special events. Lee and Mary Jo have been active financial donors, underwriters and sponsors for many performances and events in Grand Rapids, especially through the Reif Center. Notably, Mary Jo was Co-Chair of the Reif Renovation Committee that met every Monday morning at 7 AM for more than two years to raise funds and realize the \$10.4 Million upgrade.

We are indebted to Lee and Mary Jo Jess, and they richly deserve to be recognized with the 2021 Mayor's Arts Award.

Submitted by David & Sharon Marty, 259.8215

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David & Sharon Marty", written in a cursive style.



Grand Rapids Players proudly supports the nomination of Dr. Lee and Mary Jo Jess for the 2021 Mayor's Arts Award.

Lee and Mary Jo have continually provided both artistic and financial support for numerous arts endeavors since their arrival in Grand Rapids in the mid 1960's.

Specifically, their contributions to our organization are too many to recount. From performing to directing to board positions and financial support, their belief in our mission in the world of theatre arts has been truly strengthened through their presence.

Grand Rapids Players first met them when they joined the cast in *The Moon is Blue* in 1965. Soon after, Mary Jo became a familiar face and not just as an artistic director but a musical director as well! She continued with us, predominantly as a music/artistic director, in widely-acclaimed productions that included *The Sound of Music*, *Damn Yankees*, *Chicago*, *Music Man*, and *Mama Mia!*, all the while Lee joining her with support where needed. But she did play some stellar roles in *Nunsense*, *Patsy Cline*, and *Chicago*, as of late. Together Lee and Mary Jo also created fund-raising collaboration opportunities between Grand Rapids Players and Reif Arts Council.

Lee and Mary Jo Jess believe in quality, collaboration, commitment and community in all that they do. We, in the greater Grand Rapids area, are richer for their presence and contributions to the arts.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Grand Rapids Players Executive Board and Director

Daniel Willis
Katy Lyak

John Deak
Stacy Jayne

Therese

Tom & Nancy Saxhaug

1301 Lakewood Lane
Grand Rapids MN 55744

March 10, 2021

Dear Awards Committee,

One cannot think of Lee and Mary Jo Jess without also associating words like “arts” or “cultural” or “community.” There is no other couple more deserving of the Mayor’s Arts Award in Grand Rapids.

We have known Lee and Mary Jo almost 50 years now. We’ve been privileged to sing with them in the Community Presbyterian Choir and the Grand Rapids Madrigals (Nancy). We’ve been active with Lee in community events (Tom). We’ve all been in Community Theatre together, most notably for 3 productions of the Nunsense musicals in the 1990’s.

Watching Mary Jo direct the choir is a joy and a revelation. She is unflappable. When a choir member was consistently out of key, rather than suggest the person drop out of choir, she offered to work with them before choir each week. It’s all about equal access and opportunity for Mary Jo, not who is most talented. We need more of that in all area of our lives.

I hope the awards committee will strongly consider honoring Lee and Mary Jo for the energy they have put into our community, and for strengthening the arts in Grand Rapids and the surrounding area.

Sincerely yours,

Tom & Nancy Saxhaug

VISIT GRAND RAPIDS IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE



Letter of Support: Lee & Mary Jo Jess for 2021 Mayor's Arts Award

March 10, 2021

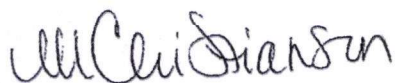
This letter of support is for the Mayor's Arts Award nomination for Lee and Mary Jo Jess submitted by David Marty.

Since Lee and Mary Jo arrived in Grand Rapids in 1968 they have shown support of the art and culture of the community. They have been involved with many art/culture events such as: summer arts festival "Mississippi Melodie Showboat", and Tall Timber Days. Both have been volunteers for the Grand Rapids Players and church choirs. Lee and Mary Jo have been active financial donors, underwriters and sponsors for many performances and events in Grand Rapids, especially through the Reif Center.

Lee and Mary Jo Jess have celebrated their love of the arts by purchasing local art and displaying it in their home, their business Dr. Jess Dental and giving it away as gifts. They have also underwritten exhibits at MacRostie Arts Center. They have always shown support for public art in the downtown business district as well as the river trail.

I ask that you consider Lee and Mary Jo Jess as the 2021 Mayor's Arts Award recipients.

Thank you,



Megan Christianson
Executive Director
Visit Grand Rapids



March 8, 2021

Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission
420 North Pokegama
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Attn: Tom Pagel

Dear Mr. Pagel:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter in support of a recent nomination for the Mayor's Art Award 2021. Nominees, Lee and Mary Jo Jess, are long-time avid art supporters in our community.

As the director of the Reif Arts Council and Myles Reif Performing Arts Center, I have had the pleasure of interacting with Lee and Mary Jo through live performing arts events and arts education events in Grand Rapids. They have been incredibly generous supporters of their time and resources for the benefit of arts and culture. The Reif has been on the receiving end of their generosity and deep knowledge of the arts through many hours of serving on the committee for the renovation of the Myles Reif PAC and by attending countless events in the theater.

Lee and Mary Jo never ask for recognition or thanks for their involvement with the Reif Arts Council and Reif Center. They are true supporters of the arts in our community and we are truly thankful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Shantel Dow'.

Shantel Nelson Dow
Executive Director

Mary Jo and Lee Jess are great supporters of live theater performances; Mary Jo has directed many and both have performed. The Presbyterian Church values Mary Jo's choral direction and her lovely voice even when she was singing dressed as a Catholic Nun. Oh how the community loved that performance at the Reif Center! On another note, how many families have two full size Grand Pianos in their living room? It was delightful to experience the sound as we visited their home. And not to be outdone, Dr. Lee's patients may have to listen to a drill while in the dentist chair; but, we also have the wonderful experience of seeing local, original art work on the walls. We as a community are truly privileged to have such a talented couple, who appreciate and support the Arts and Artists, and are so willing share their own artistic talents for our enjoyment. Thank you.

Congratulations to Mary Jo and Lee Jess from Mary and Mike Ives



March 12, 2021

Dear Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission:

Please consider awarding Mary Jo Jess, Lee Jess, and the Dr. Lee Jess Dental Practice this year's Mayor's Arts Award.

Not only have Mary Jo and Dr. Lee contributed aggressively in a financial way to the arts in our local community, but they have also provided leadership regarding so many community events and arts experiences. Our local Showboat, the Grand Rapids Players, and the Reif Arts Council to name a few.

Perhaps the most valuable contribution has been their willingness to participate and perform on our various community stages. By doing this, they have provided this most valuable gift. The gift of an outstanding example to countless people of all ages from our Grand Rapids local community and beyond.

Mary Jo and Lee have provided a strong positive effect on the arts in the Grand Rapids area. Their generosity and leadership will have a lasting impact on our city.

Respectfully,

Dan Margo, M.D.
Itasca Surgical Clinic
Lakewood Surgery Center

Letter of Support: Lee & Mary Jo Jess, Nominees for the 2021 Mayor's Art Award

March 12, 2021

Dear GRAAC Members,

I would like to offer a strong "second" to the nomination of Lee & Mary Jo Jess for the 2021 Mayor's Arts Award.

Lee and Mary Jo are truly an inspiration for their commitment to the arts in Grand Rapids. Not only have they been generous donors and underwriters of several local arts organizations, but volunteers, and participants as well. Their contributions have shaped the cultural and artistic fabric of our community for nearly 50 years and we are all richer for it.

In creating the Tall Timber Days Festival, Lee Jess (along with Ernie Jacobson) helped reestablish a sense of pride in our historic roots as a forestry town. We continue to celebrate this proud history each year through theatrical lumberjack shows and regionally produced artisan crafts. After 30 years of involvement his energy for this event remains. Similarly, Mary Jo's work with the long-running Mississippi Melodie Showboat also helped reconnect us to that heritage through dance and song. These events put Grand Rapids on the map as an arts destination.

The Jess's have been at the center of an exceptional music tradition at Community Presbyterian Church (CPC), Mary Jo serving as music staff for several decades. She leads the adult Chancel Choir with great skill and passion, and Lee sings with the ensemble.

Furthermore, their participation with the Grand Rapids Player's and Reif Center have culminated with several of the most celebrated local productions of the last 30 years including The Sound of Music, Nonsense, Forever Plaid, Chicago, Music Man, and – most recently – Mamma Mia. Mary Jo's service as co-chair of the Reif Renovation Committee helped propel the organization to the completion of a \$10 million expansion in 2016. She was a fierce volunteer, donating countless hours over several years.

I have personally admired this couple for a lifetime. Their time and energy for the arts is always graciously given, and they never seek praise or recognition. I consider myself lucky to have worked with Mary Jo on her productions of Mamma Mia, Chicago, and Showboat. What spirit she has! I like to call her Grand Rapids' First Lady of Song, not just because she is a beautiful songstress herself, but because of how she nurtures the gift in others. I've watched her coach singers to new notes, and performers into roles they weren't sure they could play. She is always more than a director – she is a coach, advocate, and champion of others.

Lee and Mary Jo would be humbled by this award, but they deeply deserve it.

Sincerely,
Katie Benes

Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission
420 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

March 7, 2021

Re: NOMINATION OF Lee & Mary Jo Jess for 2021 Mayor's Arts Award

To Whom It May Concern:

In the almost 30 years that I have lived in Grand Rapids two of the people I think of first when combining the ideas of the arts and the community are Lee and Mary Jo Jess. Their dedication to the advancement, production and support of a variety of types of arts has been constant and inspiring. I have worked with them in productions ranging from Tall Timber Days and Showboat to the Grand Rapids Players and the Reif Center. Not only do they bring enthusiasm to every project they are involved with, they bring expertise and a focus on excellence. To say our community is indebted to their leadership and drive would be an understatement.

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for their nomination of this award. They are both highly deserving of our recognition and thanks.

Sincerely,



Scott Shrimpton

Cynthia Lyman

From: David <David@macrostieartcenter.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 2:37 PM
To: Cynthia Lyman; Tom Pagel
Subject: Central School Residency Update
Attachments: Central School Residency 2022.pdf

Attached is the information about the next residents in the Central School residency program. Let me know if you have any questions.

David Dobbs | Education Director
Pronouns: He, him, his
MacRostie Art Center
P: 218.326.2697 | E: david@macrostieartcenter.org
www.macrostieartcenter.org

Office hours: M-F, 10 am - 5 pm

Central School Residency
Prepared by residency coordinator David Dobbs

This term I had only 3 artists turn in applications by the deadline. I have had other artists inquire about the residency and I have directed them to the application but only these 3 applied by the deadline. They all appear to be working artists and I believe the space will help them in their studio practice so I did not feel it was necessary to form a selection committee.

For the period from July 1 to December 31, 2022 the artists in residence at Central School in the loft will be Chelsey Jo Johnson, Cody Geisler and Veda Edwards. Below is the contact information for each artist followed by work samples.

Chelsey Jo Johnson : chelseyjocreative@gmail.com

Cody Geisler: verevita@gmail.com

Veda Edwards: vedaedwards2@gmail.com

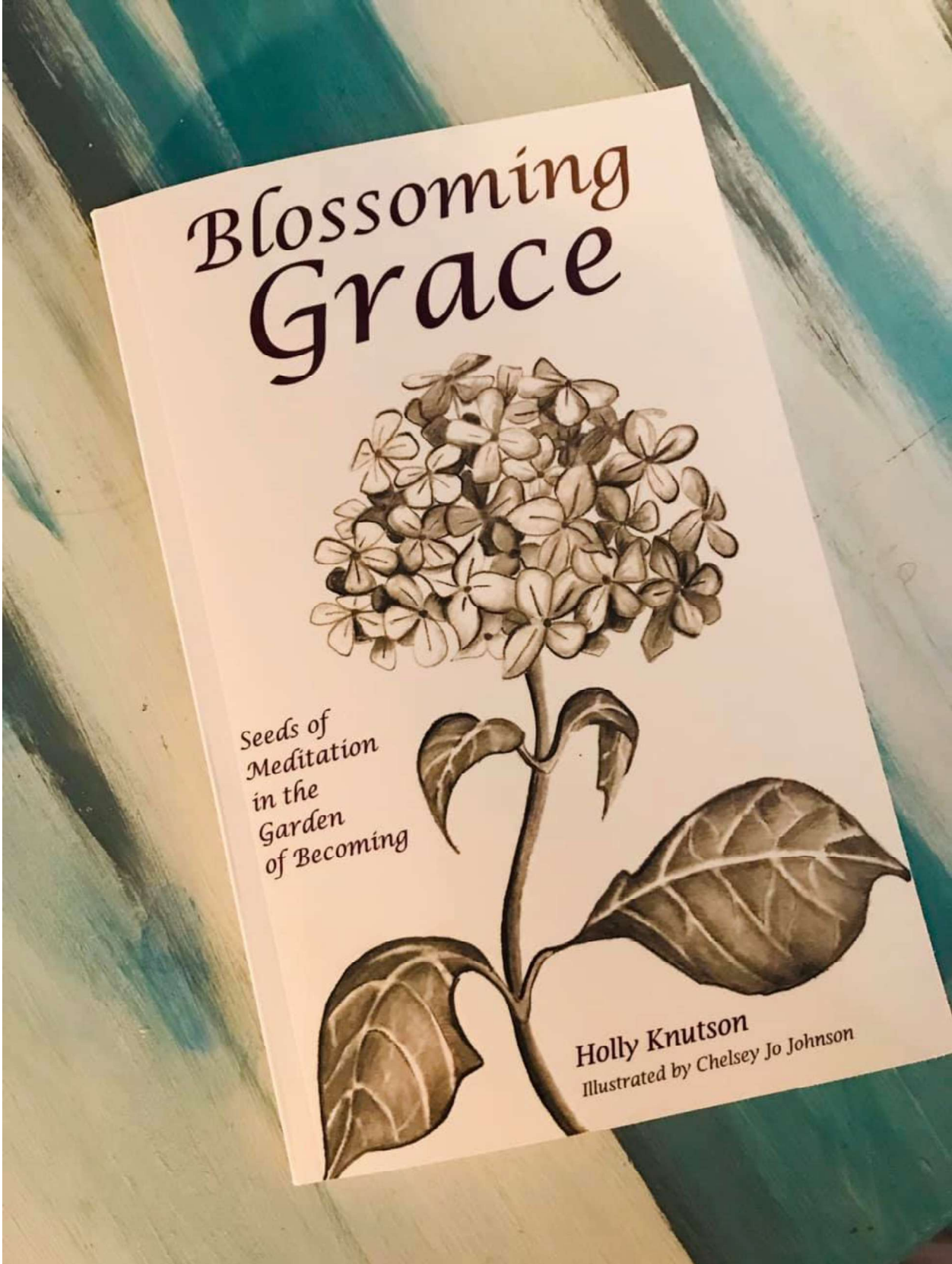
Chelsey Jo Johnson



Chelsey Jo Johnson

Fancy Coco

Charcoal, Acrylic, 2017

















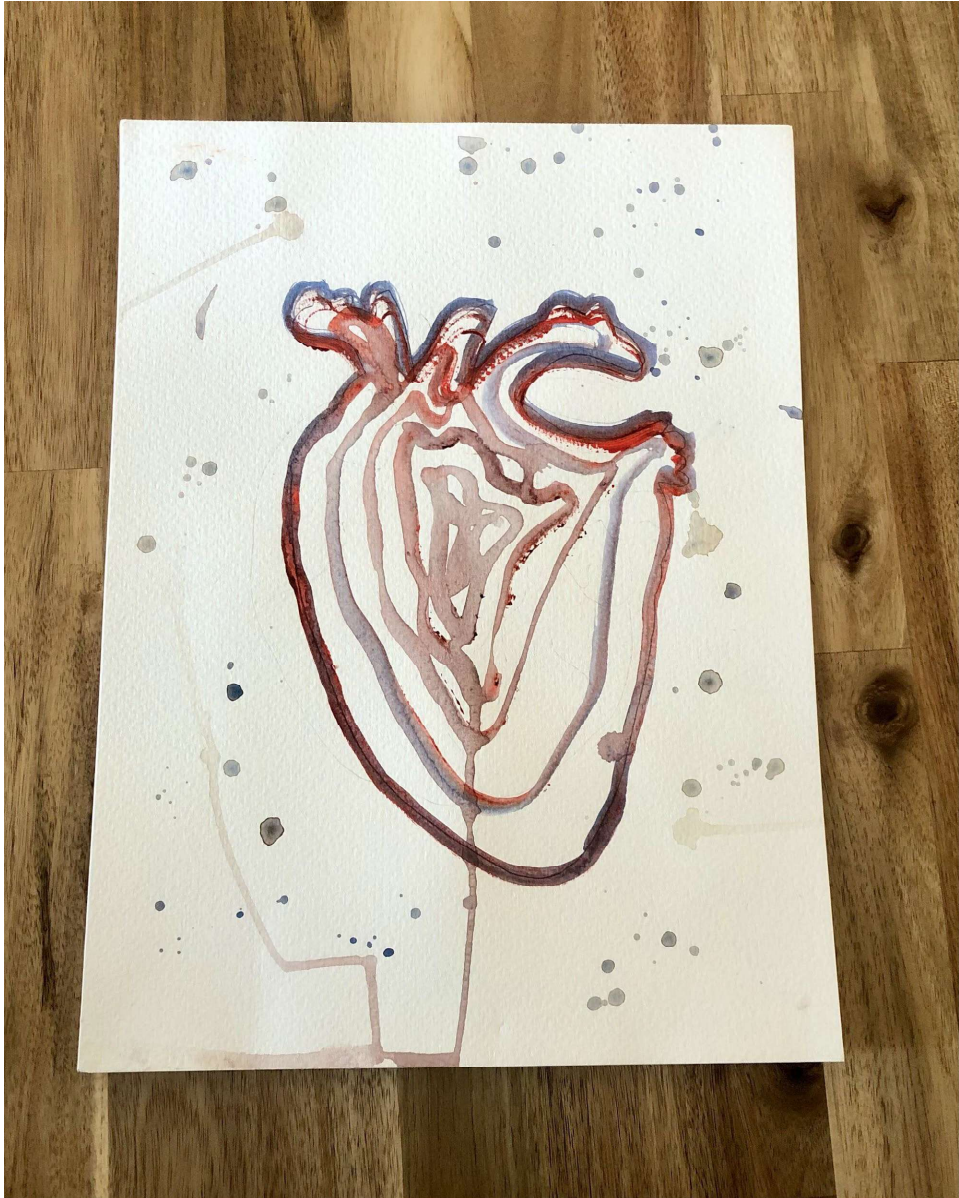


Veda Edwards





Medium: acrylic paints



Looking For Rocks on The North Shore. 12/21