

FOSMS meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 2024

Date: September 19, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Birdie Holley

In attendance

Birdie Holley, Christina Leathers, Jennifer Hurtman, Mark Niedlinger, Creela Hamlin, and Leslie Dokianakis.

Approval of minutes

- No previous minutes to review.

Serve A Thon update (Birdie)

- 9/9: Kick-off
- 9/30: Celebration 2pm-3pm
- 10/2: Top Fundraising Class Star of Saugatuck Ride
- 10/4: Pizza Party for \$200+ earners
- 10/7: Dune Rides for \$300+ earners
- Estimate to raise ~\$30,000 based on where we are currently
- Registration numbers are down; hoping to increase before it's over
- Serve A Thon field trips to Kids Food Basket in Holland (6th and 7th grade) and Tails n' Trails Park in Saugatuck (8th grade). Trips went very well and were led by Kelly Roache

Treasury update (Christina)

- A half-year (6-month) tax return will be prepared for the October meeting. We are doing this so that our fiscal year end will align with the IRS.
- Drama Club funds are being transferred from the school to FOSMS.
- A stamp was requested for endorsing checks on behalf of FOSMS.

- Kelly was refunded \$260 for personal funds used.
- Discussed the need for a ****shared space**** to store bylaws and financial information.
- The group reviewed the FOSMS 2024-25 Budget.
- The FOSMS will now use the school address for business communications.

Audit update (Birdie)

- Krista has a file cabinet, and Mark has a green binder dedicated to the audit.

Principle update (Mark)

- The school year is off to a great start:
 - 28 new students between 6th and 12th grades.
 - 10 foreign exchange students.
 - The district added ****41 students**** year-over-year.
 - Approximately ****45%**** of students are now students of choice, up from 33%.
 - Five new hires for the district will be introduced soon.
- Discussed an accidental lockdown drill at Douglas Elementary School on 9/19:
 - Caused by a testing error.
 - Proved the efficiency of simplified lockdown procedures.
 - Counselors, social workers, and Douglas Police responded quickly.
- Homecoming Week is next week
 - Parade on Friday, September 27 at 4 p.m., with fairy tale-themed floats.
 - Dance from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. for grades 9–12.
 - Volunteers needed for parade assistance between 4 and 5 p.m.
- Superintendent Search
 - The district is in the process of searching for a new superintendent and has started an internal search.

Teacher Updates (Open to all Teachers)

- No updates at this time.

Committee Updates

Drama club (Justine)

- No updates at this time.

Field Trips Update (Birdie)

- 9/11-12: 6th & 7th grade field trips to Kids Food Basket (Holland)
- 9/20: 8th Grade Field Trip to Tails n' Trails Park (Saugatuck), invasive species
- 10/7: Fall Field Trips to Crane's Orchard
- 10/31: Middle School Halloween Dance (during school hours)
- 2/28: 6th Grade Fun Night 6pm-8pm
- 3/7: 7th & 8th Grade Dance 6pm-8pm
- 5/2: Spring Field Trip to RollXCape 12pm-2pm

Teacher appreciation meals update (Birdie)

- Some of the meals will be provided by the Culinary Club, but not all.
- Others are provided by provided/purchased by local businesses.

Special Guest: SAUGATUCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

- Presented program documentation for review and consideration by FOSMS.

NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting will be on October 17, 2024 at 5PM in the school main office conference room.



SAUGATUCK
CENTER FOR THE ARTS



SAUGATUCK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We hope you fail better.

Brad & Kristi Montague

2024 - 2025

Overview / New York Times best-selling Children's Authors, Illustrators and Social Media Changemakers

Brad and Kristi Montague are a creative force for good. From the viral hit web series, *Kid President*, to *New York Times* best-selling picture book *The Circles All Around Us*, this small-town couple is making things with big impact. From picture books to community-focused art initiatives, their work involves crafting narratives that foster joy, wonder, and social change. As an award-winning writer and director, Brad brings a rich history of experience and a passion for creating impactful experiences through stories and drawings. With her fine arts and photography expertise, Kristi brings a unique aesthetic vision to their joint endeavors, adding thoughtful texture, vibrant color, and compassionate care. Each project they take on is lovingly hand-crafted and infused with childlike playfulness.

Their shared workspace, Montague Workshop, is a hub of imagination and expression. The two are dedicated to producing impactful art and stories for all ages. Written works include *Kid President's Guide to Being Awesome*, *Becoming Better Grownups*, *The Circles All Around Us*, *The Fantastic Bureau of Imagination*, and *Fail-a-bration* (releasing September 10, 2024.) They live in Tennessee with their two children.

Key Concepts & Ideas: Design Thinking, STEAM, growth mindset, artists & inventors from history, creative problem solving

Detail / Our why

The [Saugatuck Center for the Arts](#) believes that everyone should have access to the arts + creativity! Science shows that creative experiences (from seeing a performance or viewing art to simply doodling or humming) release chemicals in our brain that combat anxiety and even help us heal from difficult experiences.

Studies show that students who have access to creative educational programming learn more deeply and retain information longer. Plus arts-based programming is a dynamic vehicle for:

- Developing healthy emotional and social skills;
- Bolstering critical literacy skills (reading, writing, public speaking);
- Introducing young people to creative career pathways;
- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion through conversation and action.

With all of this in mind, the SCA is committed to providing programming for 1st - 12th graders in our surrounding West Michigan communities plus FREE community programming for families.

Our youth educational programs are built on a *Connected Arts Learning Framework* which helps young people develop healthy social and emotional skills and build connections with their culture, identity, home lives, communities, professional artists, and future aspirations.

Our educational programs meet English Language Arts standards, Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations, and Social Emotional Learning standards. Our Visiting Artist and Education Instructor spends time in the classroom with students, sharing artwork + exhibition themes then guiding students through literacy-focused writing and speaking prompts. Students create their own artworks which return to the SCA for public display, exposing the broader community to the extraordinary voices, stories, and talent of our young people.

Exhibition / We hope you fail better.

November 9, 2024 - May 16, 2025

Brad and Kristi Montague present: *We hope you fail better*. From two best-selling picture book creators comes a colorful look at the journey of bringing an idea to life. Featuring an array of works that blend sketches, paint, and paper collage—this is a wild, but warm invitation to embrace the messy process of creation.

Running in tandem with the release of their new book, *Fail-a-bration*, this exhibition celebrates the creative process and the inevitable failures that happen along the way.

You'll experience the joy of having an idea as well as the struggle and disappointment of what happens when expectations and reality collide. It's an emotional ride, but playfully navigated with animated shorts, paper mache surprises, behind-the-scenes scribbles, and interactive displays. With humor and heart, it all culminates to a celebration — or a 'Fail-a-bration', sending everyone out into a community of creative, compassionate collaboration.

Related Programming Opportunities / Field trips, assemblies, classroom outreach and a community Festival

● CLASSROOM

Grades 6-8 | 3-4 visits | 60 minute sessions | Program period: October 4- November 7, 2024

Grades 9-12 | 3-4 visits | 60 minute sessions | Program period: January 27 - February 21, 2025

3-4 visits + 1 visit to the SCA, led by SCA's Education Programs Manager: Meg Shoup / \$1000 per classroom

What can you do with a bad idea? Elementary students will explore how lots of bad ideas can still result in something good. Focusing on the sentiment "try, try again," students will learn about the creative process and how failure is not the opposite of being an artist – but part of it! Using recycled art, students will create their own 3D upcycled sculptures that represent how we can overcome the worst of our worries and make something beautiful from a mess. Students will create a series of sketches, engage in reflective writing and creative problem solving games, on the way to creating a work of art. [[Michigan GLCES and SEL standards](#)]

Our [5-part Visiting Artist Series](#) injects our exhibition artists into classroom settings (along with our SCA Education Instructor). Grade-appropriate curricula are created for school partners, and students meet and work with diverse professional creatives which bolsters their career awareness. Through lessons that stoke creative, flexible thinking combined with hands-on, process-oriented projects, the students we serve learn to think broadly, create bravely, expand their sense of self, and share their voices with the world.

● GROUP FIELD TRIPS November 9, 2024 - May 16, 2025

Single Visit to SCA - Typically 60 - 90 minutes, Includes tour & hands-on activity / \$7 per students

● ASSEMBLY April 23 & 24

All grades | 45-60 minutes with Brad & Kristi Montague's, limited space available / \$800 per presentation

[[Authors Unbound Testimonials](#)]

● FAIL-A-BRATION Saturday, November 9 | 1:00 - 4:00 pm / Free Admission with Registration

All Ages, Designed for Families!

Mistakes can be magical. Errors can be extraordinary. Failures can be fruitful—and even when they're not...it's still okay! Celebrate and connect over the imperfections that make us all human at SCA's one-of-a-kind *Fail-A-Bration!* Inspired by the launch of Brad and Kristi Montague's new book and exhibition, join the community in celebrating the blunders we all encounter. A burned cookie, a missed appointment, a stained shirt, and all the little disappointments that can happen to all of us—even you!

Belt out a song out of key, write yourself a letter, cheer on your fellow failed attempts, and learn to fail better.

You're invited!

FAIL-A-BRATION!

NOVEMBER 9 1:00 - 4:00 PM



SAUGATUCK
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Celebrate and connect over the imperfections that make us all human with interactive games, creative projects, karaoke (with an SCA twist), and uproarious laughter.

Meet and find inspiration with exhibition artists and New York Times best-selling duo:

BRAD + KRISTI MONTAGUE

Free Admission!



Register Now
+
Join us!



Saugatuck Center for the Arts | 400 Culver St, Saugatuck, MI 49453 | (269) 857-2399 | sc4a.org

Thank you to our Sponsors:



Thank you to our Partner:



● **Curiosity- In Action** Saturday, April 26 | 10:00 am - 5:00 pm / *Ticketing announced in November*

Save the date for our first conference designed for those who create and care for the community. Teachers, designers, non-profit professionals, and anyone curious about the intersection of the arts and well-being are welcome! Featuring Brad Montague as the keynote speaker, you'll engage in conversations with other professionals, hear from inspiring voices, and spend time in beautiful Saugatuck reflecting on what you've learned.

Addition Resources

- + Fail-A-Bratton / [Buy the book!](#)
- + BOOKED / [Fail-A-Bratton Classroom visit!](#)
- + Brad Montague writes a weekly newsletter about joy: [The Enthusiast!](#)
- + Kristi & Brad have an online shop: : [Store!](#)
- + Free classroom resources: [Wondersparks!](#)

SCA'S CREATIVE EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

FALL 2024 - WINTER 2025



SC4A.ORG

The SCA is a multi-disciplinary arts center.

Our innovative, hands-on educational programming is designed for children, families and adults. We utilize creativity as a vehicle for initiating and fostering conversation, connection, and growth.

We offer arts-based creative literacy programs featuring professional working artists. Our outreach opportunities are thoughtfully designed to serve in a variety of educational settings for a range of ages and abilities. Participating youth will engage in process-oriented, hands-on experiences rooted in social emotional learning, tailored to strengthen crucial soft skill building. Youth will be given voice and agency to embrace their creative expression and self development. Through the planning and creation of artwork, creative and reflective writing, and the opportunity to interact with professional artists, students will have the opportunity to express themselves both visually and verbally.

Our Mission

The SCA nurtures the art, the artist, and our audiences. We foster curiosity and connection through engaging, accessible programming and shared creative experiences. The SCA sparks joy, inspires hope, and transforms lives.



Play to Thrive

Throughout 2024 we have been exploring the significance of being playful in our lives and how it intersects with the arts and creativity. How can we cultivate a sense of wonder in our daily lives? What unexpected encounters with art can provide a glimmer of joy? Through our exhibitions and programming, we have been diving into the essential, life-giving aspects of creative play.

As we move into 2025, we'll explore what it means to Thrive. Featuring artists like Brad and Kristi Montague—who celebrate failures and the design process—as well as artists, exhibitions, and creative fellows who focus on flourishing and well-being, our year is abundant with opportunities for meaningful access to the arts. From artist John Pendleton and his meaningful opulent floral work, Zahrah Resh and her community created butterfly gardens, to Kayla Powers and her ecologically focused textile art, every exhibition asks the question—How can the arts help us become better people, build stronger communities, and create a culture of growth?

Meet our 2025 Creative Fellow: Caila Conklin



Caila Conklin, MT-BC (she/her/hers) is a board certified music therapist and interdisciplinary creative, passionate about the process of meeting people where they are. In her work as a music therapist, Caila strives to build adaptive music-based experiences through which people of all backgrounds, abilities, and life stages can thrive. Over the years of developing her style as a music therapist, Caila has honed her practice rooted in the belief that music holds power to unite and alchemize us.

Programming Calendar at a Glance

**NOVEMBER 9, 2024 -
MAY 16, 2025**

We hope you fail better. | Works by Brad & Kristi Montague

🚩 FIELD TRIPS | All Ages

📖 EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM | Middle School, High School, Elementary School

👏 November 9, 2024 | 1:00 - 4:00 PM Fail-A-Bration | A Free Community Celebration

**NOVEMBER 9, 2024 -
JANUARY 10, 2025**

Life Itself | Works by Shannon Mack

🚩 FIELD TRIPS | All Ages

**JANUARY 17 -
DECEMBER 19, 2025**

Artist in Residence: Zahrah Resh

👥 In partnership with Michigan State University, IMPART Alliance

**MAY 30, 2025 -
OCTOBER 10, 2025**

Exhibition Artist: John Pendleton

🚩 FIELD TRIPS | All Ages

📖 EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM | Summer School Programs

**OCTOBER 27, 2025 -
APRIL 26, 2026**

Exhibition Artist: Kayla Powers

🚩 FIELD TRIPS | All Ages

📖 EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM | Middle School, High School, Elementary School

**OCTOBER 1, 2024
6:00 PM**

Mo-Town | Dress Rehearsal

🎤 PERFORMANCE

MARCH 10 - 28, 2025

Mountainfilm for Students

🚩 FIELD TRIPS or DIGITAL ACCESS |
K - 12th

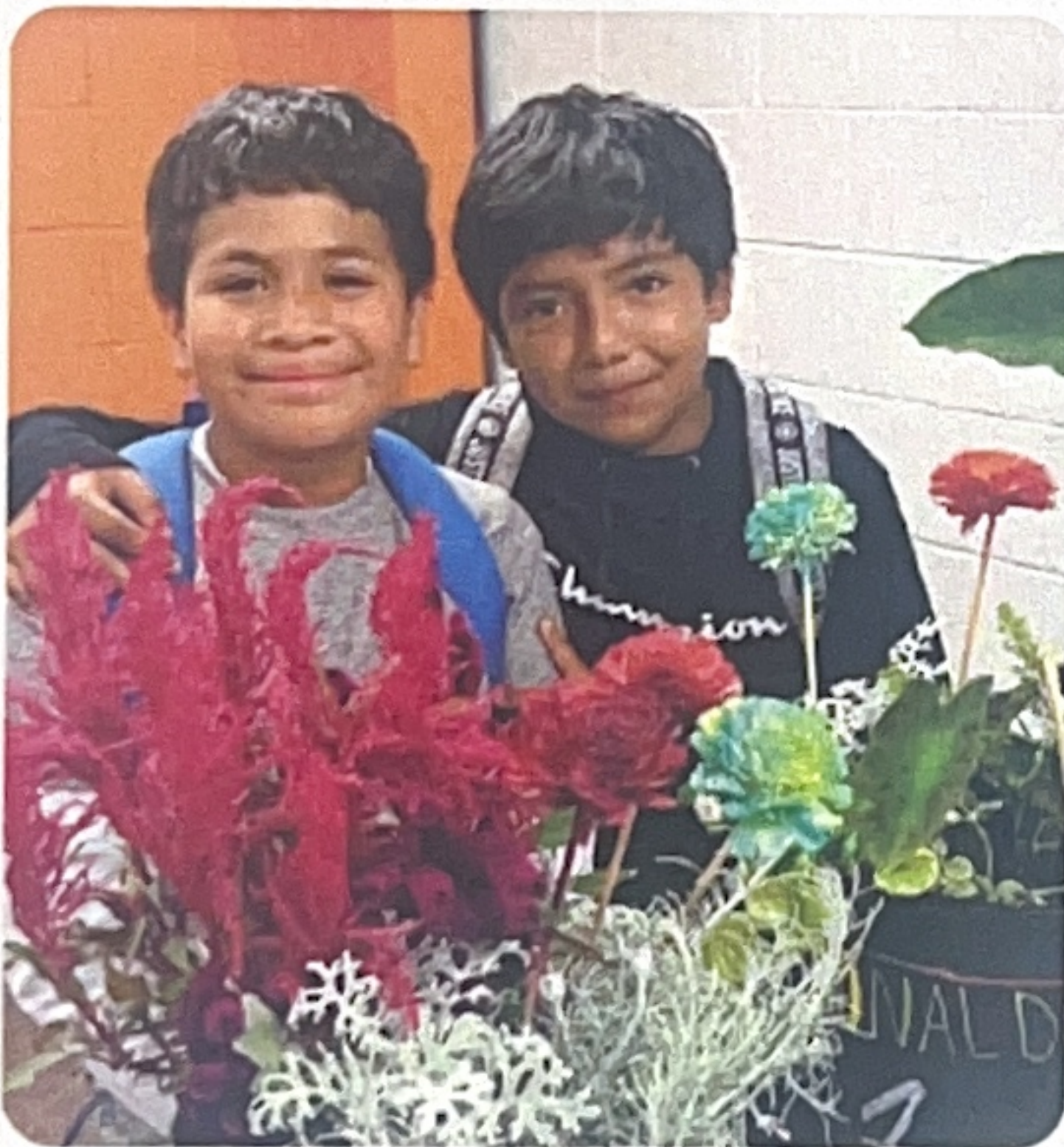
Offering Overview

GROUP FIELD TRIPS

Art engages students' senses in open-ended play and develops cognitive, social-emotional and multi-sensory skills. Meaningful art experiences provide students with authentic self-expression—the freedom of choice, thought, and feeling. Our arts-integrated field trip experiences are available throughout the school year. Each offering is based on the current exhibition and is designed to provide unique engagement opportunities for students of all ages. Visits include a tour of our current exhibition from a leader in our Education team, with customizable elements like hands on art making components and reflective writing exercises.



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS



The SCA's outreach programming focuses on providing exposure to diverse professional creatives, cultivating and nurturing creatively aware citizens through workforce readiness skills and hands-on, process-oriented approaches. The students we serve learn to think broadly, create bravely, expand their sense of self, and share their voices with the wider world.

Our multi-week educational outreach programs offer learners unique opportunities to meet and work alongside professional artists and designers. Rooted in creative arts, and supported by ELA standards, Michigan GLCEs, and SEL standards, school programs include 4 visits from a leader of our Education team, 1 session with the Visiting Artist, a field trip to the SCA Gallery, all creative materials, and our exhibition curriculum.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS

The SCA's Education team provides professional development workshops and hands-on experiences that are inspired by the creatives.

COSTS

For more information or to discuss sliding scale payment opportunities contact our Education Programs Manager, Meg Shoup [mshoup@sc4a.org]

THE WiP

The SCA's mobile art truck, The WiP, will be found throughout West Michigan transporting supplies, artwork, and gear for programming in schools and afterschool programs. In addition, you can find us at community events and festivals throughout West Michigan, expanding the SCA's outreach. Look for us on the road!

If you'd like to request The WiP at your school or event, fill out this form.

REQUEST THE WiP



We hope you fail better.

November 9, 2024 - May 16, 2025

Works by Brad & Kristi Montague

Exhibition Overview

You are cordially invited to a giant fail-a-bration! Bring with you the cake that came out lopsided, the spelling mistakes, or your plant that died. New York Times bestselling duo Brad and Kristi Montague have started a movement for kids and adults alike to celebrate creativity and tenacity. This

show explores the process of creation from idea to attempt to failure to despair to the discovery of something new. Through playful and thoughtful pieces, this interactive experience will take viewers on a journey that will have their imaginations sparked and humanity nourished.

BRAD and KRISTI MONTAGUE

Brad and Kristi Montague are a creative force for good. From the viral hit web series, *Kid President*, to New York Times best-selling picture book *The Circles All Around Us*, this small-town couple is making things with big impact. From picture books to community-focused art initiatives, their work involves crafting narratives that foster joy, wonder, and social change. As an award-winning writer and director, Brad brings a rich history of experience and a passion for creating impactful experiences through stories and drawings. With her fine arts and photography expertise, Kristi



brings a unique aesthetic vision to their joint endeavors, adding thoughtful texture, vibrant color, and compassionate care. Each project they take on is lovingly hand-crafted and infused with childlike playfulness.

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School Programming

We hope you fail better.

GROUP FIELD TRIPS

- ✓ All Ages
- ✓ Single Visit to SCA
- ✓ Typically 60 - 90 minutes
- ✓ \$7 per visitor
- ✓ Includes tour & hands-on activity

Overview

Bring your class for a special look at the: *We hope you fail better.* exhibition now through May 16, 2025! Visits include a tour of the gallery, hands-on art making related to the artists' work, and reflective writing. Explore failure and its essential role in the creative

Key Concepts & Ideas:

Design Thinking, STEAM, art history, growth mindset, artists & inventors from history, creative problem solving

Complete our Field Trip Registration Form



Educational Outreach Programming

We hope you fail better. featuring artists Brad and Kristi

Overview

"If you've ever tried to do anything you've likely messed up a time or two. If you've ever been disappointed or discouraged, I have great news for you... Everyone makes mistakes. All the people you've ever known had messes, misses, and breaks."

Key Concepts & Ideas:

Design Thinking, STEAM, self-acceptance & growth mindset, artists & inventors from history, creative problem solving

Middle School

Program period: October 7 - November 8, 2024

Grades 5th- 8th | 3-4 visits + 1 visit to the SCA to meet the Montagues | 60 minute sessions

Students will transform scribbles into success as they reflect on the mistakes and messes that have helped them to grow. Using Design Thinking and embracing failure as an opportunity to learn, middle schoolers will learn about famous failures throughout history and create their own fabulous failure character to help tell their story. Through creative problem solving games and reflective writing, we'll gather inspiration and motivation to help us learn to fail better.

High School

Program period: January 27 - February 21, 2025

Grades 9th- 12th | 3-4 visits + 1 visit to the SCA & Zoom with the Montagues | 60 minute sessions

Through reflective writing prompts and creative research, high school students will explore what it means to fail and the role it plays in personal growth. From small mishaps to big life-altering losses, students will look at famous failures throughout history, and how they contributed to new ideas down the road. Using Design Thinking and a series of sketches, students will create their own symbolic visual illustration of growth from failure to accompany stories about past mistakes and missteps.

Elementary

Program period: April 14 - May 9, 2025

Grades 2nd-4th | 3-4 visits + 1 visit to the SCA to meet the Montagues | 60 minute sessions

(Assembly add-on option)

What can you do with a bad idea? Elementary students will explore how lots of bad ideas can still result in something good. Focusing on the sentiment "try, try again," students will learn about the creative process and how failure is not the opposite of being an artist – but part of it! Using recycled art, students will create their own 3D upcycled sculptures that represent how we can overcome the worst of our worries and make something beautiful from a mess. Students will create a series of sketches, engage in reflective writing and creative problem solving games, on the way to creating a work of art.

Michigan ELA and Visual Arts
GLCEs + Michigan SEL Standard

[Learn More](#)

Learn more about
Brad & Kristi

[Learn More](#)

Explore
Fail-A-Bration

[View Event](#)

Educational
Outreach form

[View Form](#)

Life Itself works by Shannon Mack

November 8, 2024 - January 10, 2025

"I'm fascinated by the parts of our days that are unseen- the consciousness of a bee hovering over a Hydrangea on our walk into work, or the shadow that follows behind us as we rush to make it to the dentist. This unseen world does not seek our attention, nor does it care if we're too preoccupied to notice it. It carries on. Gravity keeps working, the crow snatches the party streamers left at the park for its nest. The cemetery sits in silence while we frantically reply to emails." - Shannon Mack

Artist Shannon Mack explores the small moments in our day to day lives, caught accidentally on camera. This work invites the viewer to look at the mundane moments of life from a new perspective and consider slowing down and being more mindful of the small moments happening all around us.

Programming Available

GROUP FIELD TRIPS

All Ages | Single Visit to SCA | 45 - 90 minutes

Includes tour & hands-on activity.

Key Concepts & Ideas: Abstraction, cyanotypes, quilting, mindfulness



Invited Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Join the Music That Raised Us at the Theater at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts for a behind-the-scenes look into producing the one-night-only event "Music That Raises Us: A Motown Show". Audience members



will be invited to take a peek behind the curtain to watch the team of 15 vocalists, musicians and directors build their show on stage at the SCA while they complete their technical rehearsal process. Step into the process of how a show that begins with music and lots of rehearsal transfers on stage, adding lights, sounds, and costumes. Watch the team weave the story together and prepare for their show opening Friday, October 3, 2024.

Mountainfilm for Students

March 10-28, 2025

22nd Annual Children's Film Festival | Featuring Mountainfilm for Students

Age-appropriate 55-90 minute playlists designed for K-12th graders

During the month of March the SCA is hosting its annual Children's Film Festival, free of charge to West Michigan classrooms. In partnership with Mountainfilm on Tour, these documentary films explore cultures and stories from around the world. They have the opportunity to learn about indigenous lands, extraordinary conservation efforts, the lives of plants and animals – all while witnessing bold visionaries learning new skills, going on adventures, following their passions, and being brave!

A variety of viewing options are available:

Direct Digital Access in your classroom

The SCA provides you with direct digital access to view playlists at your own pace in your classroom. No film introduction provided.

Field trip screening at the SCA

Bring your class, grade or school to the Art Center for a screening in our unique boutique theater setting. Hands-on closing activity provided. Maximum of 350 students.

Registration

Registrations will open in November 2024



Our Team



Pictured above is our instructional team, which includes our Summer and Outreach educators known as the "Joy Squad" as well as local professional artists that help contribute to our dynamic programming.



WHITNEY VALENTINE
Director of Education &
Exhibitions
whitney@sc4a.org



MEG SHOUP
Education Programs
Manager
mshoup@sc4a.org



MEGAN HODGIN
Community Engagement &
Operations Manager
mhodgin@sc4a.org

"I am continually surprised by their (the students) depth of thought, wonder, and creativity, and the activities led by you and the SCA allow me to take a different role with my students and get to know them in ways other than my normal classroom setting allows."

Christy Gerig,
English teacher