



# Election issue

BRINGING ART TO LIFE AND LIFE TO ART

## ARTSHOP

March 21

from 10:15 - noon

YAM Murdoch room

Bring your cool art stuff to share!

Do you want to talk about your art process or a new medium? Do you know someone willing to be a guest speaker (15-20 minute presentation)? Contact John or Dawn with your ideas.

p.s. Have you renewed your YAM membership?



art ● music ● community

**Next  
Art Walk  
April 3rd**

Want to be a card-carrying member of the Billings Arts Association?



Renew or join now for \$25 for the 2026-27 year. Information and link for payment on the BAA website: [Individual Membership](#)

If unable to pay online, pay at ArtShop or mail check to P.O. Box 81273 Billings, MT 59108

Discounts on materials and classes at local merchants. See page 10 for a full list.

Please think seriously about volunteering for some part of the BAA organizational structure, especially if you have never held such a responsibility. If you are active in exhibiting at the many shows in which BAA participates, perhaps you could step up to be the Art Show Chair, or at least assist in those duties? If you have accounting experience, how about taking the Treasurer spot, or assisting there when needed? If you know a member who could fill any of the open positions, please discuss it with them and see if they are able to step up. They can nominate themselves or allow you to do so on their behalf. Job sharing especially, can be educational and fun and bring an added sense of fulfillment as you support your organization. It is the hope of the Board that job-sharing might make positions more attractive to members and encourage more active participation.

**BAA ELECTION 2026, NOMINATION FORM****Executive Director (E.D.)**Incumbent: John Kennedy. 

Personal Statement: I have been the Executive Director for 3 years now. I am also the Assistant Director and member artist at Sandstone Gallery, Treasurer for my Homeowners Association, Treasurer of Grace United Methodist Church, and ringleader of the Billings Urban Sketchers and Portrait Painters. Thirty some years ago, I started this art thing with watercolor, and that has since expanded to other mediums, including acrylic, oil, mixed media, and graphite. I strive to learn or try something new every day, and there is plenty left for me to learn or try.

Why do I volunteer? Before retirement, I ran the operations side of a \$100-million company for a billion-dollar corporation. Soon after retirement I realized that there wasn't much about the job I really liked. But, the chances to help someone in need were the times I felt best about what I did. When I retired, I looked for opportunities to help and do really worthwhile things with my time and energy. In the BAA I found something worthwhile. I've met amazing people, community leaders, business people, artists, friends. I figure I've gotten far more out of this life than I can ever give back, but for me it is important to give back what little I can. This has been a great opportunity for me to do that.

E.D. Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Personal Statement:

E.D. Assistant Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Personal Statement:

**Assistant Director (A.D.)**Incumbent: Dawn Sherseth. 

Personal Statement: I have belonged to BAA for about 3 years. I joined after retiring from being a music teacher. I have been wood carving for almost 30 years. I am expanding my art endeavors to include watercolor and acrylic painting. It is inspiring to talk with other artists in the association and learn from some of the best. I volunteered to join the Board last year as Assistant Director when I saw how much John Kennedy did by himself. I am also the Chair for the Images Art Grant. I enjoy learning all the great things that our group does in our community. These positions are a great way to meet new people and hopefully take some of the load off the Executive Director. Attending meetings, helping with communication and filling in if John is unavailable are some of the tasks so far. I like to find new ways that we can promote art. Volunteering is a way to give back, but I feel I receive so much in return.

A.D. Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Personal Statement:

A.D. Assistant Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Personal Statement:

**Treasurer**

Treasurer Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Personal Statement:

Treasurer Assistant Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

## Secretary

Incumbent: Linda Hewett

Personal Statement: When I came to Billings and found the BAA, I volunteered for the post of ArtShop host and have been doing that since. Last year, when no-one stepped up to take the post of Secretary, I volunteered for that too, even though I don't take shorthand, am a 'hunt&peck' typist, and (worst sin of all!) use Apple products!! I am involved in the development of the Copyist program and send out notices for the Plein Air group. I have spent my professional life in service to others, as a registered nurse, clinical neuropsychologist and clinic director in an academic research center for Alzheimer's disease. I was on the faculty at a medical school and a State University. I know the worth of volunteerism, both from the agency's perspective and from that of the volunteer - it enriches both! I have been a life-long student, but this period of my life, learning and making art, has enhanced my life beyond measure. I am a watercolorist, but being in the BAA community has brought new exposures and skills, and new friends. However, I am old now and cannot stay on the Board forever. No really!! I would welcome a job-sharer - someone who would be happy to learn this post, and gradually take up a share of the work, with the ultimate goal of putting themselves up for election.

Secretary Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

Secretary Assistant Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement

## Member-at-Large

Incumbent: Phil Bell

Personal Statement:

Member-at-Large Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

## Newsletter Chair

Incumbent: Elizabeth Waddington

Personal Statement: I enjoy reviewing what the organization has been doing and alerting members to upcoming art events. It gives a sense of the total involvement of BAA as a community minded organization that is thriving. But, if someone else loves desktop publishing (created in Word then saved to Publisher for distribution) and wants a sporadic task for BAA, I can easily mentor for an issue or two and then let you have at it.

Newsletter Chair Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

Newsletter Assistant Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

## Social Media Chair

Incumbent: Teresa Brown

Personal Statement: I volunteered to do the social media for the BAA because I wanted to help. I am currently doing the social media for Sandstone Gallery as well as my own art business. Art has been a major factor in my life and I have used creativity in some form for as long as I can remember. I began to focus full time on my art in 2017 after leaving a long career in the floral industry. I discovered alcohol inks and fell in love with their vibrancy and how they can be manipulated and yet let them remain loose and free. However, I also use Brusho, Watercolor, Encaustic Wax, Oil and Cold Wax. I find inspiration in many things, from my surroundings and my travels. I am a contributor and instructor through The Alcohol Ink Art Community and The Fine Art Cafe, as well as some local businesses. Sharing what I have learned gives me encouragement and confidence in my own work and I love it when a student finds their voice and their way through the art process.

Social Media Chair Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

Social Media Assistant Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

## Images Grant Chair

Incumbent: Dawn Sherseth

Personal Statement: See A.D. Statement

Images Grant Chair Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

Images Grant Assistant Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

## Art Show Chair

Art Show Chair Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

Art Show Assistant Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement:

## Sandstone Gallery Chair

Incumbent: Susan Martinez

Personal Statement: As a professional artist, I lead an inspired art and wellness studio, devoted to creating art that draws inspiration from God and conveys profound messages. I am a garden enthusiast and herbalist. My creations are meant to inspire, uplift, and ignite the divine principles of faith, hope, and love. I volunteer because the BAA played a crucial role in my journey, shaping where I am today. I want to give back by sharing my time and skills.

Sandstone Gallery Chair Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Personal Statement:

Sandstone Gallery Assistant/Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Personal Statement:

### ArtShop Chair

Incumbent: Linda Hewett   
 Personal Statement: See statement in the Secretary area.

ArtShop Chair Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Personal Statement:

ArtShop Assistant Nominee Name: Mari White Hanes   
 Personal Statement

### Website Chair

Website Chair Nominee Name: Ev Bergeron   
 Personal Statement: I love BAA. It has enhanced my life since I retired almost 14 years ago. I have such wonderful friends and art buddies because of BAA. I was Newsletter Editor for 11 years, Executive Director for 1 year, Assistant Director, Sandstone Gallery Chair, Gainan's Chair for 4 or 5 times. The only reason I haven't been Treasurer is because I can't balance a checkbook.

Website Assistant Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Personal Statement

### 2026-27 Dues are due now!

Renew or join now for \$25 for the 2026-27 year. Information and link for payment on the BAA website: [Individual Membership](#)

If unable to pay online, pay at ArtShop or mail check to P.O. Box 81273 Billings, MT 591

20 memberships support one \$500 Images Art Grant

30 memberships allow us to fund two kids to the YAM Summer Art Academy

Your membership puts us one step closer to doing even more.

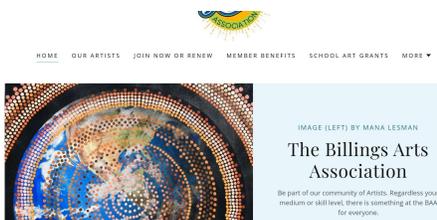
#### OUR Mission Statement:

Billings Arts Association is a regional 501c3 organization which encourages participation in, and appreciation of the visual arts and supports arts education with material grants at every level.

#### Who we are:

Founded in 1954, the Billings Arts Association has a long history of participation and support of the Arts in Montana. We are inspired to provide a supportive environment for artists of all skill levels to explore and enjoy their creativity. We support Art in our community through collaboration, education, and financial assistance with our Images Art Grant program, and we provide a platform for local artists to add to the beauty of the communities where we live and work.

### For even more updated Billings Arts Association events and activities,



[see our website](#)

[Facebook](#)



Billings Arts Association

[Instagram](#)

