



BRINGING ART TO LIFE AND LIFE TO ART

No ARTSHOP

May 16th

Check out the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sketchbook Symposium

Free workshops from 10 until 3 at the YAM.



art ● music ● community

5 PM to 9 PM

June 5th

For a full list of participants and downloadable map of open galleries go to:

<https://artwalkdowntownbillings.com/>

Check out Instagram & Facebook to see where our BAA artists are showing.

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.

Current Board Members as reflected by the April 18<sup>th</sup> election:

Executive Director - John Kennedy	<a href="mailto:jkennedymontana@yahoo.com">jkennedymontana@yahoo.com</a>	406-366-9444
Assistant Director - Dawn Sherseth	<a href="mailto:dawn.sherseth@gmail.com">dawn.sherseth@gmail.com</a>	
Treasurer - Marian Hedge	<a href="mailto:marionhedge@gmail.com">marionhedge@gmail.com</a>	
Secretary - Linda Hewett	<a href="mailto:linda.hewett@gmail.com">linda.hewett@gmail.com</a>	
Member at Large - Phil Bell	<a href="mailto:philbell@charter.net">philbell@charter.net</a>	
Grants Chair: Dawn Sherseth	<a href="mailto:dawn.sherseth@gmail.com">dawn.sherseth@gmail.com</a>	
ArtShop hosts Chair: Linda Hewett	<a href="mailto:linda.hewett@gmail.com">linda.hewett@gmail.com</a>	
Social Media Chair: Teresa Brown	<a href="mailto:tkbrownart@gmail.com">tkbrownart@gmail.com</a>	
Newsletter Chair: E. Waddington	<a href="mailto:waddingtone@gmail.com">waddingtone@gmail.com</a>	
Art Shows: We will operate by committee made up of the participating artists.		
Sandstone Chair: Susan Martinez	<a href="mailto:sdsfineart@gmail.com">sdsfineart@gmail.com</a>	
Webpage Chair: collaborative effort	<a href="mailto:sdsfineart@gmail.com">sdsfineart@gmail.com</a>	

**April 16, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes**

Meeting held at Mazevo Coffee Shop, 8th/Grand, Billings.

The call to order was made at 3:00pm by Executive Director John Kennedy

Members attending: John Kennedy - E.D.; Dawn Sherseth - Assistant E.D.; Linda Hewett -Secretary; Treasurer: Marion Hedge Phil Bell - Member-at-Large; Susan Martinez - Sandstone Chair; Elizabeth Waddington - Newsletter Chair.

**Old Business**

Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed.

- John Kennedy reported that the Billings Cultural Partners Summit, previously scheduled to be held April 14th, was cancelled.

- Business relative to the Images and Nova grants, and the up-coming election was moved to New Business.

**New Business**

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed by JK and accepted by Phil Bell & Linda Hewett.

- Marian Hedges was welcomed back after a long period of ill health.
- The financials are in good order but continue to reflect the reduction in membership often seen at this time of year, as well as the funding of several grants .
- Membership is nominally at 169, but only 63 have renewed so far this month. Members are reminded to renew their membership as soon as possible and may do so on the website, by mail, or by a check to the Treasurer at Art Shop.
- Billings Public Art Committee - Linda Hewett is the designated representative of the BAA to the newly formed Billings Public Art Committee. As such she brought 2 applications to the Committee for discussion and approval/disapproval of the BAA Board. One project was approved and one rejected. Linda will take this information back to the Committee when it meets on April 23rd at 4:30
- The various projects and Shows sponsored by the BAA were reviewed for support needs and accomplishments:
  - Images Grants: Dawn Sherseth reviewed the success of the Images Art Grants program: A grant was made to the Park City Schools Art Program for new Gelli printing supplies. Part of the school lost its roof during the wind storms this winter and the program has been late starting.
  - The art program with the Billings Boys & Girls Club in which BAA artists presented classes on their particular subject to children at the Club's Orchard Lane facility was reviewed. The artists have met with the children 4 times over several weeks. The Images Art Grant has provided both the teachers and the supplies for these activities. The program will conclude with a GALA ART Show of the children's art on April 23rd. There will be further discussion about presenting this program again in the future.
  - A grant to the YAM funded scholarships for 2 children to the Summer Art Program held at MSUB. Since the last meeting a grant application from Rocky Mountain College was funded to support a ceramics student. Another request from West High School funded supplies, also for a Gelli printing project.
  - John indicated that there are several more potential grant opportunities to consider, but that the board should consider the account balance in making those approval decisions. The current account balance is probably not capable of supporting additional grants until a greater membership renewal.
- Dan Walt Gardens will host the annual BAA Mother's Day sale on Sunday, May 10th. Artists are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible for organization of space needs in the garden. Artists are also reminded to keep the Summer Soirée in mind and watch for the date.
- Sandstone Spring Plein Air show will take place in June. Artists may get their canvases/papers stamped at the Gallery now, for submission in May and display in June.
- Moss Mansion will hold their "Springfest" in July. They are requesting artists willing to demonstrate their art on June 6th.
- The BAA Member's Picnic will be held at Veterans Park, on June 20th in place of the ArtShop on that day. A Jimmy John's lunch box can be ordered for cost (about \$10-12). Please sign up early on the BAA website for a fun day, and bring your art for display.
- The annual Gainan's Art Show for BAA members will be held at Gainan's Greenhouse

on Friday and Saturday, September 11th-12th. Members should sign up early if they mean to participate. Packets with all necessary items (e.g. tags, inventory lists) will be available in July to those who sign up on the website. Artwork must be delivered on Thursday, September 10th between 3:00pm & 5:00pm and must be picked up between 3:30pm and 5:00 pm on Saturday, September 12th. Help with 'put up' and 'take-down' will be greatly appreciated.

- Dover Park 'Art on the River' will be held this year on Friday and Saturday, September 18th/19th. Early sign-up by participating artists is requested. Spaces will be enhanced and assigned. The organizers learned a great deal from the first program and hope to improve the enjoyment of all concerned this year.

- NOVA Center for the Arts - John Kennedy suggested that an Images Art Grant be given to the Center. No further action has been taken to date.

### Election

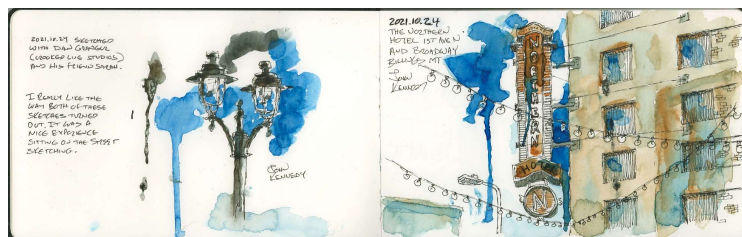
The Board concluded the Business meeting with organizational discussion for the election of BAA Board members on Saturday, April 18th at the Grace United Methodist church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Hewett, Secretary

The next BAA Board meeting will be held at 3 p.m. July 16, 2026.

### Upcoming events include:

**Ongoing...** The Billings Urban Sketchers would love to have you join us for one of our relaxed, creative sketching outings. We meet regularly at parks, cafés, historic spots, and hidden corners of the city, gathering artists of all experience levels who simply enjoy drawing from life. It's a welcoming, no-pressure space to slow down, observe, and connect with others who appreciate the beauty of Billings. Bring your favorite sketchbook, a pen or two, and your curiosity – we'd be thrilled to sketch alongside you at our next meetup.



Find us on Facebook at UrbanSketchersBillings or send a note to [jkennedymontana@yahoo.com](mailto:jkennedymontana@yahoo.com) to be added to the mailing list.

**Monthly, Yellowstone Portrait Painters:** May 9<sup>th</sup> (monthly, on the second Saturday). Under the Oculus



at Billings Public Library from 10 - 12:30. Draw from a live model, Ethan, this month. Bring your own art materials and a drop cloth if you are using wet media. Donations to model. Additional information available at the [Billings Public Library website](http://Billings Public Library website) or email [arts@billingsmt.gov](mailto:arts@billingsmt.gov) Signing up helps us plan the seating arrangements. We will also have a box of supplies available for curious bystanders to try.



**June 20<sup>th</sup>** - The BAA Member's Picnic will be held at Veterans Park, on June 20th in place of the ArtShop on that day. A Jimmy John's lunch box can be ordered for cost (about \$10-12).

Please sign up early on the BAA website for a fun day, and bring your art for display. [Click here to sign up](#)



**July 18<sup>th</sup>** - 10:15- noon ArtShop at the Yellowstone Art Museum, Murdoch

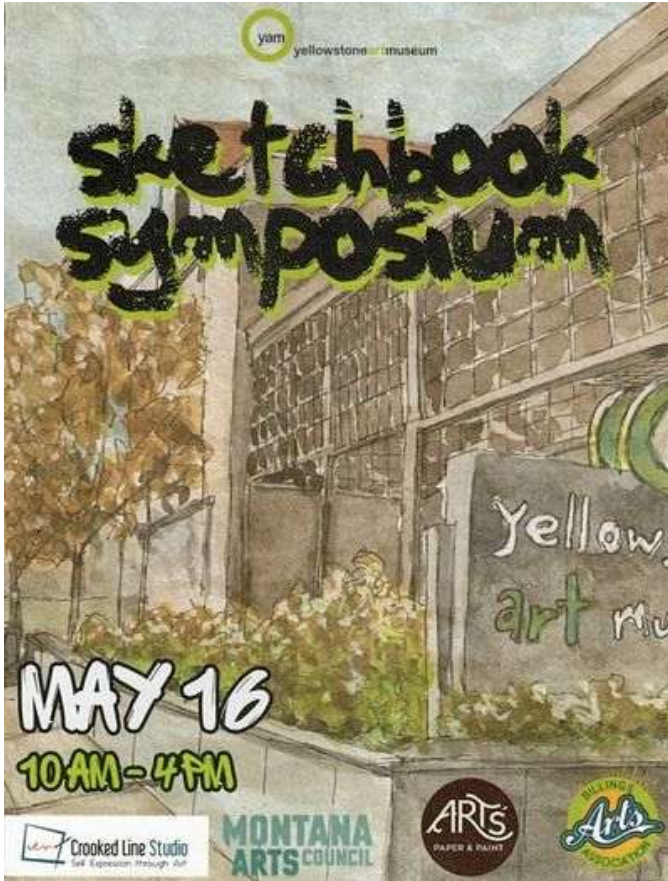
### Community Opportunity

Dawn Sherseth worked with Nick Enslow from the Boys and Girls Club to offer art workshops for kids grades 2-5 at the Club House on Orchard Lane. They had a successful first season and hope to continue the partnership. We are looking for more artists to participate in the next session in the fall. You need not consider yourself a "teacher" but more of an art mentor to enthusiastic kids (projects this go-around included soap carvings, drawings, paintings and journals).

Contact Dawn for additional information: [dawn.shereth@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.shereth@gmail.com)



## Sketchbook Symposium



## Discover the Beauty of Billings Arts Association

4th Annual Urban Sketchbook Symposium

When: Saturday, May 16 | 10 AM – 4 PM

Cost: **Free**

Sponsored by the MAC, Billings Art Association,  
Arts Paper & Paint, and Crooked Line Studio  
Art

(supplies will be for sale at their pop-up shops)

### Where Every Line Tells a Story

Unleash your imagination at the Sketchbook Symposium. YAM has again dedicated a space for artists to explore the raw beauty of the creative process. From quick gestures to intricate masterpieces, join a community of creators for a day of live demonstrations, collaborative sketching, and expert-led open studio opportunities. Whether your sketchbook is a mess of “messy thinking” or a polished portfolio, come discover the power of the pencil. Unlock your inner artist and see where your lines take you.

### 2026 participating artists include:

- Beth Korth – Inspiration in Layers
- Shane DeLeon – Cosmic Craze
- Anne Holub – Sketching into the Third Dimension
- Dawn Nelson – Nature Journaling
- Nancy Petersen – Zen Doodling
- Brittany Hernandez – Art Journaling
- And more!

### Sketchbook Symposium Spotlights:

Beth Korth

#### Beyond the Binding- the art of the invisible sketchbook

Beth will discuss and demo her process for starting a sketch and layering it into a work, and will share examples of alternate sketchbook materials she uses, such as scribbles on old mail, scraps of paper, and a digital notetaker.



Anne Holub

#### Sketching into the Third Dimension-Extend your sketchbook page with DIY

Build a new dimension to your favorite sketchbook or just experiment with new paper techniques with this hands-on session taught by analog-craft-loving writer,





**Art Journaling at The Sketchbook Symposium May 16, 2026 1-6 pm with BAA's Katherine Jore**

YAM Visible Vault 505 N 26th St, Artist in Residence Studio , Billings, MT 59101

After you have had fun during the early events in the sketchbook symposium, come join us for an afternoon class where you can immediately put all that inspiration to work. Local journal artist Katherine Jore will be sharing her wide range of skills from her 20-year practice in art journaling. Beginner and intermediate artists

will learn how to get started in art journaling and where to source materials (often for free). Besides technical and material knowledge, we will all dive deep into our creativity. Topics covered will include how to effectively layer pages, creating flow in your journal and building your own mark-making library. No matter your creative goals, Katherine will teach you how to unify your creative spark with the materials you enjoy to create art that is uniquely you.



Sign up on the YAM website:

**Booking Options**

**Camp/Event** **\$40**  
May 16, 2026

Fees calculated in cart ⓘ

**Register**

A little introduction  
The building blocks (collage, color, mark making)  
A few guided pages  
A discussion on composition (unifying the page)  
To make your own pages while Katherine offers tips and ideas along the way

***Use coupon code baamember26 for \$10 off the \$40 registration fee***

**Sept 10-12 Gainan’s Member Show** (Gainan’s Garden Center in the Heights) Drop art off on Thursday, Sept 10, pick up by 3 on Saturday Sept 12. Additional information and show packets available soon.

**Sept 19 - 10-2 PM Art on the River** (Dover Park in the Heights) Spending time in nature is great for mental health, as is viewing and creating art. On September 19th, three different area non-profits are teaming up to help Billings residents experience both at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event at John H Dover Memorial Park.

“Art on the River” is a partnership effort between Yellowstone River Parks Association, Billings Arts Association, and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Billings. Among the scenic trails and vistas of Dover Park, visitors will be able to observe artists in-process as they are inspired by nature and also participate directly in activities like kite-flying, nature journaling, meditation, yoga, and bird watching. Participating artists will be featured on the website with bio and images and a link of the online auction if donating their work. Artist work will be auctioned off after the event, with proceeds to benefit YRPA and NAMI. A full schedule of activities and more information can be found at [www.yrpa.org/art-at-the-river](http://www.yrpa.org/art-at-the-river) closer to the event.



**For sale or to give away (donation to BAA accepted)  
for Projector and mounted screen (6 ft x 8 ft).  
Contact Phil Bell if interested.**



**EV BERGERON**

**ART EXHIBIT**

**ROOTS GARDEN CENTER**  
2147 Poly Drive  
Billings, MT

**MAY, JUNE, JULY 2026**

**Artist’s Reception 4-7 pm**  
**May 7, 2026**



## Pit Firing & Raku Acton, Montana

Artists are encouraged to explore  
primitive firing techniques

Schedule includes a Friday night gathering with firing preparation, Saturday morning lighting with continental breakfast, Afternoon Raku firing, Sunday opening of pit and gathering of friends BBQ potluck.

A \$25 weekend fee is payable via Venmo, check, or cash (YAC members receive a 50 percent discount). Fee includes all pit fire materials except clay.

**Contact YAC for Raku information.**

Please contact YAC for more information.  
Inquiries: [pitfiringbillings@gmail.com](mailto:pitfiringbillings@gmail.com)

Hosted by Yellowstone Artist Cooperative

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*Contact Elizabeth Waddington for additional information. ([waddingtone@gmail.com](mailto:waddingtone@gmail.com))*

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*Contact camp leader, Rachel Larson Long for additional information.*

*([rachel.larson.long@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.larson.long@gmail.com)) Sign up*

**CAMP M!MANAG!SH**

**June 17th-21<sup>st</sup>**

**CREATIVE ARTS CAMP!**

Bust out your Inner Inventor at this summer's Creative Arts Camp!

**ALL ARE WELCOME  
FOR GROWTH & FUN  
AT CAMP M!MANAG!SH!**



Registration: \$20.00 during Sandstone Gallery hours starting June 2, 2026. Registration entitles you to enter TWO plein air paintings for the show.

Bring your own BLANK canvases or paper to be stamped and registered, 12 x 16 or smaller, no number limit. Pre-painted canvas or paper will not be accepted. However, only two canvases will be judged and hung during August and September.

Your blank canvases/paper can be stamped at any time during June and July.

Paintings should be at least 75% plein air. (They can be finished in your studio)

Turn in no more than 2 paintings to Sandstone Gallery by 30 July, 2026, along with your entry form (pick up form when you get your blank canvases or papers stamped).

Paintings need to be gallery-ready (framed or finished edges on stretched canvases) with wire hangers. Sandstone Gallery will hang the paintings so they will be

available for the August 7th ArtWalk.

Paintings will be shown in Sandstone Guest Gallery beginning with the Artwalk, August 7 through September 30. All paintings must be for sale (30% commission to Sandstone Gallery)

Paintings will be judged for best of show (\$200) and Best of Show runner-up (New Box and Paint 12 x 12 oil/acrylic/watercolor easel suitable of panels 16 x 20)

Painting sites can include any place in the Yellowstone Valley or near environs (Yellowstone County, Carbon County, Stillwater County, etc.). In the Billings area this could include Phipps Park, Riverside Park, Dover Park, Indian Caves State Park, fishing access sites, or any site in the Yellowstone River drainage. A list of sites and dates in the area will be available with registration if artists want to work with a group, but this, of course, is not required.

#### Important Dates:

- Canvas Pick Up: Starting June 2nd
- Submission Deadline: July 30th
- Grand Opening/Art Walk: Friday, August 7th
- Show Dates: August 7 - September 30
- Pick-Up Dates: September 30 - October 1 (10 AM - 5 PM) or October 2 (10 AM - 2 PM)

Download prospectus and entry form here:  
[2026 YVPA Prospectus and Entry Form REV1](#)

#### Please Note:

- All artwork must be available for sale. 30% Commission to Sandstone Gallery
- Please complete the entry form you will receive upon registration and attach it to the back of your painting when you submit it.

## Art Flips Epigenetic Switches

Observing art is health-giving to the brain. Good to have this presumption corroborated by neuroscience. Looking forward to increasing cultural and institutional/professional adoption of its fact. Even if one doesn't enjoy the artwork – whether visual, movement-/performance- oriented, aural, tactile, or olfactory (yes, it's out there; I once stood with my head inside a huge Buddha head made of Asian culinary spices at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco) – simply being attentive to art enhances cognitive function.

Observing art's colors and values; shapes and movement; lines (both obvious and implied); patterns and disruptions; as well as its changes and innovations not only uses brain cells but does so in a way that engages the brain in a healthful way. The size of the *hippocampus* is an excellent indicator of brain health. It shrinks a surprising amount when we don't use it. How do we use it? One significant way is by paying attention. Attention to what's going on around us, to our inner world, or to others in conversation. Engaging with a work of art makes the *hippocampus* bigger. Observing with intention increases this benefit.



Can observing/appreciating/creating art prevent accidents? Research would be tricky since numerous other factors are involved. Enlarging the hippocampus for overall brain health doubtlessly contributes to accident prevention. Avoiding brain injury (including from alcohol or stroke) is obviously good for brain health. A delicious circle (not a vicious circle)! A healthy *corpus callosum*, for example, makes it possible to understand, manage, and respond to abstract concepts (e.g., metaphor, time, justice, humor).

Have you been able to smell a painting in your mind's nose, reminded by something you saw? "Heard" a passage of music when you felt a sculpture (preferably one you're allowed to touch!)? This is the brain getting activated in different regions. Such experiences gift us the neural richness – the cognitive reserve – we need if and when the brain shrinks with disuse, suboptimal nutrition, etc.. Aging does not have to include this. We should not blame anyone for having cognitive challenges because so many other variables are at play. We might as well influence those aspects that we can.

Two other important factors in keeping and improving brain health are: focus and sense of purpose. Observing art with intention trains our capacity to focus. Self-expression gives us a sense of purpose (and agency). If there's no other purpose beyond that, the expresser is still doing something with health-giving purpose.

Creating art, riffing off of a stimulus or experience to take action based on it, turning something into something else, and innovative thinking are ways to take the brain-healthy benefits of observation further. We already know much of what is in this essay. This is a call to action. We can flip a multitude of epigenetic switches on or off. Thank you for taking good care of yourself – the world needs you.

Image: "Still life of the brain eraser (by Fred), kneaded eraser, and sketchbook" (from Art's Paper & Paint)

~ Lisa Carnicom

**May 10th**  
**Billings Arts Association**  
**Mother's Day Sale at DanWalt Gardens**

**Billings Arts Association  
Mother's Day Show**

**At Dan Walt Gardens  
720 Washington Street  
Billings MT**

**Sunday May 10, 10:00 to 3:00**  
Admission Fee Required



Art L-R Michael Koski, Tersa Kelly, Marlene Dunis



Come enjoy the scenery and visit with over 20 Billings Arts Association Artists who will show and sell their work at the beautiful DanWalt Gardens this Mother's Day throughout the grounds.

Come by to enjoy Art, Music, and the DanWalt signature cheesecake.

Whether you are participating or just want to visit, this is a beautiful way to spend Mother's Day. Save the date!

If you are visiting

The BAA will have nearly 20 artists showing and selling their work throughout the grounds. Come visit with us and enjoy the amazing gardens.

If you are a participating artist.

Set up starts at 9am, to be ready to show by 10.

We'll be there to help you find a spot and help you move in.

Tables and chairs are provided, or bring whatever you need to display your art the way you feel best.

If you haven't signed up yet the gardens are huge and there is plenty of room.

[Sign up to show my work at DanWalt on Mother's Day](#)

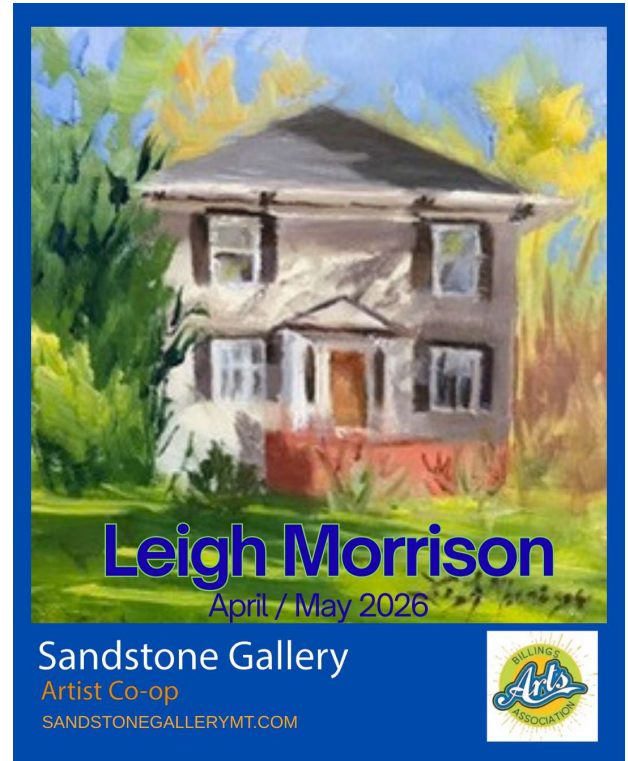
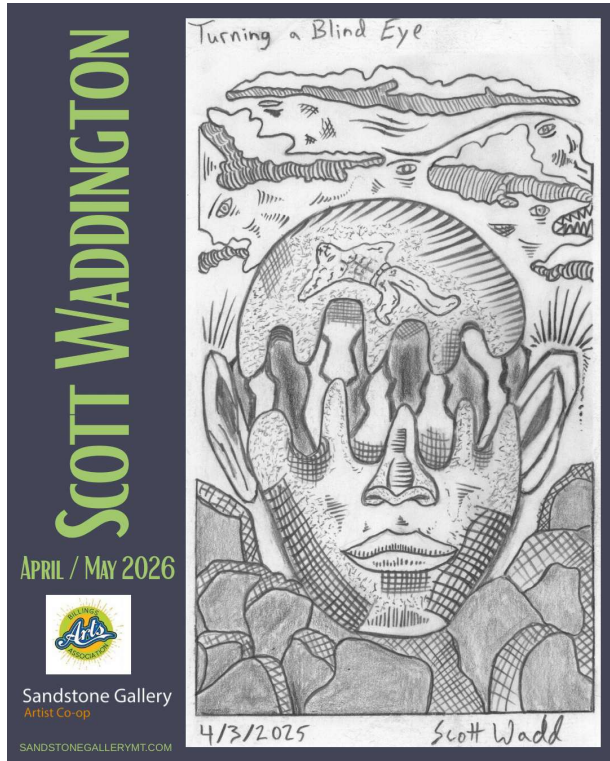
**Current BAA Artists at Sandstone Gallery on the BAA wall:**

**April / May**

Click artist's name to see a portfolio of their work.

[Scott Waddington](#)

[Leigh Morrison](#)



**Upcoming artists:**

**June July**

**Mary Sartori**

**Phil Bell**

**Aug Sept**

**Michael Riedel**

**Rebecca Newton**

**Oct Nov**

**Monica Maristuen**

**Linda Hewett**

**WAITLIST**

**Phil Bell**

**Lindsey Huntley**

Put your name on the waitlist for the Sandstone Gallery BAA Wall's 2026 ArtWalk season. See details at: [Sandstone Gallery Wall](#) on the BAA website.

# Moss Mansion SpringFest

enjoying one of Montana's best historic places.

On Saturday, June 6th, the Moss Mansion welcomes you to the 37th annual SpringFest - a spectacular art and craft festival, all beautifully presented on the museum's lawn. SpringFest delivers a day of shopping, live music, delicious food and fun activities for kids of all ages. Featuring over 50 juried artists and thousands of unique treasures, it's the perfect place to shop, relax and connect with friends while

Watch artists demonstrate their work - **John is looking for more artists to demonstrate their mediums** or take in the sights and sounds of performers at three stages.

Admission to SpringFest is free! The Moss Mansion and Gift Shop, located at 914 Division St., Billings, MT, will be open for self-guided tours from 10am - 4pm at regular tour prices.

All proceeds from artist booth fees, donation jars and food and drink sales benefit Moss Mansion's operations and ongoing preservation projects.



## Artisan Festival

July 18, 2026 • Big Sky MT

Artist Vendor Application



Application deadline: May 22, 2026 For more information , [click here](#). \$25 application fee.

*The 49th Annual Bozeman Sweet Pea Festival: It's an art show, a parade, a concert venue, and a celebration of life and creativity. Photo from Mooseradio.com*

Opportunity: Sweet Pea Festival

Bozeman's famous Sweet Pea Festival of the Arts invites Montana artists to apply to their Juried Art Show, scheduled July 1 - Aug 28 in downtown Bozeman. Application deadline: June 3. Entry fee: \$35. [Learn more and apply through CaFé here](#).

## Need more art talk?

Stop by Poly's Place at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and Poly Drive at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays. **NOTE the revised TIME CHANGE.** Bring your art to talk about and enjoy a beverage or snack.

Plein Air Painting afterwards when weather is conducive; location to be decided by the group.

### Meet new BAA members:

#### Susan Martinez

My work began in a breaking point.

After a traumatic accident in 2019, everything I had built—personally and professionally—shifted. In that space of loss and rebuilding, I found my way back to art. Not as a hobby, but as a lifeline. What started slowly became something undeniable: a calling. I believe God opened that door and asked me to walk through it, even when I wasn't ready.

I deepened my practice through the Milan Art Institute (2020-2021), while navigating transition—leaving the salon industry, helping open a new business in 2021, and ultimately stepping fully into a new identity as an artist. In 2023, I showed my work publicly for the first time. Since then, I have continued to say yes to what's been placed in front of me. I am a Mixed Media Artist, Founder of Creating to Heal, and now serve as Director of Sandstone Gallery Co-Op and exhibit as part of its cooperative. In addition, I am a member of the Billings Arts Association and serve as their Sandstone Chair.

My work is rooted in layers—built through instinct, tension, and release. I work in mixed media, often incorporating collage and texture, allowing each piece to evolve rather than forcing an outcome. The process matters as much as the final work.

Art, for me, is where healing happens. Living with C-PTSD, I don't create from a place of having arrived—I create from within the process. My work holds that tension: brokenness and beauty, restraint and release, faith and uncertainty.

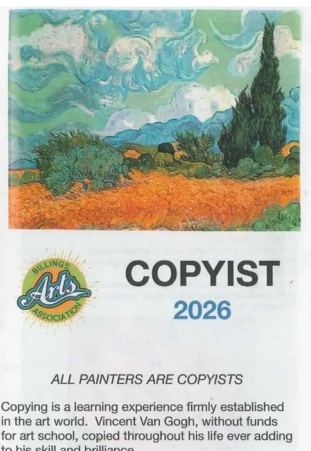
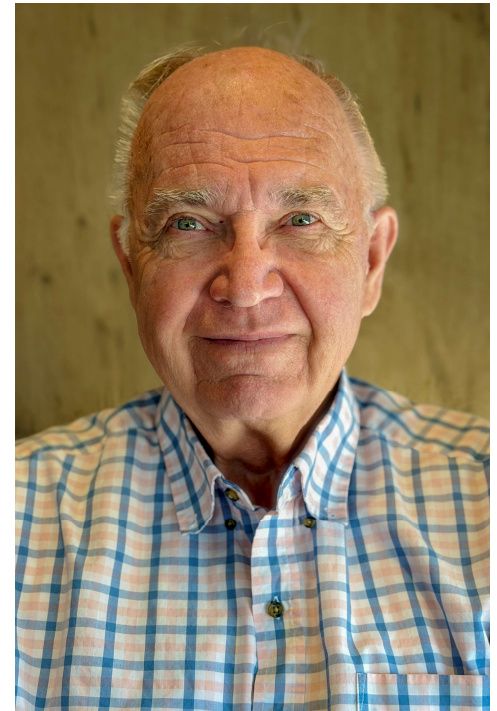
I believe my role is not just to create, but eventually to guide others—to hold space for healing through art the same way it was given to me.



## Ed Lawler

My name is Ed Lawler. I lived for the first 18 years of my life in Baker, Montana. The next 4 years were at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, just outside of St. Cloud, Minnesota where I studied mathematics, physics and economics. I then joined the Peace Corps serving as a teacher trainer in the rural areas of Jamaica and Costa Rica. After this experience, I decided I wanted to become a dentist and so for the next five years attended the University of Minnesota Dental School. After graduation, I spent six years in rural north Dakota taking care of the local population and those who had come to the area to help with the construction of the two power plants and the gasification plant. While there I met my wife-to-be who was a high school science teacher and later organized and maintained the labs at two of the plants. We moved to Billings in 1984, worked, and raised our two children who are gone and living their own lives. Now my wife and I are busy being retired and occasionally helping with the grandchildren.

As for art, some years ago, I took a drawing class taught by artist and art teacher Robin Earles at Rocky Mountain College. In that class I was able to advance from drawings stick figures to drawing a face with an attached body, sometimes someone recognizable. I still need a lot of work, and I know it takes practice. So when I am in the mood, I continue to sketch and study from a series of books by Loomis, who is now deceased but was terrific in his time. This wasn't my first introduction to art however. After my time in the Peace Corps, I attended the University of Montana for a quarter and besides learning how to speak English again, took two art classes, one in ceramics and the other in black-and-white photography. With my past exposure to art in classes, in books, and the influence of artists like Robin Earles among others, I better appreciate the skill of artists and their medium, having tried some of those mediums myself. I realize art is hard work, and for me, will always be a work-in-progress. I look forward to being a member of the Billings Arts Association.



## Copyist Program

### "Building Community"

The Copyist group has been busy painting and *building community*. We all learn from copying. It's a proven form of honing your artist skills, but, maybe, more importantly, we are building community.

Recently the group of active 8 to 12 painters received a note from the First Congregational Church in response to our copying art in their collection as well as viewing historic photos of Billings and area back in time.

"Dear Copyists--I have been thinking what an honor it was to have you at our church.....Having reflected on the experience for days now, wanted to convey how special the morning was. Being the oldest Billings church, many have come through our doors. And, being a downtown church brings a wide range who appreciate the space. You are now part of that range!"

It has been a privilege for us to get to know Billings a little closer. Its museums, churches, library and individual homes have been gracious to our Copyists and we have helped them with our attendance and use of the facilities. Isn't it great that the community has opened doors for us and shared the significant art history of our little Western town? We all benefit and the Copyists are spotlighting Art and artists from this vibrant dot on the map. Who knew how rich this was? Come join us...you might learn a few things you didn't know before. ~Linda Franson

**The Copyist Programs are art events held at local museums and galleries. Local artists are invited to "copy" a work of art from that venue, in their own style and their own preferred medium. This is meant as an educational experience for artists and visitors. The copyist program offers a unique opportunity for artists to study the techniques of notable artists through intimate study in the galleries.**

Register by clicking the link on the BAA website or by sending an email to [John Kennedy](#). Please be sure to include your name in the email reply

- Copyists must bring all their own materials and use drop cloths to protect the floor in in their work areas.
- Easels must be placed at least four feet from all works of art.
- Museum staff may determine that copyists are not positioned appropriately and request that they temporarily stop work to adjust their position accordingly.
- Copyists must not obscure an artwork from other museum guests' view.
- Work, easels or any other equipment or materials must never be left unattended.
- Artists must arrange for outside disposal of chemical waste; disposal in museum sinks is not permitted.
- Brushes and equipment may not be cleaned on museum premises.
- Each venue reserves the right to enforce additional requirements.

**The Art to be copied is selected by the venue.**

May 23, 2026, Saturday  
Tippet Rise Art Center  
Fishtail, MT  
8:30am - 5pm  
Choice of outdoor art sculptures/installations. Shuttles will be available to ride to art installations.

June 13, 2026, Saturday  
June 14, 2026 Sunday  
The Brinton Art Museum  
Sheridan, WY  
10am - 4pm; 10am - Docent talk about Indian artifacts.

The Brinton Museum is on the grounds of a cattle ranch established in 1892. B. Brinton, a Chicago industrialist, had a passion for collecting renown Western art. The museum now includes American Indian art. The extensive ranch grounds with vistas of the Bighorns are open for painting. Only pencil/charcoal inside; all mediums outside.

July 10, 2026, Friday  
KOA Headquarters  
1205 N. Transtech Way  
Billings, MT  
10am - 1 pm

KOA is an award winning building. Its extensive art collection includes masterpieces by modern local artists: Kevin Red Star, Earl Biss, etc.

June 27, 2026, Saturday  
July 11, 2026, Saturday  
August 21, 2026 Friday  
Tippet Rise Art Center  
Fishtail, MT 59028  
8:30am - 5pm

This is a plein air event only. Shuttles will be available to ride to art installations.



## ArtShop

Learn a new technique or how to use a new tool.

Get feedback or critique to improve your work from fellow artists.

Meets most months on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 10:15 - noon

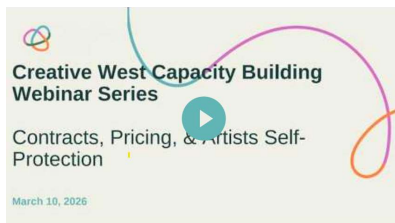
in the Murdock Room at the Yellowstone Art Museum. Check website or email.

Check out the resources available on Billings Arts Association website:

<https://billingsartsassociation.com/>

National Resource Hub: <https://artslearningdatabase.org/> Information to support your artist's journey.

And from ARTERies: News from the Montana Arts Council:



*Creative West offers free resources and webinars for artists.*

### **Creators' Legal Roadmap**

Relationships matter, and a connection between Creative West and the law firm Counsel for Creators (Pasadena, CA) makes available to artists the **Creators' Legal Roadmap**, a guide for artists to help demystify legal issues like copyright infringement, contract disputes, and common business

situations. [Get yours free here.](#)

And did you catch the March 10<sup>th</sup> free webinar on Contracts, Pricing, and Artists Self-Protection? [You can watch the video here](#), and you can also register for the May 12 webinar, "Building Your Own Artist Residency."

**"Art is much less important than life, but what a poor life without it."**

Robert Motherwell

Images Art Grants are available to teachers in our area. A one-page application can net up to \$500 for materials. There is no deadline as it can be awarded anytime during the year. Download the form from our website: <https://billingsartsassociation.com/school-art-grants>.

Our most recent grantees are:

Rocky Mountain College Art Department for pottery supplies. (\$500) and

Tori Parker at Billings West High for Gelli Printing supplies which will be re-usable. (\$500)



A grant was also provided to the YAM to pay for two student scholarships for their summer art camps.

Fall 2025, Breanna Shermer at Park City Schools received \$500 for Gelli Printing molds.

Grants are also available for students to attend art classes, camps, and workshops. See the BAA website for instructions to apply.

**Don't forget to check out the many classes available in Billings. Most of these have email lists if you prefer to receive an email of upcoming events with images and descriptions:**

Crooked Line Studio <https://crookedlinestudio.square.site/>

Also a host site for the Yellowstone Calligrapher's Guild which meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 12:30.

Art's: Paper and Paint <https://artspaperpaint.com/classes>

Bitterroot Sip and Paint <https://bitterrootsipandpaint.com/calendar>

406 Native Roots <https://www.406nativeroots.com/class-info>

Q's Art and Framing <https://sites.google.com/view/qsartshop/home>

Yellowstone Art Museum <https://www.artmuseum.org/educate/adult-education/>

Yellowstone Coffee and Canvas (Lockwood) <https://www.yellowstonecoffeeandcanvas.com/>

Discounts on materials, framing, and art instruction at partner businesses:



1516 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N



RIMROCK  
ART & FRAME

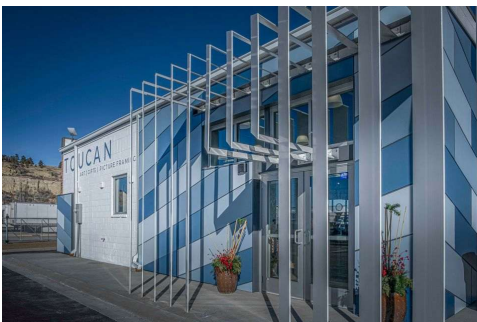
New location 3245 Conrad Street



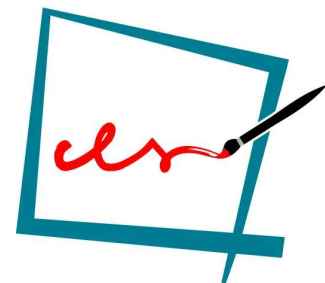
call 406-670-2078



1500 Broadwater Ave Unit 2



Toucan 1002 2nd Avenue North



Crooked Line Studio 1206 24th St W

**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.

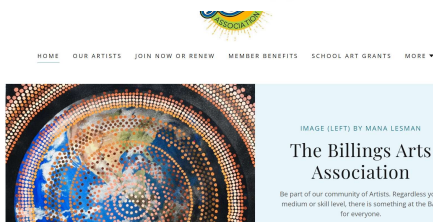
**OUR Mission Statement:**

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](#)

