

FY 2024

SPRINGBOARD
for the arts

Annual Report



FY2024 Annual Report

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FY2024 Annual Report

A Letter From Our Executive Director



In a world where the challenges facing our communities often feel insurmountable, it's easy to get lost in the noise of polarization and endless doomscrolling. While there may be no “easy” answer, I truly believe that nothing changes unless we get at the root of our human relationships and the stories we tell about ourselves and one another. **I also believe there is nothing more essential than supporting the storytellers and meaning makers who are shaping our communities.** These are the people who are helping neighbors build relationships with one another and making space for creativity and culture to thrive.

In the last year, I've had the privilege of witnessing this work firsthand: our neighborhood celebrating winter at our outdoor skating rink in Saint Paul, creative leaders gathering at the Rural Futures Summit in Fergus Falls, and artists facilitating connections through projects focused on rural-urban solidarity.



If you've traveled along rural Highway 210 in West Central Minnesota, you may have encountered our work to center artists in movements for economic justice. Erhard-based artist Kandace Creel Falcon created a painting of their goats that was transformed into a full-size billboard installation along the highway. The project serves as a meditation on the idea of “tending to the herd”—**a reminder that we are all interdependent and responsible for one another's care.**

This project embodies the kinds of connections and stories that emerge when we give artists the space to lead. And when artists lead with goats, well, it only makes sense that we do, too (because, let's face it, we know that artists are the G.O.A.T!).

As I look ahead to next year, I am looking forward to finding more ways that we can support the truth-tellers, culture bearers and creative leaders that our communities need right now. Here's to connection, to small joys, to the power of artists. And yes, here's to goats.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Laura Zabel'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Laura Zabel
Executive Director

We're so happy to share our 2024 annual report with you!

We had some big wins this year, including an expansion of one of the nation's first Guaranteed Income pilot for artists, a fresh new brand identity, and a new website on the way. There were also challenges, of course, but we navigated them with the same creative innovation that has driven us throughout our 30+ year history.

This year, we...

- **Connected organizations nationwide** through the Creative Change Coalition to foster resource-sharing, field-building, and systems change.
- **Brought rural artists together** at the Rural Futures Summit to imagine new possibilities for shared prosperity.
- **Helped artists get to the next step in their careers** through practical resources such as Incubator Fiscal Sponsorship, Artist Career Consultations, and the Growth Fund.



Looking ahead, **our work to champion creativity, culture, and collaboration** is more necessary than ever. Artists are essential to vibrant communities and a just, equitable world, so we'll continue to invest in artists and the ecosystems that sustain them with hope and a joyful determination.

You play a vital role in our efforts to help provide artists with a living and a life. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us!



Saint Paul
262 University Ave W
Saint Paul, MN 55103
Tel: 651-292-4381



Fergus Falls
201 West Lincoln Ave
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Tel: 218-998-4037

Springboard for the Arts' mission is to support artists with the tools to make a living and a life, and to build just and equitable communities full of meaning, joy, and connection.

www.springboardforthearts.org

[@springboardarts](https://www.instagram.com/springboardarts)

info@springboardforthearts.org

Weaving a stronger safety net for artists

Program Highlight

As an artist-led organization, we understand that **creating art is real work** that comes with its own set of challenges, including inconsistent income and dependence on gig opportunities. Every day, we hear from artists about how these pressures limit their ability to engage with their communities and make it difficult for many to see artmaking as a sustainable career.

That's the heart of why we are expanding Springboard's Guaranteed Income pilot, which invests in artists in the Rondo and Frogtown neighborhoods of Saint Paul and in rural Otter Tail County.

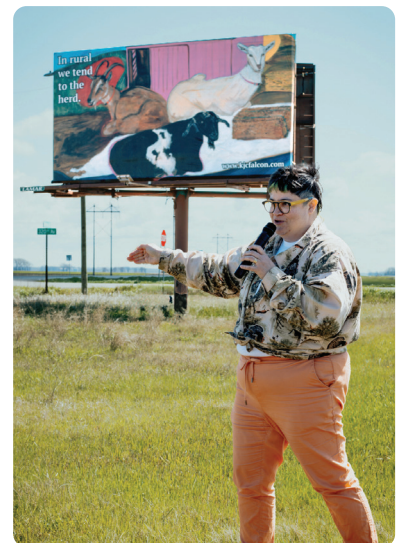
Alongside the pilot, our **Artists Respond: People Place and Prosperity cohort** created new work to prompt community conversation and connection about Guaranteed Income, leading up to a big announcement—the expansion of our pilot to serve 100 artists for 5 years!

Kandace Creel Falcón participated in **Artists Respond: People, Place, Prosperity**, a cohort of artists creating work to inspire narrative change. Falcón's painting of their three goats—symbols of community care and the rural value of tending to a herd—was displayed on a billboard in rural Minnesota for nearly a year.

→

GI IS THE G.O.A.T.

Springboard's pilot is one of the longest running in the nation, and one of the few with a dedicated artist focus.



“Our program is emerging as a national model, demonstrating how guaranteed income can transform artists’ lives, build community resilience, and strengthen local economies. When artists can focus more on their work, families, art, and their community instead of worrying about basic needs, everyone benefits.”

- Laura Zabel, Executive Director

Building a more vibrant and interconnected creative ecosystem – nationally

Program
Highlight

the Creative Change Coalition



We know that the hubs and homes that help artists build fulfilling lives and careers thrive at the local level.

We also know that these organizations, collectives, and community groups continue to need tailored resources and support to help them flourish, especially following the impacts of the pandemic.

That's why we launched the **Creative Change Coalition** in 2023. This isn't just another

networking group; **it's a dynamic coalition of 150 organizations from 39 states**, working together to connect local efforts and drive systemic change. The Coalition fosters collaboration and learning through virtual workshops, field conversations, and a wealth of resources, opportunities, and funding. In less than a year, **we've hosted seven virtual events that have brought together nearly 600 practitioners and field leaders** to explore topics like local advocacy, rural-urban solidarity, and federal funding strategies.

Partners & Presenters



ArtBuild, Arts for LA, Asian American Advocacy Fund, Blue Sky Center, Crosshatch Center for Art & Ecology, CultureSource, Economic Security Project, Environmental Protection Network, Federal Highway Administration, Fresh Arts, Great Plains Action Society, Higher Purpose Co, Institute for Sustainable Communities, Kentucky Rural-Urban Exchange, Mural Arts Philadelphia, Mural on the Wall, National Endowment for the Arts, National League of Cities, National Performance Network, RedLine Contemporary Art Center, Sidewalk Detroit, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the University of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research

SPRINGBOARD BY THE NUMBERS

SPRINGBOARD
for the arts

\$1,100,000
paid directly to artists

That's nearly a
quarter of our
budget!

450
square feet of ice
for Springboard's
mini ice rink

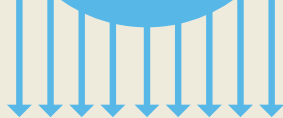


936
artist career
consultations
A 76% increase!

"I felt seen, heard, and validated as both an
artist and a person by [my consultant].
That's no small thing to me."

- Artist

178
workshops
& training
sessions



32 rural Minnesota
placemaking leaders

In 2023 we co-facilitated a year-long Community of Practice with the Blandin Foundation to support 32 placemaking leaders in rural Minnesota and the Native Nations that share this geography.

Our solar panels
generated

120%
of our Saint Paul site's
electricity needs



150
Creative Change
Coalition member orgs



"Joining the Creative Change Coalition has been refreshing and enlightening, allowing me to connect with creatives facing similar challenges and learn how they navigate this work."

- CCC Participant

We gave **40** artist entrepreneurs Growth Fund
business grants totalling **\$100,000**

That's a 150% increase from FY2023!

"Springboard for the Arts gave me the courage to leave an unfulfilling job and pursue a future I'm passionate about. As a disabled rural artist, that was huge."

- Growth Fund Grantee

67 of 87
counties reached
in Minnesota



204
artist projects in
Incubator Fiscal
Sponsorship

110
Rural Futures
Summit
attendees



2 policy
coalitions led
by Springboard
centering
economic
security

21 Rural Regenerator Fellows

We invested in rural creative leadership through the Rural Regenerator Fellowship, a 2-year program supporting rural artists from MN, IA, WI, ND, SD, MI. We added Nebraska and Kansas this year!

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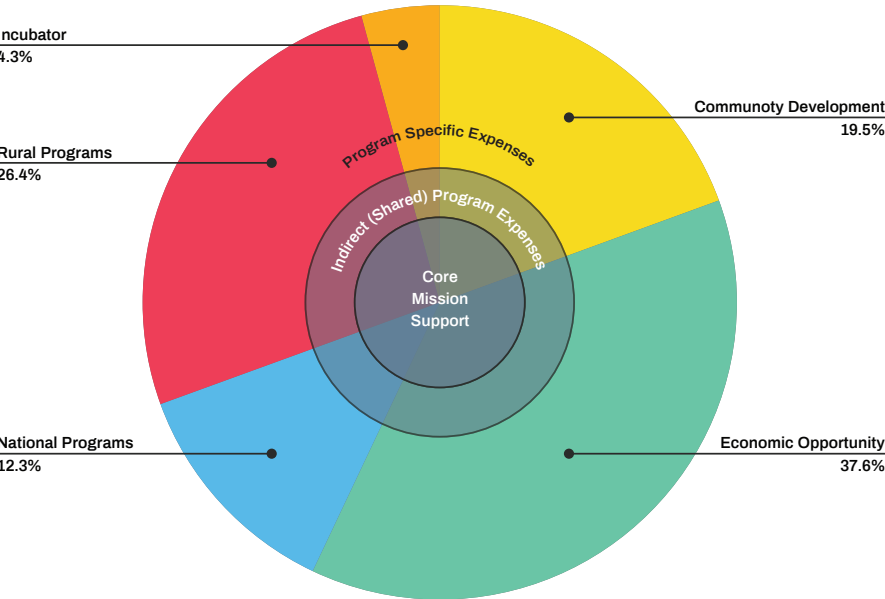
Financials

Income	
Contributed Income (Foundations & Grants)	
\$2,656,259	
Contributed Income (Individuals)	
\$135,736	
Earned Income	
\$780,742	
Board Approved Use of Unrestricted Net Assets	
\$826,820*	
Total	
\$4,399,557	

Expenses	
Direct Program Expenses	
\$3,651,944	
Indirect (Shared) Program Expenses	
\$156,357	
Core Mission Support	
\$591,256	
Total	
\$4,399,557	

*In FY23, Springboard for the Arts received a generous unrestricted donation that will be partially allocated over the next five years to support program responsiveness and innovation.

These financials accurately represent Springboard's operational Statement of Activities, but are not presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. For full audited financials, contact info@springboardforthearts.org



FY24 Funders



Rosemary and David
Good
Family Foundation



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

MINNESOTA
STATE ARTS BOARD



ECOLAB

m
EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Guaranteed Income
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

*Good
Chaos*



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Heather Cummins

Cheryl Davenport

Shauna Dee

Laura Delventhal

**“[Springboard is] the reason
so many artists are thriving
in our community.”**

- Artist

Christine Demars

Dakota Deringer

Lisa Deutsch

Tracey Deutsch

Kelsey Dillon

Neal Dimick

Zee Do

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Mary Hill

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**"You are my favorite
organization for gifting."**

- Donor

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Robert and Mary Kay Zabel
Heidi Ziemer
Peggy Zimmer
Lee Zukor and
Laura Zimmermann
Anonymous x 17

**“Hearing from people of all
ages and abilities respond to
the project continues to teach
me more about how to be a
better artist and person.”**

**- Amelia Foster, Springboard's
Ready Go Program**

SPRINGBOARD *for the arts*

