

We are excited to jump into 2018 with a vast expansion of our arts education programs. We began with just a couple of weeks of summer arts classes in 2013. Since then, our programs for young artists have quadrupled and the requests for programs for adults haven't stopped coming in. To honor those requests, the Side Street LAB has taken over the Side Street SUPPLY space and we have a new BACKSPACE off of our existing THEATER, and, starting in February we are offering an array of painting, photography, printmaking, screen printing, ceramics, and mixed media classes and workshops for all ages and experience levels. When our community talks, we listen.



Side Street LAB is located at 11 and 13 S. Spring St., directly across the alley from our Ziegler Ct. locations.

Donate

Your donation helps us to grow our free and inexpensive programs, supports all our spaces, and allows us to bring in working professionals to perform, educate, and enhance our mission!

Side Street Studio Arts is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation helps to support all of the programming featured in the annual report and so much more.

To donate, please visit: sidestreetstudioarts.org.

We also welcome cash and checks made out to SSSA, sent to:

Side Street Studio Arts
15 Ziegler Ct.
Elgin, IL 60120

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Please contact your tax advisor for guidance. Thank you for supporting the arts and Side Street!

2017 Personnel

Board of Directors:

Jane Erlandson, John LaFleur, Sarah Manata, Tanner Melvin, Erin Rehberg

Founders/Executive Directors:

Tanner Melvin, Erin Rehberg

Director of Operations:

Amanda Harris

Director of Exhibitions:

Roberto Martinez

Director of Special Projects:

Kristine Medriano

LAB/SUPPLY Manager:

Jane Erlandson



2017

2017 Annual Report

Side Street Studio Arts, NFP

15 Ziegler Ct.
Elgin, IL 60120

Mission & Activities

Side Street Studio Arts (SSSA) was founded by Elgin residents Tanner Melvin and Erin Rehberg in 2013 as an outlet for the Elgin arts scene. Through its gallery, theater, and lab spaces, Side Street provides educational and creative resources and an accessible space, run by artists. Side Street's mission is to support the artist and the artistic journey through collaboration.

SSSA has proved itself to be an artistic, cultural, and social beacon for Elgin and beyond. In 2017 alone, SSSA hosted or produced:

- 24 visual art exhibitions
- 35 music performances
- 50+ live art events
- 300+ on-site arts education programs
- 240+ hours of Community Moves arts education outreach programming
- 5 artist-internships
- 3 arts-admin internships
- 2 Elgin Community College Future Workforce leaders
- weekly free gallery hours
- donated space for multiple fundraising events for area organizations
- co-produced the Elgin Fringe Festival and Elgin Literary Festival with the City of Elgin
- an average of 100 hours of SSSA activities per week



Prom Fundraiser at Martini Room
Photo by Doug Hanson

Exhibitions and Performances

Visual Art



Father, featuring the work of Missouri artist Michael McCaffrey

The GALLERY space at Side Street was the organization's first home. This was the space that Founders Tanner and Erin walked into and felt that something exciting was going to happen here. It is the space Side Street's generous landlord entrusted to us. It is the space where the packed opening-night crowd fogged over the windows March 1, 2013. It is the space for Battle of the Bands, meetings, Small Wonders, burlesque, and quiet gallery hours. The GALLERY is the heart of Side Street Studio Arts, our pride and

joy. We hope people see it as much more than a white-walled gallery, but a warm space for community to grow and breathe and create.

In 2017, SSSA maintained our eclectic annual visual art lineup, including *Unidos*, a group exhibition expressing hybrid cultures and Latinidad relations; *Re:Pop*, a printmaking exhibition and workshop series in August; and in collaboration with Elgin artists John LaFleur and Dave Metzger, our 5th annual *Something Wicked* in October. In addition to these staples, we aimed to change things up in the GALLERY with April's interactive *Words Matter*, November's all female *Revisit: Going Dutch*, December's wildly successful *Pure Imagination*, and a variety of group, solo, and artist-intern exhibitions. For most exhibitions, SSSA receives a 40% commission on the artwork sold, with 60% going back to the artist. In 2017, SSSA paid out over \$3000 to visual artists for their sales. In December, we learned that SSSA received our first-ever general operating support grant from the Illinois Arts Council, specifically to support our ongoing visual art exhibitions in 2018.



In June of 2017, SSSA took over production of the 7th annual *Going Dutch Festival*, a celebration of the female voice in dance, music, theater, and the visual arts. The event featured over 300 artists from around the United States and was held at the Elgin Art Showcase and additional donated space within *The Professional Building*. Moving the festival from Chicago to Elgin was a success, the event was supported in part by the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission allowing us to pay participating artists, and ticket sales doubled.

Maura Naughton performing at the 2017 Going Dutch Festival
Photo by Doug Hanson

Exhibitions and Performances contd.

Performance

SSSA continued to be *the* place to participate in an intimate performance experience in 2017. From live theater to performance art to music, both spaces were alive and engaged with rehearsals, classes, and/or performances 52 out of 52 weeks of the year.

2017 Highlights:

- **January** – For the third year, SSSA co-produced the Elgin Literary Festival with The City of Elgin, and the free celebration of the written word continued to increase its attendance through its presentation of panels, lectures, book sales and signings, and interactive workshops.
- **February** – *Backwards Broadway* and Art Battle (formerly Ultimate Painting) each returned for their third year. Art Battle, the 20-minute, live painting competition saw many new artists step up to compete, and for the second time, area artist John French reigned supreme, and Ava Fitzsimmons won Art Battle Kids.
- **March** – A collaborative exhibition between Utah-based artist Sarah Murff and SSSA's Kristine Medriano, *Return to Sender*, was featured in the Theater, our brand new Supply and Lab spaces opened on S. Spring St, and Roberto's Crit Nights returned. These monthly critique and discussion sessions grew in 2017 as the group gained access to the LAB space.
- **Summer** – Our annual *Americana Jubilee* celebration returned for a fourth year, and Battle of the Bands heated up an already hot summer overflowing the GALLERY space with the area's music lovers and their new favorite bands. Mt. Pocono wound up on top, winning the 2017 crown and \$1000 prize, and used the prize money to record their first album which debuted at Side Street in November.

Exhibitions and Performances contd.

- **September** – Fall marked the return of the Elgin Fringe Festival, co-produced by and housed at SSSA. This year's festival



Chicago Burlesque Showcase
Photo by Doug Hanson

- saw artist participation and ticket sales soar and featured favorite returning and new artists alike.
- **October** – We welcomed back MsPixy and our friends from her Chicago Burlesque Showcase for a wonderfully wicked performance. We helped to sponsor the City of Elgin's Art Harvest on DuPage Ct. October was capped off with a record-setting night of art sales during Nightmare on Chicago Street.
- **December** – A beautiful December day was the setting for a revamped Winter Wonderland, put on by the Downtown Neighborhood Association, and meant that our Free Kids Day saw over 700 individuals come through our GALLERY doors in one afternoon!

At the end of 2017, we learned we received a sizeable grant from The Reva and David Logan Foundation in Chicago. After spending months developing the programming, interviewing with the foundation, and writing the grant, we are honored to receive this financial support of our upcoming Latino Outreach Program, which will allow us to review and enhance how our organization is able to reach and work with Spanish-speaking populations through staff support, Latino Artists-in-Residence, and language education for our artist-educators.

THE
REVA & DAVID LOGAN
FOUNDATION

Education & Outreach



YLA Artists working with Cynthia Shababy

In 2017, Small Wonders, our in-house arts education programming continued to grow, as did our scholarship program. Thanks to grant support from the EFS Foundation and donations from the Palm Family and numerous others, we were able to double the number of scholarships offered to young area artists to over 20. Focusing on everything from abstract art to stop-motion movie making

these sessions allowed young artists to explore a

variety of artistic modes to seek out the best outlet for their creative voice.

Community Moves, our arts education and outreach program, continued its partnerships with the U-46 preschools and Highland, Ronald D. O'Neal, and Washington Elementary Schools. With additional intensive workshops offered in our GALLERY and on site at various organizations around Elgin. During the school year, Community Moves is now able to reach almost 500 young artists a week with dance, music, theater, media, and visual arts programming!

In October, Community Moves began a partnership with Elgin's Youth Leadership Academy. Through this program SSSA worked with Elgin-resident Michael Novelli to create *Art For Good*, an intensive series of workshops where participants explore social justice issues and the power of art to create change within our communities.



Small Wonders Artist
Reece

The kids loved their weeks at SSSA camp. They came home paint-smudged, with creative wheels turning and eager to discuss and evolve the projects their groups were working on! Small Wonders is a great value for our family.

-Small Wonders Parent

Community



On March 1, 2018, Side Street will celebrate our fifth anniversary. Sometimes we look around, thinking about when it was just the two of us in the Gallery, and wonder where the time went. Sometimes, it seems much longer. Over the five years, we have learned lessons, celebrated milestones, suffered set backs, expanded, and moved in new directions. There is never a dull moment around here. If we continue to trust our guts, trust each other, and work to earn the trust of artists and community members, Side Street Studio Arts will continue to thrive.

No one makes us think more of how far we've come and how much more we are capable of than our Director of Exhibitions Roberto Martinez. We will never let him forget his youthful ways from when he started with us as an intern during our first summer in 2013... like scooping ice with his hands... but we remember specific moments for Roberto when we saw things "click." Where we could see him make the difficult decisions that led to him living the life of a working artist. After his internship he stuck around as our first Facilities Manager, working up to Assistant Director, and now our Director of Exhibitions. He has been integral to the growth, creativity, and community building of Side Street, and best represents the struggle and beauty of committing to a life in the arts. His ideas continue to impress us. His frustrations are starting points for new and innovative programming at Side Street, and the dedicated calm he brings to every meeting, event, and exhibition creates a wonderful balance within the entire organization.

We are humbled that artists like Roberto continue to decide to work with us at Side Street. We know, to our core, that it is those folks that are at the heart of what Side Street is today.

-Tanner Melvin & Erin Rehberg
SSSA Founders/Executive Directors

Thank you to our 2017 Business Sponsors & major donors:
Accurate Piano, BBK Motorsport, Blue Box Café, Chamber Music on the Fox,
The Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, EFS Foundation, Elgin Knit Works,
Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Elgin Public House, Epigram Studio, Imago,
Lagunitas Brewing Company, The Reva & David Logan Foundation,
Martini Room, The Palm Family,
The Florence B. and Cornelia A. Palmer Foundation