



## Welcoming our new staff and board members for 2019!

Community Moves Coordinator  
Nick Mataragas

Lab Manager  
Jess Rocha

Administrative Assistant  
Mary Sweeney

Board Members  
Jeffrey Pierce &  
Freddrick Wimms

## 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/support](http://sidestreetstudioarts.org/support).

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

Side Street Studio Arts  
P.O. Box 1264  
Elgin, IL 60121

## 2018 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

### Assistant Directors:

Kira Fox,  
Adrian Mesino

### Latino Outreach Coordinator:

Adrian Mesino



2018 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 inclusive space, run by artists. Side Street's mission is to support the artist and the artistic journey through collaboration.

SSSA is an artistic, cultural, and social beacon for Elgin and beyond. In 2018 alone, SSSA hosted or produced:



Artist Leo Perez participates in Art Clash  
Photo by Adrian Mesino

- 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!

# Exhibitions and Performances

## Visual Art



Celebrating the final exhibition of  
"Music Makes Me" week during  
Summer Small Wonders

In 2018, SSSA maintained our eclectic annual visual art lineup, including *Unidxs*, a group exhibition expressing hybrid cultures and Latinidad relations; *Re:Pop*, a printmaking exhibition and workshop series in August; and our 6<sup>th</sup> annual *Something Wicked* in October. In addition to these staples, we aimed to experiment in the GALLERY through *Mediums*, a curated exhibit that paired artists working in different mediums in order to create new collaborative work, and the return of *Install*, which assigned artists their own space within SSSA to create a site-specific installation work.

New in 2018, thanks to individual donations and foundation support, SSSA eliminated our commission policy. This allowed us to pay visual artists more for their sales, totaling over \$2000, and move more art into the hands of art lovers.

For 2019, our new Exhibitions Committee, led by former SSSA Director of Exhibitions Roberto Martinez, has a record number of exhibitions scheduled in both the GALLERY and THEATER spaces, including the premiere of our Latino Outreach Project's solo show series *En Las Manos De...*



## FLYING CREATURES

During August of 2018, in partnership with the Elgin Fringe Festival and support from the Gifford Park Association, our LAB played host to a free series of Flying Creatures Workshops with Chicago Artist Erin Cramer. Young artists and their families built creatures of their own, who are currently hanging out in Chicago, waiting for spring thaw to be hung outside around the city.

# Exhibitions and Performances contd.

## Performance

SSSA continued to be *the* place to participate in an intimate performance experience in 2018. From performance art to music, our GALLERY and THEATER spaces were alive and engaged with rehearsals, classes, and/or performances 52 out of 52 weeks of the year.

### 2018 Highlights:

- **January** – SSSA struck up a partnership with Mountain King Music Collective of Elgin in an effort to more thoroughly support the area's do-it-yourself music scene. For the fourth year, SSSA co-produced the Elgin Literary Festival, a free celebration of the written word, with The City of Elgin.
- **February** – *The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly* saw the return of Elgin Fringe Festival favorites to the GALLERY for a night of storytelling, comedy, and magic.
- **March** – Our anniversary celebration also kicked off our Elgin Cultural Arts Commission-supported First Friday Project. Art making and demonstrations, a multi-floor visual art exhibition, live performances, and even food trucks made for a lively celebration of five years of Side Street. First Friday events throughout the year also included art partnerships with area businesses, including Elgin Public House, Martini Room, Soulful Sparrow, and more.
- **April** – The kick off of our new live art competition Art Clash, spearheaded by Assistant Directors Kira Fox and Adrian Mesino, was the April headliner. Filmmakers, spoken word artists, printmaking, digital artists, painters, and more shared the THEATER and BACKSPACE while roving audiences watched them create and compete for a chance to win cash and prizes.
- **Summer** – Our annual *Americana Jubilee* celebration returned for a fifth 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. A talented group of area teenagers, Sunday Cruise, wound up on top, winning the 2018 crown and \$2000 prize package. Our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Going

# Exhibitions and Performances contd.

Dutch Festival, a celebration of the female voice in dance, music, theater, and the visual arts took over downtown Elgin, having another successful year for both artists and audiences.

- **Fall** – Fall brought the fifth annual Elgin Fringe Festival, co-produced by and housed at SSSA. We again collaborated with the City of Elgin on their Art Harvest on DuPage Ct. We hosted a record-setting night of art sales during Nightmare on Chicago Street. And, our BOB Winners Sunday Cruise held their record release concert in the THEATER.
- **December** – Our community braved the wintery weather for 2018's Winter Wonderland, put on by the Downtown Neighborhood Association, Free Kids Day saw over 400 individuals come through our GALLERY doors in one afternoon! We welcomed back Ms. Pixy's Chicago Burlesque Showcase in mid-December to close out a wonderful year of performing artist at Side Street.



Going Dutch Festival 2018  
Photo by Doug Hanson

## Drop-In Arts Education

In 2018, under the leadership of Valerie Cocks, we implemented monthly Drop-In Small Wonders and weekly Summer Drop-In Lab events. Each session brought artist-educators from a variety of mediums to young artists for short workshops on visual and performance arts techniques. These \$5 suggested donation events reached over 500 young artists over the course of a year, and will grow in 2019 with additional Drop-In events on Saturday afternoons.



# Education & Outreach

In 2018, Small Wonders, our in-house youth arts education programming continued to grow, as did our scholarship program. Thanks to grant support from the EFS Foundation and others we were again able to double the number of scholarships offered to young area artists to over 40.



Drop-In Lab artists working with Photographer Doug Hanson

2018 also saw the classes for families and adults in the LAB double in size. From screen printing to oil painting to photography, more brave artists spent time refining, making, and creating in our ever-

evolving LAB spaces on Spring Street. The LAB continues to offer an array of classes and workshops for all ages and experience levels. We are currently pursuing funding and logistical support for a technology lab for artists, as well as resources to host textile classes.

Community Moves, our arts education and outreach program, continued its partnerships with a number of area schools, as well as developed new partnerships with the Elgin Police Department, Elgin Math and Science Academy, and others. These new relationships allowed Community Moves to reach an average of over 500 young artists a week with dance, music, theater, media, and visual arts programming!

*I appreciate the creative ways you folks at Side Street do your thing. Finding new ways to promote creativity as well as support and promote others who are making a statement living through their own creative, talents, and initiative!*

-Bill  
Elgin Resident

# Community



March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 marks our 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving Elgin and the Fox Valley area. As we look back at 2018, we are filled with awe at what was achieved. From intimate artist receptions to large gatherings of musicians, visual artists, and community members, our year was nothing less than inspiring. Early on Erin and I knew that Side Street would not prosper, not bear fruit of any kind, without the support of the diverse community in which we are a part. Our goal for 2018 was to better enhance quality of life by engaging in new and innovative ways and creating dynamic conversations among artists and citizens. For me, a highlight of working towards this goal was the partnership we developed with the Elgin Police Department, bringing free visual art experiences to their summer Elgin Kids United program.

Another exciting endeavor was successfully establishing our Latino Outreach Project, led by Adrian Mesino, with the support of the Reva & David Logan Foundation of Chicago. Working with local organizations and artists to help bring more attention to the Latinx artists in our area has been educational and inspiring.

None of this could have been accomplished without the support of the communities of Elgin and the Fox Valley. We are extremely fortunate to have the support we do, and if 2018 was any indication of the growth we will see in the next few years... "we're gonna need a bigger boat."

-Tanner Melvin  
Founder/Executive Director  
Side Street Studio Arts

Thank you to our 2018 Business Sponsors & major donors:  
Gail & Kenneth Azinger, 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, Fox Valley Courier,  
Gifford Park Association, Herb's Bakery, Illinois Arts Council, Imago,  
Jimmy John's, Lagunitas Brewing Company,  
The Reva & David Logan Foundation, Martini Room,  
The Florence B. and Cornelia A. Palmer Foundation