



Side Street Studio Arts advances engagement in the arts by providing inclusive access to exhibition, performance, education, and advocacy resources, because **art is important.**



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

As the founders of Side Street Studio Arts, we are honored to share our thoughts on the importance of our programming and the vital role SSSA plays in today's world. When we started SSSA 12 years ago, our vision was simple: to provide a platform for local artists to showcase their talents. Over time, we discovered that true creative empowerment requires more than just space—it requires robust support systems, fair compensation, mentorship, and a commitment to inclusivity.

In today's rapidly changing and often challenging environment, our work is more critical than ever. At SSSA, we strive to advance engagement in the arts by offering accessible exhibition, performance, education, and advocacy opportunities. We believe that art is not only a means of personal expression but also a powerful catalyst for building community and fostering dialogue.

Our programming reflects our commitment to these ideals. From diverse arts education events that nurture young talent, to dynamic exhibitions and performances that celebrate vibrant creativity, every initiative is designed to make a lasting impact. By creating spaces where every voice is heard, we aim to cultivate a culture of inclusion and resilience in Elgin.

The challenges of today—from shrinking traditional funding sources to the hostile political landscape—underscore the necessity of grassroots support. It is through your belief in the transformative power of art that SSSA continues to thrive and adapt. We are proud of the strides we've made, yet we remain committed to pushing boundaries, supporting our artists, and innovating new ways to connect people through art.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Together, we are not only shaping a more vibrant and inclusive arts community in Elgin but also demonstrating that art has the power to transform lives, inspire change, and build a more just society.

Sincerely,
Tanner Melvin & Erin Rehberg
Founders & Executive Directors

366

Free or Low Cost
On-Site Arts
Education Events
**REACHING 1,000
YOUNG ARTISTS**

148

Free or Low Cost
Off-Site Arts
Education Events
**REACHING 4,500
YOUNG ARTISTS**

IN 2024, 17,000 PEOPLE INTERACTED WITH SIDE STREET STUDIO ARTS

175

Performance
Events
**REACHING OVER
4,000 AUDIENCE
MEMBERS**

20

Visual Art
Exhibitions
**FEATURING OVER
300 ARTISTS**



2024 BY THE NUMBERS

1

Artist/Arts
Administration
Internship

300+

Hours of donated and
discounted space for
creative events for area
organizations, artists,
and individuals

**MORE THAN
55**

On and off-site
professional development
opportunities for SSSA
staff and area artists

7

Artists-in-Residence,
including Going Dutch
artists, supported in part
by the Elgin Cultural
Arts Commission

5

Summer Youth
Employment in
the Arts staff

56

Area artists
displayed work in
MADE-Art Retail

FUTURE HOME 62 S. GROVE AVE.



We continue to fundraise for the buildout and program development of our 62 BOUND campaign, supporting the future home at 62 S. Grove Ave. in downtown Elgin! With newly added support from local, state, and federal agencies, we aim to begin demolition and construction by summer 2025.

This adaptive reuse project will transform a historic 15,000 sq. ft., three-story property into a thriving arts and culture hub, significantly expanding our capacity to serve the community through:

- Doubling free arts programming, ensuring greater accessibility for all
- Creating new jobs in the arts, education, and event industries
- Hosting 10+ additional visual art exhibitions each year
- Introducing a robust lineup of large-scale performances, concerts, multidisciplinary arts events, and SO MUCH MORE!

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Celebrating the 12th year of *Going Dutch: a celebration of female and nonbinary voices in the arts*



Produced the 11th annual *Elgin Fringe Festival*, encouraging bold and innovative performing and visual arts



9th season of *Art Clash*, our exhilarating live painting competition



Co-Production programs helping producers expand their reach and gain new audiences



Showcasing our highly successful *Open Mic* event each month



Held our first-ever *Area 22: Arts, Crafts, and Oddities Fair*.

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT



FOLLOWERS: 7002
PAGE VIEWS: 266K
INTERACTIONS: 13K



FOLLOWERS: 3781
PAGE VIEWS: 132K
INTERACTIONS: 6K

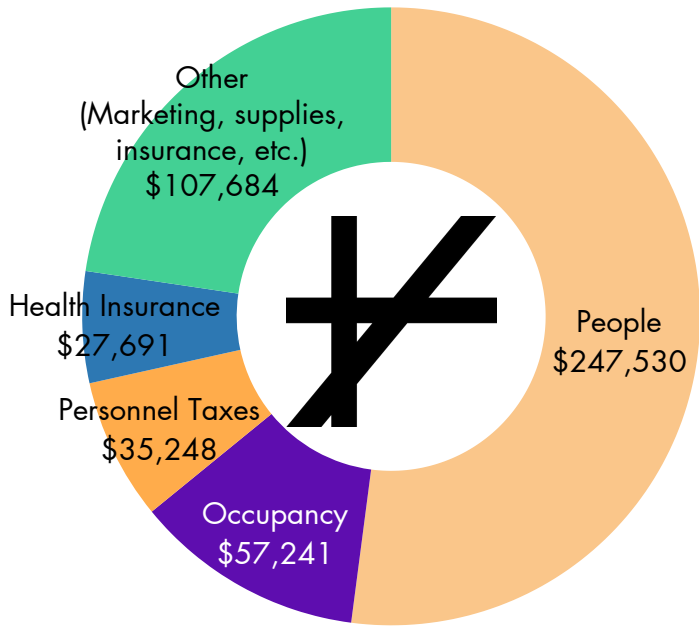


PAGE VIEWS: 31K
96% NEW USERS
UNIQUE VISITORS: 19K



ADDED 452 NEW
CONTACTS IN 2024
OPEN RATE: 43%

2024 EXPENSES



\$40,000 PAID TO ARTISTS IN 2024!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Freddrick Wimms

TREASURER & SECRETARY
Sarah Manata

Ursula Borodzinska
Ramona Burns
Carlos Chavez
Tanner Melvin
Erin Rehberg
Joe Vassallo

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STAFF

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....Tanner Melvin
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....Erin Rehberg

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS.....Jess Rocha
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING.....Nick Mataragas
EXHIBITIONS COORDINATOR.....Andrew Vo
COMMUNITY MOVES COORDINATOR.....John French
ADVOCACY COORDINATOR.....Luiza Moraes
EDUCATION COORDINATOR.....Rachael Caise
MARKETING COORDINATOR.....Trish LaFleur
ARTIST STAFF.....Yesenia Arroyo
ARTIST STAFF.....Ivette De Santiago
ARTIST STAFF.....Chris Arrecis
ARTIST STAFF.....Nick Jostes
ARTIST STAFF.....Nicole Prokop
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE.....Abby Franke