

ANNUAL REPORT

20

A YEAR OF
GROWTH

23

ATCHISON ART ASSOCIATION

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Building a Legacy, Where Community Meets Art

Welcome to our Annual Report, a showcase of our achievements, progress, and commitment to art and community throughout the year.

Leading with Vision, Inspired by Art

Dear Members, Friends, and Stakeholders,

I am delighted to share our Annual Report, a reflection of our remarkable achievements and growth over the past year. This report showcases how far we have come and outlines our future direction. It is a testament to our unwavering commitment to ensuring that art remains a priority in our community, because art belongs to everyone.

This year, we have seen significant growth, active engagement, and exceptional contributions from individuals who drive our accomplishments. I extend my profound appreciation to our dedicated team, whose expertise and passion are the pillars of our success. Equally, my heartfelt gratitude goes out to you, our members, patrons, and partners. Your trust, collaboration, and shared vision have been instrumental in elevating the arts and enriching our community. Together, we have shown that we can achieve remarkable things.

Looking ahead, we remain devoted to our mission, eager to embrace growth, and dedicated to delivering enduring value to both our community and stakeholders. The future holds exciting opportunities, and I am confident that with your continued support, we can navigate these prospects successfully.

Thank you for your unwavering support. I encourage you to look at our Annual Report to find out the significant milestones and achievements that characterize our organization and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

With sincere thanks,



Deborah Geiger
Executive Director



Our Mission: Access to the Arts and Avenues for Artistic Expression



Our Vision: A Community Strengthened and Transformed through Art



Our Values: Fun, Inclusivity, Passion, Partnership, and Continuous Improvement



We provide art exhibits, events, outreach, and education for our residents' and visitors' benefit and well-being. We serve as a cultural resource for the Atchison community with special consideration to the needs of the underserved.

Purpose Guided, Embracing Possibilities

Uniting Talents, Transforming Community



Meet our dedicated Board of Directors who have contributed their expertise, passion, and collaboration to drive our success.

Working Together, Strengthening Community



Meet our devoted Staff Team who seamlessly blend their expertise, enthusiasm, and teamwork to fuel our success.



Goal: Build infrastructure as a foundation for growth.

Result: Created templates; Implemented branding; communication guides.



Goal: Ensure the Arts remain a priority.

Result: Participate in Match Day; Installed Beautiful Benches; Work toward completion of Bridge sculpture



Goal: Create opportunities for jobs, participation, and engagement

Result: Diverse exhibits; AIR program; Participated in more community events; Gallery improvements



Goal: Increase Visibility

Result: Artisan; Radio; Public Speaking; Branding; Partnership events

Thriving Art Community, 2023 Goals & Results

Our Contributions, Enduring Resources



Explore how we are advancing our mission and enriching our community through the Muchnic Gallery and the Cultural Center.



MUCHNIC GALLERY

Local. Regional. Art & Architecture.

The Muchnic Gallery occupies a charming Victorian residence dating back to 1885. It showcases the works of local and regional artists from March through December of each year, inviting visitors to appreciate both the art and architectural splendor of the historic building. The Muchnic Gallery is open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1-5 pm with special tours by appointment.



The year began with the vibrant Sister Helen Buening Student Art Show and continued with shows featuring watercolor, drone photography, oil painting, and clay and fiber arts.

- Patrick Henning
- Nathan Mize
- Andrea Faulner Nix
- Lilly Lackey
- Member Show

Partners: area schools (K-12) and local artists, Muchnic Foundation



We were pleased to host several events throughout the year partnered with both the Graphic Design and Architecture Departments at Benedictine College. Doing so allowed us to welcome many new visitors and share in our love of art and architecture, including members of an architecture firm from New York City.

Partners: BC Graphic Design and Architecture Departments, Muchnic Foundation



We had several high selling shows this year, including watercolors by Patrick Henning (each featuring a different location within the city of Atchison), and a clay and fiber arts show by artist Lilli Lackey. Both of these shows, especially, helped draw in high numbers of new patrons over the year.

Partners: Members, Visitors, Muchnic Foundation



The Muchnic Gallery's sprawling porch featured live music for the city's 2nd Annual Porchfest in May. This event drew in crowds throughout the day to listen to music, experience Atchison's nostalgic neighborhoods, and wander the gallery; we were fortunate to participate.

Partner: Project Atchison, Muchnic Foundation



Yoga brought in many new faces to the Muchnic over the fall and winter. We had two different teachers offering different styles of the practice. This allowed those who have taken yoga in the past to continue in their practice and introduced some to both the practice and the gallery.

Partners: Crystal and Christy



Many of the warmer months this year were spent with construction equipment adorning the lawn. We were excited to see the transformation on the stonework and roof outside. Although there is still work to do, it is crucial to ensure that the Muchnic, a true treasure, does not fall into a state of disrepair!

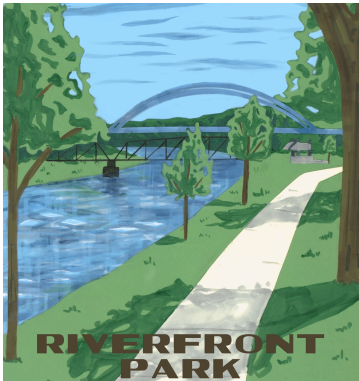
Partners: Muchnic Foundation, Kearney Construction, Atchison Art Association



CULTURAL CENTER

Experiences that Connect Us

The Cultural Center brings art and ideas into the community that expand our experiences beyond our own perspective. We make the arts accessible by creating a meaningful connection between the exhibitions and the community. The Cultural Center is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and additionally open for the festivities during First Friday's 6pm to 8pm May through October.



After we closed *loway Here to Stay* it was time for 'See Kansas: Road Trip' an interactive exhibit designed to motivate and connect viewers to the fun and nostalgia of summer road trips. Local artists participated in an art contest featuring Atchison's iconic parks. The winning poster, 'Riverfront Park' by Tom Midyette, is the newest addition to the Parks and Greenspaces project.

Partners: Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce, Parks and Greenspaces, Darrell Schmit Trust



This year our Art Lab featured:

- Masters Then and Now children's art class with Patty Boldridge
- Masters Then and Now adult art class with Ellie Folsom
- Atchison Photo Enthusiast club meetings with Mike McKennon
- Poetry Workshop with Julie Geiger

Partners: Ellie Folsom, Mike McKennon and Julie Geiger



We love First Fridays! Taking part in these events, brought many people out to enjoy the Cultural Center and we've been able to serve members of the community who don't normally participate in the arts. This fosters a more inclusive and diverse cultural scene, breaking down barriers and making art accessible to a wider audience.

Partners: First Friday Downtown Atchison. Darrell Schmitt Trust



In July we hosted our first annual Books and Tea with Amelia event in partnership with Amelia Fest. The event featured a lively open forum with four authors who have published books about Amelia Erhart. The forum was followed by an engaging book signing. This first year event was a huge success and we look forward to doing it again.

Partners: Amelia Earhart Festival, Darrell Schmitt Trust



Our inaugural international exhibit, 'Where Children Sleep' by James Mollison, was also the first to be curated internally. This exhibit has attracted considerable attention for its profound and lasting effect on audiences. Additionally, we collaborated with local charities dedicated to upholding children's dignity.

Partners: Adair/Exchange Foundation, Courtney S Turner, Boys and Girls Club of Atchison, Cloud L Cray Foundation, Poor Richards, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Darrell Schmitt Trust



We hosted 13 events, unique tours, and programs this year. In addition to some that have already been mentioned, we also served the public through

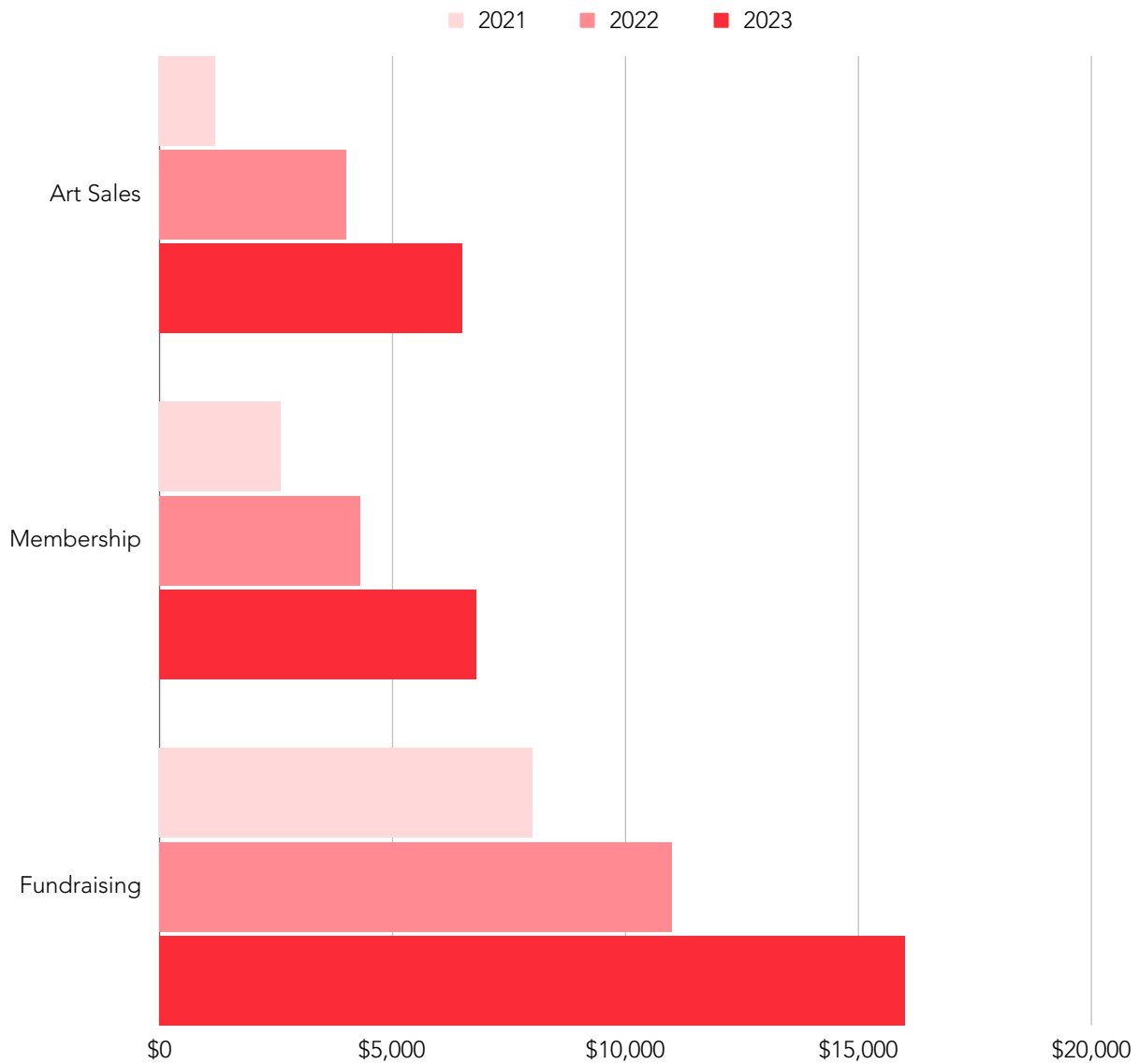
- Opening and closing receptions for exhibits
- Retired Teachers
- Friends of Darryll Schmitt
- Boys and Girls Club art auction
- Trick-or-treat down the street
- Ku Museum Studies Students
- Leadership Atchison

Solid Growth, Advancing Mission



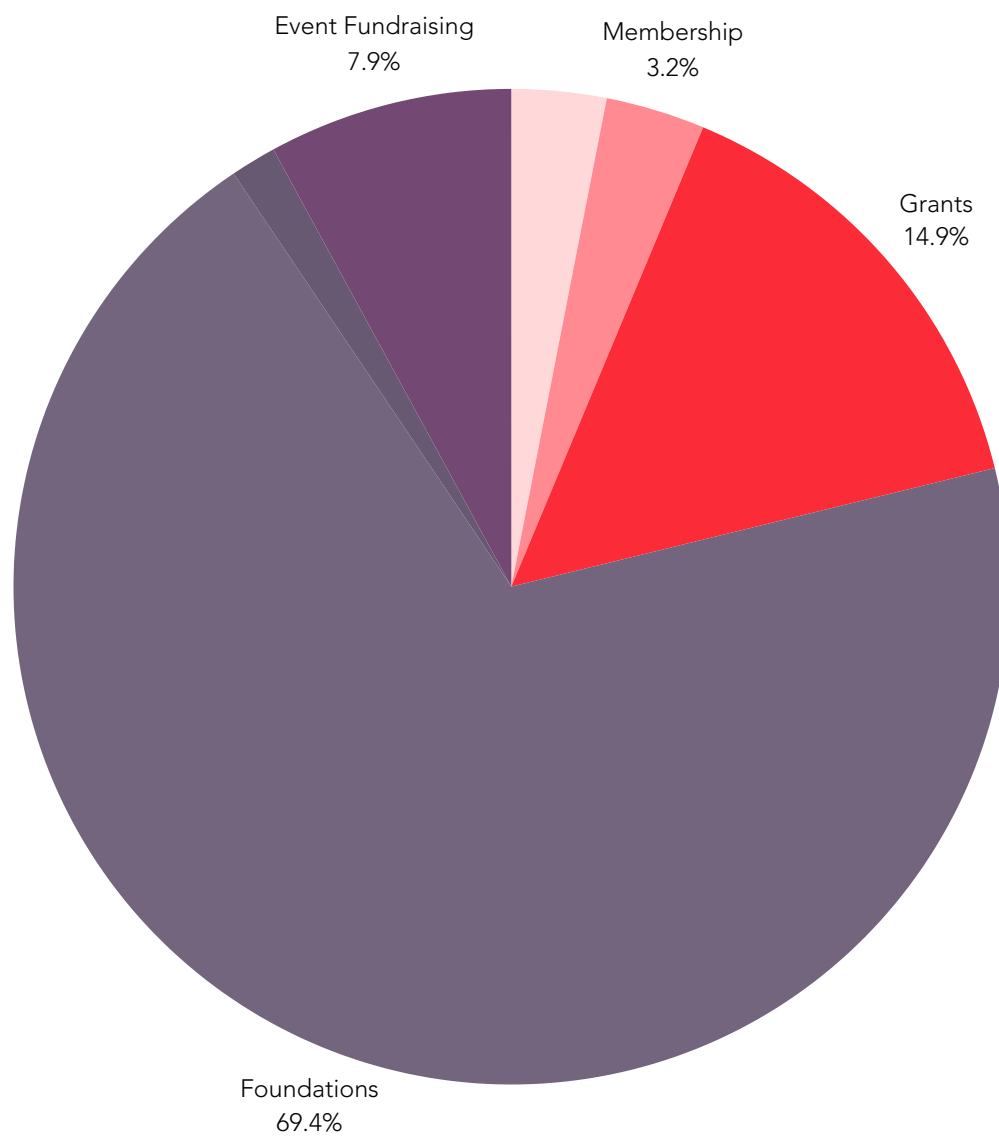
Delve into our assets and explore how we are advancing our mission and enriching our community.

Upward Trends, Year-Over-Year



Total Income in 2023

Art Sales Membership Grants Foundations Programs
Event Fundraising



Celebrating Milestones, Inspiring Progress

↑ 24%

Visitors

↑ 100%

Events

↑ 28+

Members

↑ 5+

Local & Regional Recognition

↑ \$10k

Total revenue

↑ 14+

Art Work Sold

↑ 2+

New employees

↑ 2+

Public Art



Celebrate our significant milestones, projects, recognitions, and other achievements that have propelled our organization forward.

Empowering Partnership, Driving Results



Take a peek at some of our most impactful projects, programs, and





Artist-In-Residence Emily Carstens debuts her series of four unique paintings at the Ferrell Academic Center of Benedictine College. These stunning works of art were crafted in the Carriage House studio at the Muchnic Gallery.

Partners: Muchnic Foundation, Benedictine College



Thank You

Monet's Garden coming to the Atchison Library. In collaboration with our partners, we will bring Monet's Garden to life on the grounds of the Atchison Library. The design includes a pathway, beautiful landscaping, and a replica of the famous bridge found in Monet's Gardens.

Partners & Sponsors: Atchison Library, Urban Lawncare, Masters Then & Now Students, Match Day donors



Unity in the Community Poetry Contest: As part of our Juneteenth celebrations, we organized a judged poetry contest for young people, inviting them to compose poems about community unity. Congratulations to our winners: 1st place - Audrey, 14; 2nd place - Jett, 12; 3rd place - Ne Jeila, 11. Honorable mentions go to Reyna, 15; Madison; Rowan, 12; and Kayleen, 10.

Partners & Sponsors: Juneteenth, Muchnic Foundation, John Bishop, Deborah Geiger



After ten years in the making the Lincoln Bronze, by artist Aleda Haug, was installed on the northside of the Atchison County Courthouse. A dedication was held on June 9th, 2023.

Partners & Sponsors: Courtney S. Turner, Atchison Historical Society



The Atchison Art Association proudly facilitated the state-wide art Symposium, a prestigious event where we shared insights on managing small-town arts organizations. Participants from across the state joined for a dynamic two-day session, brainstorming solutions for everyday challenges and exchanging valuable knowledge.

Partners: Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, Salina Arts



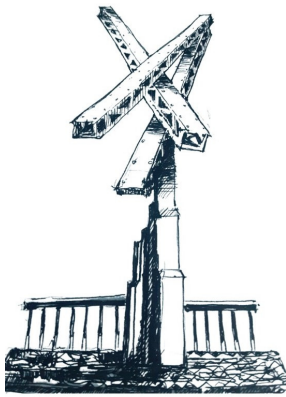
Two new artistic benches enhance the Atchison Community: Gail Blaustein's creation, part of Project Atchison, now graces the area across from the Atchison Library, while Ronda Crossland's work, affiliated with NEK Railroad, is situated at the Railroad Museum.



Partners & Sponsors: Project Atchison, Gail Blaustein, McElwaine Sprayers, NEK Railroad, Ronda Crossland, Angie Cairo



This year, our organization gained significant attention through seminars, blogs, articles, and even a feature in NPR's Flatlands! These publications have enhanced our recognition and increased word-of-mouth referrals to the Muchnic Gallery and the Cultural Center. Increasingly, more visitors are stopping by, drawn in by must-see exhibits they've heard about.



We're progressing on the Bridge Sculpture. Currently, we're working on engineering the brackets and repairing the railing. This year, we completed the main girders and finalized the Riverfront design. We're looking forward to the installation.

Partners: Match Day donors, Riverfront Development Comm., City of Atchison, Zahner Co., Vaughn Schultz, Atchison Historical Society, Bottorff Construction, Engineer Charles Sprouse



Celebrating Peter Zuzulo, our first Darrell Schmitt Scholarship winner, now a sophomore at Benedictine College, majoring in Art and Architecture. Peter actively contributes to the arts, and his studio works are for sale upstairs at the Muchnic Gallery. We're proud of Peter and believe Darrell would be too.

Sponsor: Darrell Schmitt Trust



New Horizons, Looking Forward



See our future forecast
for 2024.



Goal: Develop and Implement Scalable Processes for Efficient Growth



Goal: Broaden Art Scholarship Opportunities and Enrich Artistic Programs



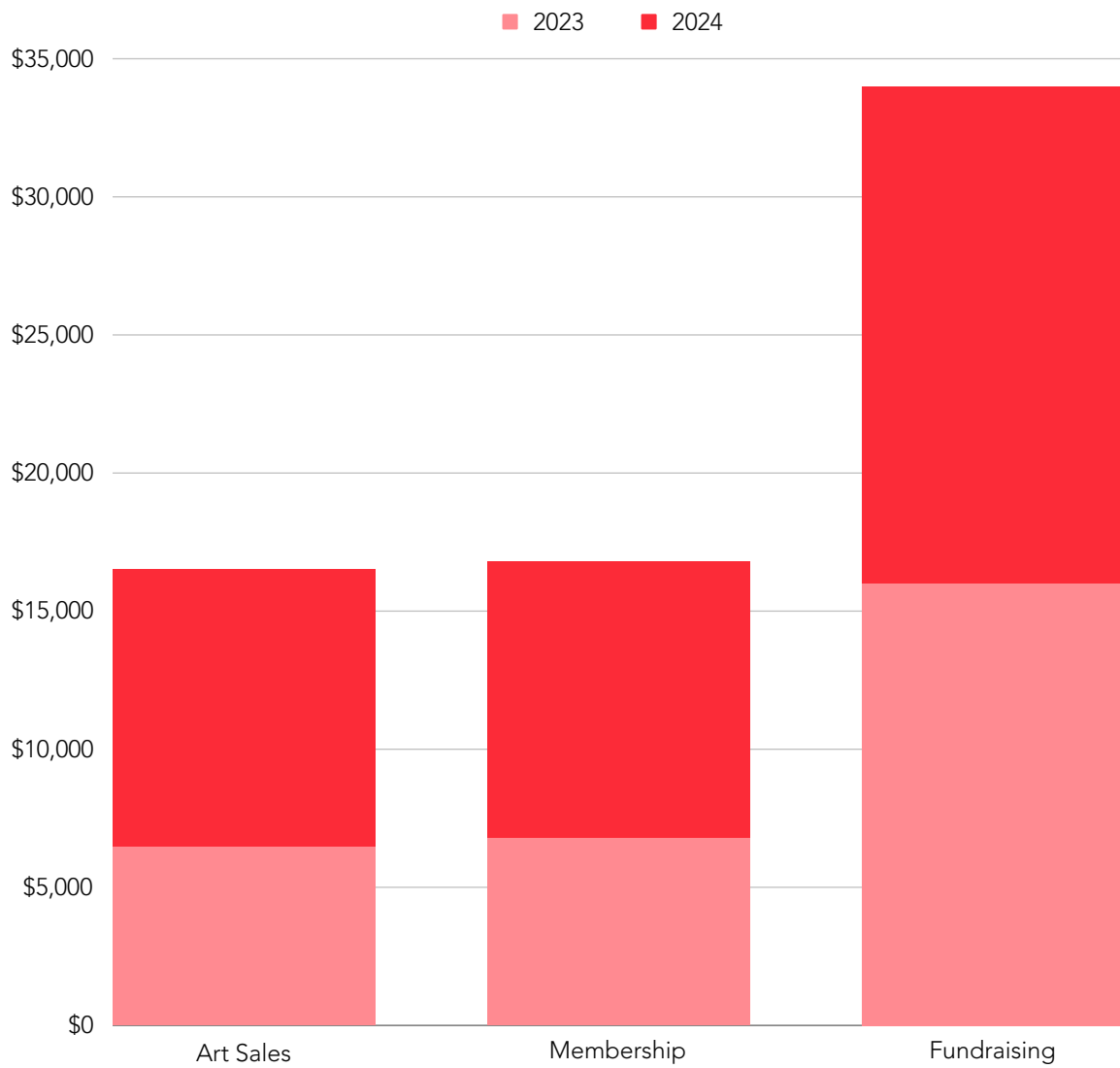
Goal: Foster Community Engagement and Strengthen Our Brand Identity



Goal: Enhance Fundraising Efforts, Cultivate Cultural, and Strengthen Relationship

Envisioning Tomorrow, 2024 Goals

2024 Upward Trends Projection



Contribute, Collaborate, and Continued Success



We express our sincere appreciation to all stakeholders, members, partners, employees, and Board of Directors for their unwavering support and dedication.



Fiduciary Gifts enable us to invest in art education, community classes, art exhibits, public art, and outreach programs. Give online atchisonart.org/donate-volunteer



Gifts of art will be added to the Permanent Collection. Works are exhibited periodically at the Muchnic Gallery. For donations of art contact the executive director atchisonart@gmail.com



Volunteering makes you happier and healthier! It provides opportunities to make new friends, learn new skills, or even advance your career. Reach out online to join the fun. atchisonart.org/donate-volunteer

Support the Arts,
Contribute

It's not just a strategy for success; Collaboration is a fundamental approach to fulfilling our mission. Partner or volunteer today!

- Use limited resources efficiently, sharing expertise.
- Brainstorm more effective solutions for complex issues, amplifying the overall impact.
- Collaborations expand visibility and enhance advocacy and community engagement.
- Brings in new perspectives and expertise
- Strengthens advocacy efforts through a united voice.
- Builds Strong Networks.
- Improves understanding and responsiveness to community-specific needs, ensuring programs are beneficial and respectful.

Less Stretch, More Success
Collaborate

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