



UPPER PENINSULA

**ARTS &
CULTURE
ALLIANCE**

THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CREATIVE CAPACITY

**CULTIVATING CAPABILITY
IN ARTS AND CULTURE**

2025

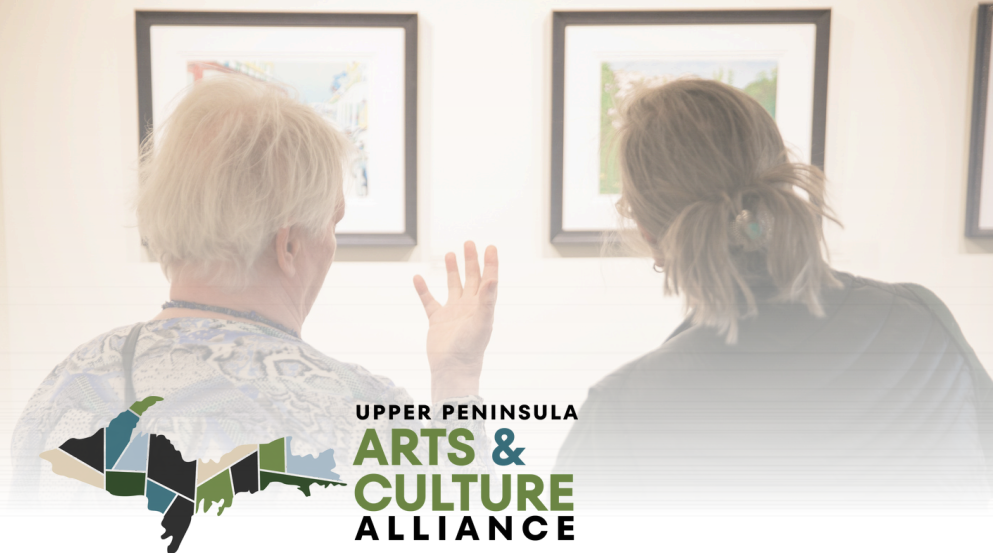
SEPTEMBER 27

**Joseph Heirman
University Center**
AT BAY COLLEGE ESCANABA



MICHIGAN
**ARTS &
CULTURE**
COUNCIL





Generating Connections and Community Prosperity across the Upper Peninsula through Arts & Culture

The purpose of the Upper Peninsula Arts and Culture Alliance is to foster and promote creativity through building connections among artists, performers, audiences, arts and culture organizations as well as the economic development, recreation and tourism industries with which we must closely align to create a thriving future for our region. The Alliance encompasses all fifteen counties of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Our success is defined by an arts and culture sector that is more visible, more connected, more celebrated, and more sustainable as a part of the broader fabric of regional Upper Peninsula Development.

The Alliance emerged from a series of conversations in 2017 resulting from an ArtPlace America grant awarded to the Central Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission. With assistance from Arts Midwest, stakeholders and constituents across creative sectors in the U.P. met and discussed the vision for a prosperous Upper Peninsula. In 2018, the group formally incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the goal of connecting and supporting arts and culture through economic development, networking, and research.

In 2023 and 2024 the Alliance served as the regional re-granting entity on behalf of Michigan Arts & Culture Council to grant state funding directly to arts and culture organizations, projects, and individuals in the Upper Peninsula, and today serves as a MACC partner in the U.P. The Alliance conducts research in economic impact, maintains a robust directory of artists and arts organizations across the region, and hosts regular workshops, meetings, outreach programs, and an annual conference.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



MICHIGAN
**ARTS &
CULTURE**
COUNCIL



Rotary

Escanaba MI - Club 2642





THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE · 2025

CREATIVE CAPACITY: CULTIVATING CAPABILITY IN ARTS AND CULTURE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

BESSE GALLERY AT BAY COLLEGE

5:30-7:00PM



Scan this QR code for info about
all presenters and panelists

WELCOME RECEPTION

Kick off the conference with a free public reception at Bay College's Besse Gallery. Enjoy complimentary refreshments and a guided tour of campus art with Fine Arts Coordinator Kristine Hunter. Guests are encouraged to stay for Players de Noc's season-opening performance in the Besse Theatre at 7:30pm.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

JOSEPH HEIRMAN UNIVERSITY CENTER

9:00-10:00AM

REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE ROOM (952)

Join us for coffee, refreshments, and conversation, and pick up your nametags and other conference materials.

10:00AM

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE

At Tibbits Opera House, one of Michigan's oldest historic theaters, built in 1882, **Christine Delaney** has overseen operations, fundraising, and programming, for over 20 years, raising \$4.3 million for the theatre's ongoing restoration. Christine will share insights and stories from her time at Tibbits.

11:00AM

Panel: Historic Theaters: Old Challenges & New Solutions

Moderated by **Sarah Rice**, this panel brings together **Duane Peck** (Braumart Theatre), **Kristin Underhill** (Crystal Theatre), **Kelly Chamberlain** (Erickson Center for the Arts), **Nathan Jones** (Calumet Theatre), and **Jinx Brew** (Braumart Theatre) to discuss preservation, community engagement, and sustainable futures for historic U.P. theaters

11:45AM

Lunch

CONFERENCE ROOM (952)

Choose one focus group to sit with at lunch.

**HISTORY &
PRESERVATION**
IN THE UPPER
PENINSULA

**FUNDRAISING: FINDING
GRANTS, SPONSORS, AND
CULTIVATING DONORS**

U.P.
**CULTURAL
TOURISM**

12:30PM

BREAKOUTS (SELECT ONE)

Strategic Planning for People Who Hate Strategic Planning

CONFERENCE ROOM (952)

Do you cringe at the thought of strategic planning? This workshop will reframe the process as a tool for connecting artistic vision with measurable outcomes. Led by **Amy Quinn**, CEO of Grow & Lead, with deep experience in nonprofit leadership, you'll explore methods, engage stakeholders, and build confidence to chart a clear, sustainable course for your creative work.

Marketing 101: Tips, Tricks, and Tools for Engagement

CLASSROOM 903

Philip Rice, Executive Director of the Upper Peninsula Arts & Culture Alliance, shares practical strategies and tools tailored for nonprofit organizations. Covering both online and print approaches, this session explores effective ways to reach audiences, strengthen engagement, and connect mission with measurable impact.

MI Creative Potential: Equitable Access to Quality Arts Education

CLASSROOM 911

MI Creative Potential works to ensure equitable access to arts education for Michigan students through data, partnerships, and K-12 resources. Presented by **Amy Pobanz**, Arts Lead for MI Creative Potential, and **Barb Whitney**, Director of Operations at the Michigan Assessment Consortium, this initiative supports policy, practice, and community arts partnerships statewide.

1:15PM

BREAKOUTS (SELECT ONE)

Art Supplies in Rural Areas

CONFERENCE ROOM (952)

Sarah Rice of the Braumart Theater leads a discussion on creative solutions for accessing and sustaining art supplies in rural communities. From resource sharing and donated tools to innovative community partnerships, this session highlights ways to support artists despite limited local access.

MORE BREAKOUT OPTIONS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Midday Music, Meaningful Collaboration: Lessons

CLASSROOM 903

Learned from Live on the Lawn at Lunch (a Summer Music Series)

Community collaboration can make your programming pop! **Jane Lynch** from the Escanaba Public Library shares tips and tricks from five summers of successful live music programming, highlighting how partnerships, creativity, and outreach can bring vibrant cultural events to your community.

U.P. Regional Arts Education Network

CLASSROOM 911

Amy Pobanz (MI Creative Potential) and **Barb Whitney** (Michigan Assessment Consortium) share how regional networks advance equitable arts education through coalition-building, planning, and collaboration to strengthen arts access in the Upper Peninsula.

2:00PM

NETWORKING BREAK

CONFERENCE ROOM (952)

2:30PM

BREAKOUTS (SELECT ONE)

Lessons from Arts & Culture Collaboration with Indigenous Partners

CONFERENCE ROOM (952)

How can arts and culture projects move beyond deadlines to center trust and relationships? **Amelia Pruiett** (City of Marquette) and **Andie Balenger** (City of Marquette Shoreline Cultural Trail Steering Committee) share lessons from stewardship and Tribal partnerships to build respectful, collaborative projects.

Growing Your Organization

CLASSROOM 903

Alliance President **Sue Roll** leads a roundtable on growing your organization, with a focus on board development, strategic planning, and practical steps for emerging nonprofits. Gain insights, share challenges, and explore strategies to build a strong foundation for future success.

Starting a New Nonprofit: A Crash Course

CLASSROOM 911

Philip Rice, Executive Director of the Upper Peninsula Arts & Culture Alliance, leads a session on how to start your own nonprofit. Learn the key steps from incorporation to governance, explore funding basics, and gain practical insights to launch and sustain your organization.

3:15PM

CLOSING REMARKS

CONFERENCE ROOM (952)

Are you passionate about fostering a vibrant arts and culture community in the Upper Peninsula?



UPPER PENINSULA
**ARTS &
CULTURE
ALLIANCE**

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE

By joining, you become an integral part of a collective effort to nurture creativity, preserve cultural heritage, and promote artistic expression across the region, ultimately contributing to a more dynamic, interconnected, and thriving community.

Membership starts with as little as a \$25 contribution. Join us today and become a part of the vibrant future of the UP!



LEARN MORE AND JOIN ONLINE
UPACALLIANCE.COM/MEMBERSHIP



UPPER PENINSULA
**ARTS &
CULTURE
ALLIANCE**

ENAHNCE YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH **SPONSORSHIP**

SPONSORS RECEIVE BENEFITS SUCH AS

- ✓ **Opportunity to host outreach events**
- ✓ **Press promotion**
- ✓ **Logo placement**
- ✓ **Complimentary conference tickets**
- ✓ **Personalized educational offerings for your team**

Is supporting your community's arts, culture, and quality of life important to your business or organization?



LEARN MORE AND DONATE ONLINE
UPACALLIANCE.COM/SPONSORSHIP