

FRANCONIA

SCULPTURE PARK



2022 Annual
Report

Celebrating Land Art
and Temporality



Letter from Ginger Shulick Porcella

2022 marked an exciting year of change, achievement and growth for Franconia Sculpture Park. It also marked a bittersweet farewell as I departed Franconia for California. It's been wonderful to remain involved with the organization through the Search Committee as we look for the next visionary leader to continue the positive momentum we've built with the current team over the past three years. I look forward to my continued involvement as a donor, advisor, and as Franconia continues to host and expand upon the first **4Ground: Midwest Land Art Biennial**.

We found numerous opportunities to underscore Franconia's core mission at the intersection of art and ecology. We invited artists, writers and performers to respond to the annual theme of "Land Art & Temporality" as we launched **4Ground** in collaboration with dozens of artists and organizations across North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. This massive undertaking allowed visitors to learn more about the people that collectively share this place through dozens of site-specific land art installations, performances, and community-based projects. We received new and significant support to fully-fund this far-reaching initiative from Arts Midwest, the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Fund at the St. Paul and Minnesota Foundation, Blandin Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, and the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation. The overwhelming support and positive feedback from funders, artists, and audiences alike demonstrated the need for continued critical conversations around land, climate change, and activism - particularly through the unique lens of contemporary art that Franconia is able to provide. Projects such as Marlena Myles' Dakota Spirit Walk can still be experienced year-round via AR at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, and serve as a catalyst for more significant projects being developed with Native artists and partners, and **4Ground** was written about extensively in a feature article in January 2023 Landscape Architecture Magazine.



"Pollinator Rhyton, Agave and Bats" by 4Ground Artist Rachel Frank

Franconia dedicated more efforts to building lasting community collaborations and partnerships, such as our work with Interact Center in St. Paul, an important organization serving artists with developmental disabilities. The opening reception in September was celebrated by a beautiful dance piece performed by artists via the Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota.

While still in its infancy, **Franconia's Writers Residency** has proven to be one of our most important and impactful programs. Franconia fields more applications to this residency than any other program we offer, demonstrating that Franconia is serving a real need in the writers community to offer space, funding, and support for writers as they develop new works in rural Minnesota.

All of this work could not have been done without the dedicated and talented staff and board at Franconia Sculpture Park, whom I already miss daily. But most of all, I'm going to miss the supportive, creative community of Minnesota and bringing quality, contemporary art experiences to rural spaces. I look forward to seeing Franconia continue to develop, evolve, and grow over the coming years. Thank you for welcoming me to your community and your continued support of Franconia!

Ginger Shulick Porcella

Former Executive Director and
Chief Curator of Franconia Sculpture Park



4Ground: Midwest Land Art Biennial Festival

4Ground: Midwest Land Art Biennial Festival was conceived in 2022 by former Franconia Sculpture Park Executive Director & Chief Curator, Ginger Porcella, in collaboration with more than 20+ community partners including tribal organizations, art museums, and land conservationists.

4Ground is a far-reaching initiative **spanning four states and tribal lands of the Upper Midwest** and was designed to raise awareness around important land and water issues affecting the region while celebrating the art, land and history of the rural Midwest and boosting tourism of the region through suggested road trips to experience site-specific land art.

"The 4Ground Biennial dramatically expands the Middle American Land Art tradition in a way that is **exciting, diverse** and **inclusive** for audiences and partners."

– Andrew Maus, Director & CEO, Plains Art Museum



4Ground artist James Gilbert discusses his sculpture "How Much Earth For Sale?" at the 4Ground Kickoff Event



16 participating host sites
across four states

30+ fully-funded
participating artists

\$300K+ raised in government, foundation,
and individual donations

Artist Residency Programs

Upon the launch of 4Ground: Midwest Land Art Biennial, Franconia Sculpture Park focused events and programming on the theme of **Land Art and Temporality**. The majority of works commissioned at the park in 2022 highlighted the intersection of art and ecology through specific and ephemeral installations. Franconia encouraged its artists and audiences to collaborate with nature and ask the question, **"How can we be better stewards and caretakers of this land we share?"**



"Acorn" by Emerging Artist-in-Residence Bruna D'Alessandro

"While at Franconia I was **blessed with the gift of time**. I was able to think, contemplate and explore my new environment, the grounds, the art, the history, the native plants and the people of the area; and spend the rest of my time working!"

—Alexander Bustamante
Mid-Career Fellow 2022



In 2022,
Franconia
Sculpture
Park hosted:

5 visiting
artists

8 mid-career
fellows

15 emerging
artists

2 artist
families

7 writers-in-
residence



"Support Structure" by Emerging Artist-in-Residence Kaitlin West

Education

Education is a key tenet of Franconia Sculpture Park's model as a community-oriented contemporary arts nonprofit. In 2022, Franconia demonstrated its commitment to providing accessible education programs by hosting free art-making workshops during events, affordable tours, and Youth Summer Camps.

Franconia supported **24% of children** attending Youth Summer Camps in 2022 with financial assistance. Summer Camps were taught by Emerging Artists-in-Residence as part of their work share.



"Grief Truck" by Brett Douglas Hunter

3 weeks of Youth Summer Camps

6 educational workshops after Farmers Markets

10 weeks of free Creature Camp art-making

55 tours given to both youth and adults



Creature Camp with Brett Douglas Hunter

Thanks to a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council, Franconia Sculpture Park hosted artist Brett Douglas Hunter in April of 2022. Hunter created a colorful modern folk art sculpture for the park titled "Grief Truck." To celebrate his work with the public, Franconia hosted 10 weeks of Creature Camp, an artist-designed workshop where visitors created their own sculptural creatures based on Hunter's work.

Exhibitions

In 2022, Franconia Sculpture Park curated and hosted **five unique exhibitions**: four in the Mardag Gallery and one in the Driscoll Education Center. Hosting exhibitions in the Franconia Commons building allows Franconia to display works that might not be suited for outdoor environments.

Tornado on the Map

Franconia partnered with Interact Center for Visual and Performing Arts, a St. Paul studio that serves artists with developmental disabilities, to present ***Tornado on the Map***, a three-person exhibition exploring ecology that featured the work of artists Daniel Metchnek, David Wright, and Matt Zimdars.



The Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota's "The Group" performs in front of Matt Zimdars' drawings in the Mardag Gallery during the 26th Annual Art & Artists Celebration

Minnesota Art Explosion with Memorialize the Movement

In October of 2022, Franconia Sculpture Park was proud to partner with Memorialize the Movement to present ***Minnesota Art Explosion***, an exhibition and collaborative art experience that highlighted the work of Twin Cities artists who created murals following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis in 2020.

The event featured free art-making workshops, performances by 3 musicians, a DJ, a healing practitioner, and closed with an exciting fireworks show.



Collaborative mural facilitated by Crystal Sokuu



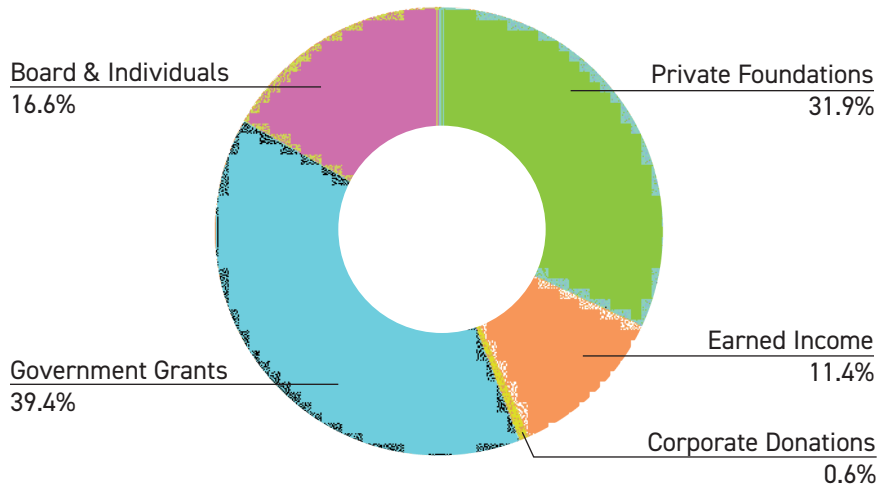
Minnesota Art Explosion



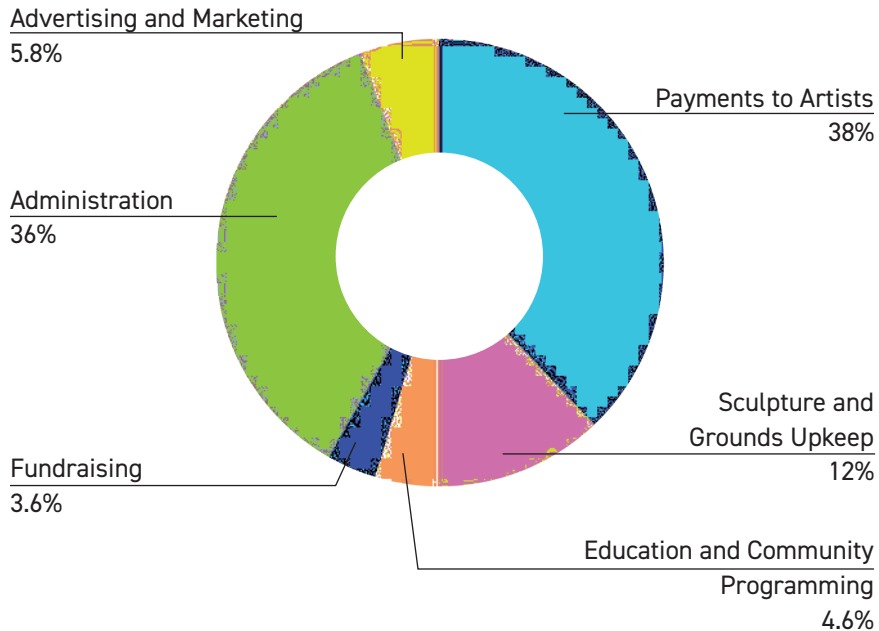
Exhibition of selected murals from Memorialize the Movement displayed in the Driscoll Education Center

Finances

2022 Income Distribution



2022 Expense Distribution



Franconia FY22 Finances	2022	2021
Contributed Support	\$904,409	\$637,811
Earned Revenue	\$116,794	\$172,635
Total Income	\$1,021,203	\$810,446
Total Operating Expenditures	\$1,035,609	\$755,425
Net Income (less capital/COGS)	-\$56,131	\$9,511
Year End Cash Balance	\$14,947.50	\$67,263

In 2022, Franconia saw a large jump in Total Income and Expenses as a result of being the lead organizer of **4Ground: Midwest Land Art Biennial**. Thanks to Ginger Shulick Porcella, Franconia was able to raise more than \$300,000 in grants to pay 30+ artists across four states for participation in this one-of-a-kind celebration of Land Art in the Upper Midwest.



"The Contraption For A Council Of Seven" by Mid-Career Fellow Frederick Wright Jones



"framing of a space that waits" by Mid-Career Fellow Kim Zumpfe

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"Mní Sóta Makhóche: Land Where the Waters Reflect the Clouds" Billboard by Thomasina TopBear

2022 Donors

Thank you to our 2022 Major Supporters, especially those who have made a sustaining contribution to Franconia Sculpture Park. Individual donations have a significant impact on the continued growth of Franconia, demonstrating the strong and lasting commitment our community has to supporting contemporary sculpture and the intersection of art and ecology in Minnesota.

If you would like to join our list of committed patrons to the arts, sponsor a program, or make a corporate or planned gift, please contact info@franconia.org or call (651)257-6668.

\$50,000+

Andy Warhol Foundation
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