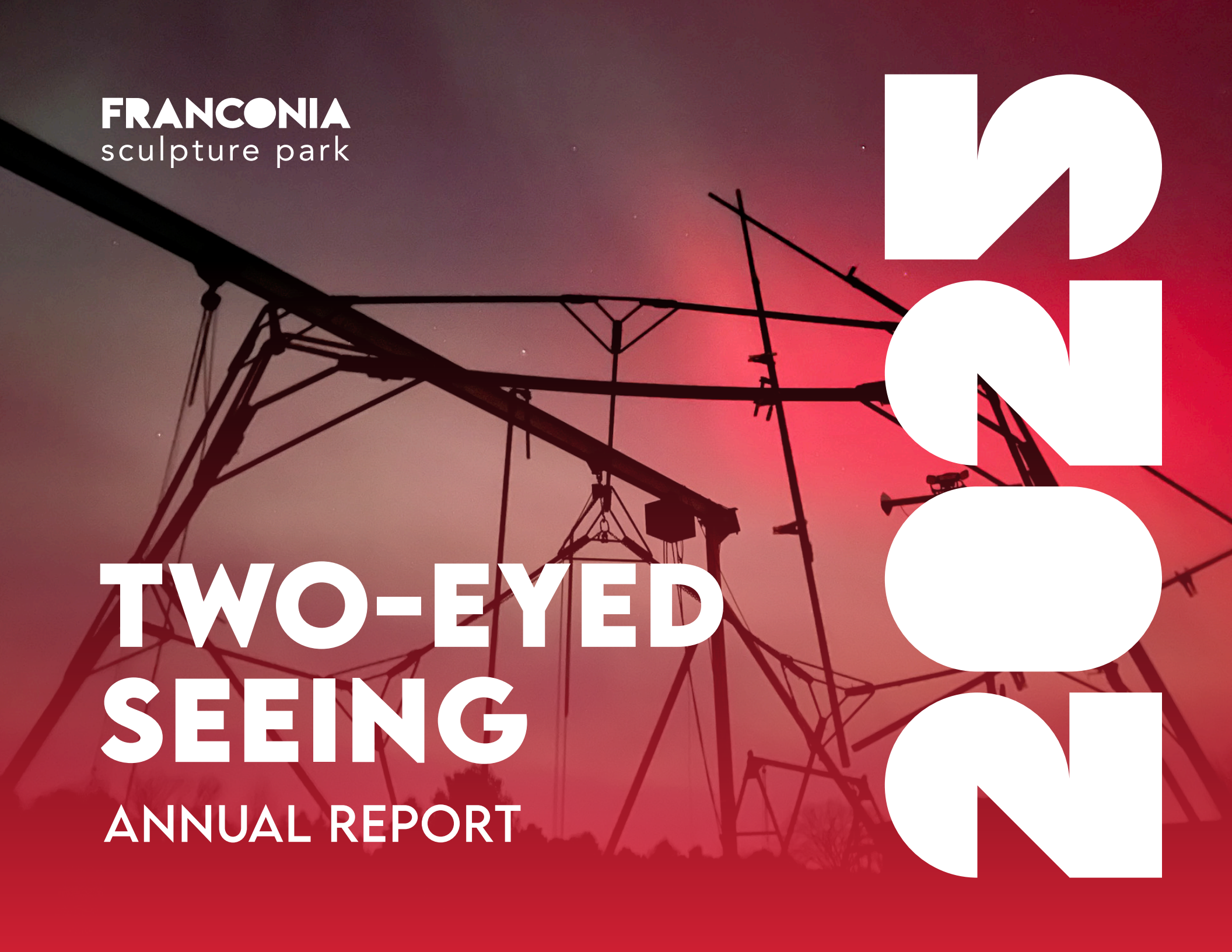
FRANCONIA
sculpture park



TWO-EYED SEEING

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



A MESSAGE FROM ALEX LEGEROS

Friends of Franconia,

Thank you for being kind to the Sculpture Park. The most important thing to know about what happened in 2025 is that, together, we fulfilled our mission. Ever a home for playfulness and inspired creation, Franconia gave hundreds of artists and thousands of people the chance to dream big.

Artist-astronomer-activist Annette S. Lee dreamt big with her exhibition *Ancient Echoes: Keepers of Sky*. In it, she showcases that Franconia also gives everyone the chance to see through the eyes of different cultures, values, and traditions. In 2025, we asked artists to consider Two-Eyed Seeing as our curatorial theme for the year. This term, established by Mi'kmaq Elders Albert and Murdena Marshall from Eskasoni First Nation in Nova Scotia, Canada, was framed by Annette as looking at the stars and the sky through both Western and Indigenous lenses.

Having spent nearly every day at this beautiful place for over two years, I haven't found one bad day to visit the park. It makes me so happy to see friends, families, schools, and tourists leaping through the sculptures, trying out Two-Eyed Seeing with Annette, and contemplating new ideas while steeped in nature. Because people like you care about this place, our world can be a little more like Franconia with every visit.

Sincerely,

Alex Legeros
Executive Director

FRANCONIA SCULPTURE PARK IS TURNING 30!

Alongside this milestone, we're sharing Franconia 3.0–a five-year plan rooted in a year-long strategic planning process, that outlines our core strengths, transformational opportunities, and pillars that sustain how the park operates into the future.

We can't take the past for granted. In 2025, Franconia lost nearly $300,000 in historically reliable government funding. In addition to the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Terra Foundation for American Art, support from the Windgate Charitable Trust, McKnight Foundation, Joyce Foundation, Mardag Foundation, St. Croix Valley Foundation, Fred. C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, and the Manitou Fund combined with a record high number of donations from visitors and allowed Franconia to continue operating.

Love for Franconia makes for resilient joy. Please take part in our effort to thrive in these times, and explore our 2025-2030 prospectus to learn more about what Franconia needs on the journey ahead.

franconia.org/donor_prospectus

If one in fifty Franconia visitors gave $5 per month, Franconia could consistently offer artist residencies all year, more than double what was possible in 2025.

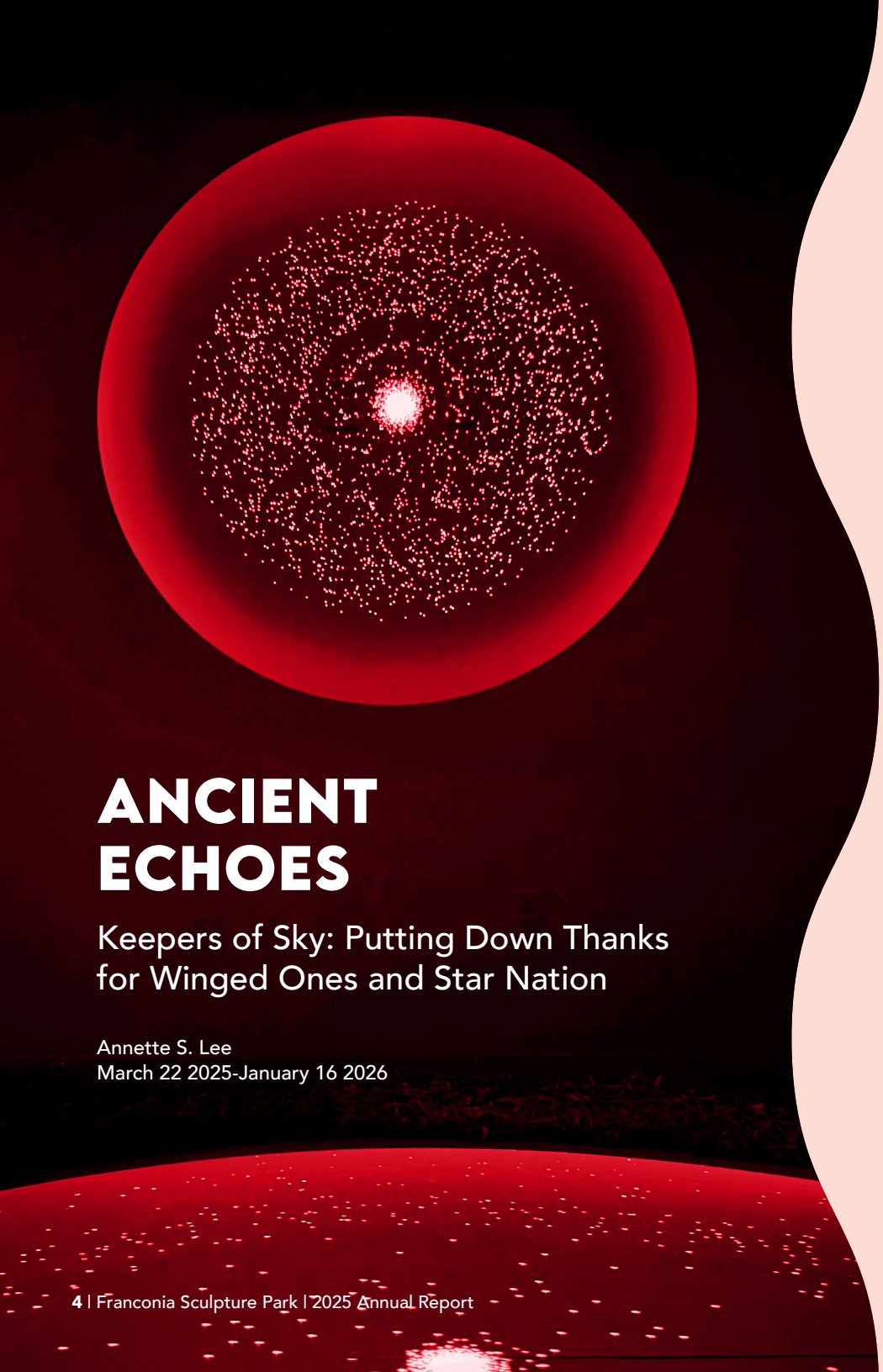
Considering becoming a member by setting up a monthly donation now:

franconia.org/donate



Special thanks to Brent Snyder Photography





ANCIENT ECHOES

Keepers of Sky: Putting Down Thanks for Winged Ones and Star Nation

Annette S. Lee
March 22 2025-January 16 2026

In 2025, Franconia showcased an immersive exhibit by multidisciplinary artist and scientist Annette S. Lee...

Motivated by the urgency of global environmental crises, from climate change and animal extinction to pollution and deforestation, this work asked us to reimagine our growing disconnection from nature and aimed to foster a renewed sense of connection with the cosmos.

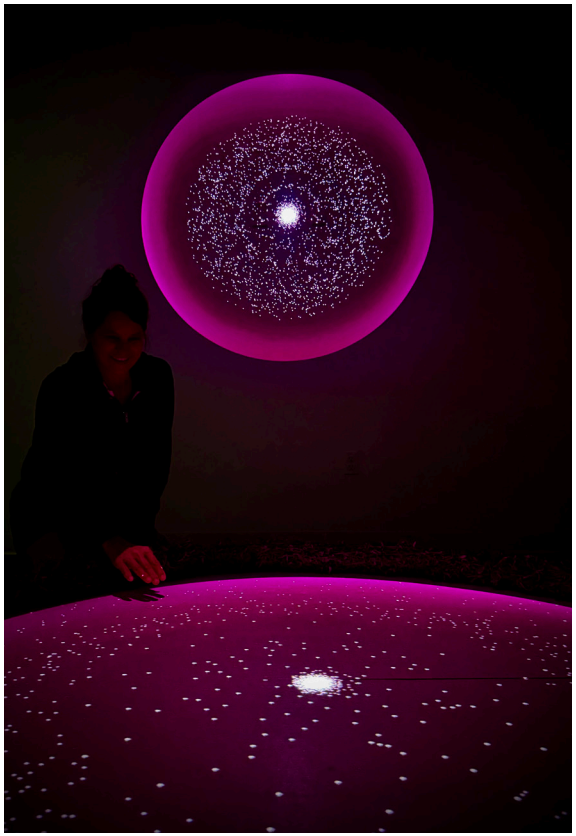
The exhibit featured paintings of birds, Indigenous star maps, and members of the star nation - Indigenous constellations. Visitors explored the rhythm of celestial and avian patterns as they change across day, night, and each season of the year.

"Through a cultural lens, we come from the stars. Through a scientific lens, we come from the stars. Either way, we come from the stars. The stars move with the seasons. We are part of this motion and it is the defining element of life. Here the stars will dance with the motion of life."

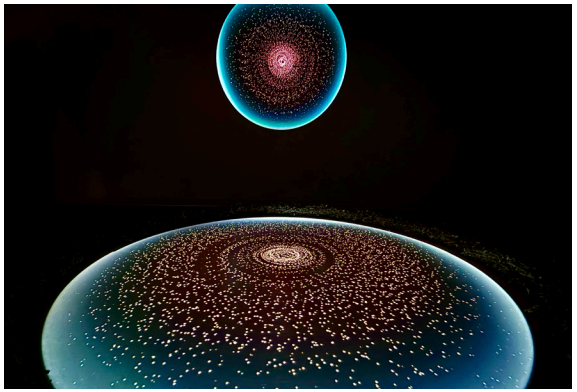
Guided by the ethos that sound can inspire connectedness, visual imagery was presented alongside a soundscape of birds, winged insects, and the sounds of space recorded by NASA and ESA spacecraft.

"Before we could see, we could hear. Each of us were formed and born out of an underwater environment, our mother's womb. Inside that world was darkness. In that darkness, there was sound. In this exhibit, the soundscapes cross worlds and invite us to follow. Let's go beyond cognitive experience into the territory of awe."

At this critical moment in history, a time of ecological devastation and human identity loss, the exhibit asked visitors to tackle the ultimate challenges of our western culture. Annette's work combines blended perspectives of Indigenous culture and western science, blessing us with the gift of Etuaptmumk, or "Two-Eyed Seeing:" seeing from one eye with Indigenous ways of knowing, and from the other with Western ways of knowing, allowing us to hold the gift of multiple perspectives for the benefit of all.









ABOUT THE ARTIST

Annette S. Lee is an award-winning artist-scientist who connects ideas across seemingly impossible divides. Annette is mixed race Native American of Lakota, Irish and Chinese ancestry. Her work is visual activism to re-center Indigenous oncologies and practices in the face of the Anthropocene. After nearly two decades of success in higher education including tenured full professor in Physics/Astronomy at St. Cloud State University, Annette recently stepped away from academia in order to work as a full-time freelance Artist-Scientist-Activist.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

An essential part of Franconia's artist-centered legacy and mission is our artist residency program, which offers competitive wages to artists who live and work at Franconia throughout the year.

In 2025, we lost nearly $300,000 in historically reliable government grants, our biggest source of funding for artist residencies.

Yet, with existing resources and individual and foundation support, Franconia's 2025 Open Call for Resident Artists included one Midcareer Artist Fellowship ($10,000) and four Emerging Artist Fellowships ($5,000).

MID-CAREER ARTIST



Morgan Lugo

Time is of the Essence

Morgan Lugo's *Time is of the Essence* is a functioning sundial and sculptural installation that mimics how the brain perceives and maps time and space while actively telling time in space. Built with three conceptual layers of mirrored stainless steel and laser-cut acrylic, the sculpture casts an almost 50-foot rainbow spectrum neuron map that shifts throughout the day, physically embodying the passage of time. The intention is to experience your own reflection layered with others', to see yourself both within and outside of time.



Martin Gonzales

Prayer for Rain (Umbrella)

Martin Gonzales's *Prayer for Rain (Umbrella)* is a Pavilion and Sculpture, an expression of and search for space. To be inside means others are outside. This space is for everyone, especially those cast out. As the USA escalates its white supremacist agenda, may this space serve the real work of holding ALL and rise above symbolic gestures.

EMERGING ARTISTS



Will Jewett

Temporal Moment

Will Jewett's *Temporal Moment* investigates the structure of time through engineered form. A tensioned circular frame embodies cyclical continuity, while a rigid beam bisects it, introducing a linear axis of past, present, and future. The meeting of these geometries translates abstract ideas into mechanical language—balance, torque, and force held in suspension. *Temporal Moment* frames time as both loop and vector, an equilibrium between recurrence and progression.



Shan Wu & Drew Cavicchi

Afterimage

Shan Wu & Drew Cavicchi's *Afterimage* uses a gobo projector, motor, electronics, and reclaimed pole to trace the passage of time through light and movement. By day, its form casts shadows that follow the sun's rhythm. At sunset, a projector, programmed using a Solar Positioning Algorithm, projects the silhouette of the pole's shadow as it retraces its motion through the day. Through this subtle choreography, *Afterimage* reanimates the dialogue between natural and artificial light, reflecting on our sense of time.



Fanni Somogyi

Pleasure in the Confusion of Boundaries II

Fanni Somogyi's *Pleasure in the Confusion of Boundaries II* explores the entanglement of ecological and industrial systems. Constructed from steel pipe and electroformed copper, it merges plumbing, roots and organs—suggesting biological and built infrastructures. By positioning industrial materials within a language of organic growth, I invite the viewer to ponder how nature and human intervention co-exist, overlap and evolve together. Over time, the copper's patination reflects mutual transformation, imagining a future where mechanical and organic systems coexist and regenerate together.



2025 ART & ARTIST SYMPOSIUM:

TWO-EYED SEEING

September 20, 2025

Jaida Gray Eagle
Artist-In-Leadership and Lead Curator

The leadership and work of Dakota and Ojibwe artists at Franconia in 2025 established this year's curatorial theme: Two-Eyed Seeing. Resident artists considered the practice of seeing through the strengths of both indigenous and western ways of knowing for the betterment of all.

A day-long festival included opportunities for the public to learn more deeply from the artists who contributed work to Franconia in 2025, including keynote speakers, prairie seeding, nettle cordage bracelet-making, and a Dakota language plant walk and sculpture tour.

FEATURED SYMPOSIUM ARTISTS:

Morgan Lugo: Midcareer Artist Talk

Will Jewett, Martin Gonzalez, Shan Wu, Drew Cavicchi, and Fanni Somogyi: Emerging Artists Showcase

Wóokiye Wiŋ: Dakota Plant Walk

Fern Renville: Nettle Cordage Bracelets

Torey Erin: Ecoartist Hugelkultur demonstration

Annette S. Lee, Gary Casper, and Carmen Gavin Canegas: Two-Eyed Seeing Roundtable

ARTIST-IN-LEADERSHIP: JAIDA GRAY EAGLE

Jaida Grey Eagle is an Ogalala Lakota freelance documentary photographer located in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 2025, Jaida served as an Artist-in-Leadership on Franconia's Artistic Council, helping the park determine a rounded and representative portfolio of artists who engage with the land Franconia occupies and reflect the park's ongoing mission to center Native voices.

Jaida served as a Report for America Fellow with the Sahan Journal as a photojournalist and won several awards during her time as a fellow, including MN Society of Professional Journalist Best News Photography in 2022 and 2023. In 2019, Jaida joined the Minneapolis Institute of Arts as a Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Native American Fellow and co-curated the native photography show titled "In Our Hands". She holds her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, emphasizing photography, from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Supported by:

Minnesota State Arts Board

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

terra Foundation for American Art

Jaida Gray Eagle documenting life in Oaxaca, Mexico.



2025 EVENTS AT THE PARK

WINTER



We kicked off the year in January with a Midwinter Celebration featuring beading and block printing, tarot reading, the MN Astronomical society, music by DJ ESP (Woody McBride), a grazing table, beer tasting from Uncommon Loon, and a candlelight tour of the site.

In February and March, Sarah Buezis led Snowshoe Tours of the park with our event partner Wild Rivers.

SPRING & SUMMER



We welcomed spring in May with the Morris Ale Dancers, a free event featuring traditional English dancing throughout the park.

In June, we hosted the Young Dance Company youth competition team for a week developing site-specific performances.

The following week, Classical Actors Ensemble brought us Shakespeare in the Park with their free performance of *All's Well that Ends Well*.

MIDSUMMER PRIDE PARTY



Celebrating Franconia-style, the event featured the *Tooth & Nails* drag show, the *Built to Last All Stars* (a Grateful Dead tribute band), a drum circle, and an artist market.

Drag performers: Megan the ManEater, Ty Torres, Omnipotent Pain, Patti Kaching, and Estee Rhettie

Art market vendors: Morgan LaCasse, Casper Warren, Renee Mesich, Dane Johnson, Jake Woodward, Victoria Dundas, Beck Gilbert, and Hilary Greenstein.

FALL



Fox & Beggar Theatre brought their brand new operetta, *Tigre!, Tigre!*, combining puppetry, traditional clown theater, and a live score, and we offered Hayrides to enjoy the park with beautiful fall foliage.

We closed out the year with 2024's Prairie Artist in Residence, Torey Erin's *Starfield: Seed Dance Event*.

She invited participants to broadcast seeds by hand on the soil and dance them into the ground, creating future multi-species entanglements. Music by DJs Ian Babineau and Paul Crary, and artistic support from Orion Caliph and Kurt Wyatt.

FILM@FRANCONIA



Curated by Artist-in-Leadership Juleana Enright, *The Lover's Choice / The Poet's Choice Film Series* examines how queer love changes us. These films evoke the ambiguity and fluidity of life, art and identity, celebrating that these concepts are not fixed but rather in constant flux. Films included: Bound, Love Lies Bleeding, Moonlight, and Portrait of a Lady on Fire.

MUSIC@FRANCONIA



Our Music@Franconia series featured more artists than ever, including:

Sophie LeVigne, Chastity Brown Prairie Fire Choir, Kiss the Tiger, and Weather Balloon, Nur-D, DJ EasyRider, DJ ESP (with a friendly pokemon go competition), Malamanya, and El Jefe cooking classes and food truck.

Special Thanks to Woody McBride "DJ ESP", and Genius of Fun Productions for organizing Music@ Franconia in 2025!

EDUCATION

An inclusive community blooms when we share our knowledge, contemplate together, and find inspiration at our beautiful park.

In 2025, we welcomed **1,369 young creatives** who came for field trips and summer camps, filling our 50 acres with unbridled enthusiasm. Tours and workshops brought learners young and old to the sculpture park, where our world-class contemporary art instigated fresh conversations. Across activities such as stained glass, spoon carving, and zine making, visitors helped Franconia continue to create community all while learning new artmaking techniques from 20 skilled instructors.

93 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

1,369 STUDENTS ON FIELD TRIPS

30 SCHOOL GROUPS

3 SUMMER CAMPS



Over 90% of participants took advantage of our siding scale registration fee, made possible by a grant from Hugh J. Andersen Foundation, ensuring no one faces a cost-barrier to participation.

WORKSHOPS & CAMPS

- **Paint & Sip** with Heather Friedli
- **Stained Glass** with Abby Kosberg
- **Spoon Carving** with Jess Hirsch
- **Papermaking** with Alexis Schramel
- **Fabric Earrings & Keychains** with Tshab Her
- **Tree Ring Printing** with Torey Erin, Jessie Merriam, and Kimberley Boustead
- **Zine Making** with India Johnson
- **Sculptureland!** with Jillian Gryzlak
- **Art in the Wild** with Wild Rivers Conservancy and Katrina Schlicker
- **The Memories We Carry: Weaving Stories & Objects in Community** with Ada Cheng
- **Dare to Connect: Storytelling Workshop** with Ada Cheng
- **Poetry Exploration** with Rosetta Peters
- **Textile Collage** with Shug Munic
- **Alebrije Soft Sculpture** with Ivonne Yáñez
- **Evergreen Wreaths** with Alison Bakke
- **Watercolor Illustration** with Wóokiye Wiŋ
- **Winter Luminaries** with Fletcher Wolfe

THANK YOU, DONORS

With your generous support in 2025, Franconia Sculpture Park continues to grow a thriving community where art and landscape meet. For three decades, artists and visitors alike have taken inspiration from the beautiful, the unusual, and the extraordinary things they experience here. Thank you.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

*Recognizing individuals who made donating to Franconia a regular habit with two or more gifts to the park in 2025. Monthly donations not only contribute financially, they also make you part of the year-round base of support for the work we do every day here in rural Minnesota.

Up to $99

Ada Cheng
Adam Maleitzke
Alejandra Rubio*
Alexander Krueger
Alice Chmil
Alicia Bedell*
Allen Cottrell
Allison La Pointe*
Allyson Dunlap
Alyssa Auten and Jeremiah Burnham
Ama Trussell and Maria Mantanona
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Analiese Miller
Angelia Brekke
Anna Johansson
Ari Zwick
Ashley Kleinschrodt
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Riki Banerjee and Steven Goetz*

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We are grateful for the significant support and partnership of these community focused institutions in 2025, especially Windgate Charitable Trust for its emergency relief funding and the Manitou Fund for its matching grant for our fall fundraising campaign.

Up to $9,999

Dancing Dragonfly Winery
Dresser Trap Rock
St. Croix Valley Foundation
The Minneapolis Foundation
Unending Cuteness, LLC
United States Artists
WestMeadows, LLC

$10,000-$49,999

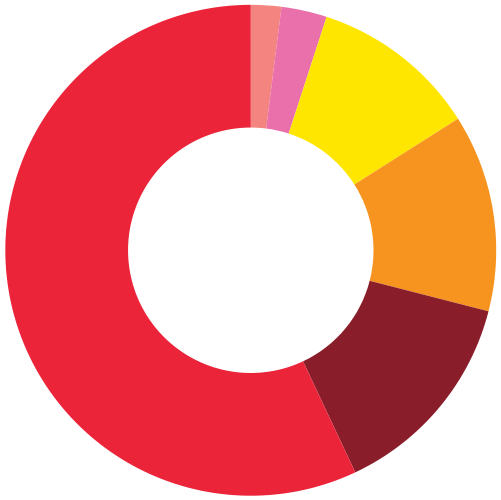
Anonymous
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Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen
Foundation
Manitou Fund
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The McKnight Foundation

$50,000 and Above

Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
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2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

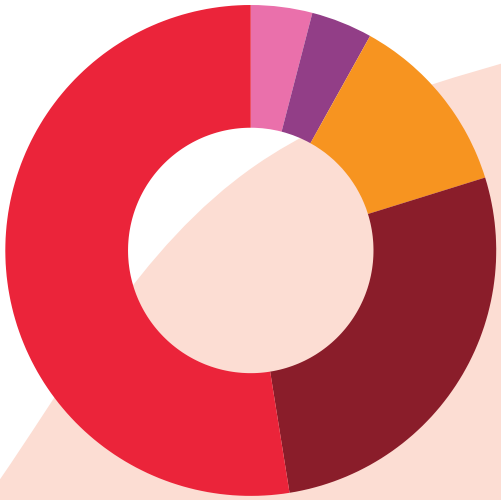
Franconia Sculpture Park's 2025 Statement of Activities includes depreciation not reflected in these figures. Complete 2025 financial statements are available on our website or by request.



REVENUE

- Foundation Contributions 57%
- Individual Contributions 14%
- Gift Shop / Cafe 13%
- Government Contributions 11%
- Corporate Contributions 2%
- Program Service Fees & Rental Income 1.5%

Total Revenue **$678,833.11**



EXPENSES

- Artists & Arts Programming 52%
- Visitor Center Operations 27%
- Grounds & Maintenance 12%
- Advertising & Marketing 4%
- Fundraising 4%

Total Expenses **$691,333.29**

FRANCONIA
sculpture park

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Shafer, MN 55074
651.257.6668 | franconia.org

@franconiamn

@franconiamn

Franconia Sculpture Park is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BECOME A MEMBER

Franconia's mission is to foster an inclusive community to create and contemplate contemporary art inspired by nature and our ever-evolving world.

Become a Franconia Member. Support Art. Spark Change. Join a growing community of monthly supporters who keep Franconia thriving year-round.

We are: Contemporary. Bold. Inclusive. Local and global.

10% DISCOUNT AT GIFT SHOP!

INVITATIONS TO EXCLUSIVE VIP EVENTS!

FREE PARKING AT EVENTS

Scan here, or visit **franconia.org/donate** to become a member today!

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*Completed term in 2025