

## **Peninsula School of Art Summary**

**Number of employees: 5**

**Number of volunteers: 157**

### **What is your Mission Statement?**

Peninsula School of Art provides enriching visual art educational experiences for participants of all ages and abilities to inspire creativity and build community.

### **What is the main source of your funding and what percent of your funding does that source provide?**

Individual donors 50-60%

### **What is the geographic scope of your services throughout Door County?**

All of Door County, much of Northeast Wisconsin, and beyond. People travel from around the county, state, and region to attend classes, workshops, exhibitions, and events at PenArt.

### **Explanation of how you serve Door County including primary programs your organization offers to the community.**

Many of our public programs specifically focus on local community engagement, including intergenerational learning, and programs designed for children, teens, and adults.

PenArt has long been a creative refuge for first-time makers, developing students, and established artists to work and learn in community, exercise their creativity, acquire new skills, and explore new art forms. Our visiting faculty consists of artists and educators who are the best in their field, bringing with them incredible expertise and experience, which they're eager to share. In addition to learning from them, the collaborative nature of our studios ensures participants learn from fellow students, too.

The Guenzel Gallery displays a rotating schedule of exhibitions of nationally-recognized artwork throughout the year. These exhibitions and opening receptions are free and open to the public. Visitors of all ages gain insight into the artistic process and an unparalleled fine art experience.

PenArt hosts Family Art Days every third Saturday from 9am to noon, from September through May. This highly popular program is an opportunity for families to make art together! We provide the art materials and the inspiration, free of charge. Our Family Art Days are perfect for families with children ages 3-17.

### **How would you define the impact your organization is making in Door County?**

PenArt's Public programs, including gallery talks, lectures, Family Art Days, Kids Create, and school visits take place year-round, serving many different audiences. In 2023, PenArt delivered workshop experiences, residencies, scholarships, events,

exhibitions, and community programs to over 10,000 participants. PenArt's public programs annually serve over 3,500 children, families, and adults from Northeast Wisconsin alone.

While Door County is known as the vacationland of the Midwest, nearly 70% of residents earn less than 50% of the area median income (according to HUD). This means many families cannot afford fee-based programs, and many children are missing the opportunity for creative expression and the development of critical life skills. PenArt programs aim to bring generations together in fun and engaging ways, integrating the visual arts into a variety of social, relational, and educational experiences.

Our visual arts education programs - from hosting school visits to special events - may be one of the few art learning experiences our participants receive in their early childhood, primary, and secondary education. Our programs enhance learning for students by providing critical thinking skills, dexterity, social skills, and other tools for wellbeing and academic success.

**What is your annual program budget?**

\$1,200,000

**If you were to receive a donation from 100+WWC, how would that donation be used?**

Because creative expression is linked to increased mental health, academic success, and community involvement, we believe our Public Programs are more important than ever. With many youth in our county experiencing high levels of anxiety, depression, and other mental health crises, we are looking for funding partners to help increase our offerings and deepen our impact. A donation from 100+ WWC, will allow PenArt to continue offering these important creative programs while expanding them through strategic, programmatic partnerships with other nonprofit organizations - including those focused on social services, environment and nature, and other artistic disciplines. We believe collaboration is key. Alongside our funding and programming partners, we can bring the very best visual art educational experiences to more children and teens in Door County, while integrating other wellness-related outcomes that our allied organizations bring to the table. Our goal is to create a more supportive infrastructure for the holistic health and wellbeing of young people in Door County.