

Department of Public Transformation

2022 Annual Report

**WE
BELIEVE
IN
THE
POWER
OF
RURAL
CREATIVITY**

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Dear friends,

During our fifth year as a nonprofit, it has been an honor to reconnect with you. In 2022, a year in which we all slowly began to emerge from underneath the pandemic-sized impacts of social isolation and disorienting division within our communities, DoPT focused our efforts on reconnection: reconnection with our communities, our values, our partners in the field, and our neighbors. We started, once again, to hold in-person events while gently navigating our role in a post-pandemic reality, discovering more meaningful ways of showing up for our neighbors (near and far), and taking time to listen... really listen.

Our team grew—not only in size but also in shared learnings and ways of working together. We built upon the foundation of our first four years through thoughtful design of new programs and iterative evaluation of existing ones in close partnership with artists and leaders from across the Upper Midwest. We engaged in the long, slow work of recognition and repair; acknowledgments and action. We looked at our responsibility as rural advocates, activators, and artists, especially regarding the access to resources we do (or do not) receive as a rural nonprofit. We examined the language we use and the leadership dynamics of our team. We have been, and remain, in the process of reconnecting.

As we look ahead to the next five years, we hope that these intentional acts of reconnection continue to cultivate our shared sense of community and strengthen the social fabric of rural people and places.



Through lifting up stories of rural “rockstars” across our field, celebrating creative activation of rural assets, supporting the network of emerging and established rural cultural workers, and inviting local leaders to feel the value of being in partnership with artists, DoPT will continue to work (and play!) with a spirit of awe, gratitude, and abundance.

A cohort member in the 2022 Southwest Minnesota Civic Arts Learning Lab shared, “Imagining together and seeing the real possibilities [...] has reinforced for me the boundless value of dreaming together.” In this time of intentional reconnection, may we imagine infinite possibilities, may we be boundless in our dreaming, and may we do these things—and so much more—together.

With visions of abundant rural futures,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ash Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ash Hanson
Creative Executive Officer

Department of Public Transformation is an artist-led nonprofit organization that works to develop creative strategies for increased community connection, civic engagement, and equitable participation in rural places.

VISION

Our 150-year vision is one where rural communities across the country acknowledge, support, and integrate art and artists as vital contributors to economic, community, civic, and social life.

We believe that rural people and places have the answers they need to address community challenges, but economies of extraction and narratives of deficit have fragmented many of our communities. This prevents us from reimagining our rural spaces and sharing the knowledge, skills, and resources we have to dream and build an equitable and just future. We seek to support rural communities in identifying and leveraging resources through artist-led, creative, cross-disciplinary, and radically inclusive programs. We believe in celebrating rural culture and cultural workers by uplifting small-town stories and connecting people to each other and their places. In doing so, we are working to shift damaging dominant narratives of what it means to live and work in rural America.

CORE VALUES

Accessible Play

We believe play is an essential component of human connection to break down perceived barriers and make room for vulnerability; we utilize the power of play to ignite and inspire meaningful connections, cultivate untapped creativity, and provide platforms for challenging conversations.

Deep Compassion

We believe in having deep compassion for the people and places we work with; we meet people where they are; we strive for critical self-awareness; we act as responsible stewards of the land and her stories.

Reciprocal Exchange

We believe everyone has value to add; we view our work as a reciprocal exchange and not an extraction or dissemination of knowledge, skills, or resources; we work with, not for; we work together.

Intentional Representation

We believe in intentional, intergenerational opportunities for women, non-binary people, people of color, LGBTQ2IA+, New American, and Indigenous community members to work towards equal representation in artistic and civic leadership; we strive to compensate artists equitably for their work.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Build Trust

We believe in leading with accountability to and for the people we serve; we understand rural cultural work is slow, generational, and relational; we strive to move at the speed of trust.

Prioritize Connections

We believe in being good neighbors and bringing good times to connect with each other across differences; we illuminate unexpected connections between people, places, and ideas.

Cultivate Creativity

We believe engaging our creativity leads to happier, fuller lives and more vibrant, welcoming communities.

Shift Narratives

We believe that the story of rural communities must be told by people who live and work in rural communities; we believe geography must be considered in the national conversations around equity and access to resources; we believe rural-urban solidarity is vital to moving forward together.

Lead with Love

We believe in cultivating supportive, creative spaces and radically welcoming environments.

THE
HARD
WORK
IS
THE
WORK
IN
OUR
OWN
BACKYARDS

Online Participant
2022 Beyond the Clock

PROGRAMS

DoPT's four key program areas seek to connect rural municipalities and artists, support rural arts and cultural workers, activate rural community assets, and nurture the rural arts and culture field.

We support rural communities through artist-led, creative, cross-disciplinary, and cross-sector initiatives that celebrate and build on existing efforts while inspiring new ideas, approaches, and ways of thinking.

Our work sits at the intersection of arts and rural economic and community development; we are a nonprofit organization that seeks grant funding, but we're also distributing funds directly to artists and communities. Through piloting and building programs and networks with bird's-eye-view fieldwork, we operate as connectors and pollinators, encouraging creativity and ideas to grow.

As arts and cultural workers, we listen to the stories that rural people and places tell about themselves and the stories that are told about them. We critically examine and adjust our role in shifting damaging narratives of scarcity, isolation, and decline to those of abundance, connection, and hope.

DoPT is a multi-centered organization that works on projects and programs in and with Southwest Minnesota; statewide throughout Greater Minnesota; regionally in the Upper Midwest; and nationally across the United States.

In 2022, we engaged our Staff and Board of Directors in strategic planning to redefine our program areas and recommit to our mission, vision, values, and guiding principles.

PROGRAMS

CONNECT *rural municipalities and artists*

- Rural Civic Arts Partnership offers cohort-based peer networks, workshops, consulting, and resource hubs to support working with artists to develop creative strategies for community problem-solving.

SUPPORT *rural arts and cultural workers*

- Ignite Rural supports BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and Native rural artists and culture bearers to implement creative projects in their communities.
- Fiscal Sponsorship supports small, start-up arts groups and projects working in or with rural communities.

ACTIVATE *rural community assets*

- Activate Rural uses a cohort-based learning lab to cultivate and increase welcoming physical infrastructure in rural communities using an artist-led asset activation framework.
- The YES! House is an in-progress gathering space and arts venue in Granite Falls, MN, which offers creative programming for Southwest Minnesota residents of all ages and backgrounds.

NURTURE *the rural arts and culture field*

- Beyond the Clock is a series of virtual learning exchanges connecting and lifting up rural artists, culture workers, and connectors across the country.
- Partnerships such as MN Rural-Urban Exchange with Art of the Rural, Rural Minnesota Community Safety with Nonviolent Peaceforce, and Radical Shift in Philanthropy with Minnesota Artist Coalition.
- Consulting, coaching, mentorship, and Communities of Practice that support rural civic and social artists, municipal staff, and curious communities in moving forward with creative projects.



RURAL CIVIC ARTS PARTNERSHIP

DoPT believes that—when in collaboration with municipalities and civic systems—creative leaders, artists, and culture bearers can help local government reimagine systems of support, representation, communication, and community connection to become more equitable and accessible for residents. Rural Civic Arts Partnership (RCAP) is a cohort-based peer network, workshop series, and resource hub which supports community leaders in working with artists to develop creative strategies for increased community connection, civic engagement, and equitable participation in rural places.

The RCAP Program is built on experience managing community and municipal civic arts projects and residencies in urban and rural spaces, creating and implementing the pilot City Artist-in-Residence program in Granite Falls, MN, and developing and facilitating the first Civic Arts cohort learning lab in partnership with Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, which engaged the Minnesota rural communities of New London, Milan, and Tracy. Core Teams from these three communities engaged in a six-month learning journey, including in-person and digital workshops, case studies, special guest speakers (artists and artist residency facilitators), resources, project design sessions, and facilitated conversations. The cohort was also provided with a Resource Guide, which includes a Readiness Matrix, Idea Generation Worksheet, Project Planning Questionnaire, Budget and RFQ templates, evaluation guides, and various other tools and templates for learning and adaptation. We look forward to expanding this program in the years to come!



“

Participating in the Southwest Minnesota Civic Arts Cohort introduced me to the concept of Civic Arts, and opened my eyes to the powerful role that art can have in healing and growing my community. None of this would have been possible without the Department of Public Transformation, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity that was provided to me. I look forward to using the knowledge I gained to positively impact my community for many years to come.”

Valerie Quist

2022 Civic Arts Learning Lab Cohort Member
Library Director
Tracy, MN



IGNITE RURAL

The 2022 Ignite Rural Artist Cohort supported four artists and culture bearers based in the 18-county Southwest Minnesota region in a four-month “at-home” residency. Artists were provided a \$4,000 stipend and a \$4,000 project budget to design and implement a creative project that addressed a need identified by their local community during this crucial time of post-pandemic community care and repair. The inaugural cohort residency was led by Ignite Rural Program Coordinator Holly Doll, Anpao Win (First Light Woman) and co-designed with Dakota Wicohan, Mni Sota Arts, and Racing Magpie. The four artists selected for the 2022 Ignite Rural cohort were:



Andrea Duarte-Alonso who expanded her project “Stories from Unheard Voices,” an online storytelling platform for first and second-generation immigrants in Southwest Minnesota.



Beth O’Keefe who studied a collection housed in Brooklyn, New York, worked on producing a Dakota woman’s dress, and honed her teaching skills to continue passing down traditional knowledge.



Priscilla Gruendemann who created regalia using her own designs and colors with both geometric and floral designs, which she presented as a gift to a young girl in her community.



Sureeporn Sompamitwong who launched “Art Invasiozn,” a clothing line featuring artwork from various community members addressing mental health.

“

What a wonderful experience I had as a member of the [Ignite Rural] artist cohort. I learned a lot about myself and was able to focus on how I wanted my art presented to my community. DoPT introduced me to a group of supportive community partners that encouraged me to widen my audience and helped me imagine a larger dream. Nina Wopida 

Beth O'Keefe

2022 Ignite Rural Cohort Member
Artist; Executive Director, Minnesota Indigenous Women's Society
Lower Sioux Indian Community / Morton, MN



THE YES! HOUSE

The YES! House is an in-progress gathering space and arts venue in Granite Falls, MN, which offers creative programming for Southwest MN residents of all ages and backgrounds. The programming and design of the space were determined through a year-long (and ongoing!) Artist-Led Design Build process facilitated by local and national artists and architects, including Homeboat, MO/EN Design Practice, and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, to gather input from the local community about the types of programming and facilities that would be most beneficial and to avoid duplication of services, in order to amplify and complement the incredible work of artists and community members already thriving in the region.

To assist this effort, in 2022, Community Engagement and Events Coordinator Luwaina Al-Otaibi joined our team and started the Creative Collaboration Team (CCT)—a committee of local residents who work together to produce The YES! House Event Series. The goal of these events is to provide residents with opportunities to learn from other cultures; explore diverse points of view; experiment with new creative skills; experience high-quality arts, culture, and storytelling; and connect with each other. The theme for the 2023 event series is “The Art of Neighboring”—exploring ways to connect neighbors through arts and cultural activities and events.

The 2022 CCT included Granite Falls residents Mary Gillespie, Nicole Zempel, Beth Pullan, Jeremy Radtke, Joe Hauger, Edwin McGill, Janel Guertin, Tyler Gastecki, and Allie Tulinstef.



“

I am thrilled to serve as a member of The YES! House Creative Collaboration Team! What excites me most is that it presents an opportunity to help activate a community space that is FOR everyone. The space will offer a variety of creative outlets and learning opportunities for all ages! A place for anyone and everyone. I feel inspired by being a part of this team and endeavor!”

Nicole Zempel

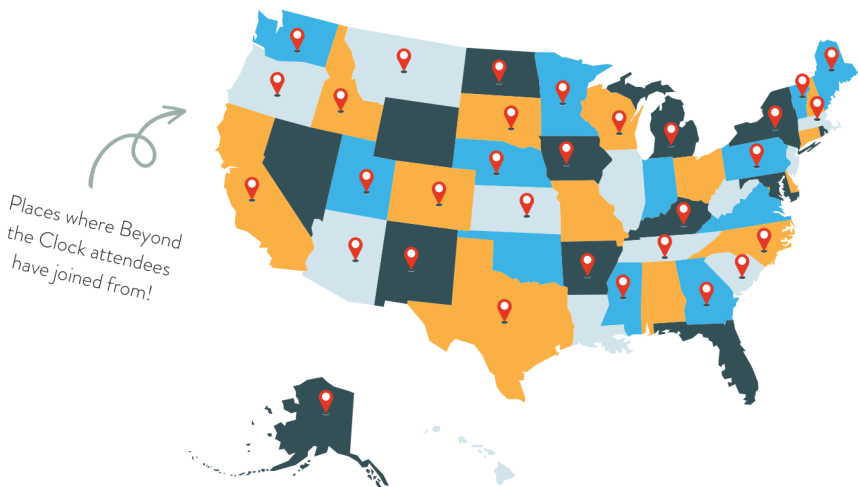
2022 CCT Member
Artist; Wild Roots MN
Granite Falls, MN



BEYOND THE CLOCK

Beyond the Clock is a monthly online gathering that fosters fellowship, shared learning, and community care for rural connectors and cultural workers. Co-hosted by DoPT, Voices for Rural Resilience, and the Rural Assembly, Beyond the Clock invites creative rural rockstars from across the country to share in digital happy hours and learning exchanges that connect and inspire. These monthly gatherings lift up Rural Rockstars from across the country as guest presenters and invite rural practitioners to connect, interrogate and grapple with the tensions, and celebrate the joys of working in and with rural communities.

In 2022, guest presenters included Maria Sykes (Executive Director of Epicenter, Green River, UT), Carolina Porras Monroy (Co-Founder of Piney Wood Atlas, North Adams, MA), Tyler Owens (Program Coordinator for Rural Assembly, Gila River Indian Community, AZ), Tim Lampkin (CEO of Higher Purpose Co., Clarksdale, MS), and Eliza Blue (*Accidental Rancher* Author and Musician, Bison, SD). Plus, we hosted an additional five informal happy hours to go deeper into specific themes brought up in previous sessions. We also worked with Beyond the Clock resident artist Jamie Horter (Lyons, NE) as our graphic harvester to capture shared sentiments and stories in a creative, engaging format.



“

Connecting with other rural practitioners was both an honor and much-needed catharsis! The Department of Public Transformation is the only org I know of doing this critical work to connect rural [artists] in such a creative, fun, and thoughtful way online.”

Maria Sykes

2022 Beyond the Clock Presenter
Executive Director, Epicenter
Green River, UT

By the Numbers...



18

Organized and/or collaborated on 18 in-person events, performances, and gatherings in Southwest MN!



12

Presented 12 keynotes and breakout sessions at conferences and summits across the United States!



9

Participated in 9 interviews, podcasts, round tables, and program design sessions with field partners and funders!



10

Facilitated 10 in-person workshops and retreats including 3 Civic Arts workshops in Southwest MN!



17

Hosted 17 virtual gatherings, workshops, and learning exchanges for rural artists and cultural workers nationwide!



1

Honored with 1 “Exceptional Service Partner” Award from Region 5 Development Commission!

PEOPLE & PARTNERS

2022 STAFF



Luwaina Al-Otaibi

Community Engagement and Events Coordinator (The YES! House)



Holly Doll, Anpao Win (First Light Woman)

Ignite Rural Program Coordinator



Ash Hanson

Executive Director



Hannah K. Holman

Associate Director



Sarina Otaibi

Activate Rural Program Director



Nancy XiáoRong Valentine

Communications Specialist

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jessica Huang, Chair (Jan-Jul)

Heather McDougall, Chair (Aug-Dec)

Jenn Lamb, Vice Chair

Mary Welcome, Secretary

Rachel Schwalbach, Treasurer

Lauren Carlson

Anna Claussen

Leah Cooper

Ash Hanson, Ex-Officio (voting)

Hannah K. Holman, Ex-Officio (non-voting)

Bethany Lacktorin

Anne O'Keefe

Ashley Pourier

Beth Pullan

Leu Solomon

Melissa Wray

The staff and board members, including titles, listed above pertain to the year 2022.
To view the current staff list, please visit publictransformation.org.

“ Rural artists are essential to helping their communities thrive, and they need a wide variety of support, connections and opportunities. We're so grateful for the ways that the staff at Department of Public Transformation are amplifying the work of artists, advocating for rural communities in general, and pushing important conversations ahead with their values of deep connection, play and joy. The rural arts field feels rich with possibility thanks to their leadership.”

Michele Anderson

2022 Program Partner
Rural Program Director, Springboard for the Arts
Fergus Falls, MN

PEOPLE & PARTNERS

We are humbled and honored to be a part of a complex, caring, and thoughtful ecosystem of rural practitioners, rural lovers, artists, and arts and cultural workers. Individuals and organizations that our team partnered and/or worked with in 2022 include:

ARTISTS AND COLLABORATORS

Allie Tulinstef	Eliza Blue	Mary Welcome
Amanda Anderson	Erin Barnes	Nicole Zempel
Amanda Lovelee	Esmeralda Ziemer	Priscilla Gruendemann
Andrea Duarte-Alonso	Heather McDougall	Saara Raappana
Beth O'Keefe	Jack Forinash	Seitu Jones
Beth Pullan	Jamie Horter	Sharon Mansur
Bethany Lacktorin	Janel Guertin	Sureeporn Sompamitwong
Cassie Williams	Jeremy Radtke	Tamara Isfeld
CAST Consulting LLC	Joe Hauger	Tara Laidlaw
Cheryl Kary	Ka Ly	Tim Lampkin
ChristinaMaria Patiño Houle	Karen Odden	Tyler Gastecki
Corbin LaMont	Kit Anderson	Wing Young Huie
Crystal Johnson	Logan Van Sickle	Yvette McDaniel
Edwin McGill	Mary Gillespie	

PARTNERS

Art of the Rural	Pioneer PBS
Center for Rural Strategies	Propel Nonprofits
CivicLex	Racing Magpie
COMPAS	Region 5 Development Commission
Dakota Wicohan	Rural Assembly
Flannel & Blade	Southwest Initiative Foundation
Living At Home-Block Nurse Program	Southwest Minnesota Arts Council
Minnesota Artist Coalition	Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership/ Partnership Design, LLC
Minnesota Rural-Urban Exchange	Springboard for the Arts
Mni Sota Arts	Ten17 Media
MO/EN Design	The Memory Project
Nonviolent Peaceforce	Voices for Rural Resilience
Org4Full Participation	

If your name has been misspelled or omitted in error, please let us know so we can fix our mistake moving forward!

Opportunities

Some lessons we have learned along our way

Community Connection

DoPT currently has its home base at The YES! House in Granite Falls, MN. During 2022, we made it a priority to reconnect with the community after the pandemic-sized pause. Based on feedback from community members, we published a list of actions (called “2022 Community Connectivity”) that our organization implemented throughout the year to work toward strengthening our relationships within the Granite Falls area. This included hiring local staff, engaging additional local board members, hosting listening sessions, and working closely with local residents and artists on initiatives such as the Creative Collaboration Team (CCT). The CCT was established in the fall of 2022 and is working alongside DoPT’s Community Engagement and Events Coordinator to curate The YES! House event series for 2023, centered around the theme: The Art of Neighboring.

Resources & Responsibility

We recognize that our organization has inherent privileges with a white CEO and is part of a deeply flawed sexist, ableist, and racist nonprofit system. We have benefited, and continue to benefit, from that system in our access to relationships and resources—such as The YES! House building. In the fall of 2022, DoPT began planning and outreach for The YES! House Futures (YHF) Committee, a group of seven local residents who are working with DoPT to establish a forward-looking vision that will inform a 5-year plan for the future operations and stewardship of the building through a community-led process.

Language Matters

Language is ever-evolving, and we are witnessing specific shifts in the way our field is investigating terms like “placemaking,” “development,” and “ownership.” We are discovering that words we once used may have unintended connotations or have acquired negative associations. For example: In the past, we have referred to The YES! House as being vacant prior to our acceptance of ownership. We have come to realize that the word “vacant” can be harmful as it further perpetuates negative narratives of deficit and decline in rural areas. Additionally, it does not articulate the fact that this building was wanted by local community members and that it had alternative possibilities to the one it serves today. With this realization, we do not see ourselves as owners of this donated building but as stewards of a space where community ideas can flourish.

Equity & Engagement

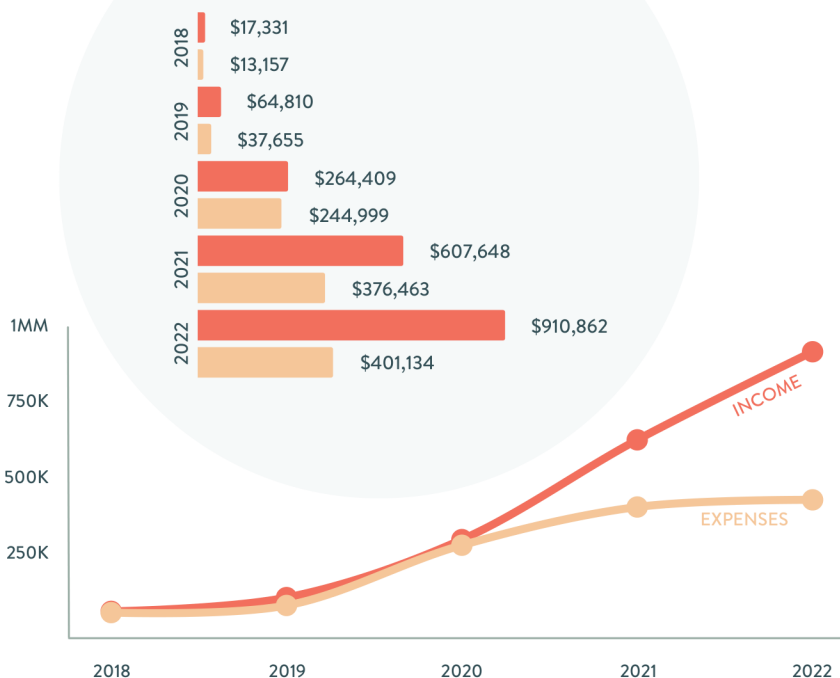
We launched our Equity & Engagement Committee in December of 2021. This group, made up of DoPT board and staff members, helps us hold ourselves accountable to our mission and keep equity at the core of all we do throughout our programs and operations. The committee meets monthly and was the primary driver in ensuring that our “2022 Community Connectivity” actions continued to move forward, among other equity-driven initiatives. For example, in 2022, we published our Community Grievance Policy and Procedures + Report Form to listen to and address community feedback and grievances more efficiently and equitably. We look forward to continued learning and growth together.

We recognize that these are just a few steps in an ongoing journey; we are moving slowly and intentionally to be considerate and thoughtful in our actions.

2022 Financials

The following pages represent the organization's unaudited financials for fiscal year 2022.

2018-2022

Income and Expense Growth***Non-Profit Doesn't Mean No Profit***

Sometimes non-profit organizations end the year with a budget surplus—this is good! This might be due to the timing of grant dollars or pledges, funding restrictions, good stewardship of resources, or program growth. DoPT often receives grant dollars in one year intended to be spent on specific projects in the next (or over multiple years). As a non-profit organization, we are legally and ethically obligated to allocate surplus dollars to fulfill our mission and honor existing restrictions.

During the last few months of 2022, we received a few substantial contributions for activities and operations in 2023 and beyond—including a \$100,000 capital campaign gift, a \$19,500 grant for Beyond the Clock activities, and a \$525,000 multi-year grant for our newest program, Activate Rural!

FINANCIALS

2022 AT A GLANCE

INCOME

Individual Contributions	\$30,697
Foundation and Organization Contributions	\$796,106
Business and Corporate Contributions	\$10,000
Government Grants	\$25,000
Special Event Contributions	\$2,082
Other Contributions	\$667
Earned Income	\$45,710

We received a multi-year grant for Activate Rural!

TOTAL INCOME

\$910,862

EXPENSE

Salaries and Wages	\$169,569
Fringe Benefits	\$1,879
Payroll Expenses and Fees	\$16,367
Consulting and Professional Services	\$41,585
Program Contractors	\$78,477
Program Expenses	\$32,217
Insurance	\$1,413
Marketing and Communications	\$14,122
Operations Expenses	\$9,108
Property Tax	\$1,093
Travel and Meetings	\$9,818
Artist Project Budgets	\$16,000
Utilities	\$5,006
Depreciation	\$804
Interest Paid	\$3,676

We grew to a staff of six in 2022!

We paid 41+ artists and contractors

TOTAL EXPENSE

\$401,134

NET

\$509,728

PLUS \$31,400 MANAGED FOR FISCALLY SPONSORED PROJECTS

BALANCE SHEET

as of December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Cash	\$901,845
Accounts Receivable	\$5,053
Property	\$7,800
Buildings	\$20,100
Accumulated Depreciation	✱ (\$804)

TOTAL ASSETS

\$933,994

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$4,176
Loans Payable	\$107,592
Net Assets and Income	\$822,226

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

\$933,994

We currently have 1 low-interest loan and 1 forgivable loan for The YES! House.

What is a Balance Sheet?

A balance sheet is a snapshot of a moment in time. Also known as a “statement of financial position,” this report gives an idea of the worth of an organization (assets and liabilities) on a given day. A more complete picture of an organization can be found by understanding its Profit and Loss Statement, Balance Sheet, and Budget, as well as its mission, vision, values, and programs.

In Appreciation of Accumulated Depreciation

When a nonprofit organization owns a building or a piece of equipment that they will use over an extended period of time, they want to see that reflected in their financial information. Depreciation is the accounting mechanism used to record the decrease in value over time. As a young nonprofit, we’re still learning! We began accounting for depreciation in January 2022. ✱

Say YES! Creative Capital Campaign

DoPT is in the midst of the **Say YES! Creative Capital Campaign** to renovate and transform The YES! House—an in-progress gathering space and arts venue located at 726 Prentice Street in Granite Falls, MN.

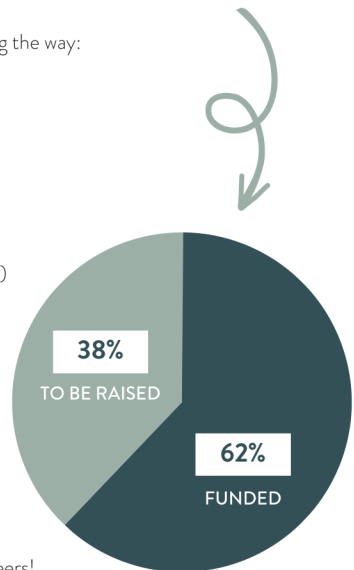
The programming and design of the space emerged through a year-long (and ongoing) community engagement process in which local community members collaborated with local and national artists and architects to dream and plan. We also mapped existing community assets to avoid duplication of resources and services, as our goal is to amplify and complement the incredible work of artists and community members already thriving in the region.

We intended to publicly launch the campaign in 2020—on the cusp of the emerging COVID-19 pandemic—and made the difficult decision to postpone amidst uncertainty. We continued moving forward with infrastructure work and construction projects made possible by early contributions, loans, and restricted grants until finally, in February 2022, we publicly launched the campaign with the support of many of our partners, friends, families, and funders. In December 2022, the McKnight Foundation committed a generous and catalytic contribution to the campaign allowing us to match all of 2023's campaign milestones up to \$100,000!

*As of publishing this report, we are approximately 62% of the way toward our goal!
Please visit theyeshouse.org to learn more and support!*

We have been honored to work with these amazing folks along the way:

Custom Ag Services in Montevideo, MN
Duinick Concrete in Willmar, MN
Ethan Weber Construction in Granite Falls, MN
Granite Falls Construction in Granite Falls, MN
Gustaf's Masonry in Slayton, MN
Heartland Electric in Montevideo, MN
Historic Design Consulting in Vadnais Heights, MN
Homeboat Collective from all over America (and beyond!)
Jack Bunting Construction in Aitkin, MN
Jeff Johnson Excavating in Clara City, MN
LA Construction & Design in Granite Falls, MN
MO/EN Design Practice in Austin, MN
Nationwide Glass in Willmar, MN
Olsen Plumbing & Heating in Montevideo, MN
Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership
in Slayton, MN/Mankato, MN
The Sawmill Lumber Yard in Granite Falls, MN
Tostenson, Inc in Montevideo, MN
... and more, including countless community volunteers!



If your name has been misspelled or omitted in error, please let us know so we can fix our mistake moving forward!

“ The YES! House project, with all of its beauty and complexity (that we love) began before the pandemic at an already high-cost time. No one could foresee what was coming back then. The fact that a significant amount of work has been accomplished since then, through an awkward period of time, and below market cost thanks in large part to volunteer help, is a testament to the spirit of this project. It is also a reflection of the community that surrounds and supports it. The YES! House is a reflection of people who care.”

James Arentson

The YES! House Design/Build Team
Architect, Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership
Mankato, MN

CONTRIBUTORS

Our work is supported by grant funds, corporate donations, and generous support from individuals across the country. These resources enable us to move our mission forward and get our work done. Your support makes this work possible, and we are so honored to be in community with you.

Thank you!

Adam Giorgi
Alan Berks
Amanda Lovelee
Amy Hubbard
and Geoffrey Kehoe
Andrew Dolan
Andrew Gaylord
Anna Claussen
Anna Lee
Anne Nicodemus
Anne O'Keefe-Jackson
Anne Romens
Anonymous Donor
Anthony Mendoza
Bethany Lacktorin
Betsy Roder
Beverly Tellefsen
Bill and Francie Parr
Bo Downen
Bruce and Zoe Laidlaw
C.H. Robinson
Carl Atiya Swanson
Carrie Christensen
Cassie Williams
Chris Hanson
Christopher Martin
Courtney Gerber
Daniel Loury
Darcey Engen
and Luverne Seifert
David O'Fallon
DeAnna Cummings

Debra Mortenson
Delinda Pushetonequa
Duaine and Kathie Kimpling
Elise Hart
Emily Carey
Esme and David Hart
Hannah K. Holman
Heather McDougall
Henry Luce Foundation
Holly Doll
Jack Forinash
James Arentson
Jane Leonard
Janet Wambeke
Jared Zeigler
Jeannette and Curt
Olson Foundation
Jennifer Lamb
Jessica Huang
Jianhua Qian
Joanna Schnedler
Jocelyn Hale
John and Diana Anderson
John Davis
John Virnig
Judi Bohm
Julie Schwalbach
Justin Lansing
Kathy Mouacheupao
Kevin Springer
Kristina Fjellman
Kristofor Gieske

CONTRIBUTORS

To join these generous supporters with a tax-deductible contribution, please visit publictransformation.org/donations or give us a call at 320-204-6631.

Leah Cooper
Leah Porter
Leu Solomon
Living at Home/
Block Nurse Program
Loren and Kristen Heeringa
Lori Radecki
Maren Ward
Marianne Davis
Mark Valdez
Marlaine Cox
Mary and Dan Holman
Mary and Phil Kelly
Mary Gillespie
Mary McReynolds
Matthew Fluharty
McKnight Foundation
Megan Torgerson
Melissa Wray
Michael Abata
Michael Laine
Minnesota State Arts Board
Naomi Schliesman
Nikiko Masumoto
Pat Kubly

Patrick Moore
Paul Engh
Peter Heeringa
Propel Nonprofits
Rachel Brown
Rachel Engh
Rachel Schwalbach
Rebecca Dale
Robert Burns
Saint Paul &
Minnesota Foundation
Sarina Otaibi
Scotty Reynolds
Shaina Brassard
Southwest Initiative Foundation
Southwest Minnesota Arts Council
Southwest Minnesota Housing
Partnership
Steven Appelhans
Sue and Ken Miller
Ten Thousand Things
Tom Cherveney
Vickie Benson
Whitney Kimball Coe
Wing Young Huie

If your name has been misspelled or omitted in error, please let us know so we can fix our mistake moving forward!

Thank you for taking the time to read this report.

Our 2022 theme was “Gratitude and Grit”—a phrase we returned to again and again throughout the year. Looking ahead, with our shared intentions of laying the groundwork for sustainability and investing in compassionate growth, our 2023 theme is “Grounding and Growing.” With an eye toward abundant futures, in 2023, we are excited to be launching several new initiatives, refining existing programs, and expanding and deepening our partnerships.

We will continue to activate with the launch of our Activate Rural Learning Lab—working with five communities (population 10,000 or less) across Minnesota on a cohort-based approach to cultivating welcoming physical infrastructure using an artist-led asset activation framework.

We will support the next cohort of Ignite Rural’s “at-home” artist residency program designed to elevate emerging BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and Native rural artists and culture bearers in implementing people-centered creative projects with their communities.

We will connect with rural leaders to share the value of working with artists in the civic realm through our expanding Rural Civic Arts Partnership efforts.

We will nurture the field by continuing to uplift rural stories through Beyond the Clock and the Rural Minnesota Safety Project (with Voices for Rural Resilience, Nonviolent Peaceforce, and Region 5 Development Commission), strengthen the field through Communities of Practice (with Springboard for the Arts), and work toward rural/urban solidarity in ongoing partnership with Minnesota Rural-Urban Exchange (with Art of the Rural).

In our work in Southwest Minnesota, we will continue to strive to be humble and generous neighbors, learning with and working to give back to the community in collaboration with The YES! House Futures Committee and the Creative Collaboration Team.

We invite you to join us at an upcoming in-person or virtual event as we continue on the road to reconnection—together.

to grounding and growing,
Department of Public Transformation



DEPT OF PUBLIC TRANSFORMATION

COLLABORATE WITH US!

DoPT knows the value of collaboration; it is at the core of all we do. Every person who contributes to our mission—whether through ideas, energy, enthusiasm, or financial support—becomes a collaborator of our organization, supporting the field of arts and culture to create more equitable and enjoyable futures for rural places. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to connecting with you soon!

*DoPT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our Federal Tax ID Number is 83-0770235.
This report was prepared and designed by Department of Public Transformation staff.*

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