

2017 Arts and Inspiration Report

The vision for Sanctuary's Arts and Inspiration is to offer a public, weekly program designed to create community and connect people to their souls through a shared experience of the arts. Sanctuary UCC uses her space at 458 High Street in West Medford Square as an art gallery, theatre and gathering space in which members and partners, artists, musicians, writers and theologians connect and converse about the experience of spirituality through film, art, poetry, and music.

Arts and Inspiration offers a unique opportunity to deliberately create connection and build community through the shared experience of art, film and music. The dialogue and discovery process built into each of event deepens the impact of the 'art' on the individual, broadens the influence of the many ideas expressed in the 'art' and consistently creates a vital experience of our shared humanity—with all of it's messiness and beauty. People connect and community is formed.

The Gallery at Sanctuary (and ARTChurch)

Current Gallery Committee Members include: Julie Roberts, Charlene Carle, Joe Luongo, Joanna Begin, Susan D'Arcy Fuller, Branwen Cook, Maria Scott, Laurie Mass, Wendy Miller Olapade (and Linda Malik through her departure). The Committee meets monthly and sets practices and goals for the Gallery Ministry; seeks candidates for installations whose work suits our mission; reviews and selects submissions for installation; and organizes, provides hospitality and staffs the Gallery Receptions.

The Artists who have installed shows at the Gallery in 2017 included:

- Adele Travisano, Painter – The Life and Work of St. Francis (January)
- Dick Simon, Photographer – Know them Middle East Series (February)
- Adam LoRusso, Painter and Tattoo Artist – The Whole of Nature, the Whole of Ourselves (March)
- Lianzhong Zhang, Painter; Ye Xinshi, Painter; Ming Guo, Fabric Artist - Traditional, Contemporary and Folk Chinese Art (April)
- West Medford Open Studios (May) nine artists including: Susan D'Arcy Fuller: photography
Cambia Davis: watercolor paintings
Charles Kaufman: photography
Linda Malik: pottery, sculpture
Ose Manheim: photography
Laurie Mass: pottery, sculptural hangings
Lynwode Paquette: found art sculpture
Sharon Santillo: collage
Lisa Sears: paint and mixed media
- Christine Tinsley, Photographer -- SisterVet and Pinhole Photography (June)
- Sanctuary Friends (July) including: Susan D'Arcy Fuller, Photography In Motion; Ose Manheim, Mixed Media Photography; Charles Kaufman, Landscape Photography; Paul Roberts, Wildlife Photography, Joe Luongo, Painting and Graphic Art.
- Lakota YouthStay Participants -- Photography Exhibition (August)
- Lucilda Dassardo-Cooper, Painter – Veiled Presence (September)
- Caleb Cole, Photographer – Other People's Clothes (Who are You Wearing?) (October)
- Alyce Underhill, Mixed Media and Sculpture – Seeing, Seeing Deeply (November/December)

Other People's Clothes Closet and Halloween Photo Booth: In partnership with Medford Arts Center, Inc's MARV – and with significant support from Susan D'Arcy Fuller (photographer), Jim Silva, Joanna Begin, Fraelean Curtis, Gini Berthiaume Charlene Carle, Julie Roberts, Carvina Williams, Drexel Osborne and Audrey Soule - our team implemented the "Other People's Clothes Closet and Halloween Photo Booth", bringing over 100 people into the Gallery and Sanctuary to view the installation, learn about Sanctuary and go home with a Fabulous Susan D'Arcy Fuller Original Halloween Moment! This reframing of our Halloween Block party purpose was inspired by Linda Malik and a great step forward in connecting people to our mission.

Using local artist networks and social media coupled with a very slowly growing presence in the community and art world the Gallery Reception and Reflections participation ranges from 15 to 40. We continue to seek growth both in attendance as well as walk in traffic to the Gallery and sales of art (for which Sanctuary receives a 20% commission. The experience of showing at the Gallery and participating in ArtChurch provides a deeply unique, powerful and moving experience for the artist. Attendees seem to feel the same way. That, in and of itself, is a huge success!

It is exciting and inspirational that the exhibits at The Gallery change [usually] every month. It seems everyone who stops in the Gallery are "wowed" by the beautiful space and the art. We have created a vibrant place that invites repeat attendance to see what's new. Also notable is the diversity and variety, both in medium and cultures represented. This is intentional and a high priority goal for our Arts and Inspiration Ministry. In addition, we prioritize art that allows us to connect with our practice of faith and our theology – so for instance the Veiled Presence and Know them installations this past year allowed us to reflect on cultural misunderstandings and white privilege.

The committee continues to think about how we can showcase work that is further aligned with Sanctuary's mission and associated social justice themes. These include those disaffected by race, economic disparities, culture, faith, and other "separations" that create disunity and inequality. Other ideas are already in place, and we know there is an opportunity to collaborate with others in Medford to help us build powerful and empowering statements through art. The committee challenges itself to continually go out and meet various artists who fit our vision.

The Gallery provided \$1350 in revenue to Sanctuary in 2017. We hope to work with the staff and new consultants to brainstorming ways to increase revenue and engagement both as a place to come for beauty and a place to form faith! We hope one day Sanctuary can become a "go-to" place in Medford to find those unique and constantly changing art as gift items – seeing the benefit in our revenue stream.

In 2018 we are looking to partner with the Museum School at Tufts for artists and engagement and will try to find an intern from Tufts to serve as a Gallery Curator to help with managing details, artists, marketing and social media placement.

Since the Gallery, like any new business, is still fairly new, we don't have enough data to clearly measure success, nor has a benchmark been established. However, it is evident that growth has occurred, however small. Due to named improvements, the gallery is running smoother; established consistent marketing and supporting documents are in place, and there is a clear vision for the future. We are excited about the path we are on!

Faith and Film at Sanctuary and Medford Film Collaborative

One of our most successful and enriching ministries has been Faith and Film at Sanctuary—now entering its fourth year. Led by the Rev. Anastasia Kidd and the Rev. Chad Kidd – film buffs and UCC theologians extraordinaire -- we have screened and discussed the following popular and contemporary film:

- Still Alice: A Horror Film for Gentle Folk (January)
- Zootopia: A Celebration of Love and Diversity in Times of Hate and Uncertainty (February)
- Dancer in the Ark: An Immigrant's Curious Enigmatic Journey (March)
- Arrival: A Thinking Person's Sci-Fi (April)
- Eye in the Sky: An Intelligent Life and Death Political Thriller (May)
- Manchester By The Sea: A Profoundly Human, Aching Complex Masterpiece (June)
- Captain Fantastic: He Prepared Them for Everything Except the Outside World (September)
- Moonlight: An Intimate and Haunting Drama of Rare Grace (October)
- The Big Sick: Heartfelt, Intelligent Cross-cultural Rom-Com (November)
- Jackie: A Searing and Intimate Portrait of Beauty and Grief (December)

Attracting 15 – 30 people in attendance each month, with growing engagement from outside of the Sanctuary core congregation, our film choices and the ensuing discussions have been rich, reflective, formative and consistent with our objective to use pop culture to deepen our understanding of life, faith, social justice and the human experience. Through the films and the reflections that follow we find the connections with spirituality and religion within that.

The 2017 revenue goal for faith and film was exceeded by a modest amount and we are planning to increase our faith and film programming in 2018 by 50%. We will also seek to survey interested faith-and-film'ers about possible changes to when the program takes place (as our current model conflicts with a popular West Medford Community Center program).

The Faith and Film ministry took leadership of Medford Film Collaborative's/Conversations Project Race and Ethnicity Film series which was supported by a grant from the Medford Arts Council. Through that partnership along with Tufts Office of Community Relations we chose and presented four films (one of which was a fund raiser for Lakota YouthStay. We planned films to address the experience of Native Americas, Latina/o Immigrants, Black Americans and Muslim Americans. In July we screened and discussed *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* with 150 people, and raised 2600.00 for Lakota Youth Stay. In August we screened and discussed *Harvest of Empire* with 50 people. In September, Ava Duvernay's *13th* with 50 people and in October, in partnership with the Arabic Club of Medford High School, Allah Made Me Funny with 30 people. Each of the films was poignant and challenged the status quo and white American, Judeo Christian supremacy. The discussions planned by Sanctuary staff were powerful and formative. Based on the success of this year's series, both Tufts and the Medford Film Collaborative asked that we join them again for another series. An Arts Council grant has been awarded for 2018.

2017 Medford Arts Council Grants

Sanctuary was awarded three grants for \$2650.00 in 2017:

- \$1000 for Sanctuary's Arts and Inspiration Program (this grant was fully achieved thorough the programming reflected above and will be reimbursed in 2018)
- \$1200 for a new proposal for Sanctuary to bring arts into the West Medford Halloween Block Party (make your own costume from recycled material, make your own mask on the day of party, call for seasonal art show in the windows of the West Medford Storefronts and "Dance-Lessons" During the Block Party). This grant was reframed due to low interest level of the Block Party partners and Sanctuary partnered with the Medford Arts Center, Inc. and the MARV Art Vehicle – and offered make your own masks, costumes and art activities along with the Caleb Cole "Other People's Clothes Closet and Halloween Photo Booth inside of Sanctuary. The reimbursements received in 2018 for this grant will be reduced accordingly.
- \$ 450 for a justice oriented arts program entitled, "Black American Music and the Black American Journey". The grant would over the costs of leadership for a Concert/Workshop/Mass Choir – this would be a program supported by medford Conversations project but would be a sanctuary event for which we would do fundraising and ticketing. This grant was not achieved due to challenges with scheduling the program and the availability of musicians and program leaders. We will seek to extend the grant period to determine if we might use the grant for a Sanctuary program in 2018.

Due to time constraints and staffing upheaval taking place at the time that the Local Arts Grants were due, Sanctuary did not apply for local arts grants for 2018.