

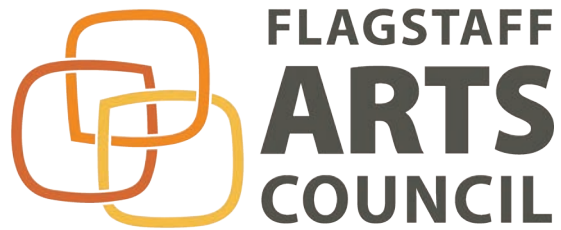
Announcing

THE 2021

VIOLA AWARDS

FINALISTS





The Flagstaff Arts Council is pleased to announce the Finalists and Legacy Award winners for the 13th Annual Viola Awards. The Viola Awards honor excellence in the arts, sciences, and culture in Flagstaff in 2020. 2020 was an unprecedented year, but the finalists of the year's Viola Awards prove the creativity and resiliency in our community.

This year's awards will honor 36 finalists across 9 categories with some finalists being recognized in multiple categories. Additionally, the 13th Annual Viola Awards will honor two Legacy Award Recipients, Dr. Edith Copely and Nat White. All finalists will be honored at the Viola Awards event on Friday, June 18, 2021 at the Pepsi Amphitheater at Fort Tuthill. For more information and tickets click [here](#).

[BUY TICKETS](#)

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Legacy Recipient **DR. EDITH COPLEY**



Edith A. Copley has taught at Northern Arizona University for 31 years in the choral studies area in the School of Music. She conducted the highly acclaimed Shrine of the Ages Choir (founded in 1933) for 27 years. She also conducted the Chamber Singers and University Singers during her tenure and taught courses in graduate and undergraduate conducting, graduate choral literature, and choral methods. Choral ensembles under her direction have toured internationally to Western Europe, the People's Republic of China, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Bulgaria, Istanbul, and the Baltics.

From 1993 to 2016, Copley served as the music director of the Master Chorale of Flagstaff, a 100-voice community choir that performs four concerts each year, including a choral/orchestral works with the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra (FSO) each spring. Copley has conducted many concerts with the FSO, including Requiems by Fauré, Brahms, Duruflé and Britten, masses by Bach, Haydn and Mozart, and other major works by Verdi and Orff.

Copley has received numerous honors, including NAU School of Performing Arts Centennial Teacher of the Year Award, Arizona Music Educator of the Year, Arizona ACDA Outstanding Choral Director Award, the Viola Award in Music, and the Weston H. Noble Award from her alma mater Luther College.

Copley has served in many leadership roles for the American Choral Directors Association, and is currently serving as the national president-elect. She has conducted all-state choirs in over 30 states, national honor choirs in Carnegie Hall each spring since 2012, and international choral festivals in Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, Luxembourg, Tasmania, England, Australia, China, Turkey and Oman.

Legacy Recipient

NAT WHITE



Nat White has been an active member in the Flagstaff community for more than fifty years. He first came to Flagstaff in 1969 as an Ohio State University graduate student for research purposes, where his skills earned him a position at the Lowell Observatory. Nat worked at Lowell for 38 years as an astronomer, retiring in 2007. His research emphasis was the measurement of stellar properties using lunar occultations and the development of astronomical instrumentation, high-angular-resolution astronomy. Nat retired in 2007 in the position of Lowell Observatory's program manager for the development of the Navy Prototype Optical Interferometer on Anderson Mesa.

From the start of his time in Flagstaff, Nat has been engaged in the community, from attending council meetings to encouraging managed growth and the value of open space within Flagstaff. He was a founding member and president of Friends of Flagstaff's Future, an organization dedicated to engaging local citizens in strategic decision making about the Flagstaff community.

Nat also served on Flagstaff's City Council for four years, two as vice mayor. He was very involved in protecting Flagstaff's open spaces. He was a leader in the 1986 successful referendum protecting Buffalo Park and was part of the original planning and implementation of the Flagstaff Urban Trail System, FUTS. He provided pictures and data for the State Land Department application that eventually led to the City's purchase of the Observatory Mesa Preserve.

In a Flagstaff Business News article, Nat discusses how protecting these types of spaces has contributed to the "happiness of residents, provides an attraction, and an economic benefit" for Flagstaff residents and businesses. In the decades Nat has spent in Flagstaff, he has seen it flourish from a small town to a thriving city, and intends to continue to protect the natural environment that he and so many other residents appreciate about Flagstaff.

Nat's involvement within the community has been varied. In January 2021, he was elected chair of the Coconino Community College's Governing Board. He was the founding president of the Flagstaff Public Library Foundation in 1991, a board member and chair of the Flagstaff Community Band, vice chair of the Flagstaff Leadership Program, a founding member of the Flagstaff Road and Track Club, a board member of the newly formed Flagstaff Trails Initiative and past member of multiple city commissions. He also plays trombone in several musical groups.

Nat was honored with the Friends of Flagstaff's Future first ever "Livable Community" award, recognizing his commitment to the Flagstaff community through the years. He was also honored as a 2013 Arizona Daily Sun Citizen of the Year. The American Planning Association, Arizona Chapter, awarded Nat the 'Distinguished Citizen Planner Award' for his involvement in city planning.

2021 VIOLA AWARDS FINALISTS



EXCELLENCE IN STORYTELLING

The Man in the Dog Park: Coming Up Close to Homelessness

Walking Flagstaff Photo Journal

Parched: The Art of Water in the Southwest Documentary

Deidra Peaches: 2020 films

Austin Aslan: 2020 works



EXCELLENCE IN STEAM

Lowell Observatory

Flagstaff Festival of Science

Parched: The Art of Water in the Southwest

Tynkertopia

EXCELLENCE IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

Horizons Concert Series: Voice of the Valley

Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra: Nutcracker

Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival: As You Like It

Ed Kabotie: Coyote Inna Quarentine & 50 Cent

F-Town Sound

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Dr. Alice Christie
Kayley Quick
Melinda McKinney
Owen Davis
Stephanie Yingst Galloway

EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC

An Illustrated Mess
Sci-Fi Country
Sean Golightly
Tow'rs

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY IMPACT

Duane Koyawena
Emma Gardner
John Taylor
Nick Geib
Scotty Jensen

ORGANIZATION COMMUNITY IMPACT

Exodus Program & Pop-Up Art Show
Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival
Flagstaff Festival of Science
MOCAF
The Murdoch Center & Southside Community Association

EMERGING ARTIST

Grace Noelle
Lauren Sarantopulos
Revelucien
Sierra Bryan
Tyrrell Tapaha

EXCELLENCE IN THE VISUAL ARTS

Eric Retterbush
Parched: The Art of Water in the Southwest
PIVOT at Brandy's



Presented by
Flagstaff Arts Council



AUSTIN ASLAN

—
**THE MAN IN THE DOG
PARK**

—
WALKING FLAGSTAFF

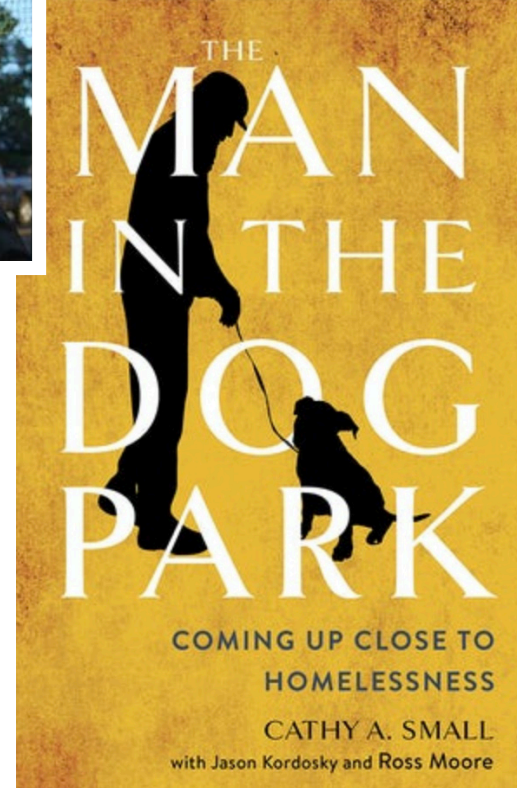
—
DEIDRA PEACHES

—
PARCHED

**EXCELLENCE IN
STORYTELLING**



THE MAN IN THE DOG PARK: COMING UP CLOSE TO HOMELESSNESS



Cathy A. Small, Ross Moore, and Jason Kordosky

The Man in the Dog Park offers the reader a rare window into homeless life. Spurred by a personal relationship with a homeless man who became her co-author, Cathy A. Small takes a compelling look at what it means and what it takes to be homeless. Interviews and encounters with dozens of homeless people lead you into a world that most have never seen. The book acts as an intimate observer into the places that many homeless frequent, including a community shelter, a day labor agency, a panhandling corner, a pawn shop, and a HUD housing office.

Through these personal stories, Small witnesses the obstacles that homeless people face, and the ingenuity it takes to negotiate life without a home. The Man in the Dog Park points to the ways that our own cultural assumptions and blind spots are complicit in US homelessness and contribute to the degree of suffering that homeless people face. At the same time, Small, Kordosky and Moore show you how your own sense of connection and compassion can bring you into touch with the actions that will lessen homelessness and bring greater humanity to the experience of those who remain homeless.

The raw emotion of The Man in the Dog Park will forever change your appreciation for, and understanding of, a life so many deal with outside of the limelight of contemporary society.

Through public book club talks, an authors' YouTube video an "Art in Action" exhibit, and a Weekly Wishes "giving" program to Flagstaff Shelter Services, Small has endeavored to connect readers of the book the stories of those experiencing homelessness in our community, and to do so in a way that invites engagement.



[Through an Open Lens:
Reframing Homelessness and Hunger Exhibition](#)
[Youtube Author Talk](#)
[Cornell Press](#) | [Degruyter](#) | [AZ Daily Sun](#)

AUSTIN ASLAN

2020 WORKS

Austin Aslan is the award-winning author of *THE ISLANDS AT THE END OF THE WORLD* and its sequel, *THE GIRL AT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD*, Penguin-Random House novels which couch themes of sustainability and interdependence deeply within the context of fast-paced, science-fiction thrillers. “Islands” was named a “Best Book of 2014” by Kirkus Reviews. It was ranked by *The Guardian* as a top-ten climate fiction read, and is listed by BookRiot as a top 100 must-read book in the category of young adult science fiction.

In 2020 Austin coauthored the first novel in a new series through HarperCollins with celebrated environmentalist and television show host Philippe Cousteau Jr., grandson of Jacques Cousteau. In *THE ENDANGEREDS*, an A-Team-like motley crew of endangered animals take matters into their own hands, paws, flippers, and claws to save fellow at-risk animals and species from environmental destruction. *ENDANGEREDS* is long-listed for the 2021 Green Earth Book Award.

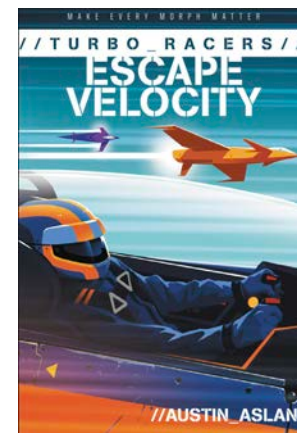
Austin also published Book Two of his *TURBO Racers* series in 2020, again with HarperCollins. In Aslan’s *TURBO Racers: Escape Velocity*, *The Fast and the Furious* meets *Transformers* in the second book of this high-stakes series about twelve-year-old Mace Blazer, who pilots state-of-the-art vehicles that transform seamlessly to race on the road, in the air, and even underwater. The *TURBO* properties were optioned to Fox Family Films in February of 2020.

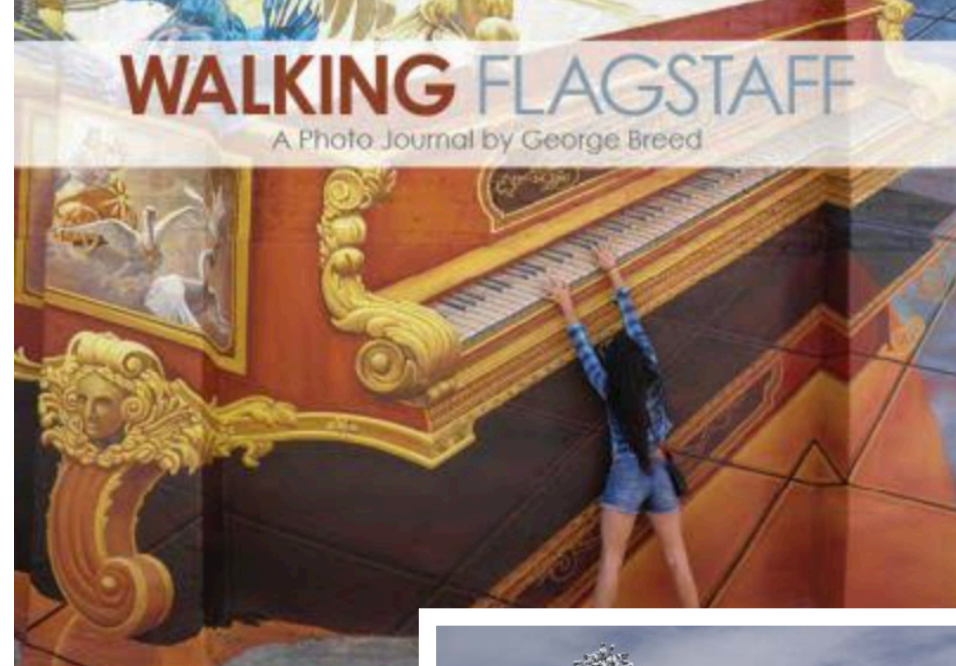
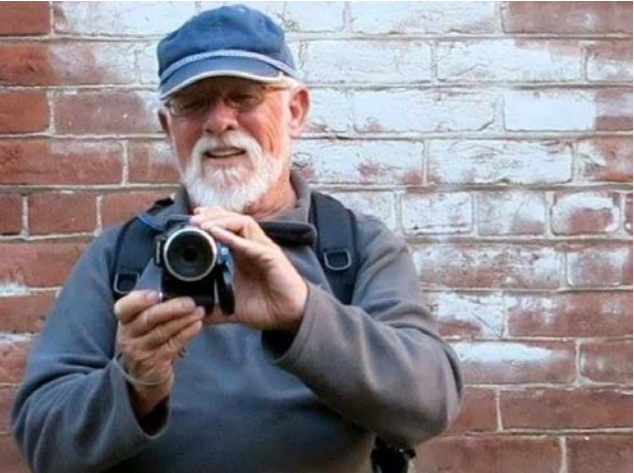
Gore-Tex hired Austin to write four narrative essays chronicling his 75-day, 800-mile backpacking “thru-hike” of the Arizona National Scenic Trail for their popular “Experience More” blog. And he subsequently authored the extended Arizona Trail section of Lonely Planet’s 2020 “*NATIONAL TRAILS OF AMERICA*” guide, forwarded by Cheryl Strayed.

As a current Flagstaff City Councilmember, Austin is proud of the city’s great work on climate change and carbon neutrality policies and legislation, and he leans heavily on his passion for the outdoors while wearing both his writing hat and elected official hat.

[Amazon Store](#)
[Artist’s Website](#)
[Good Reads](#)

[AZ Daily Sun](#)
[NY Times Book Review](#)
[Philippe Cousteau Interview on The Endangered](#)





WALKING FLAGSTAFF

George Breed

The faces and places that give Flagstaff its unique character are captured in this collection of photos by George Breed. *Walking Flagstaff: A Photo Journal* is George Breed's first full-length collection comprising 235 of his photos, plus two dozen of his short writings about walking and seeing Flagstaff.

At age 71, Breed, a Marine and martial artist, was newly retired from a career in psychology when he began exploring the town's streets, paths, and back alleyways on foot, camera in hand. Taken during a decade's worth of daily strolls, these photos reflect the quirky vision of an attentive artist who finds meaning and connection everywhere he looks. The result is a book that captures the essence of a singular town.

"George Breed's photos are iridescent threads that weave together to reflect the fabric of the very special place that is Flagstaff." –Jake Bacon, chief photographer, Arizona Daily Sun.

[Soulstice Publishing](#) | [AZ Daily Sun](#) | [Flag Live! Cover Story](#)

DEIDRA PEACHES 2020 FILMS



Over the past 15 years, Peaches' work encompasses various genres, including documentaries, fiction films, and music videos. In 2009 her documentary *Shimasani* debut at the Imaginative Film Festival in Toronto, Canada. In 2011, Peaches Produced and Co-Edited *The Rocket Boy* (2011), an official selection at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, led Peaches and Jake Hoyungowa (cinematographer) co-found the Independent media company Paper Rocket Productions. In 2013 Paper Rocket Productions released, *Tó éí iiná át'é* (2013), which premiered in Paris, France for the Festival Ciné Alter'Natif 2012. In 2020, Peaches documented the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic among the Dine' (Navajo) populations in the southwest.

Peaches' 2020 films included Navajo Nation *MANANALU*, *Yéego Diné Asdzáá Climb Training*, *AnTro & DJ Béeso - Desire* (Official Music Video), and *Whatever Cecil - Flowers* (feat. Kidahashiya, A. Billi Free & Dillon) - (Official Music Video).

Navajo Nation MANANALU, which debuted online in April 2020, is notable for its documentation of the impacts of COVID-19 within Dine' (Navajo) populations and the organization of the relief effort to supply those in need or high-risk with necessary supplies.

[Artist's Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Arizona Public Media](#) | [AZ Daily Sun](#) | [Navajo MANANALU](#)

PARCHED: THE ART OF WATER IN THE SOUTHWEST



Nick Geib, Jane Marks, & Julie Comnick

In 2020 after Covid restrictions would undoubtedly limit the audience for the exhibition Parched: The Art of Water in the Southwest, project leaders decided to create a documentary video that included interviews of artists, scientists, tribal members and water managers.

The documentary told the story of the creation of the art exhibit focusing on how the immersive learning experience integrated art and science. Footage included the sites visited in the boot camp which informed the art work including Glen Canyon dam, the Colorado River, Fossil Creek, Arizona Snowbowl, Waste Water Treatment Plants, Tribal Lands (Navajo and Hopi). The artwork was beautifully filmed, including clips of artists installing the exhibit and the art exhibit fully installed. Artists interviews allowed viewers a unique opportunity to hear about how the works were created and gain insight into the artists thoughts, motivations and inspirations. The one-hour documentary was premiered in mid-December as part of a virtual screening followed by an hour question and answer session with artists and educators. The documentary is available for free on-line. Future programming will incorporate the documentary in college and high school classrooms and other public venues.

Parched was initiated in 2018 when nine regional artists were selected to participate in an immersive learning experience about water. The project's steering committee included scientists, water managers and environmental activists. Artists attended a week long "boot camp" designed by the steering committee that featured field trips highlighting regional and cultural issues surrounding water management, with a strong emphasis on managing water for healthy ecosystems. Field sites demonstrated the complexity of managing water in the context of meeting human needs for food and water while preserving biodiversity. The curriculum also emphasized native and cultural issues and strived to have strong representation of Native artists and scientists. Sites visited included Glen Canyon Dam where artists and water experts talked about the roles of large dams in generating hydropower and storing water so that people can have predictable supplies for agricultural and domestic use but also emphasized how large dams affect native biodiversity. The team also spent a day on the Navajo and Hopi reservations talking with residents, water experts and members of an NGO which provides filters to homes to provide safe drinking water. Artists visited Fossil Creek to learn about the decommissioning of a power dam and exotic fish removal to restore the ecosystem. Fossil Creek is one of only two wild and scenic rivers in Arizona and this site presented an opportunity to learn about threats to freshwater ecosystems. Participants also visited Arizona Snowbowl and the Scottsdale Water Treatment Plant where they discussed the use of reclaimed water, including scientific limitations on testing for emerging contaminants and native perspectives on using reclaimed water at sacred sites. During the week-long training artists talked with scientists, residents of the reservation who haul water, state, federal and city water managers, environmental advocates.

Artists spent over a year working on their pieces and performances. Some worked together and others continued researching water issues, building partnerships with experts who they met during the boot camp. The curator, Julie Comnick, visited artists studios to ensure that the individual works tied together as a full exhibit. The artwork was diverse in form and theme and included paintings, photographs, dance performances, installation pieces and sculpture. Themes ranged from spiritual explorations of water and natural habitats to politically charged messages about inequity in water distribution. Issues that emerged in multiple pieces include human rights to clean drinking water, water pricing, wasting water, conflicts between differing cultural perceptions of water, the power of ecological restoration and universal properties of water across culture and time.

The Parched project is part of a series of exhibits that integrate science and the arts by convening teams of artists and scientists dedicated to exploring scientific issues pertinent to our region. Teams work together for 1-2 years with scientists developing educational programming and artists create artistic pieces around the theme. Prior exhibits that were part of this series include “Fires of Change” which focused on forest management and “Hope + Trauma in a Poisoned Land” which dealt with the effects of uranium mining on Native Americans.

Parched Artists: Julie Comnick (Curator); Klee Benally; Josh Biggs; Debra Edgerton; Neal Galloway, Marie Gladue; Delisa Myles; Shawn Skabelund; Glory Tacheenie-Campoy, Kathleen Velo.

Parched Creative Writers: Peter Friederici, Tommy Rock

Parched Documentary Production Team: Nick Geib - Director & Videographer; Jane Marks – Producer; Julie Comnick – Producer; Sarah Smallwood – Associate Producer

Parched Steering Committee: Don Bills, Ron Doba, Alicyn Gitlin, Audrey Kruse, Jane Marks, Sarah Smallwood

[Parched Trailer](#) | [Full Documentary](#) | [Q&A](#)
[Parched Virtual Exhibition](#)
[NAU News](#) | [O'ODHAM Action News](#)





Presented by
Flagstaff Arts Council



**LOWELL
OBSERVATORY**

**FLAGSTAFF FESTIVAL
OF SCIENCE**

PARCHED

TYNKERTOPIA



**EXCELLENCE IN
STEAM**



LOWELL OBSERVATORY

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Lowell Observatory closed their doors to the public on the evening of March 12. Shortly after, nearly all 123 staff members began working from home. The educators missed learning and sharing astronomy with what would normally be more than 100,000 visitors per year, but they were soon tasked with creating new programs to utilize the organization strengths and link people struggling with the pandemic in a remote yet engaging way.

When learning that children and parents were struggling to adapt to in-home school and work, they marshalled the resources of their STEM camps and educators to create weekly Science Challenges that families could follow along with using household items to conduct STEM experiments. They produced 10 episodes and received messages and photos from families who engaged with the challenges. They also adapted our in-person “Meet an Astronomer” nights at the Giovale Open Deck Observatory to a virtual series during which Lowell faculty talked about their current and past research.

After the first weeks, they ramped up to our current suite of four distinct programs which air new episodes on a regular basis. In addition, we produce special livestream programs for astronomical phenomena such as the recent Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, planetary oppositions, supermoons, meteor showers, equinoxes and solstices, and lunar eclipses.

Recurring programs include:

- Cosmic Coffee (weekly)

Our director, Dr. Jeff Hall, invites guests to explore different topics connected to astronomy and planetary science. During the first several months of the pandemic, each show highlighted a different local coffee shop as the speakers enjoyed their favorite morning beverages.

- Interactive Stargazing (weekly)

Lowell educators use the 14” PlaneWave at the new Giovale Open Deck Observatory to display live feeds of the night sky. Online viewers use the YouTube chat feature to request objects to see, which the educator then locates in the sky and describes on the spot. This interactive element is unique among online stargazing live streams.

- Sagas in the Sky (biweekly)

Educators tell the stories behind different constellations and star groupings.

- Mars Hill Almanac (monthly)

Educators explain the upcoming astronomical phenomena and objects that will be visible in the sky each month.



All of Lowell's virtual programs created since March have been completely free to the public and are available on YouTube to view any time after airing.

While livestreaming on YouTube, Lowell's educators and astronomers have enjoyed interacting with viewers and helping the public enjoy astronomy just as they would in person. Lowell is proud that staff's enthusiasm beams through screens everywhere to pique the interests of people of all ages.

Lowell is so grateful to continue to provide engaging content to the community of astronomy lovers at home and afar, and that they have responded so kindly with their comments and questions. They look forward to the day when we open the gates and bring people back to Lowell Observatory in large numbers to enjoy the wonders of the universe in the dark skies of northern Arizona. Until that day has safely come, they will strive to continue to provide content for everyone to enjoy from the comfort of their own home.

Our viewers often express their enjoyment in messages to the staff:

"We send kudos to Educators Hannah Zigo and Megan Gialluca for their fine performances on Interactive Stargazing. We've watched both in the past week, and they are a delight to listen to, so full of information at the right level for the general public. In addition, they and their behind-the-scene assistants are so adept at responding to viewers' requests – never a dull moment! The forum allowing viewers to request specific objects via the chat line is brilliant. We also continue to watch Cosmic Coffee and Meet an Astronomer. While we can't catch all of these live, the You-Tube library giving us access to all past livestreams is a rich resource. We continue referring others to this treasury of knowledge. Well Done, Lowell Observatory!" – email from Lowell Observatory members.

This recent message from a mother who watched our Great Conjunction livestream with her family also touched us:

"Please feel free to also share with your colleagues that, besides seeing my girls' rapt attention to everything on screen and being shared, my favorite part of the livestream was seeing how much joy each educator gets out of his/her work. They made it come alive for my family and we're grateful."

Since March 12, our virtual YouTube programs have increased our connection to the community despite being unable to invite people to campus until recently, and in very limited numbers. Since March 12, more than 22,000 people have subscribed to our YouTube channel, and the 196 new videos we have produced have been viewed more than 2.6 million times (so far!). What most encourages us however, are the daily messages:

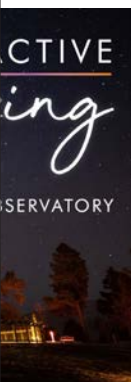
"I love these lessons you guys give."

"Thank you so much for this wonderful and informative livestream"

[The Great Conjunction](#)

[Lowell Observatory Youtube](#)

[Lowell Observatory Special Event Calendar](#)



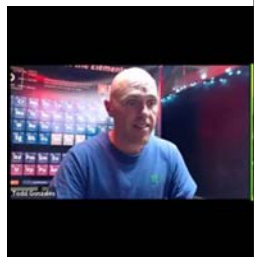
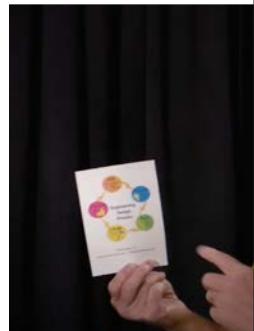
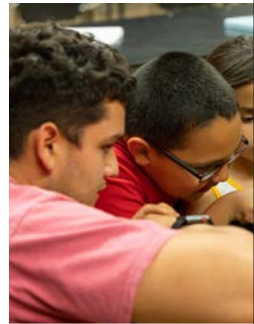
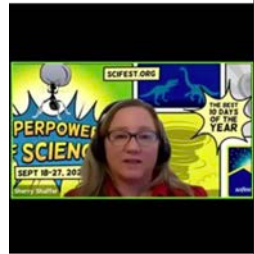
FLAGSTAFF FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE



The Flagstaff Festival of Science produced a quality, ground-breaking season in hands-on activities, interaction with scientists and experiential learning. Within a virtual format, at least two-thirds of the more than 60 activities included live interactive components such as chat messages or Zoom participation. In addition, the Festival incorporated free STEM kits to coincide with video workshops which students, teachers, and families could access at home or in a classroom.

Transitioning from a live, in-person series of events to a primarily virtual program was no easy decision to make. Leadership had tough conversations on how the long-time Festival could be successful in the time of COVID with so many organizations turning to virtual offerings. The Festival board carefully considered the annual goal to provide 10 science-packed days of free activities to the community, and how the Festival could uphold their mission during a transition such as this. Ultimately, the decision was made to use online platforms and resources to continue the impactful science programming that the Festival offers.

This pivot meant working with dozens of community groups to create more than 50 pre-recorded videos or live streamed presentations; a phenomenal undertaking within just a couple of months. The Festival relied on streaming services like Youtube and Zoom to deliver the excellent content right to people's homes allowing audiences to view the programs either live or at a later time that was convenient to them. A coordinated effort with Flagstaff Unified School District teachers meant that kids were still able to get hands-on experiences with scientists through video, even during restricted class time. The incredible technological coordination that went into the 2020 Festival was truly a feat. And the outcome proved that pivoting to a virtual format was successful for this long-standing Flagstaff organization and event.





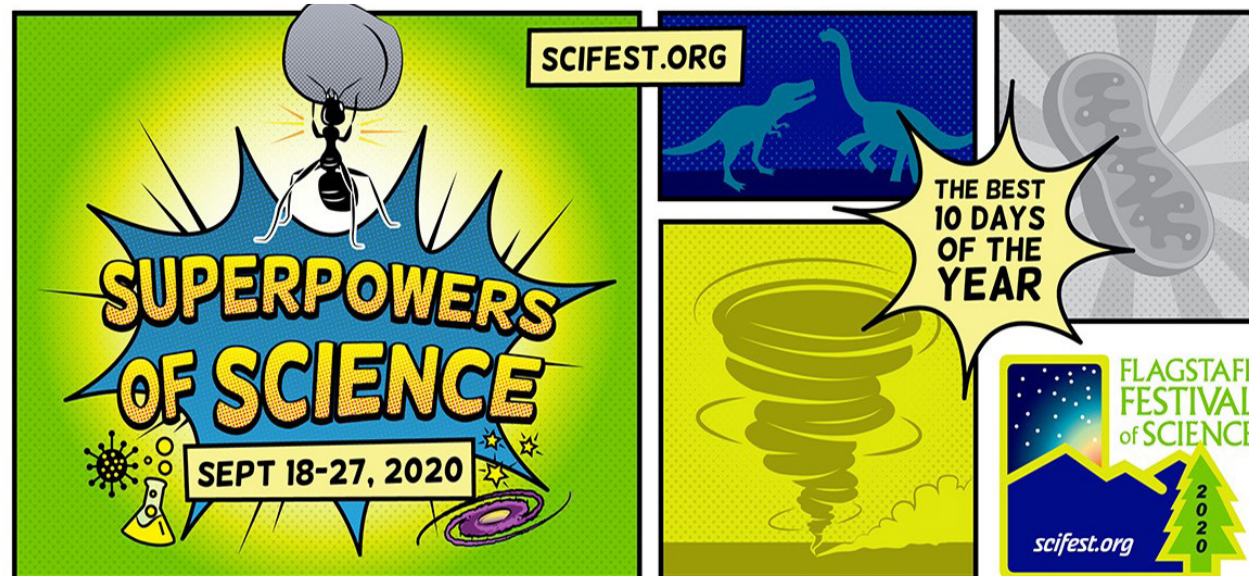
Going virtual allowed the Festival to maintain its run as the longest continuous science festival in the US. The new platform also brought in new audiences from all over the country, showcasing the spectacular scientific research, updates, and discoveries happening right here in Flagstaff. Finally, going virtual provided an example to numerous other festivals around the country that were facing the same challenges and big questions. Festival board members spoke with representatives of other festivals to help guide them and answer questions on how to make this pivot; ultimately showing not only resilience and creativity but also leadership within the broader community of science festivals.

The Festival learned from feedback, surveys, and attendance that quality programming is in big demand, regardless of the delivery method. The board also learned that the Festival is able to reach far more individuals by incorporating virtual activities than by using an exclusively in-person model where access and availability can limit participation. Moving forward, the Festival board will consider virtual programming as a part of future events to continue extending outreach beyond Northern Arizona. This year alone, Flagstaff-based Earth Scientist Christa Sadler brought her abundant enthusiasm and unusual fossils to the W. L. Gore & Associates Keynote Presentation, “Tapping into the Superpowers of Science.” Her presentation attracted viewers from as far away as the East Coast and Canada who tuned in to hear from the river-running adventurer who participates in paleontology, archaeology and geology projects around the globe.

[Festival of Science Website](#)
[Facebook](#)
[2020 Virtual Keynote](#)

[Tynkertopia STEAM Kits: Think Like an Engineer](#)
[Impact of Pandemics on Human History](#)
[Chad Woodruff](#)

[AZ Daily Sun](#)
[Discover Flagstaff](#)



PARCHED: THE ART OF WATER IN THE SOUTHWEST

Steering Committee



“Parched: The Art of Water in the Southwest ” included the art exhibit was on display at the Coconino Center for the Arts from September 2020-January 2021, and the associated documentary and the panel discussions that were organized around the exhibit.

The Parched project is part of a series of exhibits that integrate science and the arts by convening teams of artists and scientists dedicated to exploring scientific issues pertinent to our region. Teams work together for 1-2 years with scientists developing educational programming and artists create artistic pieces around the theme. Prior exhibits that were part of this series include “Fires of Change” which focused on forest management and “Hope + Trauma in a Poisoned Land” which dealt with the effects of uranium mining on Native Americans.

Parched was initiated in 2018 when nine regional artists were selected to participate in an immersive learning experience about water. The project’s steering committee included scientists, water managers and environmental activists. Artists attended a week long “boot camp” designed by the steering committee that featured field trips highlighting regional and cultural issues surrounding water management, with a strong emphasis on managing water for healthy ecosystems. Field sites demonstrated the complexity of managing water in the context of meeting human needs for food and water while preserving biodiversity. The curriculum also emphasized native and cultural issues and strived to have strong representation of Native artists and scientist. Sites visited included Glen Canyon Dam where artists and water experts talked about the roles of large dams in generating hydropower and storing water so that people can have predictable supplies for agricultural and domestic use but also emphasized how large dams affect native biodiversity. The team also spent a day on the Navajo and Hopi reservations talking with residents, water experts and members of an NGO which prides filters to homes to provide safe drinking water. Artists visited Fossil Creek to learn about the decommissioning of a power dam and exotic fish removal to restore the ecosystem. Fossil Creek is one of only two wild and scenic rivers in Arizona and this site presented an opportunity to learn about threats to freshwater ecosystems. Participants also visited Arizona Snowbowl and the Scottsdale Water Treatment Plant where they discussed the use of reclaimed water, including scientific limitations on testing for emerging contaminants and native perspectives on using reclaimed water at sacred sites. During the week-long training artists talked with scientists, residents of the reservation who haul water, state, federal and city water managers, environmental advocates.



Artists spent over a year working on their pieces and performances. Some worked together and others continued researching water issues, building partnerships with experts who they met during the boot camp. The curator, Julie Comnick, visited artists studios to ensure that the individual works tied together as a full exhibit. The artwork was diverse in form and theme and included paintings, photographs, dance performances, installation pieces and sculpture. Themes ranged from spiritual explorations of water and natural habitats to politically charged messages about inequity in water distribution. Issues that emerged in multiple pieces include human rights to clean drinking water, water pricing, wasting water, conflicts between differing cultural perceptions of water, the power of ecological restoration and universal properties of water across culture and time.

Diversity and Inclusion – The Parched project demonstrated a strong commitment to providing a platform for diverse voices. The artistic team included four artists of color including three members of regional tribes. The parallel programming (documentary and panel discussion) strived to include diverse experts and included multiple female scientists and resource experts including multiple members of regional tribes.

“You can’t ignore the fact that part of the reason the Navajo Nation has been so disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 has been because of water issues,” artist and activist Klee Benally stated flatly yet urgently. “Lack of access to water to maintain hygiene, having to haul water and the legacy of contamination from uranium mining in our water systems impacts our health and makes us even more susceptible to these kinds of viruses.” This quote was one of innumerable moments of shock and awe during PARCHED: The Art of Water in the Southwest. Shock at our society’s misuse of its water resources, combined with awe at the level of artistic beauty by which PARCHED conveyed its message in the form of a virtual exhibit and documentary film, including artist performances, statements, and life-changing information. “Water has a spirit” was but one such moment during PARCHED when the film’s message altered the way the audience perceives the element that is the source of all life.

Parched Documentary - Parched leaders created a documentary video that included interviews of artists, scientists, tribal members and water managers. Footage included the sites visited in the boot camp which informed the art work including Glen Canyon dam, the Colorado River, Fossil Creek, Arizona Snowbowl, Waste Water Treatment Plants, Tribal Lands (Navajo and Hopi). The artwork was beautifully filmed, including clips of artists installing the exhibit and the art exhibit fully installed. The documentary told the story of the creation of the art exhibit focusing on how the immersive learning experience integrated art and science. Artists interviews allowed viewers a unique opportunity to hear about how the works were created and gain insight into the artists thoughts, motivations and inspirations. The one-hour documentary was premiered in mid-December as part of a virtual screening followed by an hour question and answer session with artists and educators. The documentary is available for free on-line. Future programming will incorporate the documentary in college and high school classrooms and other public venues.

Parched Steering Committee: Don Bills, Ron Doba, Alicyn Gitlin, Audrey Kruse, Jane Marks, Peter Friederici, Julie Comnick, Sarah Smallwood

[Parched Virtual Exhibition](#)
[Parched Trailer](#) | [Full Documentary](#) | [Q&A](#)
[NAU News](#) | [O'ODHAM Action News](#)



TYNKERTOPIA

Tynkertopia's vision is to build a stronger future for Flagstaff youth and families by offering community-based STEAM learning opportunities.

Their mission is to serve as a STEAM Community Center to empower residents of Flagstaff and Northern Arizona to cultivate skills, strategies, and confidence as independent, lifelong learners and to expand creativity, inquiry skills, and STEAM skills and knowledge by inviting curiosity, inspiring wonder, encouraging playfulness, and celebrating unique solutions.

Tynkertopia is a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space for students, teachers, parents, artists, crafters, inventors, makers, and tynkerers of any age. They welcome community collaborations in which partners work together to share expertise, resources, and responsibility for achieving mutual goals.

Children and youth of all ages enjoy going to Tynkertopia to build, create, explore, discover, tynker, and have fun learning about science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM). Their motto is Think with your Hands
• Learn by Doing!

Tynkertopia is a 501 3(c) nonprofit organization that offers free admission to all. Funding comes exclusively from donations and grants. The target population is public, private, charter, and home-schooled children and their parents, grandparents, guardians, caseworkers, and their teachers. The organization is dedicated to serving children and youth living in poverty and those un- or under-represented in STEAM fields.

Tynkertopia's exponential growth and success since opening its doors in August 2018 indicates that Tynkertopia is filling an important need in Flagstaff. Before their closure due to COVID in March 2020, more and more families were discovering Tynkertopia each month, with a total of over 10,500 visitors between August 2018 and mid-March 2020.

- In 2018, an average of 473 visitors went to Tynkertopia each month
- In 2019, an average of 519 visitors went to Tynkertopia each month
- In 2020, an average of 714 visitors went to Tynkertopia before they closed



During the twenty months, their doors were open, they hosted 25 field trips from area public, private, and charter schools in which students deepened their understanding of the science and engineering concepts they were learning in school. They also hosted 43 science-based birthday parties for children who loved Tynkertopia and wanted to celebrate their birthdays in Tynkertopia's colorful, engaging space.

Comments by parents of preschool, elementary school, and middle school students that indicate how important Tynkertopia is to the Flagstaff community follow:

- Tynkertopia is a great community asset for Flagstaff. So much thought and energy has gone into everything there. Great experience!
- Free STEAM open-ended activities and learning opportunities for the whole family!!
- What a wonderful space for kids! This is an amazing learning and fun place that is so needed in Flagstaff.
- This is an amazing addition to Flagstaff. My son loves creating and exploring here, and the staff are beyond supportive.
- This place is awesome! Free entry (donation encouraged), crafts, games, STEAM activities and lots of educational opportunities.
- Tynkertopia is such a wonderful place to spend time learning and tinkering. There's a wealth of materials and options for kids of all ages.
- This place is a wonderful addition to the Flagstaff community!
- Tynkertopia is a treasure trove! There's a wonderful collection of STEAM educational toys and tons of books, games, puzzles, and STEAM challenges. My kids wanted to stay all day! And so did I!
- I am so grateful that I can take my kids to Tynkertopia. Amazingly, it's FREE, so we can afford to go as often as we want.



[Tynkertopia's Website](#)
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)
[Tynkertopia Youtube](#)
[Tynkertopia Video Gallery](#)
[Coconino Coalition for Children
& Youth](#)



Presented by
Flagstaff Arts Council



VOICE OF THE WHALE

—
FSO NUTCRACKER

—
AS YOU LIKE IT

—
ED KABOTIE

—
F-TOWN SOUND

**EXCELLENCE IN
PERFORMING ARTS**



VOICE OF THE WHALE

NAU HORIZONS CONCERT SERIES

Although titled “Voice of the Whale” after the final composition on the program, the March 9, 2020, multimedia performance on the School of Music’s Horizons Concert Series represented a far-reaching exploration of the influence of animal sounds on music over more than 300 years. The program was divided into three segments—Birds, Insects, and Whales—each featuring music inspired by the sounds of nature. The powerful, crystal-clear sound system in Kitt Recital Hall broadcast field recordings of the specific animal inspiration before each segment, enveloping the audience in sounds of nature before listening to the sounds of humans inspired by nature.

“[Voice of the Whale] is an iconic late 20th-century piece that came from a time of social activism among many composers. And not just pop composers, but classical composers as well,” Dr. Todd Sullivan, director of the NAU School of Music, said.

“Voice of the Whale transports the listener to the vast expanse of the ocean and the haunting, expressive songs of the humpback whale,” Sullivan said. “Aqua light floods the stage, and the performers wear masks to conceal their human identities.

“George Crumb is a humble composer, but he used music as a medium for social commentary. [Voice of the Whale] came about during the emergence of Greenpeace, at a time when people became critical of commercial whaling. This is classical work from the 1970s with distinct political influences, and many of the themes still resonate today,” Sullivan said.

[AZ Daily Sun](#) | [NAU Event Page](#)





Birds:

Undoubtedly, birds have been the most imitated animals throughout musical history. This segment opened with examples of imitative and stereotyped bird songs in three Baroque sources of bird music: Jacob van Eyck's "English Nightingale" from *Der Fluyten Lust-hof*, transcriptions of actual bird songs in Athanasius Kircher's *Musurgia univeralis* (possibly the first modern performances of these transcription), and Richard Meares and John Walsh's *The Bird Fancier's Delight*. Eight different Baroque recorders were used to perform these solo compositions. The final, and most extensive, work in this segment was a four-movement trio sonata featuring fully composed birdsongs in a highly cultivated setting. **Performers: Todd Sullivan, Baroque recorders; Kimberly Sullivan, Baroque violin; Mary Ann Ramos, cello; David Koerner, harpsichord**

Insects:

The dominant nighttime animal sounds are those of insects. Béla Bartók, a Hungarian composer and ethnomusicology who spent years in the outdoors collecting folksongs of Central European and North African peasants, embraced the inspiration of nocturnal insect sounds in his solo-piano suite, *Out of Doors*, which pianist Jeffrey Swann, the President's Distinguished Artist in Residence, performed in its entirety. **Performer: Jeffrey Swann, piano**

Whales:

American composer George Crumb employed music as a medium for social activism, especially in his works of the late-1960s and early-1970s, which confronted the landing on/conquest of the moon, the atrocities of the Vietnam War, and the exploitation and near-eradication of animal populations. Crumb created *Vox balaenae* (*The Voice of the Whale*) in 1971-1972 out of growing alarm over the global over-harvesting of humpback whales, whose sophisticated, mesmerizing songs display a "humanity" unparalleled in the animal world. Regrettably, this concern remains as acute today as it did a half-century ago as humpback whales face threats posed by entanglements, vessel strikes, and habitat change due to global warming.

Vox balaenae involves three amplified instruments (flute, cello, and piano) in a wash of blue light evoking the ocean. Each performer wears a mask suggesting a whale; Jennifer Peterson, from the NAU Department of Theatre, designed and constructed masks for this performance. While all three instruments imitate the calls of humpback whales, it is the flute that assumes the protagonist role with its rapid embellishments and haunting singing-while-playing. **Performers: Emily Hoppe, flute; Mary Ann Ramos, cello; Jeffrey Swann, piano**

THE NUTCRACKER

FLAGSTAFF SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



For the past sixteen years, the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra has presented the Nutcracker Ballet to the Northern Arizona community. The production has featured dancers from the Northern Arizona University Community Music and Dance Academy under the direction of Andrew Needhammer. The Nutcracker has become a cherished Flagstaff holiday season tradition with performances on Friday and Saturday evenings and a special child-friendly matinee (The Lollipop Concert) on Saturday afternoon. The performances are traditionally presented in the NAU Ardrey Auditorium to an audience filled to the brim with excited children and their families dressed in their holiday finery—about 3,000 each year. It is always thrilling to be able to bring so much delight to the citizens of Flagstaff.

The COVID-19 restrictions placed significant barriers to making this presentation a reality in 2020. Ardrey Auditorium was closed, as was most of the NAU campus. The Dance Academy was limited to 30 or fewer dancers socially distanced on stage, with more stringent restrictions for outside organizations like the FSO. But, from the start of the pandemic, the FSO was determined to continue producing quality online programming until it was safe to return to the stage in a live setting. They realized that their Flagstaff audience would still want to share the magic of Tchaikovsky's beautiful music.

To make this happen, the FSO coordinated with the NAU Dance Academy to create a virtual performance. FSO Maestro Charles Latshaw carefully reviewed the symphony's recordings for the past two years' Nutcracker performances. He chose the best of each part of the ballet and wove them seamlessly into a complete orchestration. Mr. Needhammer adapted the choreography to groups of dancers who could practice in small classes, wear masks, and follow CDC guidelines.



With expert collaboration from NAU TV services, the pieces began to come together, and filming started right after the fall semester. The dancers were filmed in small groups over four days and more than twenty hours of actual dancing. Incredibly, a fire destroyed much of the video equipment just before the filming! But, the NAU TV team persevered, and filming continued with appropriate protocols and necessary equipment secured to provide a high-quality video. After almost two weeks of careful editing, the 2020 Nutcracker Ballet came to life in all of its extraordinary beauty, in sight and sound.

The FSO incorporated a new online video “on demand” service to host the production and sell tickets at a much lower cost than traditional live performance fees. The \$25 ticket allowed unlimited viewing for a single household for seventy-two hours. It provided minimal revenue to cover the cost of the production. Still, it allowed this masterpiece to be viewed by a wider Flagstaff community, as well as friends and family members from across the country, bringing groups together during the holidays. Additionally, the Orpheum Theater helped promote the event to their patrons, allowing even further reach.

The many challenges of this production were overcome by the remarkable coordination of each of the entities involved: the Flagstaff Symphony, The NAU School of Music, the NAU Community Music and Dance Academy, the NAU TV program, and the Orpheum Theater.

Ultimately, the 2020 Nutcracker Ballet was a huge success! The performance began streaming on December 18 and remained available until December 30. The total audience reached was 325, with viewers from across the United States and six foreign countries!! A gift of a Northern Arizona tradition that the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra will continue.



[Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra](#)
[NAU News](#)
[AZ Daily Sun](#)





AS YOU LIKE IT

FLAGSTAFF SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

In early 2020, Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival was planning their festival season like any other year, with the excitement of one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, *As You Like It* as a major player in their season. When the pandemic hit in March, FlagShakes had to make some big decisions on how to move forward. To continue to entertain and delight audiences while keeping them safe, director James Cougar Canfield decided to take the Shakespeare classic in a new direction. The production reimaged the characters of the play as participants in a massive online role-player video game called "As You Like It." Characters were meeting in this virtual place to be whoever they wanted to be, where you could play "as you like it."

With this change in concept, Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival assembled a production team to create a digital film set in a video game world. This included a video game animator, Nathan Leigh, who created 16-bit animation, avatars, battle sequences, and even created a playable version of the video game. Local musician Sean Golightly wrote an original nostalgic video game score to accompany the film. The entire production was filmed virtually by actors all over the country, from their own bedrooms, equipped with video game headsets and taking footage from their computer cameras. The film was arduously edited together by Sean Golightly, who transformed the raw footage into a quirky and hilarious 16-bit experience, where characters interacted in their video game bubbles.

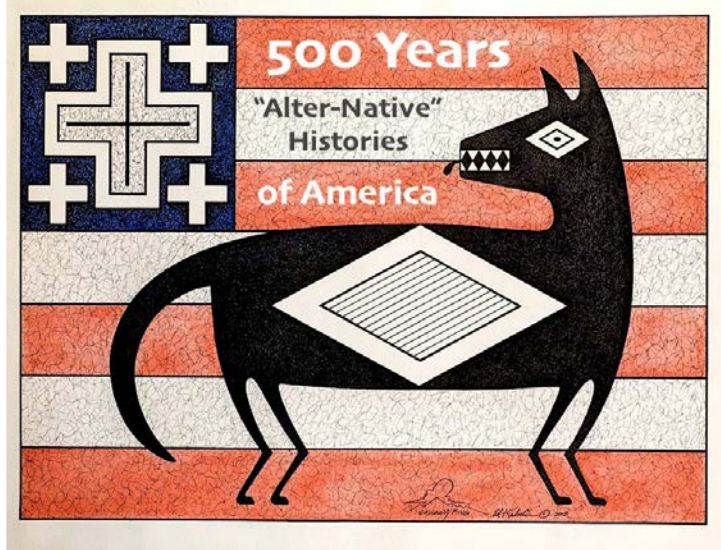
In addition to the burst of creativity relating to the production, Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival went a step further and produced a drive-in movie event at the Coconino County for the Arts to premier *As You Like It*, inviting the community to view the production from the safety of their own vehicles. The event featured the film, a live performance from the local band F-Town Sound, and Pizzicletta pizza and Elicit Chocolates onsite.

One patron who attended the event said the following:

“It’s difficult to express how much the performance of *As You Like It* affected me. Like the rest of us, I’ve been isolating at home for months. When not working on my computer, I see movies on Netflix or listen to music on my phone. It’s been like this for months. When I arrived at the performance, we were met by (masked) friendly faces, ushered to our parking spot, and then fed delicious local pizza. When the band started to play, it caught me off guard since we were distance sitting with friends. For me, the live music was overwhelming, making me cry and reminding me that my soul requires music to survive. I felt human again. When the music ended, we retreated to our cars and spent two hours watching a wonderful rendition of *As You Like It*. The event reminded me of what is important in life, art and live performances.”

[Performance Website](#)
[Hark Journal Interview](#)
[AZ Daily Sun](#)





ED KABOTIE

COYOTE INNA QUARANTINE & 500 YEARS

Tewa and Hopi musician and artist Ed Kabotie has been a force in the Flagstaff music and art scenes for almost a decade. His various projects including his band Tha 'Yoties, his residency at the Museum of Northern Arizona, his organization of six Rumble on the Mountain events, and his collaboration as a community partner with the Community University Public Inquiry initiative through NAU's Sustainable Communities program have all made Ed an integral part of the Flagstaff community. However,

with the novel coronavirus pandemic beginning in March of 2020, Ed brought his tireless energy and wisdom online. Shifting his focus to live streamed shows, he adapted, adjusted, and successfully improvised during a time of uncertainty.

In the past year, two of Ed's performances stand out- Coyote Inna Quarantine and 500 Years. Through a series of weekly Facebook Live performances, Ed brought and continues to bring attention to not only the impact of the pandemic on Flagstaff and local musicians and artists but also to the disproportionate impact Covid 19 had and continues to have on Indigenous communities, especially Hopi and Dine', in Arizona and the Pueblo communities in New Mexico. Additionally, he addressed the history of systemic racism and Indigenous Peoples through his 500 Years series.

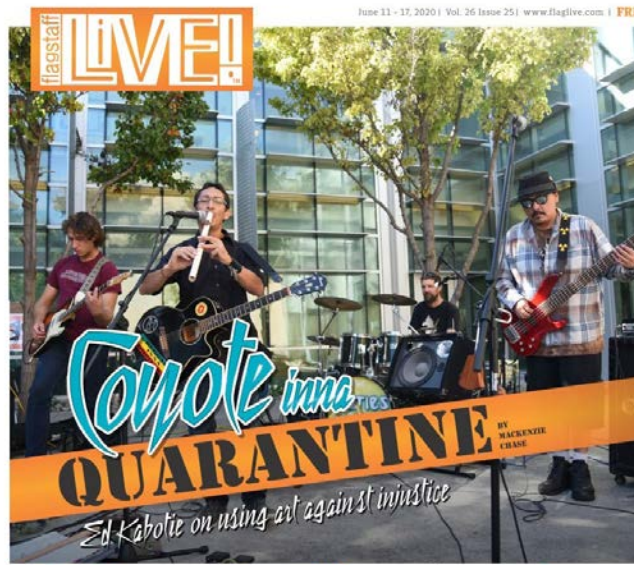
With his eight-part series, Coyote Inna Quarantine, Ed performed songs ranging from original solo pieces to songs he wrote for his Flagstaff based band Tha 'Yoties. Each of the eight shows focused not only on Ed's performance of songs but also, and as indicative of Ed's focus on more than "just the music," on the important context for the songs and messages Ed discussed. The shows, such as the "Songs of Hope" show which aired on May 2nd provide a mix of reggae songs with important discussions of Indigenous history and contemporary issues. In particular, Ed focused on the disproportionate effect the coronavirus has had on Hopi, Dine', and Pueblo communities throughout the Southwest. Ed drew viewers' attention to the Hopi Foundation as a way to provide support to the Hopi people during the pandemic. These shows provided not only solace in a difficult time but also a specific way for people to provide help to those most impacted by the novel coronavirus.

With 500 Years, Ed presented a seven-part series that provided "a study of systemic racism in relation to five centuries of European presence in the western hemisphere." Ed performed original songs as well as contextualizing the songs within a specifically Indigenous history. What was most impressive about this series was Ed's thorough exploration of five centuries of colonialism and racism and providing a link between the past and contemporary issues and concerns of Indigenous people across the United States and North America. The final show of the series, "An Alter-Native History of America", was a four hour wrap up/rock with Ed and Tha 'Yoties. The Show was held at the Orpheum Theater, with the help of Grand Canyon Trust, The Sierra Club, and Wild Arizona in a cooperative effort to raise awareness of systemic issues on the Colorado Plateau and to raise funds for the Hopi Foundation.

Other notable shows of the year:

- At Home with the Orpheum Theater
- Tha 'Yoties River Day Show at the Orpheum
- XIT Tribute Show with Tha 'Yoties
- Christmas in New Mexico

[Coyote Inna Quarantine "Song of Hope"](#)
[An Alter-Native History of America](#)
[AZ Daily Sun](#)



F-TOWN SOUND

FEBRUARY 29 ORPHEUM SHOW

[F-Town Sound's Website](#)
[Performance Recording on Spotify](#)
[F-Town Sound Youtube](#)



F-Town Sound is a 14 piece dance band in Flagstaff, AZ. F-Town Sound can be described as “Western Funk meets Latin Groove” with the mission to get audiences on their feet and dancing the entire show! F-Town is made up entirely of Flagstaff locals including: 3 public school music teachers, 3 NAU professors, a primary care doctor, several long-standing members of Flagstaff’s music scene, all led by an ICU nurse. Along with playing some well-known dance music, they also perform original songs written by members of the band: Sean Golightly, Dina Barnese, and Jason Syracuse. Look forward to seeing F-Town back in action in 2021 as they start work on their debut album and bring the dance back to our community!

On February 29, 2020, F-Town Sound performed to a packed audience at the Orpheum Theater. This entire performance’s audio has been uploaded to their website for all to be able to listen to. Many fondly remember this performance as one of the last live music events they attended in Flagstaff before the shutdowns began.

The group brings extremely high-quality performances to Flagstaff and has developed quite a following in the year that they have existed.





Presented by
Flagstaff Arts Council



DR. ALICE CHRISTIE

—
KAYLEY QUICK

—
MELINDA MCKINNEY

—
OWEN DAVIS

—
**STEPHANIE YINGST
GALLOWAY**

**EXCELLENCE IN
EDUCATION**





DR. ALICE CHRISTIE

Dr. Alice Christie has dedicated her life to serving others. Currently, in her 54th year as an educator, she taught in the K-12 arena for 20+ years, was a professor of education at Arizona State University for 20+ years, and spent 9 years traveling around the country to provide STEM professional development to over 5000 PK-12 teachers. She is recognized globally as an educational leader and innovator. She is a Google Certified Educator and Google Certified Innovator. She is one of only 34 Arizona State University professors to hold the prestigious title of President's Professor, a designation that recognizes enthusiasm and innovation in teaching, the ability to inspire original and creative work by students, mastery of subject matter and scholarly contributions. She was recently named Flagstaff STEM Community Leader of the Year.

In late 2017, she founded and self-funded Tynkertopia, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Flagstaff. Flagstaff is America's First STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Community, and Tynkertopia is Flagstaff's STEAM (STEM + The Arts=STEAM) Community Center. Its mission is to expand the creativity and inquiry skills of tynkerers of all ages by inviting curiosity, inspiring wonder, encouraging playfulness, and celebrating unique solutions.

Dr. Christie envisioned Tynkertopia as a place filled with opportunities to play, invent and launch imaginations into overdrive! She felt that if she designed a learning space for kids, parents, teachers, and community members, it would encourage independent thinking, questioning, inquiring, designing, building, exploring, and tynkering! She offered classes, clubs, and activities at Tynkertopia that focus on creativity, inquiry, and excitement in learning. Her vision for Tynkertopia was that it be less of a classroom and more of an environment for experimentation, discovery, learning, and fun. Dr. Alice Christie describes Tynkertopia as a natural culmination of her experiences teaching science and technology, as well as reading and writing, for over 50 years. She actualized her vision of a hands-on community learning space by creating Tynkertopia, a STEAM Community Center designed to empower participants to cultivate skills, strategies, and confidence as independent, lifelong learners. The Tynkertopia motto is Think with Your Hands, Learn by Doing.

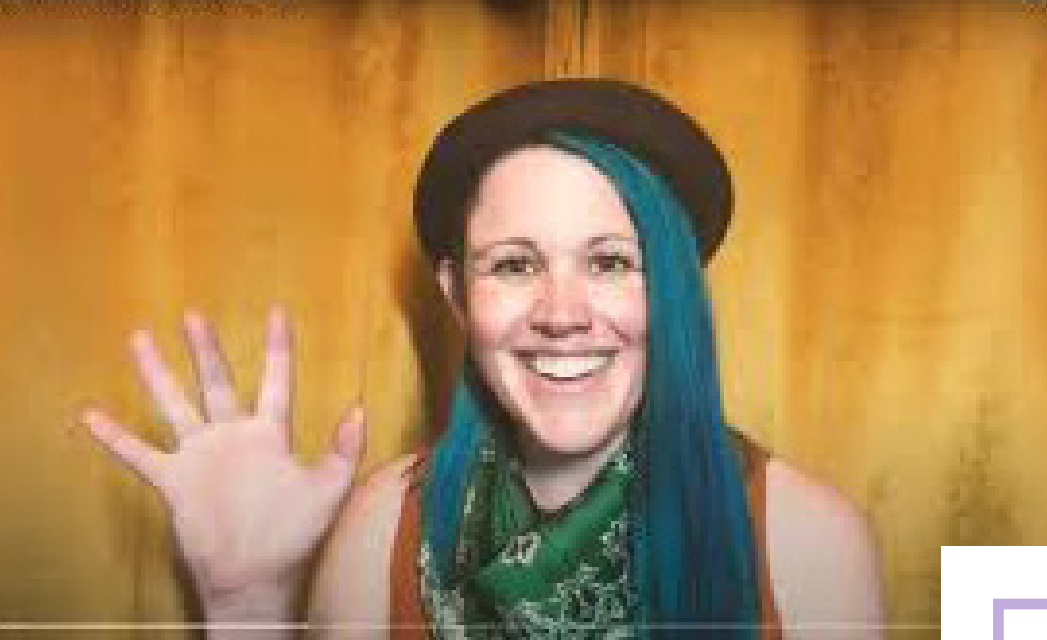
In March 2020, Tynkertopia closed its physical location due to COVID. But that didn't stop Christie from bringing STEAM projects to students. With the onset of the pandemic and subsequent school closures, Tynkertopia quickly reinvented itself and began creating and distributing approximately 200 STEAM Kits to area children each week. The kits include all the materials that students will need to complete the STEAM Challenge along with directions, in English and Spanish, that guide students through the process and explain the science behind each challenge. Alice and her team have created and distributed over 14,000 STEAM Kits during the last twelve months.

Dr. Christie is one of the strongest contributors to youth development in Flagstaff, and the confines of quarantine have not stopped her from sharing her love of science with students.

Dr. Christie is one of the strongest contributors for youth development in Flagstaff, and the confines of quarantine have not stopped her from sharing her love of science with students.

[Tynkertopia - About Our Founder](#)
[Flagstaff Business News](#)
[Dr. Alice Christie's Website](#)
[AZ Daily Sun](#)





[Kayley Quick's Website](#)
[FUSD Teacher Page](#)
[YouTube- Art With Kayley](#)
[Instagram | FHS Graphic Design](#)
[Facebook | FHS Graphic Design](#)
[Introduction | Art with Kayley](#)
[AZ Daily Sun](#)

KAYLEY QUICK

A skilled educator at Flagstaff High School, Quick serves her community through her instruction of Graphic Design. Quick received her bachelor's from Northern Arizona University in Art Education (K-12) in 2009 and has been working in the graphic design field since 2006. Kayley's critical teaching style allows students to see real-world applications of graphic design, and how they can use it to thrive in their futures. Quick's effective teaching style has resulted in a considerable amount of inspired and successful students coming out of her classroom, who pursue a career in the graphic design field leading to their own community involvement and successes.

As a teacher, Quick has established a list of impressive accomplishments. In 2019, Quick's graphic design program was one of nearly 6,000 high schools to submit to the Vans Custom Culture Shoe Design Competition, ultimately winning the \$75,000 prize and a surprise concert and party for the school. In addition to Van's achievement, in the summer of 2020 Quick's student won 1st place in a state-wide Arizona license plate contest for their Navajo Code talkers design. The design will be printed as an official Arizona license plate. Her students have also received many notable awards in other international, national, and state competitions. In 2018 and 2019, two students placed gold and silver in the Golden Image Competition, a prestigious international competition in the screen-printing industry.



In 2020, Quick continued to galvanize her students through incredible morale support and opportunities. Quick has posted on Flagstaff High School's Graphic Design Facebook and Instagram page consistently throughout 2020. This page represents "A place for the FHS Graphic Designers to post current work and projects to keep the community updated on amazing things happening in our class!". The pages promote students' accomplishments (such as awards, graduations) and new design opportunities. More importantly, she has implemented comradery among her students during the dramatic adjustments of COVID-19. This page also features a variety of students' work, linking their professional art accounts and providing them business, as well as other works completed in class or for fun. Quick has incorporated ways for her classes to stay connected with her and each other, promoting the overall success of her instruction.

2020 is no exception to Quick's list of accomplished students, as she has provided numerous opportunities for success this year, and none would be possible without the devotion and passion Quick has for education. In March 2020, she posted about 3 of her students who won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in the regional graphic design competition. This year, her students also had the privilege of designing the poster for Flagstaff High School Performing Arts production of Rent. This was in an effort to help promote interdisciplinary connections for the students and departments.

In 2021, Quick was named one of the Arizona Daily Sun and the Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce's 20 under 40 recipients. This was given to people who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication in pursuing their careers as well as the growth and development of the Flagstaff Community.

For years, Quick has aspired to teach more than High School and reach a broader audience of individuals looking to begin their art journey. Quick has wanted a way to teach members of her community, and in 2020 she released a YouTube channel- appropriately named Art With Kayley- bringing her dreams to fruition and help members of the community to find an artistic outlet in the trying and isolating times of COVID. Her channel focuses on the basics of art and creation to provide people with the necessary artistic skills. In December of 2020, Quick released a full-length guided painting class with an optional art kit. These videos have become a strong aspect of her curriculum, allowing access to students for additional study aid and beginning artists within the community. Her work has brought recognition to not only Flagstaff High School, but the entire Flagstaff community at large. The pressures of COVID-19 propelled Quick into her most innovative year yet, setting her up for more success and promise in the Flagstaff Community.





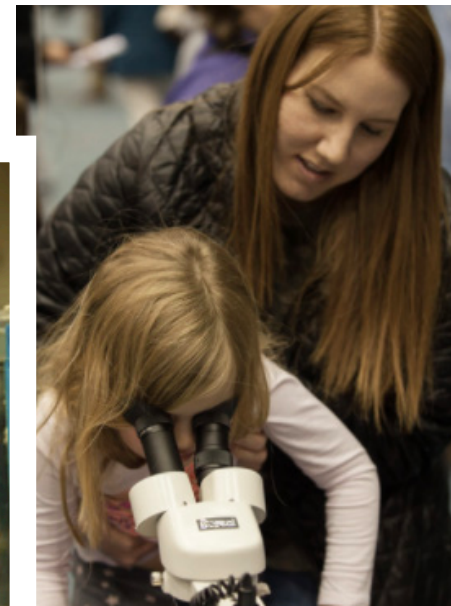
MELINDA MCKINNEY

Melinda McKinney is a biology faculty member at Coconino Community College. She is the advisor for Students Advancing STEM at CCC, and has a strong history of community work with programs such as the Flagstaff Festival of Science and STEM City. McKinney is an exceptional science educator who has reached across age and experience levels to engage her students, and to further the understanding of the processes and importance of science in our world. Melinda has made an incredible contribution to educating students, teachers, and other people in our community. Her continued efforts to make science and technology more accessible to people has established her as one of CCCs most valuable educators. In addition, Melinda had her CCC science classes and club do at home research projects since the outbreak of COVID-19, and use of the internet to continue the instruction and exploration in science. As the club advisor, she motivated the Students Advancing STEM student group at CCC to work with grade school students to explore hydroponics, an exceptional example of adapting to and providing creativity during the COVID pandemic.

In the Fall of 2020 at CCC, Melinda created a formal poster session for undergraduate research projects. Students presented the results of small group research projects to over 15 volunteer judges over the course of several days. These high-quality scientific posters line the science hallway to inspire future students. Melinda's efforts have not been limited to the classroom. She served on the Flagstaff Festival of Science Board for several years. She has not only been a leader in defining the trajectory of that year's event, but has also been a consistent presenter. In addition, Melinda organized CCC's activities in the Festival including Science in the Park. With the annual STEM spring event at the NAU Skydome, Melinda has motivated at least 10 different departments at CCC to participate. Melinda recently joined the STEM City Board of Directors so she can work on STEM projects year-round. Finally, Melinda is a faculty research mentor for Bridges to Baccalaureate, a National Institute of Health (NIH) program that provides Native American community college students with research opportunities and training for fields related to biomedical studies. Providing additional science opportunities to Native Americans and other minorities is essential if we are to reach our national goal of quality education and opportunity to all US Citizens.

Behind all of these outreach efforts, Melinda continues as a keystone in CCC's Science Department and community outreach programs. Science and STEAM education are her life. She works consistently, and often quietly, to achieve what is best for students and our community.

[Bridges to Baccalaureate](#)
[STEM City](#)
[Melinda McKinney Youtube](#)
[CCC Clubs Continue During Pandemic](#)



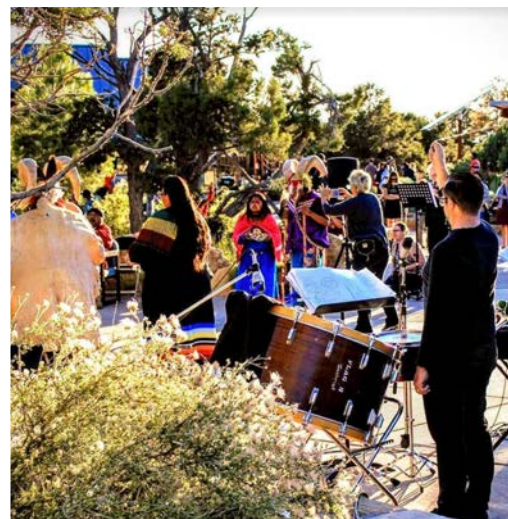


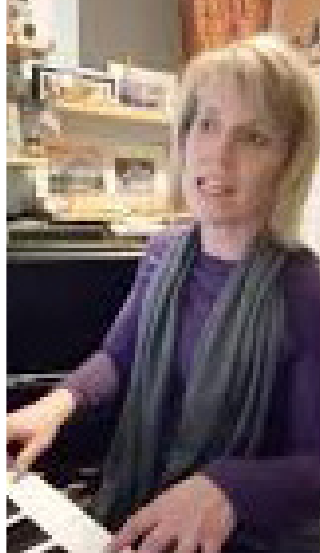
OWEN DAVIS

Owen Davis occupies many artistic roles in Flagstaff; co-curating the Interference Series, an experimental performance Non-Profit Organization for which he was a 2019 Viola Award Finalist for Community Impact; performing and composing music in many collaborative projects with artistic and cultural organizations and institutions; teaching a vibrant private percussion studio at the Flagstaff School of Music instructing students of all ages; and as the General Music Teacher at Sturgeon Cromer Elementary School in FUSD. Davis received his Bachelors of Music Education from Northern Arizona University and Masters Degree in Music Composition from DePaul University in Chicago. Upon returning to Flagstaff in 2015, his main project has been to give spaces for the Flagstaff community to expand their artistic horizons through experimental and improvisational music and fusing this background as a creative musician into his music lessons and pedagogy as an educator, encouraging students to draw on improvisation and creativity as pillars of musical expression. During the Pandemic 2020-2021 school year, primarily in full-remote learning, Davis has continued to push and inspire his students, and community partners, to find the joy and creativity in music through engaging lessons as well candidly sharing this journey on social media.

Owen, alongside two other curators, has produced over 130 distinct performances in Flagstaff in the Interference Series featuring local artists as well as national and international artists from Austria, Boliva, Canada, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, and more than 20 U.S. states. The series believes that the Flagstaff community deserves to have access to expansive and diverse voices in contemporary performance usually reserved for large cosmopolitan centers. As a composer, Owen's music has been heard in new music venues across the United States and Europe including Chicago, NYC, Atlanta, and Berlin. He has received commissions from and received performances by soloists, various new music chamber ensembles, and university and high school programs including the Chamber Cartel, the College of Southern Idaho, Ensemble 20+ (Depaul, Chicago), and the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE). In 2018, Owen was an invited composer and performer in the Labo de musique contemporaine de Montréal (Montréal Contemporary Music Lab) which is a two week immersive and collaborative festival for creative performers, improvisors, and composers. In 2016, Owen was an Artist in Residence supported by the NAU School of Music for which he gave a series of lectures, workshops, and composed two new works for faculty and student performers. He has been a featured performer and composer for the SOUNDS New Music Concert Series from 2009-2012, and has performed extensively with and has had compositions performed by Flageolet, an NAU faculty new music ensemble, directed by NAU Composition professor Bruce Reiprich. Owen was one of the founding members of the Chicago-based performance collective, Mocrep, with which he currently performs as well as serves as a performer and co-curator. Owen performed with Mocrep as an invited ensemble at the 2016 Darmstadt International Summer Course for New Music at which they also led a collaborative workshop called "Just Beyond our Instruments is the World" alongside Harvard Professor Dr. Steven Takasugi. Mocrep has also been a resident ensemble at Stanford University, Mills College, Pro Forma Arts in Copenhagen, and two residencies in Munich, Germany.

[Owen Davis' Website](#)
[n5 Trombone Solo](#)
[Solo Noise Improvisation](#)
[Insistent- Percussion Solo](#)
[New Music USA](#)





STEPHANIE YINGST GALLOWAY

Stephanie is a highly talented musician and educator who teaches choir, piano and music theory at Flagstaff High School. Graduating from Northern Arizona University with degrees in choral and instrumental music education as well as piano performance, Galloway has shared her musical talents throughout the city of Flagstaff for over three decades. As an educator she has taught choral and instrumental music to all levels K-12. She has worked as a professional pianist, accompanist, organist, and music director within the community, performing all styles and genres.

In late March 2020, as the pandemic forced educators and performers online indefinitely, Galloway realized that she needed to continue to work on her craft as a singer and pianist, not only to set an example for her students, but to support her own well-being. She decided to put herself through the paces daily of performing and sharing music with an audience, whatever form that may take.

Beginning April 1 2020, Galloway began performing and recording videos of herself singing and playing a different song each day, covering a broad range of time periods and styles. Her initial goal in doing this was to inspire others "... to sing along, play along and improvise." Stephanie shared these daily "Song Breaks" to her Facebook community, and also posted them for public viewing on YouTube. She received a supportive and eager response from the Flagstaff community and beyond. Many people expressed their gratitude for a sign of hope and resilience. "She has done this through her commitment to introducing students to music and dance from around the world, as well as instilling an appreciation for the responsibility and dedication required to play music". As the days began to accumulate with no end in sight, Galloway found that the song breaks became a daily practice in vulnerability, accountability and working through perfectionism.

In the spring of 2021 the daily consecutive Song Break streak surpassed 300, vaccines began to be available and FUSD decided to return to in person learning. Galloway began to work in person with her high school students, preparing the young performers for their spring musical of Pirates of Penzance. As her daily responsibilities began to resume their pre-pandemic level, Galloway set the goal to finish a year's worth of song breaks by Easter Sunday, April 4.

Through her dedication to performance and resilience during difficult times, Galloway has enriched the city of Flagstaff with love, knowledge, and music. As she prepares for her 6th year at Flagstaff High, Galloway continues to support, orchestrate, and perform live music during the pandemic and beyond.

[Pandemic Song Breaks on Youtube](#)

[AZ Daily Sun](#)

[FUSD Teacher Page](#)



Presented by
Flagstaff Arts Council



**AN ILLUSTRATED
MESS**

TOW'RS

SCI-FI COUNTRY

SEAN GOLIGHTLY

**EXCELLENCE IN
MUSIC**





TOW'RS

THE HOLLY & THE IVY

Tow'rs is a local Flagstaff folk group who “tell stories through music.” The group has been dedicated to producing music throughout the pandemic. In place of touring and live performances, Tow'rs elected to produce virtual concerts and albums under the struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The band's newest christmas album, The Holly and the Ivy, has been recognized for “the most beautiful of the Tow'rs albums! Leaders of the band produced and mixed the entire album locally using Flagstaff homegrown talents!”. The band notes “... our first goal in this album was to make Christmas music for people who don't typically like holiday music... we wanted to make a piece of art that looked forward to a new beginning amidst our present chaos... to get to that hope filled reality.”

Their holiday album features a mix of rewritten/reimagined traditional christmas songs, as well as some completely original songs. Each track is performed with a refreshing indie-rock, folk revival feel, featuring a variety of instruments. Pieces on the album range from solemn to hopeful, expressing a full range of emotion representative of 2020. Tow'rs hopes “May this album be a resting place of solace, a piece of hope amidst the chaos. May these songs challenge where challenge is necessary and comfort where comfort is needed. May it allow Christmas music to have a different feeling in your body and hold a new space in your home”.

[Spotify - The Holly & The Ivy](#)
[Artist Website](#)

SCI-FI COUNTRY

2020 SINGLES

[Facebook](#)
[Spotify](#)
[Bandcamp](#)
[AZ Daily Sun Article](#)
[At Home with the Orpheum](#)

Sci-Fi Country focuses its music on the narrative of its unusual namesake. Consisting of 3 members, the group is based in Northern Arizona and has played gigs throughout the state and country. Notably, at the start of 2020, the band launched a US tour sharing their music in over 20 cities across 10 states before their untimely homecoming due to COVID-19.

In an article with the Daily Sun, the band explains the origin of their name as coming from a bolo tie their lead singer Benjamin London bought outside of Taos, NM. The article reads, "It was at once an old computer chip and an adjustable piece of jewelry so inextricable from the Southwest, technological green and gold paneling set into silver. - It was sci-fi and cowboy all in one, Tre Hibbert (drums/vocals) proclaimed". Given the idiosyncratic origins of the group, their music supersedes all expectation for the confluence of these two genres, their first album featuring the use of futuristic sounds and country-like musical influences. The band had recognized its extraordinary genre and the difficulties that come with establishing a new music, stating, "It can also be challenging getting the right sound, though. It's very unique and I don't think a lot of people are intentionally making space noises. It's not easy to get it right immediately."

In 2020, Sci-Fi Country preserved themselves through the pandemic by playing live-streams and a few covid-safe in-person events throughout the year. Their singles include songs such as Hobo Jungle, Some Folks!, and Everyone's a Star. These releases exemplify both the sound and innovation of Sci-Fi Country's music, further establishing them as the founders of their distinctive genre.





SEAN GOLIGHTLY

2020 SINGLES

During the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sean Golightly has used music as a tool to not only cope with the world around him, but also to inspire and give hope to members of the community struggling with the pandemic. Golightly has performed and been a consistent supporter of the Flagstaff community, taking part in enriching events around the Flagstaff community, including associations with the Flagstaff Foundry and the Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival. Golightly has been producing music throughout 2020, and some of his most successful works have been loved and recognised by the community. He continues to support and represent local Flagstaff nonprofits, charities, and organizations.

Golightly's production of "Our Quarantine" expresses the weight humanity carries during the pandemic, and how we are able to persevere through with the strength of our loved ones. The song has become a comfort to many in the community, and locals have said "Sean wrote "Our Quarantine" early in the pandemic. The song provided a calming perspective for everyone as we faced the unknown". With this piece, Golightly has captured the essence of human struggle in the pandemic, while being fully aware we are "one of the lucky ones".

"By the Dollar" is another song Golightly composed in 2020, commenting on the financial crisis of 2020. This composition tells stories of those struggling to get by, effectively expressing societies' increasing value of money over morals and ethics. Golightly commented on this post stating "I know, collectively, we can imagine a better way to live with our neighbors."

The Flagstaff community states "Sean wrote songs to soothe the quarantined soul; supporting community and arts organizations as well venues struggling to stay viable and relevant during the pandemic". He continues to produce music in the new year, hoping to further his future as a musician.

Throughout 2020, Sean has also released two EPs, one in May and one in August, entitled "Saint's Patience I & II." He composed and performed original music/score for Flagshakes' "Lie of the Mind" in March 2020, recorded version releasing March 2021, along with a composition and recording of an original music/score for Flagshakes' "Spoon River Anthology", July 2020. He has composed and recorded original music/score for Flagshakes' "As You Like It", September 2020, and he composed and recorded original music/score for "I too Sing America" in Dec, 2020, released Jan 2021.

[Artist Website](#)
[Bandcamp](#)
[By The Dollar](#)
[Our Quarantine](#)
[AZ Daily Sun](#)

AN ILLUSTRATED MESS

2020 ALBUMS

An Illustrated Mess is a hip-hop duo based in Flagstaff, made up of members Cecil Tso and Clint Slim. Working for a decade now, the group advocates for native life, and brings light to the modern Navajo culture in Northern Arizona. Tso stated to the Daily Sun “...we’re choosing to talk about these things. But it’s a story that needs to be told because no one is talking about it.” Aided by their creativity, talent, and passion for justice, they have thrived under the pandemic, producing two full length albums, Last Night, and All of Our Glorious Mishaps and One More for Safety, in addition to releasing a single in 2020.

The Arizona Daily Sun describes their music as “a commentary and critique of contemporary indigenous life and the experience of living in a border town—on the cusp of the Navajo Nation in this case—all the while caught within a struggle for identity”. Their voices have been noticed by individuals throughout Northern Arizona, and they continue to produce, promote, and perform for their listeners. “They released a new album in 2020, and was a product of social distancing, and isolation. ‘One More For Safety’ was self released on their DIY label Fang Over Fist Records, and in some sense was a continuation to the prior effort. Whereas “last night” was dark, and loathful, “One More” is bright, and hopeful. They are the day and night difference that occurs in the average person, and together they paint a strong picture”. Their music deeply connects to many individuals, furthering their presence in the hip-hop industry,

The groups’ music has been shared on Rhyme Schemes Underground Hip Hop hour, and have been noted by other musicians and podcasters, notably their appearance on the “Wósdéé Podcast”, and appearances on UGSMAG- an independent hip-hop magazine that promotes underground rap and hip-hop. An Illustrated mess has been recognized by the Arizona Daily Sun for their newest album, stating that “From beginning to end, One More faces strife head on, acknowledging how it coexists alongside pure love via lyrics that shine bright and true and melodies that elicit full-body goose bumps”. The group continues to explore their musical style, message, and talent to hopefully bring change within our community.

[Spotify - Quarantine Dreaming](#)
[Spotify - One More for Safety](#)

[Youtube](#)
[AZ Daily Sun Article](#)







DUANE KOYAWENA

—
EMMA GARDNER

—
JOHN TAYLOR

—
NICK GEIB

—
SCOTTY JENSEN

COMMUNITY IMPACT INDIVIDUAL





DUANE KOYAWENA

Duane Koyawena is an artist, exhibit curator, and community arts advocate. In 2020, and in years previous, Duane has utilized his talents and resources to serve as a force of good for Flagstaff and our Native communities through his work promoting art, culture and mental health while also advocating for small businesses and the Flagstaff community at-large. Having overcome his previous struggles with alcohol addiction, incarceration, and the myriad of issues that come with it all, Duane openly shares about the path that it took to get him here. His appreciation for the opportunities he has now is demonstrated in all that he gives back to the community.

In 2019 after renovations to the Behavioral Health Unit in the Flagstaff Medical Center - Northern Arizona Healthcare, Duane organized a group of local artists- Baje Whitethorne Sr. (Diné), Landis Bahe (Diné), Joe Cornelius, Brandon Vicente (Hopi), Garrett Etsitty (Diné), Jalen Begay (Diné), and Cori Reyes- to decorate the walls with original artwork. In 2020, the project was completed once the Adolescent Unit was filled with art. This unit serves many Native patients from our local and nearby communities. The circumstances, and oftentimes difficult situations, surrounding their stay at the unit vary, but the art pieces can be seen as a means of supporting and connecting with the patients on a deeper level. The art is beautiful and has elements that reflect the cultures of both the patients and artists themselves. It brings light to a setting where it is, arguably, most needed.

In 2020, Duane also co-curated and created art for the PIVOT Pop-Up at Brandy's Restaurant. PIVOT: Skateboard Deck Art is an exhibit that features the artwork of both Native and Flagstaff artists. It first started at the Tat-Fu Studio and Gallery in Flagstaff and has gone on to be featured at the Museum of Northern Arizona, the Ned A. Hatathli Cultural Center and now the Center of Southwest Studies. Leading the PIVOT exhibit team, Duane brought together artists to create a one-of-a-kind art experience during a difficult time for both small businesses and artists due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Featuring 35 decks, the exhibit not only gave artists a venue to showcase their art, it created an opportunity for them to sell their works with proceeds going in part to Brandy's and the majority going directly to the artist. Duane's dedication to small businesses, like Brandy's, is also seen in the businesses he has chosen to partner with for his own products. His art prints are printed locally by Tom Alexander Photography, his shirts are all printed by Flag T Factory, and his most recent business partnership is with Canyon Coolers who are based directly out of Flagstaff. His support of fellow small businesses underlines the foundation that he has within our Flagstaff community and this commitment has never been as important as this year.

Lastly, during this time, Duane helped organize artist interviews with the staff of the Center of Southwest Studies for the larger full museum installation of PIVOT and assisted in the creation of digital content for online viewing in lieu of in-person programming. This unique approach allowed a larger audience of viewers to learn more about the art and cultures of our region, and gave artists the opportunity to speak for themselves which is truly contributing to a turning point in history in the way Native artists are represented in the art world. Similarly, in 2020 alone, he did presentations and filmed pieces for the Museum of Northern Arizona, the Center of Southwest Studies, Native Americans for Community Action, the Kayenta Unified School District, the Fort Mojave youth, Marshall Elementary, the Flagstaff Leadership Program, Blue Cross Blue Shield, students and staff of the Kinlani Dormitory, and Marshall Elementary. Drawing parallels between his journey to sobriety and his art journey and talking about the building process of the ever-popular HOPI R2, these talks and presentations highlight the value of hard work, the importance of STEAM, and mental health.

Duane Koyawena's commitment to the Flagstaff community extends far beyond the few examples listed above. His work brings light to our region and shares with the greater world what Flagstaff is all about.

[Artist Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

[AZDaily Sun](#) | [dgomag](#) | [Navajo Hopi Observer](#)



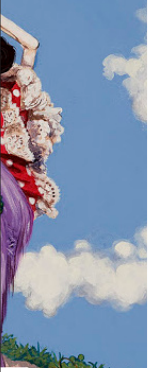
EMMA GARDNER

Originally from Philadelphia, Emma Gardner began establishing herself as an artist in Flagstaff in the mid-90's. Gardner's website describes her work as "...rich with historical references and steeped in symbolism.

Influenced by the mysticism of Remedios Varo and the surrealism of Frida Kahlo..." She also incorporates the images of ancient gods and goddesses, traditional saints as well as contemporary icons like Barbie in her subject matter. Her work is as varied as her imagination, using archaic elements as well as images of popular culture. A combination of the past and the present, her work blends mysticism with pop surrealism. Emma works in acrylic and oil paints on wood panels she creates individually for each piece, or on canvas finished with vintage frames." Gardner is renowned nationally for her skeleton influenced pieces, "...they are a symbol of humanity," the Arizona Daily Sun describes the purpose of Gardner's pieces, "...and the art touches on the concept of dying well—living life to its fullest through humor and passion".

In 2020, Gardner created Saints, Martyrs, and Muses: 2020 Community Offerenda & Art Installation. This was a community event which was held from October 26 - November 2, 2020. Inspired by Day of the Dead or Dia de los Muertos tradition, honoring local and national friends and icons who have passed away this year.





Emma wrote about this event: “I was wondering what I was doing in this chaotic soup. I was feeling more than a little lost. Feeling I didn’t know what to do with myself. I was frustrated. The ways I used to share my art were not available to me. It was Fall, and it seemed like everything was dying. Covid 19 had come. It changed everything. No big shows, no parties, no festivals. Then one day I remembered how many things lived in my shed growing dusty. I remembered how I live to create. I realized I had all this unused space available to me. I remembered small groups are great and intimate. What about my front yard! I decided I needed to take these dusty ass things out into the Yard and use them. That’s when “Saints Martyrs and Muses “ was born. I had to paint the Calaveras (skulls) images of the people that have passed on to the other side that had been in our community. I wanted to make an installation of them. I had to make an Ofrenda in my yard so people could visit it outside at a safe distance and still come together as a community. I needed to find a new way to connect and comfort. We still need humanity. We still need connection. It is an emotional healing that we need now more than ever. So I present to you my Yard Art. I invite you to take a short journey and meander through the vaulted Pine stumps, through the Gold Man arch, visit the wishing well and say “Hello!” to the Alter of my discontent. My hope is together we may find and cherish the gifts and the sacrifices and the inspiration that these lives lived before us have offered. That we might be inspired to die in the best way possible. Together in our humanity and maybe in this masked and distanced world find some connection.”

Saints, Martyrs, and Muses: 2020 Community Offerenda & Art Installation was free and open to the public. Additionally, Emma invited the public to participate by encouraging people to bring flowers, play an instrument, or bring a flameless candle to place on the offerenda. This event was outdoors and socially distanced and offered the community the opportunity to publicly and collectively grieve for all that was lost in 2020.

Press: One individual noted of this event, “the experience of this event was incredible. Emma spent countless hours setting up this entirely free and open to the community event. Her art with skeletons of people who know and love who passed, and the interactive nature of the ‘exhibit’ was AWESOME. Mayor Coral Evans dropped by and was blown away by the effort, love, and creativity that went into this event. This whole social distanced event was for the pandemic... a way for people to grieve the people they have lost in an outdoor, distanced space. It was so cathartic and healing for many.”

Artist Website | Facebook





JOHN TAYLOR

John Taylor is a gardener by trade, and an inspiring educator and activist in the Flagstaff community. Taylor is the founder of Terra BIRDS, an organization that leads young people in “being innovative resourceful dedicated stewards” of urban habitats and gardens in Flagstaff, Arizona. Terra BIRDS works to restore habitat resiliency, increase urban biodiversity, and support young people in working outside together to find opportunities and solutions to 21st Century problems. “The natural world needs for us to be better stewards of the day-to-day land beneath our feet,” says Taylor. The organization partners with schools and other non-profits throughout Flagstaff. Taylor affirms Terra BIRDS’ mission by stating, “We not only grow healthy food in our school and community gardens, we aim to grow healthy kids and a strong community.”

When asked by the Arizona Daily Sun how Terra BIRDS programs work in the schools, Taylor explained that, “Over the course of 8 one-hour sessions each semester, we might do any of the following: build and maintain a food garden; plant native plant species for pollinators; study and measure how water flows around the school, and work to capture rainwater and/or solve drainage problems; and create or improve wildlife habitats. Through these projects, students learn hands-on ways to explore the in-class subjects they are studying, not to mention how to work as a team and use tools safely. Patience, problem solving, teamwork and critical thinking are all skills that can be developed through work in a school garden.”

Along with supporting school garden programs, Terra BIRDS offers a 'Green Collar Job' opportunity based out of Ponderosa High School. This is an opportunity for young people to have an important 'first job' and kickstart a resume, learn basic job and communication skills, and develop awareness of the broad field of jobs in which one can positively support healthy environments and communities while earning a paycheck. In some cases, this is also an empowering opportunity to work off 'community service' hours and overcome the setbacks of incarceration and/or probation.

For three summers running, Terra BIRDS and the Taylor family hosted the Mandela Washington Fellows in partnership with the ASU College of Public Affairs. The Fellows were a group of ambassadors, supported by the Obama administration's Young African Leadership Initiative, representing multiple African countries, selected for their outstanding work in the areas of sustainability, healthcare, and innovative business development. The exchange of young African leaders with Flagstaff youth in school and community gardens is one of the top highlights of Taylor's work with Terra BIRDS.

Taylor believes that the mindset and daily actions of gardeners can play important and productive roles in supporting sustainable communities, dynamic education, and well-functioning and aesthetically pleasing urban environments. Terra BIRDS works to inspire and educate more gardeners in Flagstaff, Coconino County, and beyond.

- [AZ Daily Sun](#)
- [Terrabirds Website](#)
- [Flagstaff STEM City](#)
- [Flagstaff Business News](#)



NICK GEIB



Nicholas Geib is a filmmaker and video producer in Flagstaff. He has been enlisted by many organizations of the community to help with video production, and serves as one of the leading video artists in our small mountain town through his production company, Firewatch Media.

Geib's works are high quality, emotional, and profound. He truly has a unique talent in video creation, and he has been incredibly busy creating as our world shifts to a virtual format. When the COVID-19 crisis hit, Geib was commissioned to help create a video inspiring unity and perseverance through these trying times. This particular video made for Flagstaff Local titled 'A Message from the Mayor - Covid-19' provided a message of hope during an incredibly new and unprecedented era.

Additionally in 2020, Geib served as the videographer and editor for the Parched documentary, a continuation and explanation behind the Coconino Center for the Arts' Parched exhibit. He also worked with MOCAF (Museum of Contemporary Art Flagstaff), where he serves on the board of directors, filming all of the "Creative of the Month" videos, which feature a variety of creators and artists in Flagstaff.



Geib has also worked extensively with the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra. He has helped the FSO keep their programming going, including filming and editing two symphonies, one at Lowell and the other at MNA, while also producing ten videos for their Christmas fundraiser. In the future, Geib will help the FSO further by producing all of their 2021 Spring series videos in lieu of any in-person concerts, and will continue his help on their Link Up Series for kids.

Geib has spent his time in 2020 working with a tremendous amount of the community. He has worked with Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, where he produced an ambitious digital version of their production, A Lie of the Mind. The production premiered in early 2021, but was all shot and edited in 2020. Geib also worked with the Native American Community Action to produce two short films about artist Duane Koyawena, one overcoming his struggles and the other about the Hopi R2D2.

Geib spent a lot of the year editing a 20 minute documentary following Northern Arizona Voluntary Medical Corp and their surgical work in Haiti. They are an essential NGO that is based out of Flagstaff. That video will premiere soon.

One of his patrons stated “[Gelb] takes a good deed and amplifies it a thousand fold with his wonderful videos... He kept all the spirits up and the community connected through film .. he also really brings local artists to bigger exposure/impact”.

[Firewatch Media](#)

[4 Flag TV](#)

[Parched Documentary](#)

[Message from the Mayor - Covid 19](#)

[A Pledge from Flagstaff’s Culture Sector](#)

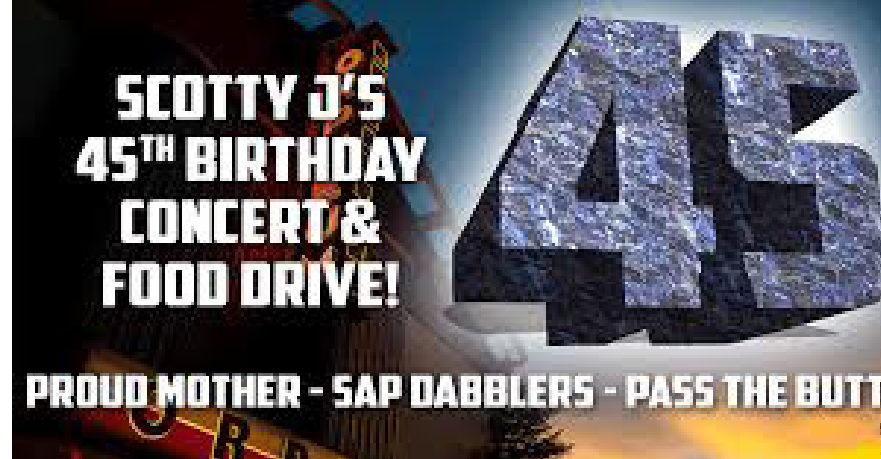
[MOCAF Creative of the Month](#)

[Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra](#)

[HOPI R2D2: Who is your Droid?](#)

[TILT Highlights 2018](#)





SCOTTY JENSEN

Known as the Orpheum Theatre's "#1 Man in the Cans", Scott Jensen (known around town as Scotty J) is a vital member of the Flagstaff music community. He is employed at Flagstaff's most popular concert hall as the production manager, and was the leading man shifting the Orpheum's operations to a virtual format during 2020, under the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In 2020, Jensen also helped the Orpheum revamp its audio systems. The Orpheum hosts a wide variety of performances and music, and Scotty J led this project, ultimately purchasing an EAW KF810P Line Array and SB818P Single 18-inch flyable subwoofers, drastically upgrading their sound quality before the 2020 quarantine.

During this time, Flagstaff also celebrated Jensen's 45th birthday making a headlining event that featured 3 local Flagstaff bands and a charitable food drive. The event raised more than \$4,000 for the Flagstaff Family Food Center.

One of his employees noted "I work on Scotty Jensen's team at the Orpheum handling monitors. When the pandemic hit, he basically did everything in his power to get things moving with live streaming events right out the gate to keep it alive. Live streaming events at the quality we had been doing was no easy task. It takes a lot of great coordination, patience and fine tuning. Having these live streaming events happened not only allowed artists / musicians to play music, but to also coordinate large donations for great causes towards those in need as well as towards the Orpheum itself which was functioning without normal ticket and beverage sales. Scotty was on it so quickly that we're seeing even larger out of state venues only now catch on to quality live streaming as an option. And he handled it with determination and a can do attitude at every step." they explained, "there were a lot of stressful moments... He's awesome and none of [this] would have happened over the last 9 months if it wasn't for him!"

Scotty J is one of the driving forces behind the historically renowned Orpheum Theatre's success, ensuring they have quality equipment and performance, while also organizing their virtual concerts and events throughout the pandemic. His efforts to preserve the relevance of live music during the pandemic establishes Scotty J as an invaluable member of our community.

oprheumflagstaff.com
[Birthday Event](#)
[New Soundsystem](#)
[Orpheum Facebook](#)





Presented by
Flagstaff Arts Council



EXODUS PROGRAM

FLAGSHAKES

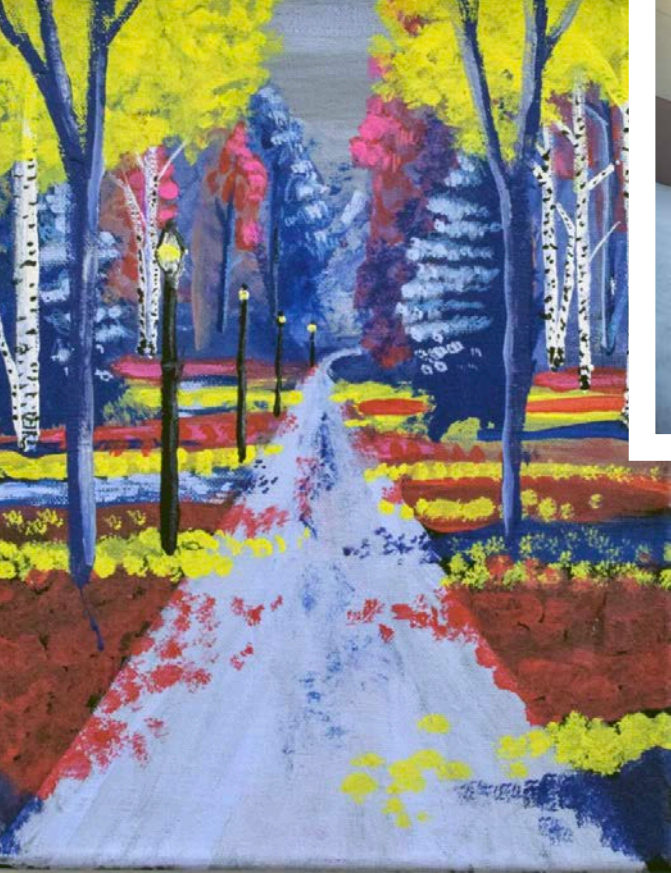
**FLAGSTAFF FESTIVAL
OF SCIENCE**

MOCAF

**MURDOCH CENTER
& SCA**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT
ORGANIZATION**





EXODUS PROGRAM & POP-UP ART SHOW

Exodus is an in-custody, drug and alcohol treatment program at the Coconino Detention Center. It is based on the Matrix Model which has been proven to be effective with alcohol dependence, methamphetamine dependence and other commonly addictive substances. The Exodus Program incorporates parenting classes, health education, creative writing, expressive art classes, yoga and meditation classes, stress management training and other life skills lessons that are provided by staff and outside agencies.

In January 2020 Candace Ryan, the founder and facilitator of The Peaceful Revolution Project, and Jill Divine, an Exodus substance abuse counselor, coordinated and executed the Exodus Pop-Up Art Show at the Coconino Center for the Arts. This was the second of two powerful shows that provided a voice for those incarcerated through their artwork, the first being held at Fire Creek Coffee Co. in 2016.



Through this exodus program, many inmates are able to tap into their incredible creativity. The Exodus Pop-Up Show humanized a population that is often overlooked in our community. For instance, the exhibition featured a “Before and After” wall, which was a portrait representation of how they felt before the Exodus program and how they felt after completing it.

Candace, Ryan, and Jill Divine hung hundreds of pieces of art, strategized and coordinated with the Coconino Center for the Arts and the detention center, as well as got framing done by a local business. These two women are power houses dedicated to their drive and commitment to our incarcerated population.

The mission of the Exodus Pop-Up Exhibition wasn't just about showing the art of talented incarcerated individuals who struggle with addiction to the Flagstaff community, the event brought an element of social justice and asked the audience not to judge the artists behind the works on the walls. The show brought people from all walks of life, from detention center staff to local artists. The Sheriff attended and spoke on behalf of the Exodus program to the crowd during the opening. Exodus and the Exodus Pop-Up Show reminded the community that the incarcerated population is part of the community.

[AZ Daily Sun News Break Exodus Pop-Up Show at Coconino Center for the Arts Exodus Program - Coconino County](#)





FLAGSTAFF FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE

The COVID-19 pandemic forced many organizations to adjust to new ways of meeting their mission and the Flagstaff Festival of Science (Festival) was no different, especially since it has historically featured more than 100 in-person events, many with large crowds. Despite the uncertainty in 2020, the Festival was able to meet the challenge and bring its annual 10-day celebration of science to the community. Through new delivery systems and the incredible dedication of its board, volunteers, sponsors and school teachers, the Flagstaff Festival of Science: The Superpowers of Science! reached more community members than ever before.

The Festival produced a quality, ground-breaking season in science, incorporating hands-on activities, interaction with scientists and experiential learning. Within a virtual format, at least two-thirds of the more than 60 activities included live interactive components such as chat messages or Zoom participation. In addition, the Festival incorporated free STEM kits to coincide with video workshops which students, teachers, and families could access at home or in a classroom.

Transitioning from a live, in-person series of events to a primarily virtual program was no easy decision to make. Leadership had tough conversations on how the long-time Festival could be successful in the time of COVID with so many organizations turning to virtual offerings. The Festival board carefully considered the annual goal to provide 10 science-packed days of free activities to the community, and how the Festival could uphold their mission during a transition such as this. Ultimately, the decision was made to use online platforms and resources to continue the impactful science programming that the Festival offers.

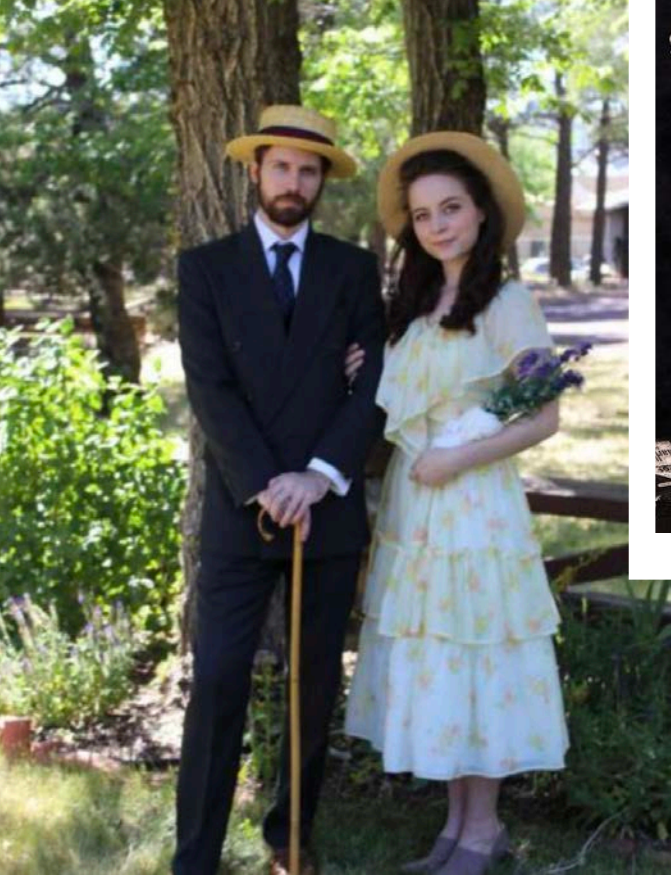
This pivot meant working with dozens of community groups to create more than 50 pre-recorded videos or livestreamed presentations; a phenomenal undertaking within just a couple of months. The Festival relied on streaming services like Youtube and Zoom to deliver the excellent content right to people's homes allowing audiences to view the programs either live or at a later time that was convenient to them. A coordinated effort with Flagstaff Unified School District teachers meant that kids were still able to get the hands-on experiences with scientists through video, even during restricted class time. The incredible technological coordination that went into the 2020 Festival was truly a feat. And the outcome proved that pivoting to a virtual format was successful for this long-standing Flagstaff organization and event.

Going virtual allowed the Festival to maintain its run as the longest continuous science festival in the US. The new platform also brought in new audiences from all over the country, showcasing the spectacular scientific research, updates, and discoveries happening right here in Flagstaff. Finally, going virtual provided an example to numerous other festivals around the country that were facing the same challenges and big questions. Festival board members spoke with representatives of other festivals to help guide them and answer questions on how to make this pivot; ultimately showing not only resilience and creativity but also leadership within the broader community of science festivals.

The Festival learned from feedback, surveys, and attendance that quality programming is in big demand, regardless of the delivery method. The board also learned that the Festival is able to reach far more individuals by incorporating virtual activities than by using an exclusively in-person model where access and availability can limit participation. Moving forward, the Festival board will consider virtual programming as a part of future events to continue extending outreach beyond Northern Arizona. This year alone, Flagstaff-based Earth Scientist Christa Sadler brought her abundant enthusiasm and unusual fossils to the W. L. Gore & Associates Keynote Presentation, "Tapping into the Superpowers of Science." Her presentation attracted viewers from as far away as the East Coast and Canada who tuned in to hear from the river-running adventurer who participates in paleontology, archaeology and geology projects around the globe.

[Organization's Website](#)
[Discover Flagstaff](#)
[Festival of Science Program](#)





FLAGSTAFF SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The mission of the Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, affectionately known as FlagShakes, is to faithfully portray classics of the Renaissance, as well as produce other actor-driven plays. Each Renaissance performance incorporates Elizabethan staging practices, making these plays accessible and providing a unique learning opportunity. Performances and educational outreach enlighten audiences and revitalize empathy. Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival is dedicated to offering exciting artistic opportunity and experience for residents of northern Arizona and visitors from around the world.

[AZ Daily Sun](#)

[Organization's Website](#)

[Flagshakes Youtube Channel](#)

Despite the restrictions placed by the Covid-19 pandemic, FlagShakes managed to produce a full and engaging season without breaking pace in 2020. From the beginning of the pandemic, Flagshakes began to adapt, first producing online education and events through the lockdown, then organizing in-person, Covid-safe events in the summer and fall, all while producing a plethora of video content along the way.

Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival has continued to provide excellent, bar-raising theater and collaboration for the northern Arizona art scene. Their policy of paying artists is unfortunately rare in our community and valued greatly.

In 2020, FlagShakes has worked/collaborated/partnered with many local businesses and organization including: Coconino Center for the Arts, Fratelli's Pizza, Mother Road Brewing, Riordan Mansion State Historic Park, Sweet Shoppe Candy Store, Lowell Observatory, Soulstice Publishing, Pizzicetta, Elicit Chocolates, MOCAF, The Orpheum, Flagstaff Team Trivia, Pioneer Museum, Potion Tea & Bakery, PEAKS Audio, Eric Retterbush Photography, Sun Sounds Arizona, F-Town Sound, Flagstaff Public Library, Flagstaff Arts Council, and Steep-Leaf Lounge.

These collaborations have helped buoy local businesses during COVID, increase arts awareness, bring arts to more people, and create new bonds between individuals and organizations.

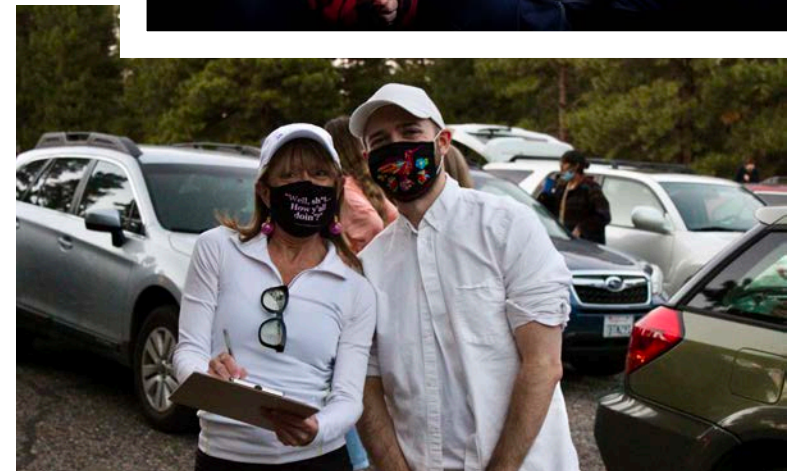
Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival's 2020 season included:

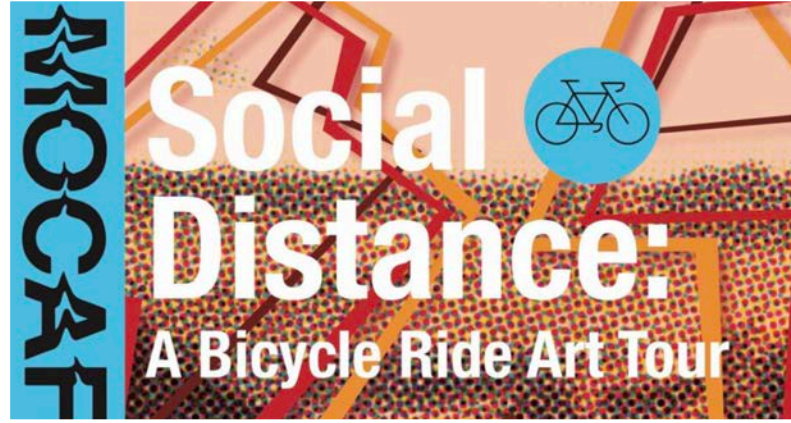
Productions

- A Lie of the Mind: Coconino Center for the Arts March 12th and 13th 2020
- Spoon River Anthology: filmed at Riordan Mansion for digital release July 2020
- As You Like It: Drive-in movie September 12th at Coconino Center for the Arts and digitally released as a film in September 2020
- Window Shakespeare: October 10th at 11th at The Pioneer Museum
- No Spring Chicken: live-streamed December 11th and 12th
- "I, too, sing America": filmed for digital release January 2021
- Twelfth Night: filmed for digital release February 12, 2021
- A Lie of the Mind: filmed for digital release March 2021

Events

- Bard's Bingo: May 2020
- Walkin' with Will: July 2020
- Sonnet Writing Workshop: July 2020
- Shakespeare Allowed: Monthly reading of Shakespeare's plays
- Shakespeare Trivia Night: October 2020





MOCAF

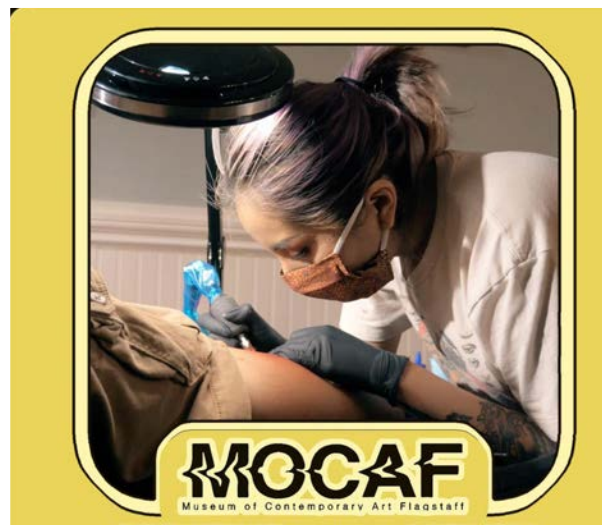
In 2020 MOCAF (Museum of Contemporary Art Flagstaff) doubled down on their mission of connecting arts and artists to the greater Flagstaff Community despite the restrictions placed by the pandemic.

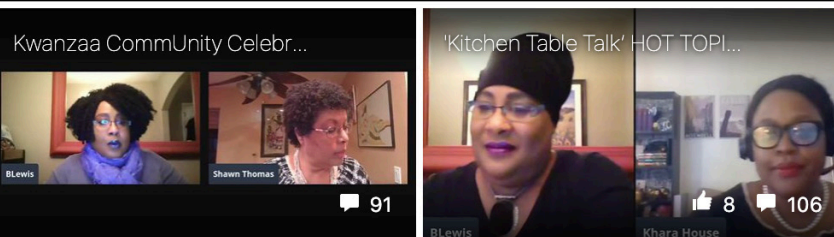
MOCAF hosted exhibitions like Margeaux Bestard's "Evisceration Series", and provided local artists with studio space. They collaborated with several other organizations in town, including a tin-type demonstration with Eric Retterbush for the Festival of Science. Other collaborations included Juniper House Readings, the Interference Series, Sandy Pirate, Spectracolor Liquids, Cosanti Foundation, Wrecking Ball DJs, and the Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival.

MOCAF kept their momentum after the pandemic shut down began by finding creative ways to advance their mission. In April MOCAF launched their "Creative of the Month" series which highlights local creatives. As part of this project, MOCAF creates and shares high-quality videos of that month's highlighted creative. This series has highlighted a diverse group of creatives with strong BIPOC and LGBTQIA representation, shedding light on marginalized and underrepresented groups.

Additionally, MOCAF produced events Social Distance: A Bicycle Ride Art Tour and Social Distance 2.0: Further. The goal of this project was “to offer a unique limited participant experience to art and bicycle enthusiasts who are craving attending an event without being confined to one space with many people. The terms Social Distance or Physical Distancing have been placed into the forefront of our thoughts and actions for the past few months and this event hopes to convey how we can work within these parameters to still experience artistic interaction as well as community engagement. By requiring bicycles as transport and executing programming outdoors we can keep participants from congregating in one spot for the safety of attendees and artists/performers. By riding bicycles we hope to reinforce the idea of alternative transportation as a positive and can also have riders pull up and experience the installations instead of having to park and get out to engage with them.”

[Organization's Website](#)
[Social Distance 2.0 Facebook Event](#)
[Creative of the Month Videos](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)





THE MURDOCH COMMUNITY CENTER

The Lived Black Experience Community Coalition, worked to create this fantastic series of virtual discussions called the Lived Black Experience. In June 2020, with a virtual Juneteenth session, this series has now hosted almost 60 Facebook Live sessions. The talks, organized by Khara House, Bernadine Lewis, Deborah Harris, and Mayor Coral Evans, with help from others in the community, provide a fantastic series of engaging and accessible conversations made available to a growing community-wide variety of backgrounds and knowledge bases. They are lively and enjoyable to watch and allow for audience engagement through a Q&A portion during each episode.

The Lived Black Experience Community Dialogues have taken on a wide variety of topics relevant to both historical and current events taking place across the nation like healthcare, tone policing, protests by athletes in the NFL, Black women in politics, and more. The group roots the discussion of current events in the history of our city, state, and nation, making connections to Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Shirley Chisholm, the Tuskegee Study, the Black Wall Street massacre, Lincoln and the Civil War, and more. The dialogue that takes place is localized—focusing on Flagstaff to allow the community to engage in critical discussions about our city's history and its future—and broad, encompassing a sprawling narrative of the local and national lived Black experience.

The Lived Black Community Dialogue Series is produced by the Southside Community Association and is housed in the Murdoch Center.

The Murdoch Community Center is overseen by the Southside Community Association and is home to excellent community-focused events such as the annual Juneteenth Celebration and Miss Cleo's Tea Party, and many others. The financial head of the project, the Southside Community Association, has worked tirelessly for years to preserve Flagstaff's Southside neighborhood's history and culture. The Southside was historically home to our city's Black/African American, Mexican, Spanish, Basque, and other communities of color. Its history has long been overlooked by the city and the state historical organizations. The programs put on by the Southside Community Association and the Murdoch Community Center are essential to understanding Flagstaff's history and current events. The Lived Black Experience is a program of the Southside Community Association. The program has been supported by members of the following members of the Flagstaff Black Coalition:

NAU Ethnic Studies Program, Flagstaff NAACP, Coconino County African Diaspora Advisory Council, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc, and Flagstaff's four historic Black churches

[Facebook](#)

[Kaepernick & Kneeling in Protest](#)

[Facebook Live](#)

[Tone Policing - What is it, What does it look like, & Who is doing it](#)

[Facebook Live](#)

[Organization's Website](#)

perience: A Focus on Sojourner Truth, Black Feminist Thought & Ms. Sapphire, Mammy and Jizzabel Fallaci

I a Woman? Examining Truth

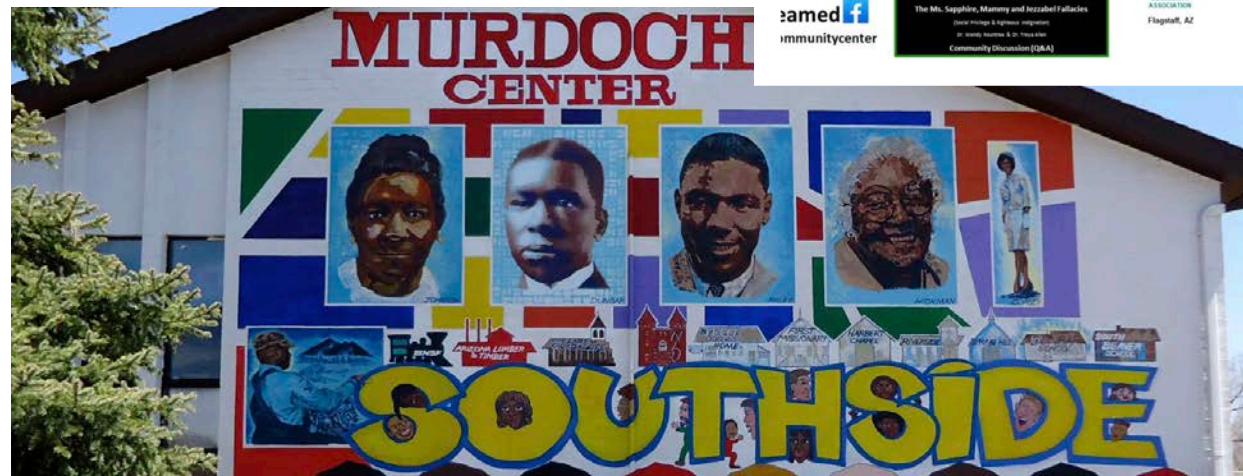
Presented by the Southside Community Association



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AlrTIA Woman - Sojourner Truth, 1833
1875-1875 and history of Sojourner Truth and her work in the 1840s
in 1840s
The Politics of Black Women's Hair
Ms. Sapphire, 1960s
The Black Feminist Thought
in 1960s-1970s
The Ms. Sapphire, Mammy and Jizzabel Fallacies
in 1960s-1970s
Community Discussion (CDA)





Presented by
Flagstaff Arts Council



ERIC RETTERBUSH

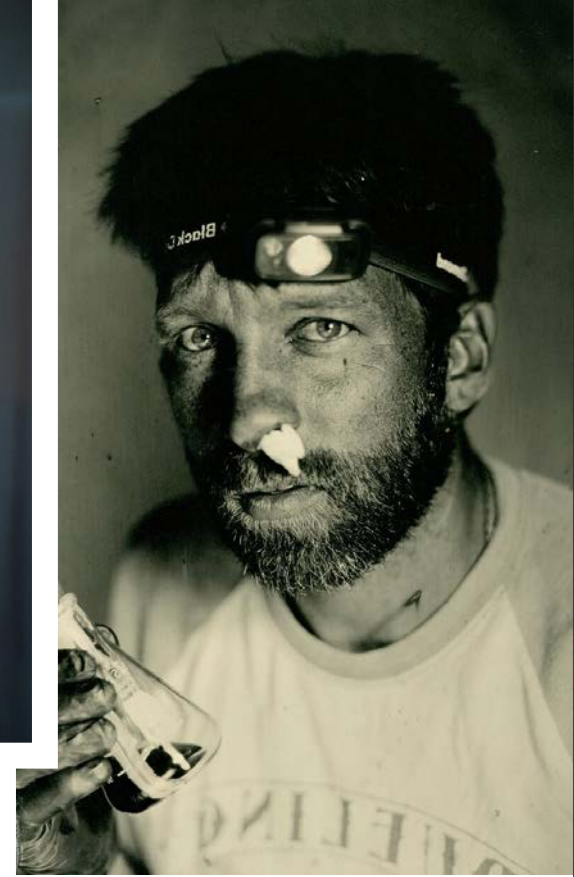
PARCHED

**PIVOT AT
BRANDY'S**



**EXCELLENCE IN
VISUAL ARTS**





ERIC RETTERBUSH

Eric Retterbush is a Flagstaff photographer; most recently working with tintypes using the wet plate collodion process. Retterbush gushes about the tintype method, "I am able to embrace the imperfections of the human hand and the truthful permanence of the final image. I am able to create reflections of the beauty found within our human race and I love doing it." The tintype process is one of the earliest forms of photography, invented in 1851, and was the main practice for portrait photography through the civil war era. Today, Retterbush utilizes this process in order to take portraits of people during historical events in real time. By taking these portraits Retterbush hopes to create a greater connection between the world and his subjects.

“Tintypes won’t fade for hundreds of years; they will outlast most other mainstream forms of photography. In the distant future, I want people to look into the eyes of these workers and find their courage as well as their struggle. I want people to see the resilience we generated in the face of this virus.”

Eric Retterbush

In his newest series of photographs, Resilience Series, Eric Retterbush pays homage to frontline COVID workers. The results are solemn and reverent portraits of weary first responders, healthcare workers, and others who have sacrificed themselves during the pandemic. These are stunning photos - not only in their aesthetic value - but also in the sense of capturing the weary, proud, and brave characters that are their subjects. The images exude a sense of comfort and familiarity to the historical past. They are reminiscent of portraits taken during equally frightening times. The Resilience Series offers us a nostalgia in order to remind us that times like these are hard, but they are not new. We owe gratitude to the frontline medical workers who sustain our resilience.

[Artist Website](#)

[Tintype Collaboration with MOCAF & Festival of Science](#)

[Flip Board](#)

[AZ Daily Sun](#)

[Washington Post](#)





PARCHED

THE ART OF WATER IN THE SOUTHWEST

Parched: The Art of Water in the Southwest was the 2020 signature exhibition at Coconino Center for the Arts. This project was over two years in the making. In 2019, nine regional artists participated in an immersive learning experience about water. Artists attended a week long “boot camp” designed by the Parched steering committee that featured field trips highlighting regional and cultural issues surrounding water management, with a strong emphasis on managing water for healthy ecosystems. The curriculum also emphasized native and cultural issues relating to water.

After the bootcamp, artists spent over a year working on their pieces and performances. Some worked together and others continued researching water issues, building partnerships with experts who they met during the boot camp. Themes ranged from spiritual explorations of water and natural habitats to politically charged messages about inequity in water distribution. Issues that emerged in multiple pieces include human rights to clean drinking water, water pricing, wasting water, conflicts between differing cultural perceptions of water, the power of ecological restoration and universal properties of water across culture and time.

The artwork was diverse in form and theme and included paintings, photographs, dance performances, installation pieces and sculpture. The exhibition culminated into an impactful experience that left many observers with much to consider. Parched raised the bar for the cooperation between art and science by presenting a dosage of facts and aesthetics, which leave you with a wake-up call to our society’s misuse of its water resources, combined with awe at the level of artistic beauty.

The installation process began during the summer of 2020 with new obstacles never before dealt with at the center. Through the dedication of a small, socially distanced group, CCA was able to unveil a new, in person exhibition in the age of COVID-19. The exhibition was able to be viewed in person from September through December. Even in the face of a necessary closure to in-person viewing, a virtual experience was created in its stead, and the premiere of the exhibit's documentary was an online success!

Parched leaders created a documentary video that included interviews of artists, scientists, tribal members and water managers. Footage included the sites visited in the boot camp which informed the art work including Glen Canyon dam, the Colorado River, Fossil Creek, Arizona Snowbowl, WasteWater Treatment Plants, Tribal Lands (Navajo and Hopi). The documentary told the story of the creation of the exhibition, focusing on how the immersive learning experience integrated art and science. Artists interviews allowed viewers a unique opportunity to hear about how the works were created and gain insight into the artists thoughts, motivations and inspirations. The one-hour documentary premiered in mid-December as part of a virtual screening followed by an hour question and answer session with artists and educators.

Parched is a great example of the mission's of both the Coconino Center for the Arts and the Flagstaff Arts Council. This signature exhibition shows the organizations dedication to the intersection of arts and science and to providing a platform for diverse voices.

Curator: Julie Comnick

Featured Artists: Klee Benally, Josh Biggs, Debra Edgerton, Neal Galloway, Marie Gladue, Delisa Myles, Shawn Skabelund, Glory Tacheenie-Campoy, and Kathleen Velo

[Parched Virtual Exhibition](#)

[Parched Trailer](#) | [Full Documentary](#) | [Q&A](#)

[NAU News](#) | [O'ODHAM Action News](#)





PIVOT AT BRANDY'S RESTURANT

PIVOT at Brandy's Restaurant saw the beloved exhibit brought to life once again while also providing much needed opportunity to both artists and local business. Curators Duane Koyawena and Landis Bahe, working with exhibition manager Samatha Honanie, showcased nearly 100 unique art pieces on identical canvases from artists from varied traditions. The exhibition at Brady's was concurrent with a larger exhibition of PIVOT at the Center for Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College.

Curator's Statement

"This exhibition reflects our lives – unique yet universal.

PIVOT refers to the quick transitions we make between our traditional and day-to-day lives. We often work in cities while continuing to contribute to our ancestral communities and homelands.

As individuals, we've learned to shift between these incongruous societies and to integrate them within ourselves. As artists, we've developed motifs melding traditional themes with contemporary experiences.

As in life, we all started with the same naked canvas and brought to it unique talents and experiences – personal, familial and tribal. Everything we experienced adds to our art - the people we met, the places we went, the things we did. We dreamed and looked and thought and gathered. We influenced and inspired each other across the permeable boundaries of culture.

We chose our tools – brush or knife, paint or ink – then created, with the same agility that we use to navigate through the maze of days and between cultures.

At any moment, we can switch directions. At any moment, we can change the picture, paint over, sand back to bare wood, transform what was into what will be.

We balance here in this moment, between where we've been and where we're going, placing our mark in the pivotal "now."

Art reflects life. We hope this art can also inspire."

PIVOT was previously a finalist for the Viola Award in Visual Arts for the exhibition at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

[Instagram](#)

[DGO Mag](#)

[Navajo-Hopi Observer](#)

[Center of Southwest Studies](#)





VIOLA

Awards

Presented by
Flagstaff Arts Council



GRACE NOELLE

—
**LAUREN
SARANTOPOLUS**

—
REVELUCIEN

—
SIERRA BRYAN

—
TYRRELL TAPAHA

EMERGING ARTIST





GRACE NOELLE

Grace Noelle has been making music since she was a toddler; with her first stint in the studio being at only 13 years old. Now, at the age of 17, Noelle is back in the studio pumping out beautifully molded melodies.

Over the years, Grace Noelle has accumulated an array of impressive achievements including earning a winning the 2015 Northern Arizona's Got Talent (age category), opening for Andy Grammer at NAU's Ardrey Auditorium in 2019. A live performance of Noelle's was used in True Future's documentary series at the Flagstaff promotional screening. She has even signed with music licensing and placement agency Shelly Bay.

In 2020, Grace has only performed live for Movies on the Square due to Covid-19; however, in prior years she has performed regularly at Heritage Square, The Annex, Sedona's Red Rocks Summer Concert Series, and the Coconino County Fair. She also released the first 3 singles from her debut EP "Grace Noelle - 2020". This includes the original songs "12:04 (Time to Let Go)", "Why Did You Choose Her?", and "Wrapped Up".

[Artist Website](#)

[Grace Noelle Youtube](#)



LAUREN SARANTOPULOS

[Artist Website](#)
[Southwest Art Feature](#)
[AZ Daily Sun](#)
[Artist Talk at the HeART Box Gallery](#)
[Wyoming Arts Council Video](#)

Lauren Sarantopulos is a recent graduate in environmental biology and wildlife ecology of Northern Arizona University. The young artist shares a passion for both painting, as well as the environment. Having been raised in Colorado and Wyoming, Lauren grew up spending countless hours exploring the outdoors and its wildlife. As her fascination with nature and interest in the arts grew, she began painting the wildlife she saw in order to develop a unique style while feeding her love of the environment. Lauren Sarantopulos heeds the mantra, “create with a purpose.” She hopes that through her work, people will move towards feeling more connected to nature. Lauren also hopes to raise awareness towards endangered species and wildlife conservation.

In 2020, Sarantopulos received recognition for the 21 under 31: Young Artists to Watch in 2020 by the Southwest Art Magazine. Her piece, On the Hunt was chosen as a finalist in the 2018 David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation Artist of the Year show. In 2020, Lauren was once again a finalist for the Wildlife Artist of the Year competition. This time in the Human Impact Category (16-22 years) for her piece, Red Dawn. Wildlife Artist of the Year is an internationally renowned competition that has been described as the ‘Oscars of International Wildlife Art’ and showcases the beauty and color of the natural world. Lauren Sarantopulos is utilizing her incredibly intricate painting skills and her degree in environmentalism in order to make a splash into Flagstaff’s art scene.





REVELUCIEN

Revelucien has been dominating Flagstaff's drag stage since the local legend began college. Though they are a queen from small town Flagstaff, Revelucien's performances revolutionize what it means to be a drag entertainer. Revel has marked themselves as a fluid performance artist, dabbling in the art of male, female, and androgynous presentation. Revel's looks and acts are always out-of-the-ordinary and impossible to look away from. Now, this queen is reinventing the Dragstaff stage in order to provide some much-needed love and laughter in the age of COVID-19.

Revelucien began a program of socially-distanced drag performances by coordinating multiple events throughout 2020 to be put on in local's driveways. Not only did this allow drag to continue to flourish in Flagstaff, but also allowed the artform to reach a greater audience. Revel also continues to complete live stream and zoom events with other local drag queens as well in order to keep the flame alive. Though social distancing and masks provided an obstacle for drag, Revel sought to ensure that their fellow drag queens could continue their art. Revel also hosts within Drag Queen Story Hour AZ at Bookmans, Brightside Bookshop and the Public Library. These events promote child literacy, inclusivity, and give children an opportunity to have fun while learning what drag is. Revel is dedicated to sharing the culture and love of the Dragstaff community across all demographics of Flagstaff by lifting up fellow entertainers as well as members of our community.

Vive la revolution!
Vive la résistance!
Vive la Dragstaff!

[MOCAF Creative of the Month](#)
[AZ Daily Sun | Flag Live! Cover Story](#)
[Drag Queen Story Time - Flagstaff Public Library](#)
[Revelucien 4 Flag TV](#)

SIERRA BRYAN



Sierra Bryan is a musician, Northern Arizona University student, and a roller skating enthusiast. In 2020 Bryan released an 11 song all original album. The full album was recorded locally in Flagstaff at Lore Audio Provisions. The beautifully crafted lyrics, paired with the soft strength of her unique voice, make for a playful listening experience that takes you from a peaceful meditation to rocking out and dancing in your living room. Her song, “Rain Song”, specifically talks about her love for Flagstaff rain storms and her process of moving here from Austin, TX. Other songs touch on these themes such as “Mountain Song” and “Traveling Woman”.

Sierra has performed at the battle of the bands at The Orpheum, at the Green Room opening for Tow’rs, at the Blue Door, at house shows, and on the new Late for the Train patio! She is already dreaming up her next album and is passionate about continuing her musical journey.

Sierra gives her time to serve with local non-profit organizations and she is currently a mentor to high school students through the Flagstaff Youth Co-Op program, where she plays music for the students at some of their weekly gatherings.

[The Lumberjack](#)



TYRRELL TAPAHA

“The more I learn about my medium, the more I learn about myself.”

Tyrrell Tapaha is a textile artist and weaver based in Flagstaff. Tyrrell is a sixth-generation weaver and has been working with his hands since he was very young. He spins and dyes his yarn by hand utilizing local, found materials. Tyrrell is currently focusing on yarn dyeing and the various hues he can create from the earth.

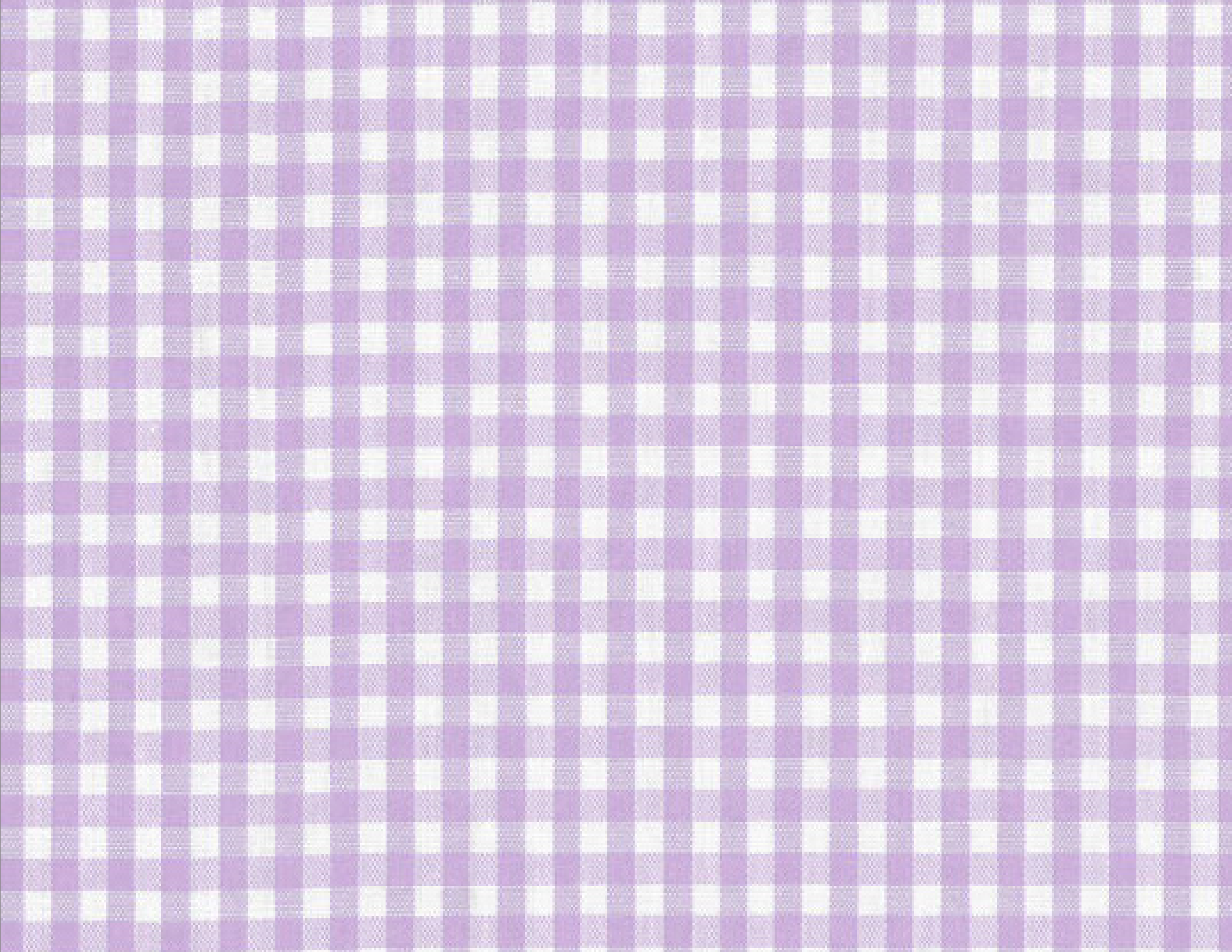
Tyrrell’s deep connection with his medium of art has made him a budding artist to watch out for. The artist explains weaving as a microcosm of the world around us. He equates the different components of the loom to the body, the earth and the elements. His work is intended to reflect the connections between the body, earth and elements; how each are deeply intertwined and dependent on each other.

[MOCAF Creative of the Month](#)

[About: Weaving the Future: A Conversation with Contemporary Dine Weavers](#)

[Weaving the Future: A Conversation with Contemporary Dine Weavers](#)







Presented by
Flagstaff Arts Council