



# Cultural Centre

*A Community that Inspires*  
**Bird Island, MN**



Volume 4 Winter 2021

## 2021 SUCCESSES

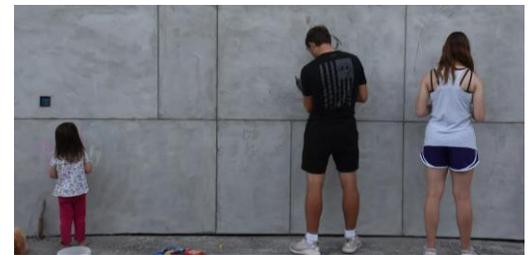
- 9 Gallery Exhibitions
- Public Art Wall Constructed
- Installation of new windows
- Youthful Art Classes
- Renville County Farmer's Market in Bird Island
- "Old Fashioned Christmas Market"
- Website Upgrade
- Revival of Social Clubs
- Tinnes – Baker House: National Registry Designation
- Collaboration with RCC and Developing Roots in the repurposing of BOLD

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARTS

“One may not think about more utilitarian items and places as “art” but they do contribute to one’s aesthetic experience. Think about the iPhone, the Fort Worth Water Gardens, Call of Duty: Black Ops, floor rugs, royal processions, Gucci’s Spring line, Versace furniture, Ducati motorcycles, Land Rovers, Gaudi’s Sagrada Familia, Calvin Klein, Calatrava bridges, sunglasses, military uniforms, Star Wars, Rolling Stone Magazine covers and the Transformers. Now remove any element founded in creativity, art and design, and all that remains are piles of materials that require human imagination and visual thinking. Art forces humans to look beyond that which is necessary to survive and leads people to create for the sake of expression and meaning.”

*Angel Fernandez, Tarrant Community College Reach Magazine*

Children participating in art programs will experience development in motor skills, language development, decision making, visual learning, inventiveness, cultural learning, and improved academic performance. Whether the child is in preschool or high school these attributes are necessary building blocks to society as a whole.



### For more information:

Arts - Minnesota Department of Education

<https://education.mn.gov.>dse>stds>

Art appreciation is one of our missions. The artists of Southwest Minnesota are primarily selected because of their talents and body of work. Our focus in 2022 and 2023 will be to offer arts from various cultures within our region: Dakota, Anishinaabe, Hispanic, Somali, or Mung will be incorporated; offering you an opportunity to view our regional art diversity.



McKenna Lilja BOLD GRADUATE

**“Creativity is contagious, pass it on.”**

*Albert Einstein*

## THE CULTURAL CENTRE IN BIRD ISLAND ENGAGES A VARIETY OF ARTISTS

Offering an eclectic mix of gallery exhibitions, we strive to inspire and encourage all art forms, including the written word for you to experience in our accessible gallery. We encourage dialogue, active participation and an opportunity to purchase original works of the artist. Some guests marvel how this small town offers an art experience normally found in larger urban or metropolitan areas. Our response is, "Everyone deserves to experience original art, meet the artist and be inspired." Yes, living on the Tall Grass Prairie inspires innovative thinking along with a fearless belief in the possible. Through the financial support of grants and donors like you, (individual, business, or a community organization) your support inspires our volunteers and Board to pursue creative solutions to enrich the lives of greater Minnesotans through the arts. Thank you.

## GRANTS AWARDED TO THE CULTURAL CENTRE IN BIRD ISLAND

Partnering with the **BOLD** and **BLHS School Districts** we were awarded a **LYFT Pathways Grant** through a 2017 MN Legislative grant, along with contributions from area **Lions Clubs**, **BIO Legacy Foundation**, **Kiwanis** and a private donor to teach filmmaking to High School students. The purpose is not only to utilize the expertise of local professionals, Mark Haen and Paul Heyl, but to also capture on film the lives of community elders in their own words. This historical capsule will be available to purchase by families as well as institutions.

When you observe the replaced windows and the public canvas on the exterior east wall, it is the result of a grant awarded through the **Southwest Minnesota Arts Council**. This grant ensures temperature, humidity control, and reduces energy costs. In addition, the public canvas allows for youth and elders alike to create a temporary vignette using sidewalk chalk as a medium.

The Centre was awarded a **Southwest Minnesota Initiative Grant** to ensure organizational sustainability for the future. Partnering with the **West Central Minnesota United Way**, **West Central Minnesota TBI Advocacy Group** and **Olivia Area Kiwanis**, the Wheel Safe Bike Helmet Program delivered bike helmets to approximately 100 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade children of BOLD, RCW and St. Mary's.

Our updated website, [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com) designed by Leta Jacobs is made possible through the **MN State Arts Board**. The **Bird Island Lions Club** recently sponsored Sheila Jacobs' and Michele Steffen's Exhibitions on it promoting their organization's mission and community services to an international audience. Contact Mark Glesener for more information on the website sponsorship at 320-522-0633 or email [markglesener@gmail.com](mailto:markglesener@gmail.com)

*Have you considered adding the Cultural Centre in Bird Island to your planned giving? This could include bequests, securities, life insurance, IRA and/or retirement benefits. This is a great way to ensure the Cultural Centre in Bird Island's success. Contact Mark Glesener, Board Treasurer, at the Cultural Centre. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all donations are tax deductible. We appreciate your commitment to the arts, the preservation of the Tinnes-Baker House and the community services we provide. When making a donation you may do so online at [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com) using a credit card or PayPal!*

- **General Fund:** For day-to-day operations of the Cultural Centre in Bird Island.
- **Capital Improvement Fund:** Future projects include the preservation of the Tinnes – Baker House, Cultural Centre flooring, interior wall painting including bathroom upgrades and a new mural on the exterior west wall.
- **Youthful Art Program:** A scholarship program for Renville County children through 18 years of age to engage in the arts (art classes, theater, music, and writing literature).



Pottery by Sheila Jacobs

## TINNES-BAKER HOUSE



This year, 2021, the Cultural Centre in Bird Island received notification that the **Tinnes – Baker House received National Registry Designation**. “The National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture. National Register properties have significance to the history of their community state or nation.”

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/faqs> Sept. 23, 2021

Currently, Engen and Associates of Willmar, Minnesota is performing the Condition Assessment so that we can proceed on the restoration with diligence.

## THE REVIVAL of SOCIAL CLUBS and ACTIVITIES

We can all attest to challenges which COVID-19 generated within our world, however, we have learned the importance of frequent handwashing, social distancing and being conscientious of our personal health. That being said, social clubs Youthful Art and the Woodbury Choir are once again participating in the use of the Cultural Centre.

Developing Roots and the Cultural Centre in Bird Island began making plans for the **Renville County Farmers’ Market in Bird Island** in March of 2021. We consulted with the city, various vendors and community members regarding interest and the viability of a Wednesday market. To all involved, the first Renville County Farmers’ Market in Bird Island was a **SUCCESS!**

The vendors, of the Renville County Market in Bird Island are our county’s cottage industries ranging in goods such as fresh produce, canned produce, range free chickens and eggs, baked goods, honey, sundry items, greeting cards, jewelry, quilts, rugs, towels, aprons, and bird houses. Our musicians, Billy Underwood, Bud Setzephandt, Jeff James and Jordan Harazin were sponsored by the following businesses: Kibble Equipment, Becks Hybrids, Saunders Mertens & Schmitz, P.A., Bird Island C & C, George Paur Agency Inc., St. Anthony Council Knights of Columbus, S.J. Jacobs & Sons, Citizens Alliance Bank of Lake Lillian, Bird Island EDA, Olivia Chamber of Commerce, Henslin Real Estate, Island Financial Planning, and Grama’s House. The music filled the air as community members socialized on picnic tables placed in the street, which the City of Bird Island closed for three hours. **A huge THANK YOU TO THE MUSIC SPONSORS AND THE CITY OF BIRD ISLAND!** This amazing, weekly community event supported cottage industries, as we once again socialized with friends and made new ones. The vendors, Bird Island C&C, Developing Roots, the Cultural Centre, and Grama’s House successfully hosted **“Bird Island’s Old-Fashioned Christmas”** on December 3, 2021 which fostered community spirit and economic success for our cottage industries and small businesses!



Summer Market



Public Sidewalk Chalk Canvas



Community Christmas Market

## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS 2022

January 15<sup>th</sup> – February 4<sup>th</sup>: Michele Steffen Exhibition/Sale, “Portraits, Figures and Fairy Tales”.

February 1<sup>st</sup>: Art class information and schedules will be available at [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com)

February 5<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup>: John White Exhibition/Sale, “The Earth Speaks”.

February 11<sup>th</sup>: Valentine’s Day Tea: 11 AM to 2 PM. *Tinnes-Baker House Fundraiser Cost: \$20.00*

March 5<sup>th</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup>: Heather MacKenzie Exhibition/Sale, “Textile in Code”.

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Tales from the Tall Grass Prairie, Theme: “Uncomfortable Differences”

*Tinnes-Baker House Fundraiser Admission: \$20.00*

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 22<sup>nd</sup>: J. Arthur Anderson Exhibition/Sale, “Connectivity”.

May 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup>: Mary Schroeffer Exhibition/Sale, “The Love of Painting”.

June 4<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> : Doug Pederson Exhibition/Sale, “Wood, Bone & Oil”.

July 11<sup>th</sup> – July 28<sup>th</sup>: Pearl Ziegenhagen Exhibition/Sale, “My World in Watercolor”

August 1<sup>st</sup> – August 26<sup>th</sup>: McKenna Lilja Exhibition/Sale, “Courageous Creativity”.

September 12<sup>th</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>: Shalese Sands, “Wildlife and Equines”. (*tentative*)

October 10<sup>th</sup> – November 18<sup>th</sup>: Kahler & Happel Exhibition/Sale “Shades of Superstition Mountain”.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bird Island’s Old-Fashioned Christmas & Market 4 PM to 7 PM

December 9<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Tea: 5PM – 7PM. *Tinnes-Baker House Fundraiser Cost: \$20.00*

[www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com)

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!*

  
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Bird Island, MN

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