

Weavers Guild of Minnesota

Fiscal Year 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

WGM - preserving and advancing the arts of weaving, spinning, and dyeing.



THREE STRANDS

As the Weavers Guild of Minnesota approaches a milestone anniversary, we look to build upon the 75-year legacy and strengthen our “Three Strands”. Over the past year, the Guild’s Development and Fundraising Committee Chair, Lisa-Anne Bauch, taught us about the Strands, the Guild’s major sources of revenue.

Thread One: *Earned income* is payment for services that the Guild provides, including class tuition, membership dues, and sales from Fiber Source.

Thread Two: *Individual donations* are tax-deductible contributions given to the Guild by individual donors.

Thread Three: *Grants* are funds awarded to arts organizations from a variety of sources, including government, corporations, and private family foundations. Grants are competitively awarded based on which arts organizations best carry out the goals of the funding organization.

Weavers and spinners know that yarn plied with three threads is stronger and more resilient than a single ply. We are happy to report that the Three Strands of the Guild are all strong! Our instructors continue to lead successful classes, nurturing a generation of fiber and textile artists; new members join every month, and we’re welcoming more individuals ages 30 and under; the 39th Annual Fiber Fair, a sale of our member artists’ work, was a great success.

Our individual donors helped to make the *\$7500 for 75 Years Campaign* a great success. We’re grateful for the repeat supporters who contributed for a second, third, or thirtieth time, and for the donors who gave for the first time. We were also awarded funding from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, Minnesota State Arts Board, and foundations.

What binds the Three Strands together is participation. Lisa explains “when you take a class, volunteer your time, attend a member event, or tell someone new about WGM, you strengthen the Three Strands.”

Thank you for all of the ways you help to make for a strong and active guild. The future is bright, and we can all look forward to a magnificent 75th anniversary year!

Ellen Richard, 2013-2014 Board President

Becky Franklin, Managing Director

Front cover: yarn and photo by Doreen Hartzell

Finances

Balance Sheet August 31, 2014

ASSETS		LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Cash	\$211,908	Accounts Payable	\$6,146
Accounts Receivable	\$1258	Deferred Revenue	\$7,090
Deferred Charges	\$362	Gift Certificates	\$2,029
Fixed Assets	\$31,132	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$6,620
Inventory	\$15,582	Unrestricted net assets	\$238,358
Total Assets	\$260,243	Total Liabilities & Equity	\$260,243

Financial Report September 1, 2013-August 31, 2014

INCOME			EXPENSES		
Program Revenue	\$89,936	35%	Program	\$175,103	71%
Grants	\$49,676	19%	Management	\$57,634	23%
Fiber Source Net	\$43,981	17%	Fundraising	\$13,510	5%
Individual Contributions	\$37,247	14%			
Membership Dues	\$23,246	9%			
Fiber Fair Net	\$10,452	4%	Total Expenses	\$246,247	100%
Admin. & Miscellaneous	\$4,677	2%			
Total Income	\$259,215	100%	Net Income	\$12,698	



THREAD ONE

Education

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota continues to offer a rich array of classes in all skill levels by local teaching artists, advanced workshops by recognized visiting artists, lectures by experts in the field, and programs with local partner organizations. The Guild also offers usage of its studios and equipment – individuals can rent time for independent study, and interest groups can explore specific topics. These opportunities and services are not found anywhere else in the state of Minnesota.

Last year, the Guild focused on its commitment to making quality education programs accessible to individuals at all skill levels, backgrounds, and abilities. Private lessons are available year-round, so students who are not able to participate in a group setting can learn from our fantastic teaching artists. Instructors use teleconferencing tools to reach students who can not physically attend the lecture portions of classes. In addition, throughout the year, a series of 4-6 hour “Try-It” classes are offered on a variety of topics, so students can still partake in a rewarding creative process without a major time or financial commitment.

The Guild also sought opportunities to learn from fiber artists from many global cultures. We facilitated a lecture by award-winning Laotian textile artists Bounxou Daoheuang and Ladda Insixiengmay; the Guild hosts a monthly spin-in with women originally from the nations of Sub-Saharan Africa; Guild members learned from master Somali weavers in a pop-up gallery downtown Minneapolis; we arranged a lecture by American Swedish Institute’s artist-in-residence Siiri Korhonen, a Finnish weaver.

In the midst of a very active year, we experienced a big transition with our small staff. Our Education Director, Linda Hansen, left the Guild in June 2014 after committing seven years to building a strong education program. Robbie LaFleur filled in as the interim Education Coordinator, scheduling classes and coordinating programs, to a resounding success. A new full-time Education and Outreach Coordinator will join the Guild in March 2015. Operations Manager Becky Franklin was promoted to Managing Director to collaborate with the board and manage all programs, finances, fundraising activities, publicity, and staff.



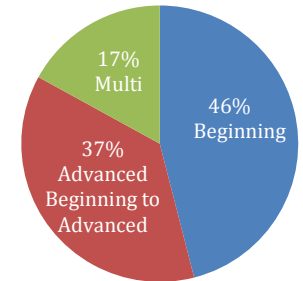
FY14 Education Numbers

145 classes, lessons, and workshops
667 students
1600 education hours

Types of Classes

Floor Loom
Kumihimo Braiding
Frame Loom
Design Dyeing Navajo Weaving SAORI
Ply Split Braiding Rag Rug Inkle Loom
Spinning
Card Weaving
Tapestry

Skill Levels of Classes



FY14 Teaching Artists

Traudi Bestler	Nedra Granquist
Katherine Buenger	Donna Hanson
Anne Burgeson	Doreen Hartzell
Steven Bye	Susan Hensel
Sue Bye	Carol Johnson
Betty Glynn Carlson	Jan Johnson
Kala Exworthy	Ann Masemore
Judy Goebel	Wynne Mattila

Jan Mostrom
Kristin Nelson
Chiaki O'Brien
Judy Payne
Keith Pierce
Nancy Preckshot
Dianne Stiff
Cassie Warholm Wohlenhaus

Visiting Artist Workshops

These workshops were led by nationally and internationally recognized artists at the Guild.

Crimp and Create with Dianne Totten
All Spindles All Day and *Spinning for Projects* with Abby Franquemont
Color and Weave Tapestry with Anita Mayer
The Fab Four with Robyn Spady

Program & Community Partners

American Swedish Institute
Concordia University PSEO Program
Lyngblomsten
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Minnesota State Fair
Minnesota Digital Library
Midwest Art Conservation Center
Northfield Arts Guild
Somali Museum of Minnesota
Textile Center
Sub-Saharan African Youth & Family Services of Minnesota



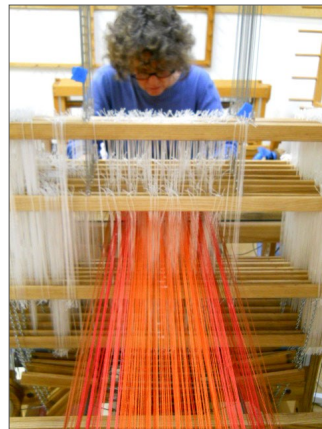


Facilities & Resources

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota has been the anchor tenant in the Textile Center since 2001. The Guild leases space with three permanent classrooms, a kitchenette, an office and store area.

Classroom Equipment

Our classrooms are fully equipped with three dozen floor looms, a computerized loom, two dozen spinning wheels, frame and inkle looms, and tools for students and members to use.



Fiber Source

The Guild's specialty store, Fiber Source, is one of the few resources in the region that carries supplies specifically for weaving and spinning. The inventory of yarn, books, and equipment support the activities of our students and members.

Library

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota Library includes an extensive swatch collection, periodicals, and rare and current fiber art books. The collections are generally maintained by the Guild's Library Committee and Archive Committee. The remainder of the Guild's books (over 4,000 volumes) is maintained as part of the Textile Center's combined library. Every year the Guild acquires several new books to add to the Textile Center Library's collection of 19,000 circulating and reference items.

Archives

The public can now view a collection of materials related to one of the Guild's founding members, Hilma Berglund. This project was completed by the Guild's Archive Committee for the Minnesota Digital Library's "Minnesota Reflections" project in 2014. Anyone is able to view the wonderful collection of Christmas cards Hilma made along with correspondence relating to starting the Guild, as well as swatches from early classes and workshops.

Membership

Members join and renew all year round to take advantage of the many benefits of being a part of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota. In FY14, the Guild was made up of approximately 450 members, and new members account for 35% of the overall membership.

The New and Occasional Weavers group was formed in 2013 to support new and returning members interested in weaving. An event for new and practicing spinners was hosted by the Guild in the summer of 2014 — the organization's first Fleece to Scarf competition was held, at which spinners from within and outside the Guild formed teams to spin, knit, and weave a scarf in one day.



Throughout the year, guild members lead and participate in focus groups to discuss topics of specific interest: draw loom weaving; doobby weaving; rag rug weaving; band weaving; spinning; Scandinavian textiles. The groups' projects are often shown in exhibits at the Guild.

In order to provide younger audiences ongoing support through the benefits of membership, WGM offers a discounted membership to individuals ages 30 and under. Free memberships are also offered throughout the year through first-come, first-serve scholarships.

Annual Sale: Fiber Fair

Each November the Guild hosts Fiber Fair, an annual sale of fiber art created by members. The sale provides members with an opportunity to showcase and sell quality work, as well as connect with dedicated patrons who return to the sale every year. The 39th Annual Sale, held at the Northrup King Building, was a success. Nearly seventy fiber artists participated, and the sales totaled just under \$55,000 with \$38,000 paid to the artists.



THREAD TWO

Contributions

The following list acknowledges those donors who contributed financially during September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014. We are grateful for all gifts.

\$650-\$2000

Sue Bye
Jane Connett
Connie LaTendresse
Kelly Marshall

\$500-\$649

Anita Branin
Donna Gravesen
Anonymous
Paula Pfaff
Nancy Preckshot
Ellen Richard
General Mills
Foundation*
Medtronic*

**Corporate
Matching Gifts*

\$250-\$499

Brenda Andrewson
Katherine Buenger
Louise French
Judy Goebel
Susan Hensel
Kathleen Jordan
Teresa Razidlo
Geri Retzlaff
Cynthia Scott
Mary Skoy
Roberta Zeug Shell

\$100-\$249

Christine
Anderson
Kathy Anderson
Lisa-Anne Bauch

\$100-\$249

Judy Bratt
Bonnie Buzza
Kala Exworthy
Nancy Fulton
Jan Hayman
Beth Heikkila
Janet Johnson
Susan Mansfield
Wynne Mattila
Beth McLaughlin
Janet Meany
Chiaki O'Brien
Turid Ormseth
Madeline Shinbach
Dianne Stiff
Jere Thompson
Beth Wilson

\$50-\$99

Carolyn Azine
Anne Burgeson
Kristina Clark
Betty David
Marjorie Ford
Sethna
Ann Fox
Becky Franklin
Rebecca Galkiewicz
Robyn Husebye
Robbie LaFleur
Anne Lindgren
Vicky Lorenz
Rosemary
MacFarlane
Sharon Marquardt
Jan Miller
Margaret Miller
Julie Nester

\$50-\$99

Shelley Olsen
Solveig Pollei
Judith Preckshot
Lynne Renz
William Smale
Mary Snelgrove
Judy Stowe
Lisa Thornquist
Margaret Van Houten
Margaret Vogel
Martin
Barbara Wanamaker
Martha R Willett

\$10-\$49

Karen Besser
Wendy Darst
Pamela Davis
Kristin DeBoom

\$10-\$49

Gayle Groebner
Debbie Heilig
Karla Jennings
Camille Johnson
Chillon Leach
Patricia Lovegreen
Janet Newberg
Janet Nordstrom
Ellen Overaa
Marsha Paulsen
Peters
Martha Riel
Mary Kay
Schladweiler
Sally Stinson
Cassie Warholm-
Wohlenhaus
Cynthia Werner
Mary Wussow



General Use Fund

The Guild relies on a variety of sources to support its operations and programming. Contributions from individuals, in the form of donated items and financial support, make up the majority of the general use fund.

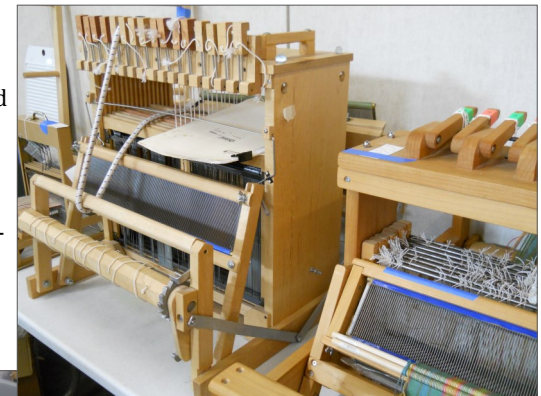
In FY14, the Guild received funding support from the **Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation**. The Guild is also supported by the voters of Minnesota through a **Minnesota State Arts Board** Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Betty Flannigan Estate

Betty Flannigan, a long-time member and passionate artist, amassed a wonderful collection of books, equipment, and fiber. When she passed away in 2013, Guild volunteers and Betty's friends contributed many hours sorting and pricing her items for a large sale in December 2013. The family generously donated a portion of the sale's proceeds to the Guild, as well as a large collection of books that were added to the Textile Center Library or sold throughout the year.

Donated Items

The Guild is happy to receive donations of items related to weaving and spinning. Using criteria (posted on the Guild's website), volunteers assess the items for use in the Guild or price them to sell. The proceeds support the Guild's operations and programming.



THREAD THREE

Project-Specific Grants

Throughout the year, staff and volunteers apply for funding to support specific projects at the Guild. In FY14, the funds were used from these awards to sustain and grow educational programs:

The **Smith Foundation** supported the Private Lesson program, which provides one-on-one arts instruction to individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The **Metropolitan Regional Arts Council** Arts Activities grant supported 18 weeks of educational programming, culminating with a full curriculum of fiber arts instruction for all age groups and skill levels.

The **Metropolitan Regional Arts Council** Capital grant supported the acquisition of weaving and spinning equipment and library reference materials to fill in the gaps of what the Guild lacked for its students and members. They now use and benefit from a collection of new books, two computer-aided looms, new spinning wheels, and spinning and weaving tools.



Participation

Volunteerism & Outreach

The Guild relies on volunteers to perform a variety of one-time and ongoing tasks. These volunteers log over 3000 hours throughout the year. They serve on the Board of Directors, maintain the inventory of Fiber Source, manage the Guild archives, coordinate exhibits, and demonstrate weaving and spinning.

Guild members served thousands of people through demonstrations and hands-on learning at fairs and festivals, human service organizations like senior-care centers, and youth groups. Guild volunteers demonstrate at the Minnesota State Fair - notably every day of the fair from 9am to 9pm, a tradition held since 1952.

Board of Directors 2013-2014

Ellen Richard, President
Cynthia Scott, President-Elect
Robbie LaFleur, Secretary
Geri Retzlaff, Treasurer
Donna Gravesen, Past President
Jere Thompson, Membership Chair
Robyn Husebye, Education Chair
Lisa-Anne Bauch,
Fundraising & Development Chair
Gayle Groebner
Jackie Lind
Cassie Warholm-Wohlenhaus



Staff 2013-2014

Becky Franklin, Managing Director
Linda Hansen, Education Director
Robbie LaFleur, interim Education Coordinator
Cindi Paulsen, Fiber Source Assistant
Cecelia Hoffman, Office Registrar



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