



MdW is expanding to five new regions!

MdW – an evolving coalition of artist-run projects, platforms, and spaces – spans across the Midwest with a mission to connect artist-run initiatives of diverse shapes, sizes, and missions. As a working group of creatives, we are deeply committed to exploring the potential of our regions' artist-led organizations and spaces via our atlas, regional road trips, open-source interactive map, and convenings – all aimed at connecting and enriching the Midwest's arts ecology.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, our travels and conversations led us to form exciting new relationships with organizations in five additional regions. These connections will enhance our exploration of the Greater Midwest Region and strengthen our networks of creativity and care.

These partners will join the founding artists of MdW to organize the MdW Summit this year, which will welcome hundreds of artist organizations to Charlotte Street in Kansas City, Missouri in November. Through this convening we will work to build mutual aid infrastructure for artist organizations in the Midwest while envisioning and charting shared visions of our region's future.

We are thrilled to welcome MdW's five new organizing partners:

[Gizhiigan Arts Incubator](#), White Earth Nation

Gizhiigan Arts Incubator is an artist-led initiative dedicated to supporting Native artists within the White Earth Nation. Established to foster economic development, the incubator provides essential resources such as exhibition spaces, common work areas, and studio spaces to help artists reach their entrepreneurial goals. By facilitating access to markets and offering technical assistance, Gizhiigan plays a pivotal role in advancing the careers of Indigenous artists and promoting the cultural heritage of the region.

[PAR-Projects](#), OH

Originally founded as a collaboration focussed arts organization in 2010, PAR-Projects has been cultivating creative events throughout the Cincinnati region for over a decade. At the request of their community, in 2015 the group formed a nonprofit — Professional Artistic Research (PAR-) Projects — purchased their first building, and began pursuing their mission to empower diverse communities of people who believe in the arts. Today, headquartered in the Northside neighborhood of Cincinnati, PAR-Projects is in the midst of a creative community development project, transforming their 3/4 acre campus into a collection of indoor and outdoor spaces reserved for contemporary art exhibitions, practicing studio artists, arts education, and community programming.

[Racing Magpie](#), SD

Racing Magpie is a dynamic arts and culture organization based in Rapid City, South Dakota, that provides vital support to Indigenous artists and culture bearers. Through a mix of public programs, exhibitions, and community engagement initiatives, Racing Magpie works to uplift Lakota culture and other Native traditions. The organization also offers consulting services to help build capacity within South Dakota's nonprofit sector and Indigenous communities.

[The School for Rural Culture and Creativity](#), KS

The School for Rural Culture and Creativity, located in Matfield Green, Kansas, is a developing space for the integration of art, community and agriculture into a place-based life. Based in the former elementary school building, The School is a multi-faceted resource that includes studios, exhibition and performance space, a library, and a playground. In the wake of rural depopulation, we seek to generate new ideas and practices necessary to cultivate a community of members that acknowledge their dependence on each other and the land.

[Union for Contemporary Art](#), NE (joining as a full partner in 2025)

The Union for Contemporary Art, located in North Omaha, Nebraska, is a community-based arts center that strives to create positive social change by using the arts as a vehicle for civic engagement and social justice. Founded in 2011, The Union focuses on elevating the voices of underrepresented artists, particularly those from the African Diaspora, and addressing the civic issues faced by North Omaha residents. The organization offers various programs, including artist fellowships, cooperative studios, and community-driven arts initiatives, all aimed at strengthening the cultural identity of Omaha and fostering a unified, socially engaged community.