

MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Agnes “Bobbie” Alsgaard Lien

I have been an artist/educator for a very long time. The rewards of doing something you love and passing that love onto others has been one of my greatest joys. Art has taken me around the world and educating others has allowed me to share what I have learned.

www.agnesnora.com

Cindy Bader

I have been a quilter for 30 years now, and I turned my hobby into a career by starting a long arm quilt business, speaking, teaching quilting classes, and designing quilt patterns. My passion is sharing my love of quilting with others! www.patternsontheprairie.com

Diane Bakker

Diane Bakker holds a BA in Elementary Education from the U of MN, Morris and taught 4th grade in Willmar for 8 years before embarking on home-educating their sons for the next 18 years. Throughout that time, she also loved teaching enrichment classes for K-12 students. She has continued to provide enrichment activities for little ones through seniors in their golden years in a variety of settings and loves to see the sparkle in eyes of all ages when they learn something new!

Sheku Bannister (AKA BIGG Shake)

Sheku, known in the music world as BIGG Shake, is an influential hip-hop artist and performer dedicated to creating music that unites and inspires. With a rich background in music and theater arts, Sheku has a passion for crafting songs that transcend cultural and linguistic barriers, bringing people together through shared experiences and community. Beyond his musical endeavors, Sheku is an advocate for positive affirmations for youth and enjoys organizing fun, interactive events like the 'Hip Hop Dance and Lyrics Showdown' and the Levitt jam camp. He also takes pride in his role as a loving father, celebrating fatherhood through heartfelt tributes in his music.

<https://linktr.ee/Bsheku>

Mixhael Angelou (AKA Chris)

Mixhael Angelou born Christopher David, in Monroe, Louisiana. He has always had a passion for music; from a young age getting started with instruments and choir in church; to starting his first music group at 12 with his brother. He is receiving an independent record deal by 13, with Snowtown Ent. A sub label of Universal Music Group. At 19 years of age was brought into and received a deal through Keezo Kane with Kanye West and G.O.O.D. Music. Adding modeling, fashion, acting, skateboarding, and some college to his belt. Now 34; with years in the music industry under his belt, having worked with the likes of Nipsey Hussle, Rick Ross, DJ Drama, Mac Miller, Miguel, The Escovedo family/Sheila E., Prince, Modsun; just to name a few. Is now independent with his brand NoWhere Boy and on3.

<https://linktr.ee/mixhaelangelou>

Malik Sanders (AKA DJ Versatile)

Malik was born on June 24, 1996, and raised on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois, moved to South Dakota in 2015. With a degree in Physical Education and Health Education, Malik is dedicated to inspiring youth, believing they are our future. He embarked on his musical journey in February 2023 and brings seven years of experience as a professional DJ, specializing in weddings and events. As a devoted father to a four-year-old son and the youngest of three sisters, Malik is an outgoing, fun-loving entrepreneur committed to positively impacting young people's lives.

<https://linktr.ee/mr.maliksanders>

Ms.Chevious (a.k.a. Melanie Cable)

Ms.Chevious is an award-winning chalk artist, painter, sculptor, and face painter! She tours the Midwest teaching and selling whimsical original art, coloring books, jewelry, and prints. Her weaknesses are hummingbird moths and cheese.

www.facebook.com/Ms.CheviousMurals

Nicole Crivellone

I have been painting since 2022. My first painting was a landscape, and I enjoyed the process so much I have just kept on painting. I have always been creative, before painting, I did a lot of ink drawings and did not do much with color. Painting has allowed me to explore color and learn about a whole new area of art. I think all forms of art are about trial and error, learning new things and finding the patience to make mistakes, fix them, and learn from them. In art, there is so much freedom and so much space to make your own rules, I hope to show others how to enjoy the freedom and peace of mind that can come from painting!

Hector Curriel

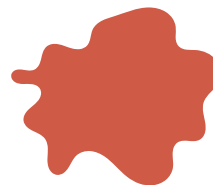
See keynote page. www.hectorcurriel-artwork.com

Ed Fornberg

School year 2024-25 marks year 46 of me teaching.... I LOVE to share my love of creativity with others. I have taught in New Ulm, Tracy, Storden, Jeffers, and currently in Westbrook Walnut Grove Schools. I sell paintings, drawings and other artwork on the side too.

Maggie Fuller

Maggie Fuller is a rural writer and visual artist from Montevideo, MN. She enjoys gardening, painting, writing, and playing with her dog, Daisy. She has been a mentor in the 4-H Young Writers program. She has also served as a 4-H judge for the Creative Writing Project in various Minnesota counties. Maggie is an encouraging and enthusiastic mentor for both artists and writers.



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MEET YOUR PRESENTERS CONT.

Bradley Hall

Brad is a watercolor and printmaker artist living and working in Granite Falls, Minnesota. He carves linoleum blocks, paints watercolors, and combines both mediums. He sells his work at galleries and art shows throughout the Midwest. He loves teaching his methods to young students! bradleyhallgallery.com

Tamara Isfeld

I am a community artist, living in Granite Falls. I am working as an artist and teacher at YME high school and at the Granite Area Arts Council. When I'm not in school you can often find me along the river walk painting a mural or out on a trail taking my dog for a walk.

Oak Kelsey

He lives in Marshall with his wife and two kids. He works as a personal care attendant and artist. He enjoys bike riding, making music, painting, animation, making zines and other creative adventures.

Rochelle Lame Bull

My name is Rochelle Lame Bull, I am a member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community. I have always enjoyed creating beautiful artwork. I love furthering my art skills by learning of new and exciting techniques and using diverse materials. My favorite type of art right now would have to be pottery.

Krystl Louwagie

Krystl grew up on a Minnesota farm. She graduated with a Studio Art degree with an emphasis in intaglio printmaking from Hamline University in St. Paul. She now lives in Marshall and works full-time for the non-profit Southwest Minnesota Arts Council. On the side, she finds time to work as a commission artist, professional face painter, petting zoo assistant, pet sitter, and as a Les Mills Body Pump Instructor at the Marshall area YMCA. You can follow her artistic journey on Facebook under Krystl Louwagie-Artist & Instagram under ArtByKrystl or Krystl's website, artbykrystl.com. She mostly creates ink and marker portraits (people & pets) and short autobiographical comics about her life. artbykrystl.com

Kennar Louwagie

I am an Art teacher in Minneota. I love teaching, painting, drawing, and getting my hands dirty in clay.

The Zoo Man

For the past 43 years, I have owned and operated Zoo Man's Attractions in Sleepy Eye. I travel all over the USA doing programs for the young and young at heart. Zoo-Mans-Attractions

SammyJo Miller

SammyJo Miller is a visual arts instructor and practicing artist. Since moving to Southwest Minnesota in 2021, she has completed 8 murals in Redwood County and has more in the works! Miller offers classes across Minnesota in fine art, crafting, and youth engagement through her mobile arts studio SJMiller Arts. www.sjmillersarts.com

Adam Preuss

I am a member of the Upper Sioux Community and resident of Granite Falls. I specialize in abstract portraits and mural works. I enjoy the outdoors, traveling, and cooking.

Scott Rolfs

Scott Rolfs received his BFA in Illustration at the School of Associate Arts. He has worked for design studios creating kid friendly character designs, graphic novel and children's publications and freelance clients. He especially enjoys working on his own comic projects and attending comic conventions. He has been presenting drawing classes for young artists since 2007.

Suree Sompamitwong

Suree is a multi-disciplinary artist celebrated for her emotionally evocative creations, which she describes as "raw art." With a deep conviction that art serves as a powerful tool for mental healing, Suree prioritizes expression and emotional processing over technical perfection. Suree is also the founder of Creative Healing Space, a non-profit that promotes community, creativity and healing through various creative modalities. Her day job is as youth employment specialist with the SW MN Private Industry Council.

Leah Gossom

Leah is a college art instructor at MN West in Worthington and also helps Suree at Creative Healing Space.

John Sterner

John has been involved in art in so many aspects. He has taught art for many years...from first graders through university students. John has also taught workshops, small groups, community programs and university connected presentations. He makes personal and public art. He works in many mediums such as sculpting in bronze, iron and fabricated steel, making graphic art on the computer and paper, and he loves to paint.

Jim Swartz

Jim Swartz is a retired SMSU Art Professor, where he taught pottery, sculpture, jewelry, and later also digital photo over the 33 years. He is a YAC regular and has given many other pottery, sculpture and metal casting workshops for students and adults over the years. Jim specializes in welding, metal casting, iron pours and digital photography for his creative work.

Sheila Tabaka

Sheila Tabaka is a theatrical director and costume designer. She spends her days and years in the SMSU Costume Shop. Recently, she attended a kilt making apprenticeship at the Kiltmaking in Edinburgh, Scotland and is the owner of Caledonia Kilts. In her free time, Sheila volunteers for various committees at Living Word Lutheran Church, spends time in her garden, travels with her husband, reads, does puzzles and chats with her 5 children. SMSU Theatrical Programs

