



# FIVE WINGS ARTS COUNCIL

## Welcome, New Board Member Katie Retka

New board member, Katie Retka is unabashedly in love with living amongst the rivers that run wild, and as Katie says, "Where forests and prairies merge into the flow of the mighty Mississippi River." She lives in Little Falls with her spouse Eli, and their two children. Katie and her family are avid nature lovers, spending time together outside on the water and in the woods. By day she works at the Camp Ripley Training Center in Little Falls, in natural resources planning and management. She was inspired to serve on the Five Wings Art Council board after working with the Region Five Development Commission on the Welcoming Communities project in Little Falls.

The Welcoming Communities project celebrates a unique history between the two communities. With a mission to help tourists and residents better understand the Ojibawee timelines and connection to Little Falls. Five local parks will include interpretive signs to build up "cultural agility" the ability of community members to understand, incorporate, and successfully work within and between multiple cultural contexts. The project vision is to build up cultural, natural, and social capitals. Located throughout the community, the park displays include timelines tracking the historical events of the Ojibawee and Little Falls, and welcoming artwork created by a variety of artists including Adrienne M. Benjamin, an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) artist from the Chiminising community. The Wayfinding project benefits the community by including natural resources and history and promoting inclusiveness.

Representing Morrison County on the Five Wings Art Council board Katie is looking forward to engaging in new perspectives through the arts in our communities. "I am excited to learn more about the individuals and organizations whose creative work strengthens our sense of place and community. The opportunity to explore art is one of the most accessible ways to expand our understanding of the histories and cultures that have shaped our society, opening us up to perspectives and experiences that are outside of our own, helping to connect us all and build common ground."



[Click Here to Learn More About the Welcoming Communities Project](#)



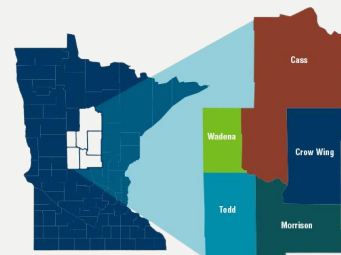
**Who:** Katie Retka

**Represents:** Morrison County

**About:** Katie lives in Little Falls with her spouse, Eli, and their family of two children. Katie holds a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in ecology and field biology and works at Camp Ripley in natural resources management and planning. Their family is avid in the outdoors and enjoys spending time together in the woods, wilds, and waters of Central Minnesota.

### Board Member Roles & Responsibilities:

- Policy Setting
- Review and Award Funding for Grant Programs
- First-Hand Involvement in the Arts Community



Serving Cass, Crow Wing, Todd, Wadena, and Morrison counties



## **FIVE WINGS**

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## **ARTS COUNCIL**

### **Overview of Board Member Roles & Responsibilities**

Board members are responsible for setting policies, and approving the various grant programs that the Five Wings Art Council administers. Board members and FWAC staff work together to review and make decisions regarding grant applications submitted to the council. Additionally, Five Wings Arts Council members have the opportunity to also represent the council at various arts events in the region and state.

Council members are a volunteer-based commitment and meet monthly, (except in July and December) and serve three-year terms. Members are reimbursed for meals and mileage associated with Five Wings Arts Council business.

Ideal candidates are respected members of their communities and have a history of participating in, advocating for, and/or supporting the arts.

Anyone interested in serving the arts in this capacity can submit a letter of interest including a resume to Five Wings Arts Council, PO Box 118, Staples, MN 56479, or e-mail Mark Turner at [mark.fwac@arvig.net](mailto:mark.fwac@arvig.net) or Vicki Chepulis at [vicki.fwac@arvig.net](mailto:vicki.fwac@arvig.net).

### **Current Vacancies:**

Currently, the Five Wings Art Council is seeking board members from Todd and Cass counties.