



FIVE WINGS
ARTS COUNCIL

Welcoming New Board Member Wendy DeGeest

New board member Wendy DeGeest's latest role is representing Crow Wing County on the Five Wings Art Council board. She brings a vast background in theater productions, choreography, modern jazz, improv, and education. She is looking forward to working together with others on the FWAC board and gaining more insight into the grant funding process. "I am looking forward to learning more about FWAC and how it operates. I am also looking forward to meeting and collaborating with other artists on the board," said DeGeest. But the most important element of serving on the board for Wendy is, "I'm most excited about learning about grant writing and helping artists reach their personal goals!"

Enter Stage Right:

Some of Wendy's experience comes from owning and operating a dance studio called The Basement Boys Studio where she taught her students modern jazz, tap, and hip-hop. She helped develop a Dance Pilot Project through the Perpich Center for Arts Education and co-wrote and implemented a spiraling dance curriculum for the Mora K-12 public school system. As a past member of the Comprehensive Arts Planning Program she designs plans for K-12 arts education programming for the Mora Public Schools and provided opportunities for students to work with professional artists. However, her leading lady roles are just as important as the costumes she designs. From the Guthrie Theater where she was cast in two productions to local productions including her role as "Bonnie", the gangster's moll, in Stage North Theatre's latest production of "Anything Goes", Wendy's passion knows no bounds when it comes to dance and theater arts. She currently serves on the Stage North Theatre Company board and lends her expertise as Costume Mistress and Choreographer.



Who: Wendy DeGeest

Represents: Crow Wing County

About Wendy: Although retired, by day Wendy taught elementary education and early childhood education, by night she is either taking on acting roles in a variety of productions or offering her many skills as a seamstress designing costumes or choreographing dance numbers for the Stage North Theatre Company. In her free time, she enjoys being on the water with her partner Gary in one of their many boats. She also enjoys attending theater shows at both the Guthrie Theater and the Minneapolis Children's Theater. Although now retired, her role in education provided another outlet to immerse herself in the arts helping children with overcoming behavior and emotional disabilities with creative movement and dance therapy techniques. Wendy holds a degree from the University of Minnesota with an emphasis on dance and theater, and she studied modern jazz, ballet, improvisation, creative movement, and choreography.

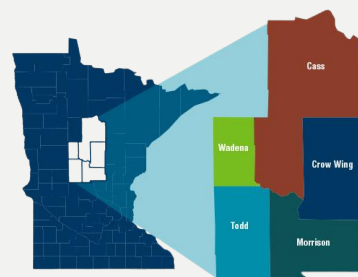
Board Member Roles & Responsibilities:

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

However, her leading lady roles are just as important as the costumes she designs. From the Guthrie Theater where she was cast in two productions to local productions including her role as “Bonnie”, the gangster’s moll, in Stage North Theatre’s latest production of “Anything Goes”, Wendy’s passion knows no bounds when it comes to dance and the theater arts. She currently serves on the Stage North Theatre Company as board president and lends her expertise as Costume Mistress and Choreographer.

Future Aspirations as an FWAC Board Member:

As someone who is heavily involved in the theater arts, learning more about the funding process, and collaborating with board members is something she is looking forward to while serving on the board. Her inspiration to serve was twofold noting that, “As a board member for Stage North Theater, we often write grants for our theater productions. I was inspired to serve as a board member with the hope of learning about grant writing and understanding more about the grant writing process. It was also my hope to learn more about the artists in the area and to broaden my knowledge of the various art forms. Being on the board, even for a short time, has inspired me to attend a wider variety of art exhibitions in the Brainerd Lakes Area.”



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



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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. Our mission is to enrich the lives of artists and arts organizations within region five. Board members are also responsible for reviewing and making 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 or Vicki Chepulis at vicki.fwac@arvig.net.

Current Vacancies:

Currently, the Five Wings Art Council is seeking board members from Todd county.