

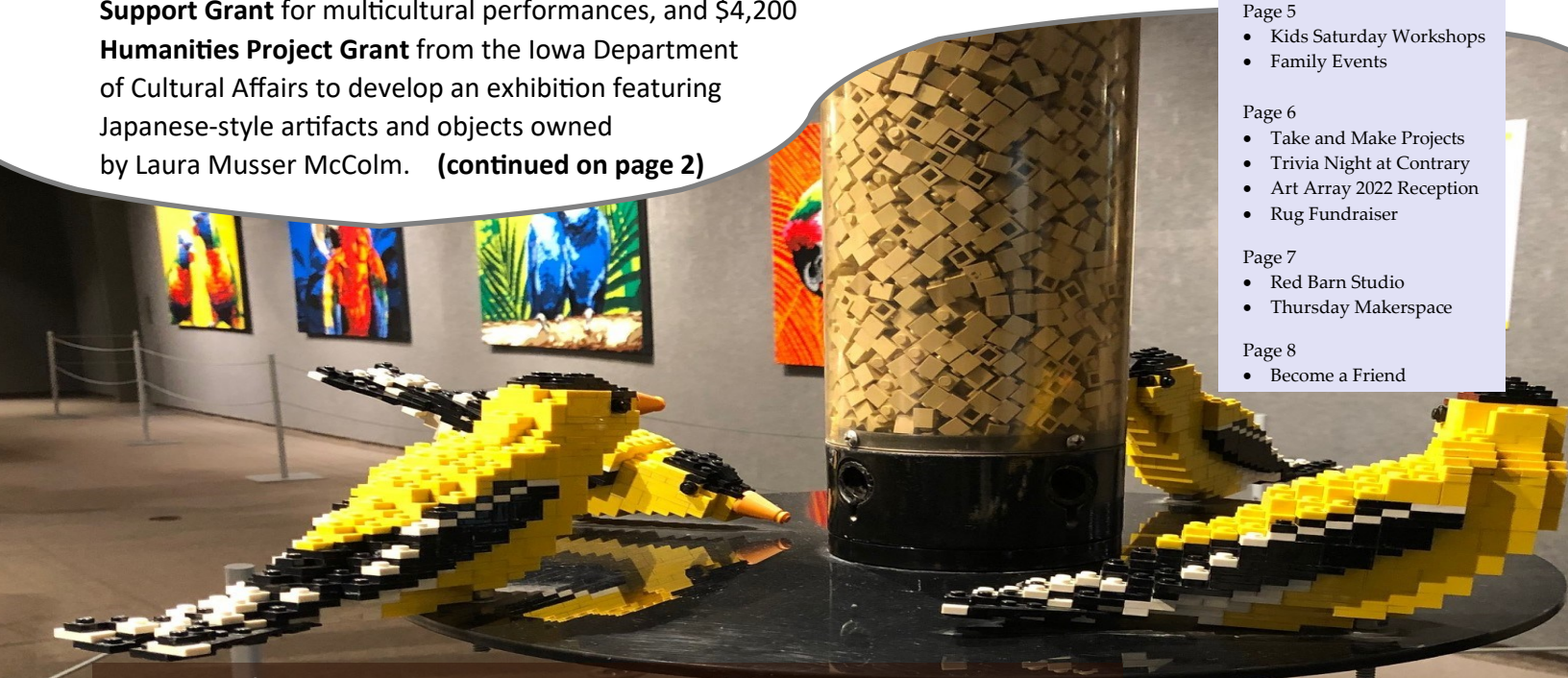
# Muscatine Art Center

As we begin a new year, it is natural to reflect on all that has happened in the last twelve months and consider what comes next. 2021 was a big year for the Muscatine Art Center. We hosted a wide range of exhibitions – **Great Cover Ups** (spotlighting historic quilts from the permanent collection), **4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Art**, **Nancy Judd's Alterations**, photographic portraits of **Frida Kahlo**, optical illusion portraits by **Rose Frantzen**, the **Broadmoor School** collection, recent work by **Jon Fasanelli-Cawelti**, and exhibits highlighting other local and regional artists. The year wrapped up with **Sean Kenney's Nature Connects® Made with LEGO bricks®** on view through February 20, 2022.

The Muscatine Art Center relies on many sources of funding to bring exhibitions and programs to the community. As a department of the **City of Muscatine**, the budget through the City covers much of the staff cost, but **Friends of the Muscatine Art Center** and the **Muscatine Art Center Support Foundation Fund** are obliged to contribute nearly \$60,000 towards wages and benefits this fiscal year. The Support Foundation also finances the budget for hosting exhibitions, caring for collections, and occasionally, enhancing the collection.

The staff manages many grants to sustain operations. For example, a grant from the **Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs** funds another \$10,000 for part-time staff, helping to make weekend hours possible. This grant provides an additional \$5,000 for purchasing supplies and paying fees for studio instructors. Other operations-related grants received in 2021 included \$1,600 Arts Dollars grant from **Quad City Arts**, \$3,000 Japanese Garden research grant from **Humanities Iowa**, \$5,000 **Eastern Iowa Tourism** grant to market the Nature Connects exhibition, \$2,000 from **Muscatine Charities** to assist with staffing during the Nature Connects exhibition, \$1,000 from the **Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry** to market the exhibition, \$15,500 **Iowa Arts & Culture Marketing Grant** from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to promote the exhibition, \$3,134 from the **Mary Jo and Richard H. Stanley Human Conditions Support Grant** for multicultural performances, and \$4,200 **Humanities Project Grant** from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to develop an exhibition featuring Japanese-style artifacts and objects owned by Laura Musser McColm. **(continued on page 2)**

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*Sean Kenney's Nature Connects Made with LEGO bricks installed in the Stanley Gallery*