



CROSSHATCH
CENTER FOR ART AND ECOLOGY



We Were Built For This



2019
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2020



CROSSHATCH.ORG



We Were Built For This

Crosshatch builds strong communities through the intersections of art, farming, economy and ecology.

Crosshatch envisions communities that are grounded in place: where people connect through stories, music, art, shared work, and food, and where the economy and culture are rooted in restoration of the earth and its people.



STAFF

- Amanda Kik**
co-founder and -director
- Brad Kik**
co-founder and -director
- Daniel Marbury**
program coordinator
- Jeannie Sheneman**
program coordinator

DIRECTORS

- Brian Bourdages** *(President)*
- Lisa Franseen**
- Michelle Ferrarese**
- Ellen Fred**
- Nicco Pandolfi** *(Secretary)*
- Heather Ratliff**
- Barb Tholin** *(Treasurer)*
- Erin Anderson Whiting**

See what these wonderful people make possible at www.crosshatch.org

Dear Friends,

This past year has prompted us to ask, “How can Crosshatch best work to meet the moment?” Our strategic plan somehow didn't anticipate a global pandemic plus a timely resurgence in the movement to end racial injustice, plus some major threats to both American Democracy and the American economy. So what do we do?

I'm truly proud to share that a large part of the answer to that question has been to continue on the path. **We were built for this.** The community we've helped to weave together over the last 15 years is resilient, and Crosshatch's mission and programming have always encompassed a spirit of innovation and adaptation. Our work was built on a foundation of self-reflection about how to best support artists, farmers, collectives and communities. Our values have included deep respect for the diverse nature of the people with whom we engage; and a demand for continual effort to approach our work with openness and humility regarding the needs of the entire community.

On behalf of my fellow board members, and our exceptional co-directors and staff, I'm honored to bring to you this annual report.

In these pages, you will find the story of what it means to create resilient community in the face of great (and let me just say, ongoing?) uncertainty. You'll see how Crosshatch pivoted and adapted programming to respond to the pandemic (p. 4). You'll find new initiatives launched to sustain our regional artists (p. 11), and ongoing partnerships with community leaders like Bob Sutherland at Cherry Republic to make sure we're sharing our spirit of generosity (p. 13). As we continue, we also work to remain teachable, and to practice gratitude for all the "spaces between" the activities, programs, and events of the past year.

With sincere gratitude,
Brian Bourdages
Crosshatch Board President

“ **People are aware that they cannot continue in the same old way, but are immobilized because they cannot imagine an alternative. We need a vision that recognizes that we are at one of the great turning points in human history when the survival of our planet and the restoration of our humanity require a great sea change in our ecological, economic, political, and spiritual values.** ”

- Grace Lee Boggs – American author, activist, feminist

Programs for Resilient Communities

2005 brought the world a lot of things: the trial of Saddam Hussein, YouTube, the world's first face transplant... and Crosshatch. Back then, we went by ISLAND, but the mission was the same: building strong communities at the intersections of art, farming, ecology and economy.



We're so proud to be with you all 15 years later, still in service to the land and to each other. Thank you for your heart, your spirit, and your constant reminder that "what we need is here."

We help to strengthen communities by...

- 1 Prototyping tools for the world that we want to live in and practicing the hands-on work that builds community self-reliance.
- 2 Working together to (re)create systems that work for small places.
- 3 Weaving people together through food, shared work, music and art.
- 4 Providing the best possible education to growers around the state, with a focus on ecological care and smart business practices, to increase the resilience of our local food and farming systems.
- 5 Making space for farm producers and other hands-on makers to meet, and to build networks and relationships. We so often find, when we gather around a table, that one person in the room holds the solution to another person's problem.
- 6 Recognizing that artists are essential to helping us understand the world and our place in it. The arts generate empathy, strengthen our social bonds, encourage critical thinking and, most importantly, create joy amidst darkness.

Pandemic Pivot



Nature teaches us that adaptation is key to survival, so, like all organizations, when the pandemic hit, we found ways to adapt our programming to keep everyone safe and healthy. When a program has this icon, we shifted things to virtual or socially distant in 2020—and found some pretty awesome ways to sustain our connections.

Our Programs

Guilds

Guilds embody the idea of mutual support, providing peer-to-peer learning, mentorship and a community network of demos, farm and studio tours, potlucks and shared equipment, and bulk purchasing. Guilds weave trust and interdependence, then provide an essential foundation for programs like the Torch Lake Co-Op to adapt to COVID times (read more on page 9).

On-Farm Education

In Summer 2019, we continued our Twilight Tours and Field Schools, opportunities for area small-farmers of all experience levels to learn from one another's practices. The tours give participants a "field trip" to see farming techniques up close, such as crop rotation, cover cropping, growing a garden for market, and year-round vegetable production in greenhouses. Field Schools go beyond the basics to support intermediate learners, including both classroom time and field work for an in-depth education.

Crosshatch Artist Emergency Fund

In the early moments of COVID-19 in Michigan, we reached out to our artist community and asked what they needed. Performances, festivals, fairs and exhibitions were falling like dominoes, and we knew the loss of income would be devastating. We quickly raised and distributed over \$27,000 in emergency aid to artists in Northwest Lower Michigan. May Erlewine was one recipient of the Crosshatch Fund; she talks about her experience on page 11.

A photograph of two women sitting and talking. The woman on the left has short, curly red hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The woman on the right has long, curly brown hair and is also wearing a dark jacket. They are both smiling and appear to be in a casual setting.

Painter activist initiator Sally Neal and wild and heartfelt activist Mary Eschbach share the living history of environmental justice and peace work at the Long Memory Project.

Our Programs *(continued)*

Renewable Energy Grant

We partnered with Cherry Republic to help farmers invest in transitioning to renewable energy systems. Four farms made the leap in 2017/18, and then Crosshatch helped four more join since 2019. We are currently guiding two more through the application process in 2020 and 2021. Read more about our partnership with Cherry Republic on page 13.

The Long Memory Project

How do we hold on to the local knowledge of our elders, and the local songs, stories and lore of shared action in the small places where we live? The Long Memory Project brings elders together with artists for an intentional listening session that honors the stories and memories of the past. After an extended listening session, the artists spend two weeks in residence to create songs, poems, and artwork —ways to extend the lineage of these stories and weave a connection between generations. This beloved project is on pause because the conditions for its success—human connection in shared space—just isn't possible right now, but we're eager to bring it back when it is safe to do so.

Microloans

A partnership with the Grain Train, founded in 2016, expanded last year to include Oryana Community Co-op and eight new counties. This program provides no-interest loans to local food or farming ventures, and so far has distributed \$57,775 in microloans (\$17,108 in 2020). This year's recipients include Red Bush Breads, Saltless Sea Creamery, Grand Traverse Culinary, and Local Eats.

Northern MI Small Farm Conference

This is a small farm conference not afraid to look to the past and to the future at the same time. Our goal is to equip the small farm community with the tools for success, including hands-on sessions and a forum for the open exchange of ideas. A thoughtful COVID adaption is in the works—stay tuned.

Bob Bernard hosts Bee TV live over the world wide web, direct from his bee yards at Earthwork Farm



Susan Odom teaches the tricks of "How to Eat the Layer Hen" at the 2019 Skill Swap

Skill Swap

Where can you learn about vermicomposting, hand-knitting socks, pickling, preserving and dancing the Bellaire Waltz? You're looking for the Skill Swap, a Crosshatch staple that has been revived as an annual gathering at Earthwork Farm in Lake City. It's an intergenerational practical learning day with workshops across art, nature and real home economics. Folks share skills, meals, a social dance and fantastic live music to cap off the day. The skill sharing continued despite COVID, with must-see Bee TV (a live cam of the bee yards at Earthwork Farm, hosted by Bob Bernard), a panel discussion on how mutual aid is "solidarity, not charity", and workshops on Decolonizing our Thoughtlife, Collaborative Songwriting, and Observational Drawing! (The online Skill Swap was co-presented with Earthwork Music, Earthwork Harvest Gathering, Festi, and Title Track).

Chicken Coupe + Preservation Station

Meeting the needs of small farmers sometimes means hitting the road, and that's exactly what our Chicken Coupe was designed to do. The Chicken Coupe is an MDA certified poultry processing trailer that small farmers can use to bypass expensive processing facilities to sell direct to their customers. The Preservation Station (aka "Blanch") is a canning kitchen on wheels that allows people to learn a new skill, sharpen their techniques, and join friends or family to make food preservation a fun tradition in their community.



“ It is a mistake for anyone to think he has lived too long in his old, unsatisfactory ways to make the great change. If you switch on the light in a dark room, it makes no difference how long it was dark because the light will still shine. Be teachable. That is the whole secret. ”

- Vernon Howard
American philosopher, teacher and author

Crosshatch Guilds + Torch Lake Co-Op

WITH KELLY DOYLE, DAYBREAK DREAMFARM

One of our guiding principles at Crosshatch is to make space for farm producers and other hands-on makers to meet, building networks and relationships. You never know what will come out of these connections, and the ideas born here are often better than anything we could dream up. This past year, the East Bay Farm Guild came together to improve food systems for both small farmers and customers through the creation of the Torch Lake Co-Op. Here's Daybreak Dreamfarm's Kelly Doyle to talk about the project.

How did you get started with farming?

My partner, Patrick, and I were working on a trail crew with the Maine Conservation Corps and we were just a couple of drifters, but we knew that we liked working outside and we talked about building a homestead and garden someday. We interned at another farm in Harbor Springs and spent three years there learning to do all sorts of things, and eventually we thought we were ready to do this ourselves. We found some land in East Jordan, and that was six seasons ago! We've come a long way.

How did the Torch Lake Food Co-Op come to be?

Prior to the pandemic, we were getting together monthly in-person with other farmers, which was a great foundational piece. When the pandemic hit, we wanted to make it easier on local producers and keep options available for customers and we saw Brad [Kik, Crosshatch's co-founder] posting online. I've always seen Crosshatch as the fabric that weaves us all together, and Brad connected us with Daniel [Marbury, Crosshatch Program Coordinator], and we got all these crazy farmers together and found a way to create a website and ordering platform, build the legal body, and sort out licensing requirements during the busiest point of the seasons and a pandemic!

Photo Credit: @ryanclarkdoyle



Photo Credit: Bliss Valley Farm



How would you describe the Torch Lake Food Co-Op?

Well, it's a co-operative of seventeen (and counting!) small family farms, market gardens, and kitchens that have come together to streamline local food ordering needs. We have curbside contactless pickup and sales in Bellaire and Williamsburg.

Why was the Co-Op needed?

The reason we all started talking about this initially is that most of our farmers are relatively small producers. When you're 1-2 people and you're the grower, seller, and the marketer, you become less efficient at all of those things. Our hope with the co-op was to combine those efforts and make it easier and more efficient to sell food.

What's next for the East Bay Guild?

My hope is that we'll have even more vendors and participation. Joanna Clare (from Grass Lake Organics) got all the infrastructure for payments and accounting going and now she's talking about indoor market space at local restaurants as a pick-up site, so we'll try to figure out where the demand is and keep our eye on the pandemic. Our longer term goal is to have certain farms grow certain crops and get organized that way.



To place an order for curbside pickup with the Torch Lake Co-Op, visit TorchLakeCoop.com

Crosshatch Artist Emergency Fund

WITH MAY ERLEWINE

Artists working in the gig economy have been hit hard by coronavirus' effects. Cancelled events means loss of income, and a whole summer without performance opportunities can be devastating. Because we know that art is of utmost importance in trying times, we wanted to look out for our artists. We approached some local funders, put out a call to the community, and managed to raise and distribute over \$27,000 in emergency aid to artists in Northwest Lower Michigan. One recipient was beloved local singer-songwriter, May Erlewine.

How have you seen art lift people up or find resilience throughout the pandemic?

I think in my hardest times, art is the thing that helps me connect to the hardship and find the beauty in it. When I find the beauty, I can find hope and gratitude and take a step forward. Right now, music—no matter our difference or where we are—can make us feel connected, even when we aren't. That's why I use it as a tool for change—it helps people to feel connected to each other. The process of creating art (or any hobby, really) is helpful to promoting peace of mind and it's a good tool to have in your toolbox to ease anxiety.

What's been the impact of Crosshatch's emergency funding for you?

When the news of the lockdown hit, I was just getting home from a tour out East and I realized I had to cancel all my shows. There was a great amount of panic for the first week or so, and I didn't know how I was going to make a living. I got a message from Brad asking whether a fund for artists would help, and soon after that, he texted the application. Within 24 hours, I had money in my account and peace of mind that I could make a plan.

What makes Crosshatch different?

Their specialty is really in valuing artists because they are artists, and that's it. So many other organizations have lots of red tape that can make it difficult, but Crosshatch thinks about things so thoughtfully. More than the amount of money, it was the recognition and thoughtfulness for artists in the community that mattered most. It helped to know that people are aware that this is devastating and terrifying, and we're not going to be in this alone.

Crosshatch always finds ways to bring the community in to celebrate the value of artists in a cool way. I think what they do is hard to explain and also really important and special. The team are all creatives themselves which is why they understand. There's very little ego in what they do, which is so rare.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$27,000+

in emergency aid to 57 artists
in Northwest Lower Michigan

“ We have to hold
the value of art
in a safe and
equal space to
other things. ”

- May Erlewine
singer-songwriter



What can the community do to support artists going forward?

My team made a call not to do shows this summer, and since there's no way to perform safely for the foreseeable future, I'd say it's about figuring out ways to support artists you care for. Maybe it's one or two artists you can bring into your life. Investing in small ways in the art you love is really meaningful, and don't underestimate what a little amount of support will do. Patreon is a wonderful way to support someone on a regular basis, and it really promotes the creation of art without a lot of stress on the artist because they get to set the parameters around what they can do.

Are you working on new music?

I've got an album coming out in August and I'm working on a single to get out the vote, while also trying to hone my recording process at my house. We have to hold the value of art in a safe and equal space to other things.

A Very Special Thank You To Our Seed Funders

- :: Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau Counties
Begonia Charitable Foundation and Norm & Judy Jones
- :: Emmet County
Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation
- :: Charlevoix County
Charlevoix County Community Foundation

Renewable Energy Grant

WITH BOB SUTHERLAND, CHERRY REPUBLIC

First, Cherry Republic set and then met an ambitious goal to source all of their power from local renewable energy. Then, they pledged \$100,000 to help local farmers do the same, by building on-farm photovoltaic systems. They asked Crosshatch to help these farms understand and navigate the unique and somewhat complex application process. We love this new iteration of Bob Sutherland's ongoing vision of good land stewardship—not only will this reduce carbon emissions on local farms; these energy systems also mitigate the risk of rising fossil fuel energy prices, and add another product to small-farmers' offerings.

BY THE NUMBERS

8 farms (and counting) who have made the transition

\$25,000 (and counting) invested by Cherry Republic



“*Crosshatch has been a terrific support as part of our pledge towards climate action and a move to renewables in Northern MI. Part of that was helping small farmers to go 100% renewable. It fits small-farmers' values and sense of independence, and Crosshatch was so well connected to them, with existing events that could help publicize the grant. It warms my heart to see these farms building financial independence and meeting their dreams.*

I can't emphasize enough that value of generosity for a business to carry. Something that's led to our success (and others) is how well a business can give back to a community. It's at the forefront of the year with the budget. Generosity and helping our neighbors, we can't give enough without it coming back to us.

—Bob Sutherland, Cherry Republic

200,000^{kWh} (and counting, every day the sun shines) of solar electricity already produced

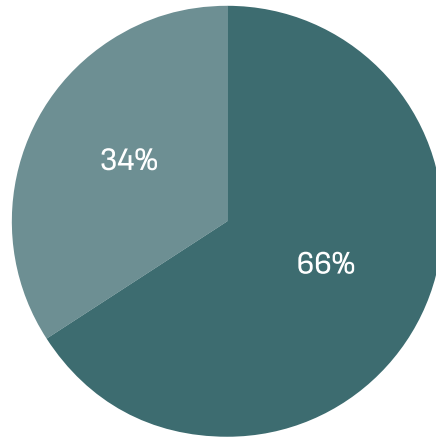
How to Apply

Farm businesses considering or currently installing renewable energy systems should contact Crosshatch program coordinator Daniel Marbury at daniel@crosshatch.org or (231) 622-5252

Funding the Future

Income by Category

66%	contributions	\$280,308
34%	earned income	\$144,980
	Total	\$425,288



Contributions

32%	public grants	\$90,346
28%	individual giving	\$79,193
10%	foundation grants	\$28,600
14%	sponsorships	\$38,197
6%	private grants	\$16,187
4%	in-kind contributions	\$11,285
6%	fiduciary	\$16,500
	Total	\$280,308

Earned Income

68%	NM Small Farm Conference	\$97,867
24%	fee for services	\$34,873
8%	other ticket sales	\$10,961
1%	miscellaneous	\$1,279
	Total	\$144,980

Funding Sources

Public Grants

USDA Risk Management Agency, Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, Small Business Administration

Corporate Grants

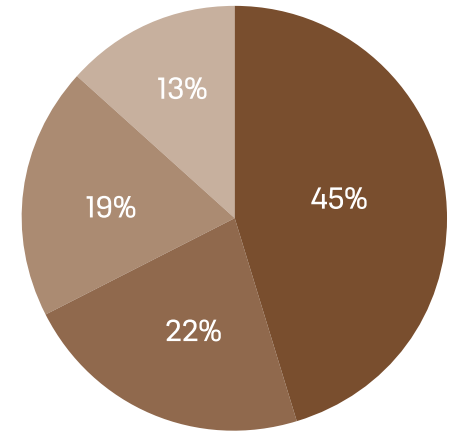
Chateau Chantal, Cherry Republic, Short's Brewing Company

Private and Foundation Grants

Anonymous, Begonia Charitable Foundation, Charlevoix County Community Foundation, William A. Fisher II Family Foundation, Nancy Gallagher, Mary Bevans Gillett, Tony & Caroline Grant, The Murray Family Foundation, Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, Pierce Family Charitable Foundation, John & Ann Steinbrunner, Marana Webber Tost Charitable Fund

Expenses by Program

45%	food and farm programs	\$183,697
22%	art programs	\$88,954
19%	general operating expenses	\$78,806
13%	community building	\$53,566
	Total	\$405,022



Food & Farm Programs

84%	NM Small Farm Conference	\$154,381
5%	Field Schools	\$9,440
4%	Microloan	\$6,952
3%	Workshops	\$5,550
2%	Preservation Station	\$3,089
1%	Chicken Coupe	\$2,312
1%	Renewable Energy Grant	\$1,973
	Total	\$183,697

Community Building

41%	Guilds	\$22,086
26%	Skill Swap	\$13,844
21%	technical assistance	\$11,179
12%	Hatchquarters	\$6,457
	Total	\$53,566

Arts Programs

55%	other arts programs	\$48,848
39%	Artist Emergency Fund	\$35,085
6%	fiduciary projects	\$5,020
	Total	\$88,954

How to Give

Let's build resilient communities together. Your donation invests in programs to restore our connections to the land and each other. To make a gift, visit our website at www.crosshatch.org/donate and follow the prompts. Or, call us at (231) 622-5252, or email donate@crosshatch.org and we'll take good care of ya.

“ We've been giving to Crosshatch as part of our general giving for years, and it's been really fun to fine-tune programs with them, and to watch their organization grow. When they first started in Bellaire, I never imagined they would come to Leelanau and then expand beyond our state. That's the importance of giving to good people doing good things. ”
 —Bob Sutherland, Cherry Republic

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