

1966

- Formed to enhance the community's cultural climate, widen participation in the arts and increase local arts audiences

1980-1989

- 1983: Hired part-time secretary.
- 1984: Hired full-time executive director
- 1985: Received grant from Upjohn Foundation to establish Community Arts Grant program
- 1985: Hired full-time grants administrator
- 1985: Began curating changing exhibits at Kingscott Associates
- 1986: Revenue was \$70,745
- 1987: Revenue was \$75,380
- 1987: Received \$250,000 challenge grant from National Endowment for the Arts. Helped to raise \$1,000,000 to establish Arts Fund of Kalamazoo County endowed at Kalamazoo Community Foundation.
- 1987: Arts Fund re-granted \$50,000
- 1987: First grants awarded from the MAGIK program (Making Arts Grow In Kalamazoo)
- 1989: Revenue was \$117,035
- 1989: First regional mini-grants awarded through Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs

1990-1999

- 1990: Revenue was \$187,580
- 1990: First grants awarded under Irving S. Gilmore Emerging Artist Grant program
- 1993: Received \$150,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and a \$225,000 matching grant from Kalamazoo County to promote cultural tourism
- 1994: Staff included executive director, grants administrator, marketing director, part-time secretary
- 1995: Moved to new office in Radisson Plaza Hotel
- 1995: Gallery Hop was held quarterly
- 1995: Revenue was \$349,265
- 1995: Secretary position becomes full time
- 1995: Hired intern to handle computers, network and Internet
- 1996: Adopted mission statement: To support, promote and fund the arts in the Kalamazoo area
- 1996: First grants awarded from Arts Outreach Fund
- 1997: Gallery Hop held every other month

- 1997: Received technology grant from National Endowment for the Arts and Benton Foundation
- 1997: Purchased former Jacobson's department store and began renovation
- 1997: Gallery Hop now held every month
- 1999: Began quarterly expanded Gallery Hop with downtown Kalamazoo merchants

2000-2009

- 2000: Moved to new offices in the Epic Center along with 11 other tenants
- 2000: Hired part-time administrative assistant
- 2000: Gallery Hop renamed to Art Hop
- 2000: Began Sundays at the Stage, a new series of free summer concerts in Bronson Park
- 2001: Received Governor's Arts Award
- 2001: Staff included executive director, grants administrator, marketing director, full-time secretary, part-time administrative assistant and two college interns
- 2001: Curated changing exhibits at eight galleries
- 2001: Held second season of Sundays at the Stage
- 2001: Conducted comprehensive market research project to assess arts audiences in greater Kalamazoo area
- 2001: Rented last available space in the Epic Center to Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers for second dance studio
- 2002: Regranted a total of \$252,795
- 2002: Introduced All Ears Theatre, a series of radio dramas performed before a live audience and aired on public radio station WMUK
- 2002: Held third season of Sundays at the Stage
- 2002: Hired full-time financial administrator and moved part-time administrative assistant to full time
- 2002: Participated in Partners Building Community artist in residence projects and received LISC funding
- 2003: Held second season of All Ears Theatre
- 2003: Launched KalamazooArts.com and marketing campaign
- 2003: Received Community Partners Artist in Residence grant
- 2003: Formed consortium with Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Western Michigan University to investigate

renovating old building into space for artists to live and work

- 2003: Hosted Ben Cameron of Theatre Communications Group for a two-day residency
- 2004: Became involved with local Cool Cities initiative
- 2004: Gov.'s Cool Cities Web site features Art Hop as a "best practice" case study
- 2004: Hired consultant to perform community assessment for the organization
- 2004: Developed new Hospice & Arts Partnership grant program
- 2005: Received Great Lakes Community Arts Award from Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies
- 2006: Launched allearthatre.com in fifth season of All Ears Theatre
- 2006: Participated in Arts & Economic Prosperity III, a research study from Americans for the Arts
- 2007: A part-time contracted curator is hired to manage the Arts Council gallery
- 2008: Curator staff position is added.
- 2009: Staff reorganization continues in response to needs and economic forces.
- 2009: Board elects new officers, begins executive director search and hires former ED Judy Jolliffe as Interim Executive Director.

2010-Present

- 2010: Begins management of the Epic Theatre and staff plays greater role in daily operations of the Epic Center.
- 2010: All Ears Theatre celebrates 100th program.
- 2010: Hires D. Neil Bremer as new Executive Director
- 2010: Staff includes D. Neil Bremer, Executive Director; Beth McCann, Deputy Director for Programs and External Relations; Adrienne Marks, Artistic Coordinator and Curator; Stephanie Suszek, Controller; Dre' Patterson, Administrative Coordinator
- 2011: Accounting systems reworked to improve transparency and reporting.
- 2012: Introduction of new website.
- 2012: All Ears Theatre named Best Free Program by Kiplinger's Personal Finance.