

CONNIE BONFY

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY and CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Results driven leader with more than **30+ years** of creating multi-faceted arts leadership and diverse grant development and management including **\$44 million+** in higher education, arts, and other grant monies between 1993 and 2023.
- Nonprofit Leadership Strengths: strategic planning, community-based program development, budget management, historic building management, best practices, innovative solutions, consensus building, marketing, and grant writing (see partial grant list on page 3). Examples:
 - Commissioned/produced two symphonies performed on the Cowley County prairie with Grammy Award winners **Eugene Friesen** and **The Paul Winter Consort** (*Grasslands: Prairie Voices* 1997, featuring **Wes Jackson** as narrator and *Carl's Sandburg's Prairie*, 2001) and one chamber music work by Grammy-nominated pianist **Philip Aaberg** (*Headfirst into the Blue Fields of Grace*, 2005)—all with community-based residencies, performances, workshops, and educational services—designed to explore the sense of place and ecology of the Tallgrass Prairie. Advisor for **Symphony in the Flint Hills**, launching their first Kansas City Symphony concert in 2006 featuring a reprise of *Grasslands: Prairie Voices*.
 - Kansas Governor's Arts Award for Arts Advocacy Leadership, 2001.
 - Gordan W. Evans Arts Award for Leadership, Wichita Arts Council, 2019.

EDUCATION

- **M.A. in Art Education**, Wichita State University, 1986. Thesis: *Community Arts and Public Interest in Kansas*
- **Graduate studies in Painting**, Wichita State University; and **Printmaking** with Kathleen Shanahan
- **Graduate studies in Art Education**, Oklahoma State University
- **B.A. in Art - Drawing & Painting/Art History and Psychology**, Emporia Kansas State University

EXPERIENCE

Currently: **Grant Writer/Advisor** for Wichita Art Museum and Ballet Wichita.

Author—*Grant Writing in 5 Simple Steps*, 2023; *Grant Writing for Creatives in 5 Simple Steps*, 2024

Artist and Arts Organizer in Wichita, Kansas.

Grant Writer for Ramona Munsell & Associates Consultants, Inc. (2008-2024)

1986-2024 **Instructor: Butler College**, Andover, Kansas (2005-2008, 2010-2015, Online 2018 to present); formerly **WSU Tech** (2010-2011); **Cowley College**, Arkansas City, Kansas (1986-1989) (2000-2006); **Wichita State University** (1986-1989), **teaching Art Appreciation, Art History, Humanities, Film History, Creativity, Pop Culture**

2020-2022 **Project Manager** for *Flint Hills Counterpoint*, a riparian forest and prairie reclamation arts celebration with Marion County, KS sponsored by Prairie Muses.

2019-2020 **Kansas Rural Center, Executive Director** to promote the long-term health of the land and its people through research, education and advocacy that advance an economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just food and farming system.

2017-2019	Project Manager, <i>Vibrant!CT</i> , a John and James L. Knight Foundation project—Downtown Wichita), and <i>Jump!Star</i> , a two-year artist/community National Endowment social engagement project with Harvester Arts and Symphony in the Flint Hills)
2008-2010	City of Salina, Salina Arts and Humanities Commission, Executive Director Salina, KS—public art coordination, board, staff, and budget (\$2 million+) management
2007-2009	Butler Community College, Director Resource Development , El Dorado, KS—grants leadership, writing, compliance, and staff supervision
2005-2007	Ballet Wichita, Executive Director , Wichita, Kansas—organizational development, board, staff, and volunteer management
1994-2005	Cowley College, Director of Institutional Grants/Arts Programming , Arkansas City, Kansas—grants leadership, writing, compliance; professional exhibition and performance presenting, development, supervision of staff and volunteers
1991-1994	Salina Arts and Humanities Commission, Program Coordinator of Education , Salina, Kansas—arts infusion education planning and supervision, volunteer leadership, grant writing
1989-1991	The Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Executive Director , Santa Fe, New Mexico—organizational development, board, staff, and volunteer management

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (selected)

- Kansas Governor’s Arts Award—*Kansas Arts Legacy Award, 2025* for a lifetime of long-standing, significant impact on the arts in Kansas and/or beyond, enriching the cultural landscape through artistic achievements, leadership, and advocacy over many years.
- *Gordan W. Evans Arts Award for Leadership*, Wichita Arts Council, 2019.
- *Climate Reality Leader* certification by Vice President Al Gore, 2013
- Presenter, “Playing for Change” St. Louis Regional Arts Council’s “At the Crossroads: A Community Arts & Development Convening,” 2010
- National Institute of Staff Development Award of Excellence in Education, 2009
- *Award of Distinction*, Butler Community College, 2008
- Community Cornerstone Award for *Outstanding Cowley County-wide Leadership*, 2005
- Kansas Governor’s Arts Award—*Art Advocacy*, 2001
- Board member, Arkansas City Diversity Board, 2000-2002
- Presenter, “Arts Infusion,” National Association of Local Arts Agencies, 1994
- Presenter, “Arts Infusion,” Kansas Association of School Boards, 1993
- Presenter, National Art Education Association, 1992
- Exhibition Publications Assistant, New Mexico Museums, Santa Fe, NM, 1990-1991

EXHIBITIONS (selected)

- *The Faculty Show*—Butler Community College, 2025
- *Small Wonders Invitational* – Birger Sandzen Gallery, June 12 - August 7, 2022
- *Bibs and Forks, Concessions Edition Invitational*—Wichita City Arts, 2018

- *Printmaking/Mixed Media Show—Mark Arts, 2018*
- *Waiting for the Bus* Paintings by Connie Bonfy—Wichita City Arts Main Hall, August 2016
- *Coffee Group*—Diver Studio, January 2015
- *The Fukushima Special (80 Million Yen)—The Blue Plate Special* (conceptual diner curated by Randy Regier and Trish Van Osdel), 2014
- *Baked Alaska—Desserts First* (conceptual dessert shop curated by Randy Regier), 2013
- *The Faculty Show*—Butler Community College, 2013
- *The Café Life* Paintings by Connie Bonfy—The Fiber Studio, 2012
- *The Manhunt Series* Paintings by Connie Bonfy—Artistic Creations (Salina), 2009, 2010
- *Faculty Show* Cowley College, 1988, 1989, 2004

GRANT AWARD PORTFOLIO (selected)

- NEA – **Our Town** grants 2013 *Arts AMAize*—\$95,000; 2015 *Jump!Star*—\$75,000; 2020 *Flint Hills Counterpoint*—\$50,000; 2024 *Redbud Trail*—\$75,000; NEA **Arts Project grants**—2005 – 2024—\$440,000
- Mid-America Arts Alliance – Access and Innovation programs 1997 – 2023 (\$50,000+)
- Kansas Arts Commission – Operations and Programming 1982 – 2025 (\$350,000+)
- City of Wichita Cultural Arts Grants – 2006 – 2024 (\$250,000+)
- Arts Partners/Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest – 1999 (\$125,000)
- National Millennial Grants – American Composer’s Forum *Continental Harmony*, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation *Artists and Communities: America Creates for the Millennium*
- US Department of Education Title III Strengthening Institutions grant projects 2001-2005; 2008-2008—\$1.8 million; 2016—\$2 million. Managed grant compliance and staff 2001-2005; 2008-2009
- US Department of Education (DOE) Technology Innovation Grant, 1999—\$5.3 million
- US DOE TRIO Student Support Services 2008; 2020—\$5.5 million; 2024 5.8 million pending
- US DOE TRIO Talent Search, 1997—\$900,000; 2001—\$1.1 million
- US DOE TRIO Upward Bound, 1998—\$900,000; 2002—\$1.1 million; 2022—\$1.7 million
- USDA Distance Learning Grant, 1996—\$285,000
- US DOE & US Department of Labor School-To-Work Local Grant, 1996 —\$623,000 (only KS award)
- Philip Morris—Technology for Teacher Diversity—\$95,000