



CROSSHATCH  
CENTER FOR ART AND ECOLOGY

# MANY HANDS

2018  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

CROSSHATCH.ORG



# We're Glad You're Here

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.



## Dear Friends,

Sometimes, when we zoom out on the concerns of the world, it feels like an alarming time. But at Crosshatch, we return to the source that has always given us hope—YOU. Leaning on our neighbors, sharing skills that can restore our land and our hearts, and reversing the decline of natural systems by investing in the resilience of local places. “Small is everything and small is all,” in the words of adrienne maree brown.

We've got a lot to smile about here at Crosshatch. This phase of growth is bringing new programs and ideas, and giving us reasons to strengthen what we've created together:

- Through the Rotary Charities Organizational Capacity Building Grant, we've strengthened our foundation so we're ready for some big growth.
- We put on The Long Memory Project, something we're pretty darn proud of. This report includes perspectives from our facilitator, Stephanie Mills, and two of the participating artists, Jaime Delp and Seth Bernard.
- Our guilds have been busy bees and you'll hear from our own Libby Hiser about what it's like to go from serving in the military to raising 100 (or so) chickens.

Of course, so much of this work is what happens in the spaces in-between—the essential work of building trust and connection among people, and reweaving our bond to the place we call home. Your support—as a volunteer, a donor, a sponsor or an attendee—is the secret sauce.

With gratitude for all that you do,  
Brian Bourdages  
Crosshatch Board President

### STAFF

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

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See what these wonderful people make possible at [www.crosshatch.org](http://www.crosshatch.org)



# Building Resilient Communities

## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

- 1 Provide the best possible education to growers around the state, with a focus on ecological care and smart business practices.
- 2 Make space for farm producers and other hands-on makers to meet, building networks and relationships.
- 3 Support endeavors that diversify growing practices (and growers), and increase the resilience of our local food and farming systems.
- 4 Recognize that artists are essential to helping us understand the world and our place in it. They bring us together to create joy and meaning.

### Guilds

Resilience thrives when we pass along the knowledge we've learned through the generations. Our guilds provide mutual support for skill-building and networking for farmers at any scale, providing peer-to-peer learning, mentoring, demos, farm tours, potlucks, and swapping and bartering.

### Twilight Tours

Twilight Tours are an opportunity for area small farmers and wanna-be-farmers to learn from one another's practices and experiences. The tours give participants a "field trip" to see small farming techniques up close, such as crop rotation, cover cropping, growing a garden for market, and year-round vegetable production in greenhouses.

### Field Schools

Field Schools are immersive, on-farm learning days that go beyond the basics to support intermediate learners, but friendly enough for home-scale growers. Field Schools rely on experienced instructors and small group sizes, with both classroom time and field work for an in-depth education. Included is a local foods lunch and a post-workshop social hour to make new friends.



### The Long Memory Project

What happens to the local lore of community action, and the local knowledge of our elders in our small places? The Long Memory Project brings elders together with artists for an intentional listening session that honors the stories and memories of the past. The artists then spend two weeks in residence to create songs, poems, and artwork to help the broader community understand where we came from.

### 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 the 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 music to cap off the day.

### Microloans

Starting in 2016, we partnered with The Grain Train to bring micro-financing to local farmers, giving loans to existing local food or farming ventures or financing to start new projects within Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet and Otsego counties. Starting in 2019, in partnership with Oryana Community Co-op, we expanded the program to include Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford counties.

### 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. The NMSFC equips our small farm community with the tools for success, educational hands-on sessions and a forum for the open exchange of ideas within the small farm community. Business skills included—tie not required.

### Chicken Coupe + Preservation Station

Meeting the needs of small farmers sometimes means hitting the road, and that's exactly what our Chicken Coupe and Preservation Station were 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, new tradition in their community.





# CROSSHATCH BY THE NUMBERS

27

hours of ag  
education

88

volunteers

338

volunteer  
hours

538

attendees at  
guild gatherings

358

attendees at  
art gatherings

1,215

attendees at the  
Northern Michigan  
Small Farm Conference



# The Long Memory Project

WITH JAIME DELP, STEPHANIE MILLS, AND SETH BERNARD

The mission of the Long Memory Project is to cultivate the passing down of our community's stories. Not just the ones that made headlines or history books, but the small acts of courage, action, good governance and community building surging as the undercurrent of our region. Hear from some of the participants below.



## Jaime Delp, Poet and Artist

"It's so easy to lose hope every time you watch the news or read social media these days. By virtue of talking with these elders, we learned how to stay connected, maintain empathy and remain resilient in a world this sadly disconnected. Our job as artists was to listen, absorbing these stories and finding a way in through our own work. Something that became clear was that the work they were doing

was not just a passion or a day job, it was on a spirit level. I felt a responsibility to speak to their experience artistically and truthfully in a way that would be accessible to the public.

My poem ended up focusing on the risks several of the elders took (Randy Bonds and Sally Neal, in particular) to do what it is right, in spite of society's pressure to do otherwise. It's the longest I've ever written."

## Stephanie Mills, Writer and Facilitator

"One of the reasons I value Crosshatch is that they get it—they understand our long deep heritage of resistance. They recognized that problems like Big Rock—the obsolescence of a nuclear power plant down the road and the kitchen table organizing and mobilizing about it shouldn't be forgotten.

Being at the Neahtawanta Inn with old friends, hearing their stories in detail and learning things I hadn't known about their endeavors stirred me to the marrow. Some of the stories, Like Kay and Randy Bond's

and Sally Neal's were harrowing, of physical risks confronting demonic authorities. Others, like Grant Parsons', Jim Olson's and Bill Rastetter's—public interest attorneys—were more scholarly. The elder knowledge was valued. The young artists had the humility, respect, and interest to listen, live and in person, in a setting imbued with memories for so many of us.

Then to attend the performance and discover what had struck those artists and writers was a whole new understanding. It was the next generation telling us what could endure, what was meaningful, and what would inspire them."

## Seth Bernard, Crosshatch Collaborator and Musician

"The project preserves, retells and honors stories of the struggle for peace and justice that are place-based and generation-based. At the performance, people were invited to say the names of folks who contributed but weren't present or who we'd lost—to be invoked and have their work recognized. That was really resonant with the audience.

Often, the outcomes from direct action weren't exactly as they wanted, but there were so many tangible positive outcomes simply by our elders coming together to TRY to fix something. Out of their work, so many other organizations were incubated, helping our community be more resilient and protecting our waterways and the land.

The lesson was to trust the process and that's good medicine for us to have at this point in time."



## Schedule

### DAY 1

Artists gather at Neahtawanta Inn on Old Mission Peninsula

### DAY 2

Artists continue to revise and sharpen their work.

### DAYS 3-5

Artists follow-up for more details, refine their pieces

### 2 WEEKS

Artists prepare for a performance

### 1 MONTH

Artist Showcase, live performance of the songs/poems/writing to the public



# Crosshatch Guilds

WITH LIBBY HISER OF WILD BLUE YONDER FARM

What does it take to get very busy farmers together throughout the growing seasons? Just ask Libby Hiser of Wild Blue Yonder Farm in Bellaire. Libby and her husband are military veterans and when they came out of the service, they wanted to find a peaceful way to bring the land back to what it should be. Before long, their idea of running a quaint bed and breakfast turned into a farm with over 100 chickens, ducks and a vegetable garden.

Libby is the anchor of the East Bay Farm Guild. Crosshatch Guilds offer peer-to-peer learning, mentorship, demos, swaps + bartering, and the strength of advocacy, problem solving and shared marketing. When we talked to Libby, she'd just been planting new harvest potatoes out back and discovered tiny monarch butterfly caterpillars.



## Q: Can you share an example of how the guilds benefit members?

A lot of people rely on their small farms (1-2 acres) for their living, so we had to focus on those people and tailor our meetings to farm schedules and how to make their lives easier or better. Through the guilds, we've come up with several ideas, such as how to sell eggs and produce throughout the winter, when things are slow. We are working on getting a couple certified "graders" and a facility to wash, handle and package the eggs to potentially sell to restaurants. We also do group orders for better pricing and shipping (on things like chicken feed), we do seed swapping, and coordinate on pricing for farmers' markets. I'll point people down to other farms if I don't have something or if I've run out, or I'll just say, "come by the farm, there'll be more tomorrow!"

## Q: How did you start Wild Blue Yonder Farm?

I wasn't a farmer before any of this. My husband and I were in the military for 20 years. When I retired, I wanted to run a B+B. I'd never had chickens before, but it made sense and seemed easy enough, so we started with 8 and then "chicken math" kicked in, where we were going to replace one or two, but that turned into 25 and then 80 and then 100! Eventually, my husband got a degree in forestry and we decided to get 30 acres and started taking online classes in organic farming. With my Hotel + Restaurant Management degree, we've turned this thing into a permaculture project. If you saw it 6 years ago—holy moly! We started farming as an appreciation of the land, and that's something we've valued as a guild. It's great to have people who get it and support it around you.

## Q: What's your favorite part of the guild?

The Egg Co-op, that's a part of our guild, is all-female driven and we are a tenacious, hardworking bunch with brilliant ideas. A lot of guild members have 2nd and 3rd jobs, most work at restaurants, saving up their money in the summer tourist months. We're working on some ideas to be more resilient through the winter.

## Q: There seem to be more and more veteran farmers out there, is there a reason for that?

There are some grants available for retired vets, but I also think we're a group that can struggle with PTSD and farming provides a level of control and safety. The work ethic translates to this lifestyle and there's also the joy of protecting your animals and a sense of responsibility that you don't get anywhere else. The biggest part for us is the peacefulness.





# Microloan Program Expansion

WITH RACHEL CROSS OF SPIRIT OF WALLOON FARM



Spend any time at Spirit of Walloon Farm in Boyne City, Michigan, and you'll find yourself surrounded by sustainably-produced vegetables and cut flowers. Rachel Cross and her crew recognize that it's the responsibility of farmers to be good stewards of the land—to prioritize soil health, as well as plant and insect biodiversity. When it came time to refurbish a walk-in cooler, Rachel looked to Crosshatch's microloan program.

**Q: How did you become a first-generation farmer?**

I grew up between Cadillac and Traverse City and went to Michigan State University for college, where I studied Horticulture and began farming in Lansing after graduation. A college friend had a cottage on Walloon Lake, so I came to the farm that way. Spirit of Walloon is just under an acre, but we've got 40 different vegetables, flowers, hoop houses, a transplant greenhouse, and some other special things like unique herbs, 20 hot pepper varieties and artichokes. I've learned a lot from my farm host/mentor farmer Dave Skornia, who is a 5th generation farmer on this land. He gives me advice on construction, equipment, and on balancing life on and off the farm.

**Q: What do you like about being a farmer?**

It's amazing being able to grow food for your community and be a part of someone's daily life. When you go to farmers' markets and find out what people made with the produce that they bought last week, or when they get excited about something rare that you grew, it's really satisfying work.

**Q: What has been your other involvement with Crosshatch?**

Crosshatch has been amazingly supportive for me—from the time I was 19 and attending the Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference through to this loan, they've always provided the support and knowledge I needed for whatever phase I was in.

**Q: Tell us about your microloan, the process and how it's helped.**

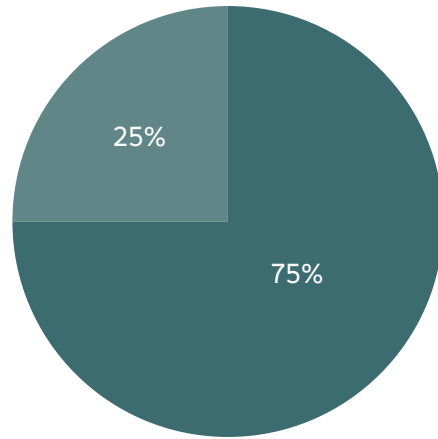
We found a used insulated truck box that was used for transporting milk and thought we could refurbish it into a walk-in cooler. Most lenders want you to have land as collateral for building projects, and because I'm a first-generation female farmer renting my farmland, my options for financing were limited. We proposed the milk truck idea, but our initial lenders thought it sounded more like a building project.

So we turned to Crosshatch for a 0% interest small business loan. It was all just so straightforward. I saw the sign at the Grain Train in Petoskey and filled out the application with what I planned to do with the money. The payments have been easy to manage. At this rate, I should have it paid off by December.

# Funding the Future

## INCOME BY CATEGORY

75%	contributions	\$407,101
25%	earned income	\$138,856
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$545,956</b>



## CONTRIBUTIONS

72%	public grants	\$291,989
9%	individual giving	\$37,673
8%	private grants	\$33,277
8%	sponsorships	\$32,850
2%	in-kind contributions	\$9,641
<1%	fiduciary	\$1,671
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$407,101</b>

## EARNED INCOME

69%	NM Small Farm Conference	\$96,155
21%	fee for services	\$28,961
10%	other ticket sales	\$13,425
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$138,856</b>

## FUNDING SOURCES

### PUBLIC GRANTS

MI Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, USDA, MI Dept of Agriculture and Rural Development

### CORPORATE GRANTS

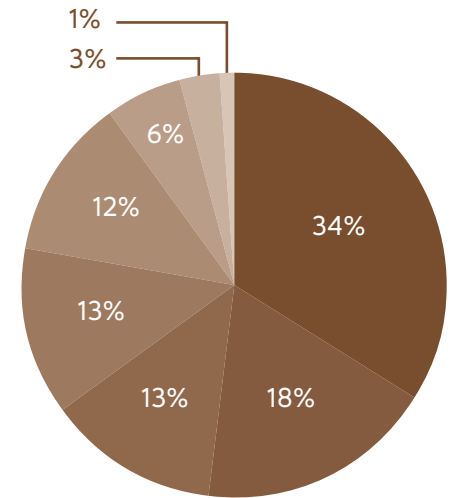
Cherry Republic, Brilliant Books

### PRIVATE AND FOUNDATION GRANTS

Fresh Earth Peace Project, Fred & Judy Green, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Murray Foundation, Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City, John & Ann Steinbrunner, William A. Fisher II Family Foundation, Gillett Family Charitable Fund, Rotary Charities of Traverse City, Pierce Family Charitable Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Employee Engagement Program, anonymous

## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

34%	NM Small Farm Conference	\$167,709
18%	general operating expenses	\$86,641
13%	arts programs	\$63,192
13%	pass-through	\$62,536
12%	food and farm programs	\$60,961
6%	technical assistance	\$28,256
3%	Skill Swap	\$14,606
1%	Hatchquarters	\$6,949
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$490,850</b>



## FOOD & FARM PROGRAMS

56%	Field Schools	\$34,089
32%	Guilds	\$19,454
7%	Microloan	\$4,278
4%	Preservation Station	\$2,463
1%	Chicken Coupe	\$677
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,961</b>

## ARTS PROGRAMS

67%	Long Memory Project	\$42,340
31%	Artist After Hours	\$19,635
2%	other arts programs	\$1,217
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$63,192</b>

## BREAKDOWN OF PASSTHROUGH

Building resilient communities is not work done alone. This category reflects the finances we share with our partners to carry out educational programming throughout the region. Collaboration is key to our mission!

56%	North Central Michigan College	\$35,040
16%	Grow Benzie	\$10,000
6%	Networks Northwest	\$3,500
6%	Edible Trails	\$3,932
6%	On Stage 4 Kids	\$3,732
4%	Local Food Alliance	\$2,200
3%	Food & Farming Network	\$2,000
3%	Contractual	\$2,132
2%	Tara's Meadow	\$944
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$62,536</b>

## HOW TO GIVE

Let's build resilient communities together. Your donation ensures that we restore our land, our connections and ourselves. To make a gift, visit our website at [www.crosshatch.org/donate](http://www.crosshatch.org/donate) and follow the prompts. Or, call us at (231) 622-5252, or email [donate@crosshatch.org](mailto:donate@crosshatch.org) and we'll take good care of ya.