

Where *art* meets *earth*

**Fiscal Year 2013 Report**

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

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INSTITUTE *for* SUSTAINABLE LIVING, ART & NATURAL DESIGN

# ART



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE  
SUPPORTED IN FISCAL YEAR 2013

14

ISLAND'S COST PER ARTIST  
IN RESIDENCE

\$3,835

COST TO APPLY

\$25

*“One of the best experiences of our lives. It was a magical, restorative and extremely productive two weeks. This residency is unique in that it allows participants the quiet and solitude which invites creativity at its prime.”*

—musician in residence

## The Hill House Residency Program

provides artists with the time and space to create new work. We support talented emerging songwriters, writers at all stages of their career and non-studio artists with a two to four week stay in a secluded log cabin adjacent to the Mackinaw State Forest in Mancelona, Michigan. Residency awards are merit driven, based primarily on the quality of existing work. Thanks to a recent grant from the Sustainable Arts Foundation, we now support parent artists.

## FARM TO FRAME PHOTO CONTEST



Encouraging greater awareness of the benefits of locally-grown food, the *Farm to Frame* exhibit showcased the beauty of small farms, famers and local foods. Jury selected photographs hung in an exhibition at Crooked Tree Arts Center. Winners were announced at the opening reception, during Local Food and Farm week in Petoskey.

## DAVID FETZER FUND

David Fetzer was an actor and musician that left this world too early. In his memory, we have created a fund to provide stipends for emerging musicians accepted to the Hill House.



# FARMING



*The Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference* serves as a vehicle to promote and build a local vibrant agriculture community, to equip the small farm community with the tools to be successful, and to be a forum for the open exchange of ideas within the small farm community. ISLAND acts as a fiduciary and planning partner for the conference.

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The *Chicken Coupe* is a portable, MDA certified poultry processing trailer that small farmers raising pastured poultry can use to bypass expensive processing facilities and sell direct to their customers.

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The guild projects invites area small farmers and homesteaders to learn from one another's practices through a series of farm tours and farmer-led workshops. They are a way for farmers to develop the craft of agriculture through skills workshops and shared work. ISLAND supports five guilds: the *Small Farm Guild*, *Beekeepers Guild*, *Mushroom Growers Guild*, *Orchard Guild*, and *Fibershed Guild*. Guilds are particularly valuable for building relationships, observing a wide variety of management styles and finding support from a peer network.

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*“ISLAND’s help in getting people together to discuss and share are the biggest things that are beneficial to me. The fiber bunch [Fibershed Guild] allows me to have a place for my wool. The recent connection [Small Farm Guild] for the wheat is great. The bee keeping network [Beekeepers Guild] is another. I now have a hive of bees. All of these push me to ‘do’ rather than just plan. I love it! Keep up the great work.”*

*—new guild member*



# COMMUNITY



## NEW BEEHIVES IN NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

(APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NEW HIVES STARTED AS A RESULT OF ISLAND WORKSHOPS)

23

## NEW HONEY BEES IN NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

(A TYPICAL HIVE HOSTS 25,000 BEES)

OVER A HALF MILLION

## JARS OF LOCAL FOOD PUT BY IN ISLAND WORKSHOPS (APPROXIMATE)

150

## COMMUNITY & SCHOOL GARDENS

ISLAND supports two garden projects in the region: an *after school garden* at Central Lake Elementary and a *community garden* in Mancelona.

*“You are such a great connector! I really appreciate having the hub that you provide for information sharing. It is crucial!... There is so much great talent and intelligence here that it is combustible once we get us all hooked up.”*

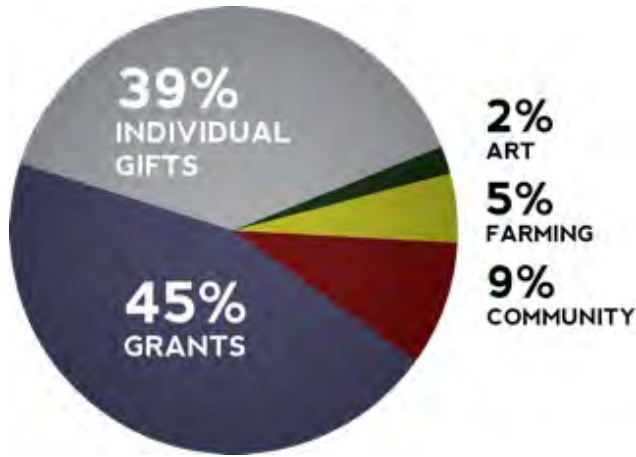
*—guild member and workshopper*

ISLAND organizes workshops for homeowners, homesteaders and farmers, teaching skills like welding, food preservation, livestock husbandry, soil development, care and use of farm machinery and other equipment, construction and use of passive solar hoopouses, garden design, and more. Scores of these workshops are developed in collaboration with local and federal agencies. ISLAND workshops have reached thousands of people in our community over the last eight years.

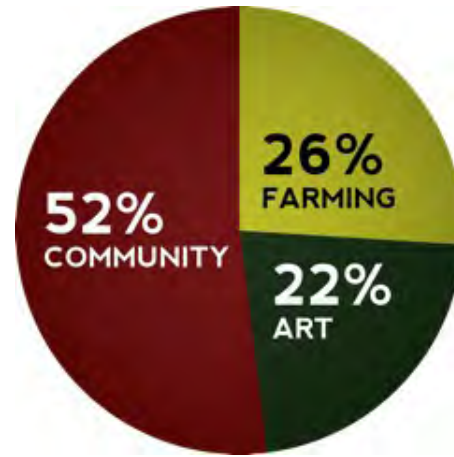


## Finances

### Where our funding comes from:



### How our funds are distributed:



## Leadership and Staff

### Board of Directors

Aaron Allen  
*Vice President*

Nick Carlson  
*Director*

Ric Evans  
*Director*

Michelle Ferrarese  
*President*

Heather Miller  
*Treasurer*

Toby Miller  
*Director*

Lillie Wolff  
*Director*

### Staff

Mary Brower  
*Food & Farming  
Coordinator*

Marty Heller  
*Farmer Residency  
Manager*

Amanda Kik  
*Co-Director*

Brad Kik  
*Co-Director*

Jen Schaap  
*Events Coordinator*

Yvonne Stephens  
*Artist Residency Director*

Gratia Trahan  
*Intern, summer 2013*



# LOOKING FORWARD



In the coming months, we look forward to kicking off a prototype farmer incubation program called the *Farmer Residency*. Similar to a medical residency, the Farmer Residency helps to close the gap between basic farmer training and full farm management. Graduates of the program will gain the agricultural experience they need to tackle farming as a lifelong career.

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*Preservation Station* is a mobile three-season educational canning kitchen on wheels. Currently under construction, the trailer will allow for up to a dozen people to gather on local farms at the peak of produce ripeness, to learn, upgrade their skills, hang out and turn food preservation from seasonal drudgery into a party. This trailer connects the dots between putting our food by and supporting our local farm economy, adding value and resilience to our small places.

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Thanks to grant from the Sustainable Arts Foundation, the ISLAND *Hill House Residency Program* now supports parent artists. We are proud to be among a few select residencies in the country that offer time and space to artists with children.

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*“I would love to see an incubator project that allows for independent farmers to come in and pilot their business to be able to build up the capital and take the farm business off site. This type of resource is very hard to find, and being able to work with a program that acts as a stepping stone between doing an internship and becoming a farmer/landowner/business owner is ideal.”*

*—response to ISLAND’s farmer residency needs assessment*



ISLAND is a non-profit arts and ecology center dedicated to connecting people with nature, art and community. ISLAND helps people become *native to place* by:

- supporting artists — visionaries, conceptual explorers and compelling communicators — with dedicated time, space and resources to create new work;
- restoring the old and developing the new skills and traditions of community self-reliance;
- creating and sharing a broad collection of tools for ecological living.