

THELMA

THELMA SADOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS



ANNUAL REPORT
2025

A message from our leadership

On the cover of this report, a photograph captures something quietly telling: a darkened room within the Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts, its interior still and shadowed, while just beyond the window, a tree glows in full autumn color against a clear blue sky.

That image feels like an honest portrait of THELMA in 2025.

We will not pretend the year was without difficulty. THELMA experienced real upheaval, with staffing transitions, fundraising challenges, and the kind of uncertainty that tests an organization's resolve. Roughly two-thirds of our core office team was hired this year, including the Executive Director. We rebuilt and recommitted, often at the same time.

And yet, look what endured.

The Fae Ball returned and delighted our community once again. Our Summer Soundwaves series brought two wonderful outdoor concerts. Our THELMA Thursdays, all 16 of them, offered a steady thread of live performance throughout the year. And our Children's Chorale traveled to England, carrying the spirit of this organization to an international stage and reminding us what the arts can mean in a young person's life.

We closed 2025 with momentum, a stronger team, and a clear sense of purpose. Significant challenges remain, and we are clear-eyed about the work ahead. But we are confident in our mission and grateful for the community that has supported us through every season.

That cover photograph stays with us: a room in shadow, a brilliantly alive and growing tree just beyond the glass. It is not a story of tunnel vision, but of perspective. Even a difficult year still holds a window, and through that window: color, light, and something very much artistically and culturally alive.

THELMA is alive in its season. We look forward to a successful 2026 and beyond, and we are deeply grateful for everyone who made this year possible.

With appreciation,



Paul W. Krikau
Executive Director



Kathleen Candee
Board President

2026 Board of Directors

Kathleen Candee, President | Marian University, Retired

Terry Davis, Vice President | Radio Plus

Patrick Hansen, Treasurer | Grande Cheese Company

Michael Schumacher, Secretary | Keller, Inc.

Ron Emanuel | The Goldsmith

Amanda Baker | Marian University

James DeJong | O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, Dejong & Laing S.C.

Kathryn Dreifuert | Artist

Molly Haack | CD Smith

Margaret Karius | Retired

Steve March-Torme | 91.1 The Avenue

Mary Muehlius | Retired teacher

Pat Reiher | Artist

Michael Sergi | MD, Retired

Richard Wehner | Wehner Law Office, Retired



Paul Krikau
Executive Director



Megan Cox
Programs Director



Vickie Demoske
Operations Director



Linda Fabry
Marketing Director



Andy Mueller
Rental Events Manager



Jane Flieller
Development Director



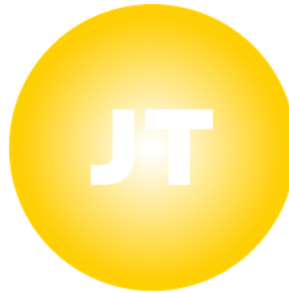
Shannon Kupfer
Arts Curator & Educator



Neil Thompson
Production Manager



Eva Thelen- Dunphy
Children's Chorale Director



John Thompson
Facilities Manager

COMMITTEES

Their work is immeasurably valuable! These volunteers, board members, and community members bring ideas, positive energy, and a beautiful intensity to THELMA. Thank you, volunteers, for being so selfless with us and for so many in whose lives you make a tangible difference.

Visual Arts Committee - **Kathryn Dreifuerst, Trista Holz, Pat Reiher, Michael Sergi**

Music Committee - **Terry Davis, Ron Emanuel, Steve Emmer, Steve March-Torme, Michael Sergi, Dick Wehner**

Literary Arts Committee - **Troy Schoultz, Paula Sergi, Mary Wehner**

Fundraising Committee - **Jim DeJong, Katherine Driefuerst, Terri Emanuel, Molly Haack, Margaret Karius**

Finance Committee - **Kate Candee, Patrick Hansen**

Facilities Committee - **Michael Schumacher**

THELMA - VISUAL & LITERARY ARTS

THELMA Galleries serve as a compelling venue for artists to present their work across both our upper and lower gallery spaces. With a thoughtfully curated range of exhibitions featuring emerging and established artists alike, the galleries highlight the breadth of contemporary creativity – spanning painting, sculpture, photography, and mixed media.



THELMA Art Classes offer an extensive and carefully developed program designed to welcome participants of all ages and skill levels. In a supportive and encouraging environment, students have the opportunity to create, learn, and develop under the guidance of skilled instructors. Each class is structured to build technical proficiency while nurturing individual creative expression across a wide range of disciplines, including painting, drawing, fiber arts, and mixed media. With the recent addition of kilns, we can now offer a wide variety of ceramic arts, as well. THELMA provides the space and instruction to help every student grow.



THELMA Visual Artists (TVA) is a membership organization serving artists throughout Fond du Lac and the surrounding region. TVA creates meaningful opportunities for artists to connect, collaborate, and advance both personally and professionally through curated exhibitions, workshops, and community programming. United by a shared dedication to artistic excellence and community engagement, TVA members represent a diverse spectrum of experience and creative vision while contributing to the broader cultural life of the region.



Literary Arts at THELMA is a dynamic program committed to honoring the written word in its many forms. Through author readings, open mic events, book discussions, and writing workshops, THELMA nurtures a creative community where writers and readers gather to explore the power of language and storytelling. A highlight of 2025 was the continued success of the Fae Ball. Rooted in the genre blend of romance and fantasy, known as romantasy, the Fae Ball has quickly become a signature THELMA experience, drawing enthusiastic audiences and celebrating an increasingly beloved literary movement.



THELMA

THELMA - MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

The Great Hall Concert Series offers our community the opportunity to experience live music in an intimate and historic setting. Held in THELMA's beautifully restored Great Hall, the series brings audiences up-close to talented musicians, in an intimate setting with music spanning a wide range of genres, from acoustic and Americana to bluegrass and singer-songwriter performances. Each concert is thoughtfully programmed to deliver an exceptional and memorable evening in a warm, welcoming atmosphere that simply cannot be replicated in a larger venue.



Summer Soundwaves and THELMA Thursdays bring live music outdoors when the season calls for it, transforming 51 Sheboygan Street into downtown Fond du Lac's premier Thursday night destination. With performances spanning rock, blues, folk, country, and beyond, these warm-weather concerts offer something for everyone. Guests are invited to settle in with a lawn chair, enjoy drinks from the bar, and take in an evening of outstanding live music in the heart of our vibrant downtown community.



The Lighthouse Big Band, Jazz Fest, and Students' Jam together reflect THELMA's deep commitment to jazz and its enduring place in our cultural programming. The Lighthouse Big Band, a celebrated fixture in the regional music scene for more than two decades and a WAMI nominee for Best Big Band, is proud to call THELMA its artistic home. Known for crafting inventive, theme-driven setlists that span a wide range of jazz eras and influences, the ensemble brings fresh energy and a deep reverence for the tradition to every performance.



The Fond du Lac Children's Chorale is a community chorus serving fourth through eighth-grade students, from the Fond du Lac and surrounding area, who are dedicated to performing and studying high-quality choral music. Founded in 1997 as a project of the Fond du Lac Arts Council, the Chorale is a proud resident ensemble of THELMA, presenting two major concerts each season. A highlight of 2025 was the Chorale's remarkable trip to England to participate in an international choral festival, a once-in-a-lifetime experience made possible entirely through the students' own fundraising efforts.



THELMA

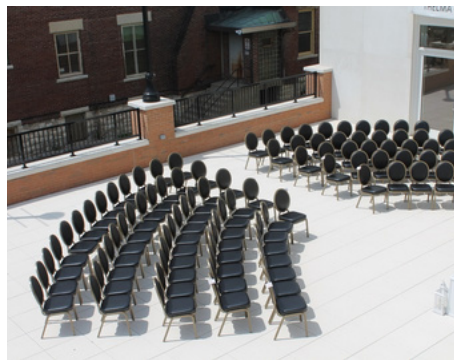
THELMA - COMMUNITY & RENTALS

THELMA is a hub for community in the heart of the city's downtown with its majestic pillars, a grand staircase, and the perfect blend of the historic and the modern interior design throughout our dynamic space. We take care to host our members, community partners, and those who want to celebrate their life moments with us through the rental of our venue.

A space for community partnerships to thrive. THELMA is proud to partner with community groups and host their special events. We host family-friendly events that take over THELMA's facilities like Sturgeon Spectacular in partnership with Fond du Lac Festivals, Destination Lake Winnebago Region, and Downtown Fond du Lac Partnerships. WeEmpowHER welcomes over 100 women to our building on a weekly basis to facilitate women's programming. We also work with independent arts groups, like Fond du Lac Community Theatre, to host special performances in our Great Hall.



An artful backdrop to celebrate your life events. Whether it is a wedding taking place on our plaza, a baby shower taking place in our 1906 Cafe, or a celebration of life in our Fountain City Ballroom, THELMA is ready to celebrate with you. Our dedicated team is committed to providing you with an exceptional experience, ensuring that your event is memorable and successful.



THELMA

120

Visual Artists
represented in
13 exhibitions



21

THELMA Art
classes offered

21

THELMA
Visual
Artist
members



16,700*

Patrons attended
28 concerts in our Great
Hall, Thelma Thursdays,
and Summer Soundwaves
**partially based on crowd estimate
of THELMA Thursday events*

44

Volunteers
assisted with
events



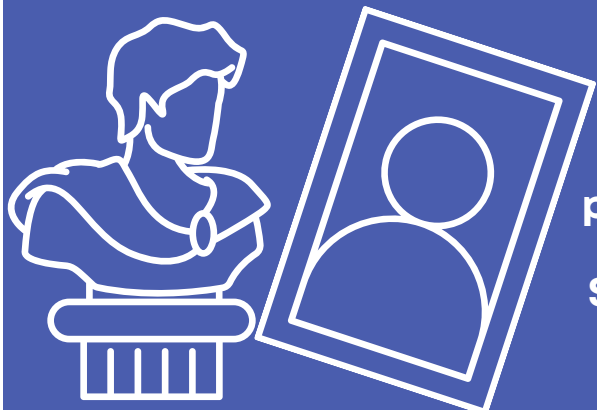
25

Private events bringing
in over \$74,000



41

pieces of art were
sold totalling
\$9,864 of revenue
for THELMA



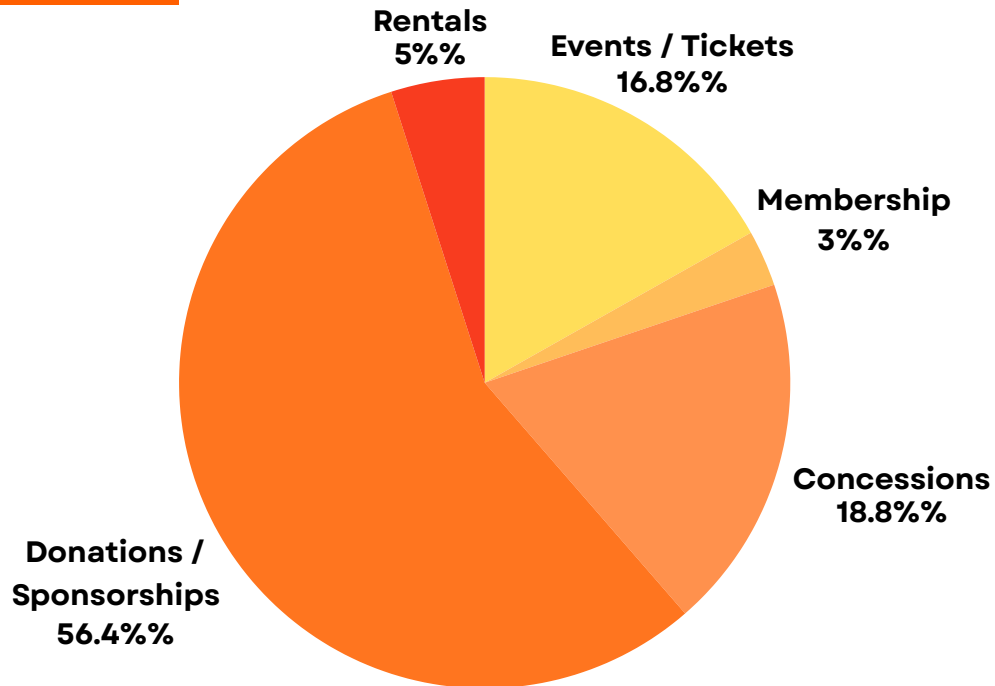
Scan this QR Code
to make a donation

2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

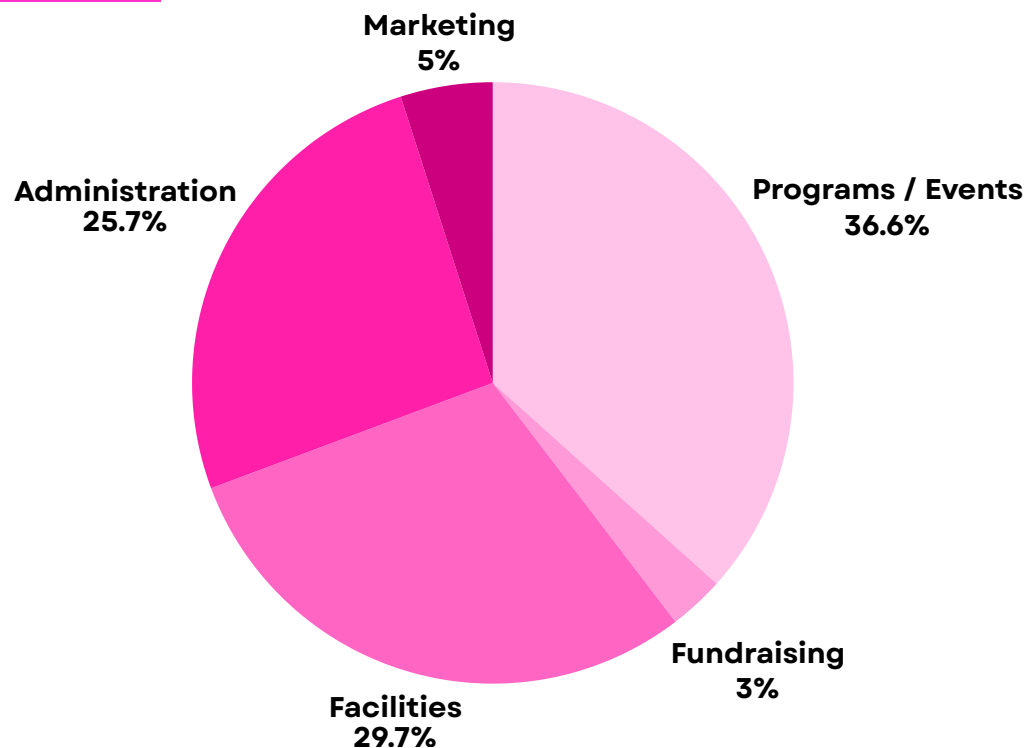
Our community fuels our programs

Your generous support allows us to bring high quality artists, musicians, and performers to our arts center. Thank you.

2025 REVENUE



2025 EXPENSES



THANK YOU **TO OUR AMAZING** **VOLUNTEERS**

Carolyn Bakos
Barb Bares
Ron Bryant
Steph Carpenter
Tracy Carroll
Pam Ciha
Jake Cox
Lynn Dalton
Karen Jo Dobyns
Julie Faber
Randy Faber
Ann Fritz
Pat Guess
Bob Guess
Deb Hansen
Jill Joeckel
Bonnie Jorgensen
JoAnn Kikkert
Craig Komplin
Dusty Krikau
Dave Lefebber
Mary Lopno

Kevin McLellan
Brenda Michels
Molly Moore
Mary Muehlius
Sally Muehlius
Karen O'Malley
Wendy Pelletier
Monica Roach
Jeanne Runke
Mark Runke
Mary Ryan
Gloria Schneider
Caroline Sterr
Barry Sterr
Kathy Strong Langolf
Sharon Toellner
Alice Tzakais
Janet Wagner
Russ Wendt
Gary Wendt
Ashley Wendt
Chad Wendt

THANK YOU TO OUR MANY

\$50,000 to \$100,000

National Exchange Bank Foundation
Sadoff Family Foundation

\$10,000 to \$49,999

Thomas J & Helen Carew
Ron & Terri Emanuel
Fox Valley Savings Bank
Grande Foundation
Mike & Diane Soffa

\$2,500 to \$9,999

JF Ahern Company
Jim & Patty DeJong
Michaels Family Foundation
Fond du Lac Festivals
Bill & Karen Shaw
Stephen & Lynne Uecker
Mary & Dick Wehner

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Bert & Susan Baumgartner
James & Sharon Hubbard
Leb Insurance Group
Steven & Mary Millin
Mary Muehlius & Russ Wendt
William Nettelhorst
Bret & Joanne Pasiuk
Mike Shannon
Mary Lou Soffa
Spies Painting

\$500 to \$999

Terry Davis & Jennifer Holzmann
Curt Detjen
Mel & Brian Kolstad
Michael & Paula Sergi
Ron & Barb Spies
Steven & Julie Walber

\$100 to \$499

Connie Anderson
Amanda Baker
Julie Balson
Jim Balthazor
Eunice Buretta
Kate Candee and Janet Koester
Rees Candee
Arlene Costello
Mary Doyle
Cheryl Earley
Charles & Cheryl Field
Billie Giese
Molly Haack
Patrick Hansen
Thomas Herre
Sigrid Holman
David Hornung
John Huck
Dan & Margaret Karius
Tom Kelroy
Lawrence Kent
Mari Klinke
Laura Lavey
Jeanne Ludjack
William Mauthe
Dan McLain
Joy Merbach
Alan Patterson
Douglas Pietrowski
Pat Reiher
Karen Ruedinger
Sheli Sadoff
Beth Sarber
Thomas Schuppe
Joan Shanahan
Dale Shipe
James Simon
Wanda Weller
Thomas White

GENEROUS DONORS & SPONSORS

Up to \$99

Carole Alt
Kathryn Bates
Lori Benedict
James Booras
Carla Bryant
Desirae Cammack
William Ciccarelli
Rebecca Gray
Mary Halfman
Della Huck
Maryann Hurtt
Daniel Kaminsky
Hannah Kennedy
Dave Knuth
Brenda Kulibert
Greg Lechner
Eric Lunde
Steve March-Torme
Stephanie Martin
Cathi McGowan
Garry Moise
Jennifer Moore
Meghan Neimon
Jim Neumann
Shiri Phillips
Rachel Reader
John Scannell
Michael Schumacher
Don Thurow
Rebecca Virchow
Karen Wagner
Kristi Weier
Renee Weier
Gloria Wendt
Joseph Wilson

In-Kind Gifts

4Imprint
96.1 The Rock / Sunny 97.7 / FM 93.7
Badger Liquor
Blanck's Supper Club
C. Candee Woodworks
Carbliss
Cedar Lodge Supper Club
Children's Museum of Fond du Lac
Cujak's Wine Shop
Jim & Patty DeJong
Tom & Katherine Dreifuerst
The Goldsmith
Grande Cheese
Green Bay Packers Foundation
Hoff's Meat Market
Hotel Retlaw
George & Gina Koonce Foundation
Lighthouse Big Band
Steve March-Torme
Marian University
Cheryl & Gerry Meyer
Mary Muehlius & Russ Wendt
Pat Reiher
Road America SVRA
Roepke's Supper Club
Rolling Meadows Golf Course
Glenn Schmidt
Michael Sergi
Shea Electric
Smokes on Main
South Hills Country Club
Caroline Sterr
Whispering Springs Golf Course
Widmer Cheese
YMCA of Fond du Lac

2025 THELMA MEMBERS

Jacqueline Abel
Maranda Abitz
Tracy Adams
Tim & Rose Ahern
Tripp & Colleen Ahern
Laurie Albert
Thornton Albertz
Connie Anderson
Renee Anderson
Dennis Andrew
Julie Andrew
Michelle Anhalt
Merry Arndt
Caitlin Aussprung
Amanda Baker
Carolyn Bakos
Tina Baleiko
Treena Balfe
Todd Balke
Jane Ballon
Jim Balthazor
Sonia Barager
Laura Barnes
Debra Barrett
Betty Basarich
Scott Basler
Kathryn Bates
Alicia Bayambang
Shawn Beebe
Constance Belden
Colleen Beltezore
Julie Bennett
Jobina Berenz
Mary Jo Berenz
Becky Berg
Holly Bergman
Owen Bierman
Dana Bille
Pamela Billings
Brandon Bodart
Charlotte Bohnsack

Angie Bonlander
James Booras
Michael & Christiane Born
David Bossenbroek
Drew Bright
Clinton Brown
Michelle Brunelli
Marsha Brunner
Debbie Bryant
Amberly Bryfczynski
Jodi Budwit
Meghan Buechel
Ann Buell
Rob Bullock
Mark & Therese Burazin
Daniel Buretta
Ellen Buretta
Jess Burmeister
Kelly Burton
Bonnie Caird
Scott Calvert
Kate Candee & Janet Koester
Michael Candee
Samantha Cantu
Thomas J. Carew
Jamie Carey
Mike Carlone
Stephanie Carpenter
Donald Cayen
Corrine Chalker
Jessica Challoner
Celeste Christ
Dwayne Clark & Christine Schiek
Tammy Clausius
Christine Clementi
Meghan Cole
Amy Collett
Jill Collier
Allison Conrad
David Contreras
Molly Cooper

Michaela Cords
Drew Cowden
Megan Cox
Peggy Csiacsek
Richard Cusick
Linda Dake
Lynn Dalton
Terry Davis
Joscelyn Deanovich
Jaidyn DeGroot
Gwen DeHaan
James & Patty DeJong
Timothy DeMaster
Michelle Denny
Deborah Dilcher
Karen Jo Dobyns
Chris Dolan
Patti Domask
Landon Donigain
Nancy Donohue
Sarah Drake-Ricart
Jennifer Draves
Tom & Kathryn Dreifuerst
Marea Dricken
Matthew Dudevoire
Katie Duel
Denise Duffy
Stuart Dunn
Cheryl Earley
Justine Eatherton
Ally Eigenbrodt
Angel Elmer
Josh Emanuel
Ron & Terri Emanuel
Steve & Timi Emmer
Mary Enright
Katherine Fabricius
Elizabeth Fahrenkrug
Jamie Fanshaw
Louann Fauska
Jeffery Fell

2025 THELMA MEMBERS

Margaret Ferguson	Sheila Harper	Tom Kelroy
Kevin Fessler	Paisley Harris	Gabby Kennedy
Julie Feucht	MJ Hart	Lawrence Kent
Lori Feyen	Kathryn Haupt	Renee Kiefer
Casey Fiebig	Kathy Heider	Tina Kleman
Charles & Cheryl Field	Jean Heins	Jennifer Kloostra
Jessica Figlio	Sarah Heisler	Lori Klotz
Nina Fillis	Bonnie Hermann	Yvette Kobishop
Anna Floeter	Lauri Hicks	Abby Koehler
Kevin Flood	Arthur & Cindy Hintz	Rachel Koehler
Maggie Ford	Joseph Hnilicka	Scott Koerwitz
Cindy Forsberg	Sabrina Hoeft	Leigh Kohlmann
Tera Forster	Sigrid Holman	Mel Kolstad
Ed Foy	Heather Holzman	Marina Kraft
Gina Frank	Alyssa Homan	Geraldine Krah
Ashley Freund	Lauren Hooper	Mark Kramer
Susan Fuerbringer	Joshua Hoyt	Alina Kraus
Linda Galica	Scott Huck	Dave Kraus
Callie Gappa	Tahnya Hyer	Benjamin Krause
Sarah Garvey	Bonnie Irving	RaeAnn Krawzik
Mary Georg	Tim Janis	Jim & Paula Krikau
Angela Gile-Uffenbeck	Michelle Janke	Donna Krueger
Julie Gilgenbach	Amy Jape	Jessica Krug
Christine Glass	Roberta Jensen	Tina Krug
Gina Godin	Marlyn Jensen	Kimberly Kuhl
Staci Goebel	Cathy Johnson	David LaBorde
Nancy Goranson	Lisa Johnson	William Lafler
Wayne Graczyk	Orvis Johnson	Nancy Lanyi
Robert and Brenda Grass	Mary Jones	Carmen Laper
Alyssa Gruenwald	Kip Jones	Kimberly Laws
Patricia Guess	Jacki Jorgensen	Kirstie Leestma
Leian Haase-Burton	Tori Juoni	Bradley Leonhard
Bruce Hackbarth	Daniel Kaminsky	Gabrielle Liebelt
Ted Hanes	Donna Kamrath	Cynthia Liethen
Gabrielle Hanlon	Melissa Kane	Alison Lisowe
Tricia Hanrahan	Dan & Margaret Karius	Jen Lloyd
Jennie Harding	Judith Karschney	Chelsea Lubner
Paula Hare	Linda Kath	Samantha Ludvigsen
Richard Harman, Jr.	Elizabeth Kazda	Heidi Luedtke

2025 THELMA MEMBERS

Tracy Luedtke
Barbara Lukas
Sherri Lukas
Kristina Madison
Kathy Manlove
Steve March-Torme
Christine Marose
Deb Martell
Daniel Martin
Justin Martin
Tracie Mason
Mary Massey
Catherine & Tim Mathweg
Elizabeth McCoy
Patricia McCullough
Dorothy McCullough-Pepper
Robert McDermot
Cathi McGowan
Dan McLain
Evelyn McLean-Cowan
Kevin McLellan
Roxine McQuitty
Michael Meilahn
Brooke Meinert
Joy Merbach
Tony Mertens
Gary Merwin
Kelly Messer
Karen Meyer
Renee Meyer
Robyn & Wally Meyer
Jordan Mezera
Joanne Michaels
Sara Michels
Kathleen Mifflin
Robert Milanowski
Jessica Miller
Misty Miller
Skylar Miller

Steven and Mary Millin
Sue Mitchell Metz
Katlin Moehn
Garry Moise
Johnny Moore
Molly Moore
Jane Morgen
John Morris
Donald Moser
Rick Moulton
Courtney Muche
Mary Muehlius & Russ Wendt
Sally Muehlius
Kelsea Murphy
Connie Mutchmore
Rabia Narin
Erin Navis
Stephanie Neff
Alice Negratti
Tina Neitzel
William Nettelhorst
Jim and Rosalie Neumann
Jon Nicoud
Carey Nigbor
Tracy Norris
Stephanie Ohme
Connie Olson
Anne O'Malley
Donna Otto
Valeria Paredes
Sarah Parent
Julie Parish
Zack Parker
Bret & Joanne Pasiuk
Cheryl Passel
Teri Passow
Noel Paulsberg
Monica Peglow
Rachel Peichl-McGee

Felicia Penza
Emily Peschong
Anne Petri
Kristine Petrie
Paulina Pohlman
Colleen Priest
Angela Puddy
Mike Quinlan
Dorothy Rabenhorst
Rick Rademann
Emma Ramel
Farrah Ramming
Suzanne Rausch
Laura Rector
Joann Reed
Pat Reiher
Pennie Reis
Teresa Resop
James Reszka
Gina Rieder
Cheryl Ritchie
Jose Rivera
Chris Rockweit
Rick Rodriguez
Jody Roffers
Bruce Rose
Lori Rost
Will Rouech
Karen Ruedinger
Megan Rutherford
Gary & Amy Sadoff
Dani Salas
Nick Salm
Sharon Sandmayr
Stephanie Saylor
John Scannell
Julie Schaefer
Evelyn Schaefer
Daniel Schingen

2025 THELMA MEMBERS

Carol Schlaefer
Matthew Schmalfeldt
Audrey Schraven
Michelle Schreifels
Katherine Schuessler
Thomas Schuh
Jennifer Schultz
Marilyn Schumacher
Thomas Schuppe
Chris Schwalbach
Greg and Gwen Schwantes
Lynne Schwartz
Dennis Schwind
Paige Semrow
Michael Sergi
Loree Shady
Pat Shikoski
Dale Shipe
James Simon
Jane Simon
Leah Simon
Erin Sippel
Jenni Slinde
Rachel Smith
Chelsea Smith
Steven & Ruth Sobeck
Mary Lou Soffa
Mike & Diane Soffa
Brooke Spanbauer
Kyle Stanchfield
Peggy Stark
Diana Steffes
Alexa Story
Kathy Strong Langolf
Heather Strozewski
Stephen Sularski
Jerry & Dixie Sullivan
Daniel Svoboda
Krista Tahlman

Missy Tate
Tracy Taylor
Melanie Taylor
Amy Teofilo
Pat Teofilo-Moser
Jolene Tetzlaff
Danielle Theisen
Anna Thomas
Raven Thomas
John Thompson
Neil & Patty Thompson
Don Thurow
Patrick Tienor
Ashley Tischer
Kelly Todd
Carol & Roy Toepke
Connie Toth
Melissa Tramel
Heather Trospen
Emily Trusk
Faye Twohig
Tim & Kelly Twohig
Alice Tzakais
Sandra Uecker
Donald Urness
Lora Vahlsing
Jeremy Van Buren
Debra Vande Zande
Robin Vande Zande
Sharon VanEgtern
Rick & Laurie Vant Hoff
Sharada Venhuizen
Michael Venn
Zachary Vercauteren
Margaret Veresses
Rebecca Vis
Linda Vixmer
Jessica Wagner
Karen Wagner

Tom Wagner
Tammy Waidelich
Charles Weber
Roger & Joann Weber
Laurie Wegener
Renee Weier
Mataya Welak
Wanda Weller
Amanda Western
Clare Wettstein
Patty Wettstein
Polly Whealon
Mack Whitmore
Krista Wichman
Steven Wicichowski
Emily Wieskamp
Charles Williams
Robyn Williams
Joseph Wilson
Kerry Winget
Sarah Winkler
Casey Wix
Amanda Wolf
Teresa Wolff
Nicole Wondergem
Leanne Wunderlich
Tiffany WYROBECK
Taylan Ybarra
Julie Yesko
Dennis Yurkus
Whitney Zagar
David Zittlow
John Zorn
Jeff Zwicky

THELMA

THELMA SADOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS

 @thelmaarts  @thelmaarts51  @thelmasadoffcenter

thelmaarts.org | 920.921.5410
51 SHEBOYGAN STREET, FOND DU LAC, WI 54935