

February 29, 2024

Dear Valued Arts Dockside Vendors,

The 2024 St. Ignace Arts Dockside market over Labor Day Weekend celebrates its 47th anniversary this year. With the new year comes a new season as longtime organizer Janet Peterson is passing the torch to the St. Ignace Area Creative Arts Council, which will host the event with fellow nonprofit organization St. Ignace Area Hope Chest. We thank Janet for her guidance and support as we venture into new territory, and we hope to maintain the excellent standards for the event she has fostered over her decades of involvement.

The St. Ignace Area Creative Arts Council is a new nonprofit, having just celebrated its first anniversary January 1, 2024. In our first year, we have recruited local artists and businesses to join as members to support community programming and events. Among our achievements last year was a public mural in downtown St. Ignace next to Murdick's Fudge, which we painted on the Fourth of July and got passersby to join in the fun. We also host a series of workshops, talks, and artist forums to the public, and have more community projects planned.

St. Ignace Area Hope Chest is a well-established nonprofit having served Mackinac County for decades. They operate the Hope Chest resale shop, St. Ignace Baby Pantry, and the St. Ignace Area Hope Hotline, which provides spiritual, community resource, and financial help to the public.

The Arts Council decided to partner with the Hope Chest to leverage their resources and expertise to our fledging group, most importantly providing financial record keeping support. The net profits from the 2024 Arts Dockside will be divided evenly between the organizations, helping us to serve even more members of the community.

The St. Ignace Arts Dockside event is overseen by a sub-committee of members from each organization. Arts Council Vice President Stephanie Fortino is serving as the chair and main point of contact and can be reached at our new email address siartsdockside@gmail.com. We will be rolling out a Facebook page soon, so be on the lookout for that, as well.

We know that the future of Arts Dockside has been murky this winter, and we thank you all for your patience. February 19, we secured approval from the city council to use the St. Ignace marina again for the show, so now we can move forward. If you decided to book another show over Labor Day Weekend, we completely understand and hope we can entice you back in the future.

We look forward to working with you all and to Arts Dockside 2024! Set up will begin Friday, August 30, and the show will be Saturday, August 31, and Sunday, September 1.

Have a great rest of your winter,

The St. Ignace Arts Dockside Committee