

**To: PROJECT MONTANA** - 207 Montana Hall - Montana State University - Bozeman, MT  
**From: Art Mobile of Montana** - 610 N. Montana, Dillon, MT 59725

August 1, 2019

**Dear Reviewer:**

This letter is written in support of a project for 100&Change, as a potential and viable liaison between Project Montana and Art Mobile of Montana (AMM) a statewide mobile arts service in Montana, to assist AMM's goals and efforts to make a broader impact across our state.

AMM helps strengthen communities by offering thought provoking images that stretch the imagination, educate, satisfy appetites for visual stimulation; and introduce different ways of seeing, opportunities to express deep feelings and use creativity in a restorative way.

**Our ability to move exhibits of fine art to any location in Montana makes AMM an effective means for cultural change.** Along with the exhibit, AMM provides an artist/teacher who drives to the site. When the AMM arrives at a site, the walls and art are moved inside. Our Teaching Artist (TA) presents the works during interactive presentations, then leads a diversity of hands-on art experiences, sometimes multiple times and/or days; after which they pack up and move to the next site. **AMM comes right to your door.** AMM has given people of all walks of life and all ages and abilities, unique opportunities to experience the creative process and to benefit from the effects of expressing themselves creatively on a feeling-level using a diversity of materials. Our lending artists are carefully chosen from Montana's finest artists, who gladly loan their art for the annual tours. They often come to talk about their own art when our show is in their area. Our TA guides participants through arts activities. AMM brings not only abundant art, but stories about the techniques and methods the artists used, to inspire students to make art on their own, and music to play during the arts activities.

**AMM services enhance and help to preserve Montana's cultural heritage.** One never knows the effects of these hands-on and multifaceted arts experiences, until later, such as experiences with colors, shapes, visual stories, music, and sounds; as untold inner connections are made, and expressed through the nonverbal experience of hands-on contact with a variety of art materials and tools for self-expression. Art Speaks. And crosses barriers. **All of Montana is underserved in the arts. According to the Montana Arts Council "45 of MT's 56 counties are classified "frontier." "Rural" doesn't fully depict the true remoteness of much of the state".**

**AMM strengthens school programs** by filling the required mandate for art as a content area, providing opportunities for youth and adults to participate together in arts-learning through art. The annual traveling exhibit of approximately 30 contemporary Montana visual artists' works, including Native American art, is accompanied by presentations by the artists and resources for teachers about teaching art. 30% of our annual exhibits are by Native American artists. We strive to show art from different tribes to inspire young Native artists living in poverty and struggling to keep their traditions alive. Some tribes are losing their Native languages and customs which only diminish the chance for preservation of heritage.

Through AMM, Montanans can hear the voices of a diverse group of artists, make connections, develop understanding. Visit: <https://www.artmobilemontana.org>. Enjoy our video.

**By showing Native American art, we anticipate that this will help preserve cultural and tribal traditions at Reservation schools, while educating non-natives about other cultures.** Besides Native American art we show art from a variety of cultures in Montana, including communities of Hmong, and the ranching and farming communities.

**AMM Reaches Many Lives** - For the past 20 years this traveling visual art education program has served the entire State of Montana with original, museum quality, contemporary artworks that represent a diversity of artistic excellence, differing styles, media, and techniques. Besides the schools, we serve the prison system, Retirement and Nursing Homes, After School Groups, Home School Groups, community groups, Hutterite Colony Schools, colleges, state parks, and art museums. Annual numbers served average 6,400. We serve an average of 60 sites a year.

AMM has served all 56 counties of Montana. Essentially a traveling art museum, we have focused on serving schools, including schools for the 7 Native American Tribes and Indian Reservation schools for the 12 federal and state-recognized tribes in Montana. Our current goal is to branch out to serve other venues, including our veterans. We need revenue to actualize our visions, to be able to expand our operations to additional populations and provide regular services to our recipients. The arts should be a fundamental part of any quality education.

**We ask questions such as: Why is art important? How is art a part of your life? What would life without art be like?** Discussions include the artists' messages and stories from their lives. AMM personnel are resources for art teaching techniques, media, lessons, and methodology. Exhibiting artists receive a travel stipend for coming to present. All presentations include art history. **Lessons: link with themes in the exhibit; inspire recipients to communicate their own meanings; integrate with school curriculum; develop skills, teach fundamentals, encourage creative expression, and show how art tells stories, expresses feelings, spirit and soul.**

**Founded in 2000** by former UMW Art Education Faculty, Sara Colburn, AMM's mission is to provide a permanent statewide traveling art outreach program for schools, the general public, and diverse groups; offer presentations of quality, contemporary art exhibits; teach art lessons; extend teacher education; emphasize the importance of art and interrelating with art.

**We stand in solidarity with the MSU goal to create a path for repairing individuals and communities with cultural change.** Currently AMM has an established relationship with MSU Bozeman School of Art who have arranged with AMM to deliver their recruiting materials to the schools, and to post their logo on our Van. The Holter Museum of Art has agreed to locate a TA for the 2019-2020 school year, and loan art from their permanent collection.

**We have demonstrated how art making and interrelationships with the arts stimulates the Joy Factor,** an inherent component of art making, evidenced by smiles, sharing, absorption in

the process of art making and self-expression. The Joy Factor can be observed by noting facial expressions; spoken and written comments, and feedback and remarks such as **“We have less absences the day the Art Mobile is scheduled to come. No one wants to miss this.”**

**Former AMM Board Member and State Legislator JP Pomnichowski:** *“Art Mobile of Montana is a program that takes art instruction to small rural schools where students would not otherwise experience art education. It’s a very successful and popular program, and it’s run very efficiently, on not much money”.*

**Funding is a challenge for us. We want to put additional TA’s on the road to reach deeper and further into remote communities where we can offer our services to those desperately in need of exposure to art and art making and a sense of connection and identity.**

*AMM is a very small organization. We pay two people: The TA and our Executive Director. Our Board of Directors are very supportive and helpful, all but one from Helena. We have no facility of our own. Our van is based in Helena now, with our bank and accountants based in Dillon. We rent a storage area, borrow art, and get the job done. **Currently we serve the state of MT with a Chevy Express Van, elongated, that houses our 3 fold-out portable exhibit walls, boxed artworks, and art materials.***

**Debbie Crowe, Teacher at Garrison School K-6 to our TA Michelle Summers:** *“Garrison School has had you coming for many years now. We don’t have an art teacher, myself and our other teacher, we try our hardest to not have to travel very far to see art from others. We also get a very good sense of Native American art which we don’t have the facilities for. We use some of our Indian Education for All money to do it”.*

**AMM strengthens school programs** by filling the required mandate for art as a content area and provides opportunities for youth and adults to participate together in arts-learning through and about art. We show some sculptures that are OK to touch, which is very popular. The exhibit resembles an art gallery: sculptures on a table and 2-D art on portable walls. We develop new art lessons each year, working to open up new ways of expression such as making art of a book, painting what sounds would look like, expressing personal feelings with watercolors, making Earth Trays (Jennifer Thompson, TA – using items from nature) paper sculptures, portraits, collage, expressive art, Cyanotypes or Sunprints, etc.

**Fort Peck Reservation Art Teacher Teresa Heil of Frazer, former Art Teacher of the Year, states:** *“I can’t express enough words, how valuable this program is, especially to rural areas that do not have access to this type of professional artwork. I get the Art Mobile to come every year. It’s becoming a part of my curriculum! The students were more engaged and attentive than I’ve seen them with other presentations. It’s so important for these students to see real people who are doing work that’s meaningful and productive. They’re listening.”*

*“Art teacher Teresa Heil has been teaching for 16 years”, according to former TA Tess Fahlgren. **She told me that 16 years is not normal for the school as the turnover rate is high at Frazer. Frazer was just finishing with the ‘Promise School Grant’ as one of the lowest performing***

*in the state. Aside from the struggles, Teresa runs an excellent art program, clearly invested in her students. When asked to pick their favorite art, many chose our Native American artists' works".*

**Art Mobile's Needs:** We have long dreamed of replacing our 2006 van, as well as buying a second van; curating a second art exhibit, and hiring a second TA which would allow our program to serve many more sites, and to make multiple visits a year; to afford more art supplies...and to expand to serve our veterans, on a regular basis. With an expanded program we will be able to hire TA's as full-time employees, working year-round to include summers. We could expand our partnerships with organizations for the entire year. **Our services could last for multiple days.**

**By expanding our services, we can expose as many MT individuals to art as possible.** Our school visits are scheduled during the school year. An expanded program could allow us to partner with art museums, state park interpretive centers, and with additional revenue, increase services to our veterans and our retirement communities throughout the entire year. An AMM visit can be one hour, a full day, or multiple days, depending on need.

**We represent many fine artists by giving them exposure and by delivering their art to those who would not be able to experience art. Art engages people; can be used to teach any subject.** Art teaches history, shows how art disciplines relate to one another and to other subjects; teaches the practice of critical thinking and qualitative judgment; and encourages higher order thinking. AMM offers affordable services for any type of community groups, including healthcare facilities; demonstrating how the arts are a part of everyone's daily life.

**We are delighted to say,** we have supporting evidence that AMM makes a lasting difference, as evidenced by a former Power School student who wrote about growing up with AMM, Levi Willekes: *"The Montana Art Mobile really inspired me to pursue my passion for art. The creative and remarkable works of art they put on display really broadened my interpretation of modern and classic art forms. I am still constructing my own art today because of the inspiration I acquired from the Montana Art Mobile coming to my school".*

**Invite AMM to come to your corner of the state. This we know: many stories will evolve, for this is what creativity sparks. We bring the parts and listen to the needs of the people we serve, to model an experience for those from all walks of life. Our next venue will be a step into the realm of health care, with service to Veterans and increase for Nursing Facilities.**

**AMM** has been serving the entire state of Montana for 20 years with stable leadership. Our art workshops give participants of all ages, opportunity to express their deepest Self, soul, spirit. **Engagement is apparent** when audience members show signs of turning their full attention to the experience by sharing responses, feelings, viewpoints, discoveries. **During art lessons we**

**track signs of excitement or delight; immersion in the process; reflection; asking for feedback; commenting on others' art or show and tell about their own. Art Heals.**

The Art Mobile is funded by businesses, foundations, the Montana Coal Trust, The Montana Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. *Consider what it takes for our TA's to get to the corners of the state with carefully planned trips that serve 5-10 sites on the way out, and the same on the return trip, given the amount of time spent on the road. Our TA's have been invited to stay all night in people's homes, at rental properties, in motels, at friends, or what can be offered. Without our grants we would not have evolved to this capacity. As a willing partner, we know there are more possibilities out there, waiting.*

**Jean Price, MT (D) House of Representatives and former AMM artist, deceased:** *"I have had the opportunity to share my art with thousands of youth, seniors, folks on the reservations and people with disabilities across the state of MT." 2016*

Each year we serve sites that we have never served before, however our TA is only one person and they typically serve an average of 60-75 schools per year. Our numbers have leveled off due to the capacity of having one TA who serves the entire state. **We have yearned for enough money to pay more TA's, operate two vans, enabling this small grassroots program to grow to serve 3x this amount, annually.** Quote by **Jo Nasvik, 2014-2015 TA, after she served Riverside Senior Health Care, Missoula, MT:** *"I could hear several residents ask front desk employees what was going on as I set up. They showed up for the presentation/exhibit 30 minutes early to watch; had many questions about the artworks...who made them? Where are they from? What was the artist trying to say? One resident said: "I am from down south and moved up here later on in life. You know what? I have never seen artwork in a gallery or museum before. This is the first time in my life that I have looked at artwork and talked about it."*

**After-School programs falls more into the community venue.** As you can well imagine, our stories are many, such as **former TA Jennifer Thompson, Expressive Arts Therapist, 2011-2012** who served the Corvallis After School Program:

*"I got a lot of feedback, planned earth trays and stick sculptures – that program has lots of students who would otherwise be on the streets after school, without the program. I got feedback that the "Earth Trays" that it was really good for middle school boys who act out. The kids worked in groups and collaborated to make an art piece together, instead of the competition and name calling which so often turns into bullying. So, it's good for kids to work on something together. Good for kids who don't have a good family life, and don't have someone to go home to, to support them".*

**Dutton Brady After School Program** – Jennifer Thompson introduced Earth Trays here, as well: *"After the program, the whole community came in with potluck dishes in the multi-purpose room. The adults from the community came through to see what the kids had made. These earth trays had green leaves, flowers, etc from her garden, in these sand trays. They were*

*beautiful, with the flowers, a neat involvement to also capture the link with the community as well; it's easier to get the community involved if it's for the kids".*

**Willard Alternative High School, Missoula** – Jennifer served Willard on Valentine's Day: *"We did simple drawings – and the Art Teacher told me that a third of her class was homeless, which made a deep impression on me. The activity was based on love and reciprocity – what is your capacity to give? – Kids love giving, and if you can get to the good-hearted part of giving, Kids love that – not much time, and it was for high school age, using colored pastels (connecting to the pastel artwork in our exhibit by Bunny Alder's artwork)".*

**At MSU Billings, AMM lending Native American artist Rabbit Knows Gun, Crow,** told students how his art shows similarities and differences between traditional Native practices and Christianity. Rabbit loaned his oil pastel: *"Cross Heart Lodges."*

**AMM artist Jerry Iverson supports our mobile value:** *"AMM provides a great service of showing one part of Montana what another part of Montana likes to look at and think about. AMM carries variation and diversity from one part of MT to another."*

**AMM Lending Artist Gina Gahagan shows her hand-sewn quilted artwork "Cloud Bears" at Emeritus Springs Retirement Home, Bozeman 3/24/15** – Gina: *"I was thrilled to participate. This is such a positive thing for communities. I would suggest to artists they get involved by answering the call for art. Even though an artwork might be loaned out and traveling the state for a year, the benefits to the public are great, and the artist gets exposure. **The Art Mobile experience cannot be overestimated in our state, where the distances are vast and the population small. What an excellent experience it is for MT individuals, young and old, who don't regularly have such a unique opportunity! To see original works of art created by Montana's own, to learn about them, to have conversations about them, weaving their own experiences through them, is truly valuable. And to witness it, was, for me, transforming.**"*

**Lending Artist Sue Tirrell, about her Polar Bear and Arctic Hare porcelain ceramic Pitcher:** *"As we continue to experience extreme weather events around the globe, I have been thinking more about the effects of climate change on animals and their habitats. I think most people love the color in the pieces. If a person seeks to go deeper, **it has a bittersweet meaning**". Sue*

**Heather Snell, Native artist Assiniboine Sioux,** told Native students at Frazer School about using traditional indigenous methods to make her own paint by grinding up natural materials: pipestone, turquoise for watercolor pigments. *"**The next day a high school student told me she went home and created pigment with her family from their Pipe Stone.**"* Teacher Teresa Heil

**Creston School K-8 – 75 students - near Kalispell - 5/7/15** – Jo Nasvik: *"Students were very excited about the art. As we walked around the art a student grabbed my hand, took me to Teri Dahl's piece, "Never Give Up" and said, **"This one really inspires me!" He was in Kindergarten.**"*

**Columbia Falls School Art Teacher Shelby Johnson, and former TA for AMM, hosted AMM for her art classes – 63 Students 4/11/19.**

**“Shelby:** *“Art Mobile’s exhibit transformed my classroom into a sacred art space. Students wandered through the exhibit, stopping at pieces to examine them further. Questions and comments: **“How did they do that?” “I think this one is my favorite” were quietly spoken.** As a past AMM Teaching Artist, it was very special to have the program in my own art classroom. The magic of seeing art up close and in person was felt from the other side, this time. **Montana has such a vibrant community of artists. We are fortunate to have a program like Art Mobile to bring those artists together and share their work with the rest of MT”.***

**What does Art Saving Lives look like? – At Montana Women’s Prison in Billings** AMM has taught a number of art lessons, including drawing self-portraits, which turned out to be **a powerful project for the women, to look into the mirror, into their own eyes, into the windows of their soul - and encounter their Self.** Former TA Jennifer Thompson: *“I remember **Dale Livezy’s Sky Painting** which the women at the prison loved above all, probably because of the expansive deep blue sky, and them, being in a prison; appealed to the women. **Dale then donated the Sky Painting to the prison, where they hung it in their chapel, as their altar.** Dale’s painting may have expressed freedom, love of landscape, homesickness; all of which can be a motivation to get out of the prison. Also, a story of Montana being so spread out, yet very connected. Annamae Sigfried-Derrick, prison spokesperson said *“I’m so glad that we have this, because we’re so heavy on the evangelical in the workshops that come here. I really like that the AMM program can balance these religious programs.”**

**Suicide risk is out of sight, now, on the reservations.** At Frazer School, Art Teacher Teresa Heil had a former student (19 or 20 years old) who came back to the school to see AMM, said *“Yes, I remember Art Mobile from 6<sup>th</sup> grade.”* He came and participated in the community art event held at Fort Peck Community College, where Jennifer Thompson had them making shields. **An elder was with him, who said “Yes, he’s seen AMM for years [as a student at Frazer School] and that’s why he’s so creative.”** Jennifer: *“To be exposed to art consecutive years, through time, he knew how to engage in the art project, but other Frazer students were not so lucky”.*

Jennifer Thompson had set up the AMM exhibit outside the gym in the foyer at Frazer where 15-20 classes came through. During her break, Jennifer went around to look at the pictures of the basketball players, noting that *all of them had died, 16, 17, 18 years old – all excelled in basketball. Suicides, heartbreaking.* **Jennifer:** *“That’s when it got to me, these kids were excelling kids, they were not at the bottom of the class.”* Their former teacher suggested that when Native kids excel, it’s not necessarily that they just excel, but that they don’t have anywhere to go with it. This could be a star basketball player, but where do you go with that, there’s nothing after it. There’s nothing set up for those who graduate from high school, needing a bridge from high school to enable them to live and learn and give back.” **The student who came to Teresa’s class was the only one in his age group who came, and, she said “He was still with us. Art was a main stay with him. Teresa schedules AMM annually, it’s a part of their curriculum and there are expectations about learning with AMM, every year. Having**

***AMM consecutively is very important in these places that are so far out that they cannot get cell phone service, and that area has its own cell phone company”.***

***The whole community pitched in – 2/12/16 Elliston School Open House - 14 Students, TA Shelby Johnson: “Elliston is the community I grew up in. I was eager to return to the school with the Art Mobile. Mrs. Clark, supervising teacher, posted signs in the post office, the store, and in the school newsletter for parents and community members to come see the exhibit. After school, parents and community members came to see the student’s art and the exhibit. It was a great turn out! Students showed their parents the art they made that day”.***

**2011-2012 when Jennifer Thompson was our TA**, she submitted one of her own works of art in our traveling exhibit, a Medicine Stick Bundle created with sticks and flowers, along with a prayer card with a photo of a child in Iraq. **This exemplifies the use of Art Therapy; and Jennifer’s MA is in Expressive Therapies.** Jennifer was the first art therapist that AMM hired as a TA, the second being **Rachel Larson Long M.A. ATR.** These TA’s used art for healing projects, utilizing artistic symbolism for healing.

**Students Enjoy Portable Art Gallery –** by Betty Vanderweilen of Alpine Artisans, Seeley Lake: *“Art Instructor Jennifer Thompson drove the Art Mobile of Montana van right up to the doors of our schools –Swan Valley Elementary on February 28<sup>th</sup>, Seeley Lake Elementary on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Seeley Swan High School on March 1<sup>st</sup>. She unfolded backboards, freed paintings and photos from their traveling crates, unwrapped sculptures and ceramic pieces, and stood beaming as students meandered through the portable art gallery pointing out discoveries to one another. After Jennifer discussed the art and sculpture, passed around the touchable art named “Five Spiritual Pieces,” and introduced a variety of new ideas for the students to mull over, smaller groups of youngsters returned for an art lesson. With the elementary, Jennifer took a few minutes guiding them to visualize a specific favorite place, then challenged them to recreate that place in a landscape box using sand, dirt, sticks, stones, and a variety of other natural materials she provided. They surprised themselves and their peers at their inventiveness. Alpine Artisans has, for several years, helped bring Art Mobile Montana to our schools. but this is the first time the opportunity has been extended to the high school students. Jennifer’s presentation to them, focused on different works in the display, included more detailed information, and offered a more mature discussion of the works”.*

**Art Mobile holds Community Events, such as at Dutton/Brady and Pryor Schools**, where, in both cases, parents, teachers, and students, came through the exhibit. **Note: At Pryor, on the Crow Reservation, this was successful because they try to get families involved, which they have not had much success with, in the past.**

**Sean Heavey, photographer, Lending Artist, at Nashua School – on the Hi Line 1/26/17 - 100 Students – Presented his photo “The Mothership”- A Huge Cloud.** Sean: ***“The arts are the most important thing in schools. Art education is the only thing that teaches creativity, is the only way to teach innovation. Without creativity or innovation, you can’t make anything new.”***

**Joanna Nasvik, Art Teacher, Alberton School and former TA** ***“This is what is powerful about the Art Mobile: It takes Fine Art that would normally be seen in a museum setting in a large city and brings it to the kids in the communities that surround these artists. They can connect with these artists and their work and the world of art becomes a reality for them.”***

**At Frazer School – Tess Fahlgren, TA:** *“One Native American girl was very attentive during a whole presentation, then attended two in a row and was a very good listener. **She told me she loves art and wants to start sculpting people:** “Thank you so much for coming. This is so cool. I love ‘Coyote Makes the Stars’ [by Jennifer Lowe Anker].”*

**Heard at Alder School – 14 students - Alder MT – 5/14/15** *“I love art, it is my favorite thing to do!” **Art teacher:** “Most of the students really like art and are very talented, that’s why it’s so good for them to see this exhibit”. After they all left, TA Jo Nasvik told the teacher: “I thought it went very well”. **She said,** “I was really impressed, the student who was answering every question is the same student I was worried about.”*

**Recycling became a 2015 theme for AMM:** Ovando School 3/4/15 – 28 students. **TA Jo Nasvik:** *“They thought it was hilarious when I gave them pieces of the mannequin to carry in for my artwork: “A Self Portrait of February”. [A wedding dress to which Jo attached a month’s work of her recyclables, sewn to the dress with red thread.] **Teacher:** “Wow, I knew you were bringing art, but you just transformed the entire room. This is great!” **They explored each piece like they were discovering a new world.** The students created the most beautiful hats I had seen so far, creating landscapes, collaged animals, rainbows, scenes from outer space. At the end of the day several students came up and thanked me for being there”.*

**We, of AMM, intend to connect to something greater than ourselves. AMM serves special needs, for example, we have served the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.** Through the artwork we show and the lessons we teach, we see the potential for meaningful change.

**AMM Lending Artist Bently Spang - Northern Cheyenne - Billings, MT** ***“Presence of the Sacred”** presents at Independent School 4/6/17 shows his painting of a feather that is also supposed to be a door into another world, perhaps like a dream. Spang’s sculpture in our show: **“Meat Clutch” - Silicone, dirt, found object [a small purse]; is reddish color from red dirt mixed with silicone resin.** Students recognized the color as the Northern Cheyenne reservation which is not far away. Spang: *“Inside the Meat Clutch there is a poker chip symbolizing the casinos on the reservation, a controversial but important part of modern Native American culture. Spang said he learned that “some white people feel better losing money in a tribal casino because the money goes to the tribe”.* Spang’s artwork is in museums and private collections in the US and Europe. **Spang’s artwork: “War Shirt #1” was exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.***

**Artist Theodore Waddell:** *"I'm painting a contemporary slice of the West, living what I paint. **"I have lent work to this program for several years. Access to art in Montana is as difficult as it is to drive from Two Dot to Billings in a January blizzard.** The Art Mobile has enriched the lives of many, many students by providing first-hand access to art. Further, the presenters have been able to assist these students in understanding what they are seeing. This program is a very important part of the education of our young people."*

**AMM currently charges \$70 per hour for AMM services.** Montana Arts' Council's *Artists in Schools and Communities* Grant provides matching funds that support a wide range of arts learning experiences and artist residencies for participants of all ages with professional working artists, as well as other special projects that support arts learning in schools and community settings. **The arts should be a fundamental part of any quality education.**

**Besides partnering with the schools and with Montana Art Galleries for art for our exhibit, we borrow directly from the artists.** AMM has also partnered with these venues: Alpine Artisans of Seeley Lake, a non-profit that assists arts in the schools and communities in their area; and the Missoula Art Museum loaned us a show of Native American prints that spoke to the results after the Lewis and Clark expedition, titled: ***Native Perspectives on the Trail: A Contemporary American Indian Art Portfolio***. This show was visually quite controversial, and we were honored to have the opportunity to share the artists' stories at schools across Montana.

**Lending Artist-Printmaker Corky Clairmont - Salish Kootenai Tribe** - came to **Polson High School 3-20-18** to talk about his print ***Tick Tack Toe***, which has visual reference to the ***Keystone Pipeline***, signifying ways humans have negatively impacted the environment. Most of Corky's work is about the environment and he has loaned to AMM several times.

**AMM Artist Phoebe Toland** came to **Garrison School** to teach a workshop for the students and teachers about printmaking; her comment: ***"One student said, "this is better than video games." As an artist in schools for 20 years, it's the highest praise I've heard yet."***

Students run to greet the TA. Teachers tell us, **"when they mention the Art Mobile is coming the next day – no one is absent."** Jefferson School Teacher: ***"A 6<sup>th</sup> grade student remembered many of last year's pieces and compared them to this year's choices."*** **Phoebe, age 6 of Dillon's Home School Group:** ***"I like [the AMM] because we can create our own art and because we can see what other people created. And the stories about the artists are so interesting."***

**Jennifer Combs, Professor of Art Education, University of Montana – former AMM Artist:** ***"The Art Mobile is so powerful because rural kids in Montana aren't exposed to a lot of art, so the opportunity to have art "delivered" to them is a phenomenal experience. It's critical students see work in person rather than on a screen or in a book, as the experience is more full, colors accurate, scale is perceived through the experience of standing in front of the works; the "hands on" lessons validate the cultural need for art."***

**AMM Lending Artist Gina Gahagan:** *“The Art Mobile experience cannot be overestimated in our state, where the distances are far and the population small. What an excellent experience for these individuals, young and old, who don’t regularly have opportunity to see original works of art created by Montana’s own; **learn about them; have conversations about them; weave their own experiences through them; truly valuable. To witness it was, for me, transforming.**”*

**Flathead Reservation - AMM Artist Dana Boussard Visits Arlee School, tells about her art:** **“Like Mother, Like Daughter”** which shows her painting her daughter’s face with words. Dana told about this photo from a performance piece she did with her daughter for the exhibit *Speaking Volumes*, a collaborated response about books confiscated from a white supremacist. **Dana: “Sometimes we do not have much control over our thoughts and beliefs because they are passed down to us from the minute we are born”.** She asked students to share ways they could relate. A student shared that he has different views about people who are religious because his parents always talked negatively about religious people. This was exactly what Dana was getting at. **“Sometimes” Dana said, “it is important for us to form our own opinions for if we do not then racism and oppression will continue to exist and get passed on.”**

**Steve Glueckert, former Curator, Missoula Art Museum:** *“The primary benefit of the Art Mobile is in the way **arts build community**; that arts and artists are part of the fabric of everyday life, **not simply for metropolitan areas. The embrace of the arts and artists in rural areas is critical in reinforcing tolerance, opening windows that may not have seemed accessible before. I am humbled to be included with these artists who are committed to the fabric of culture in our small rural place. It is important for students to have access and be able to touch and handle the art when given permission. It helps build future artists in every community.**”*

### **Art Heals**

*As in another way of knowing  
From our hearts  
Expressing the inexpressible  
But we do and we do and all is again new  
Give birth to the divine of our thoughts  
Bring old charcoal soot to the surface and  
Combine our guts with sublime.*

*By Sara Colburn 7/23/2008*

**Thank you, Project Montana for the opportunity for Art Mobile of Montana to express our needs for further expansion to the populations in need across this broad State of Montana.**

Sincerely

Sara Colburn, Executive Director for Art Mobile of Montana