



**2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

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We are pleased to present the Argosy Foundation's 2008 Annual Report. Listed in these pages are the partnerships that sustain and guide our foundation. Many of these organizations are new strategic partners while others are long-time partners who continue to impress us with their service to their mission and clients.

In 2008, Argosy worked with over 170 organizations across the United States. Together these organizations help to develop innovative solutions to complex challenges, serve our neediest youth, build tomorrow's science and technology leaders, improve health services, and redirect higher education to focus on a holistic service centered learning. Argosy has chosen in 2008 to simplify our presentation and to economize the production of our annual report, making this report available only via our website.

2008 is also different for the foundation's charitable giving. From our beginning in the late 1990s to 2007 Argosy focused on scaling up philanthropic giving, increasing its payout in each successive year. This funding amount was three and a half times the calculated distribution requirement based on foundation assets.

The economic collapse hit the base of our foundation particularly hard and the Trustees had to respond quickly and dramatically by cutting 2008 grant-making by approximately 50 percent from 2007 levels. For an organization committed to supporting the work of some incredible non-profit organizations in the service of causes we are passionate about, the inability to fund at historical levels is wrenching. While all of our partner organizations felt the impact of our duress, we have been impressed and inspired with the aggressive and responsible manner in which many have responded. While the partnerships outlined in the enclosed pages represent a substantial decrease from years past, great work is still being done. As we look ahead to the future, the Trustees are hopeful that the glimmers of economic vitality we are currently witnessing will continue through year-end. Nonetheless, to secure a strong, financially viable foundation we will have to continue in the foreseeable future to search for deep efficiencies and downsize our charitable contribution.

We continue to be amazed by the patience and understanding of our partners and appreciate your rising up to these tough times and continuing to push forward on your work. We understand how challenging these times are. We remain committed to our vision of creative, productive philanthropy and to helping you fulfill your own missions. We also remain committed to aggressively and responsibly rebuilding our ability to grant at historic levels. While we can not make promises about the economy, we can promise to communicate quickly and clearly about our progress.

Thank You.

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# MISSION, VISION, AND GUIDING VALUES

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## **Mission**

The mission of the Argosy Foundation is to support people and programs that make our society a better place to live. We seek to employ creative and entrepreneurial approaches that help people to help themselves, and become self-sustaining whenever possible. Our intention is to solve systemic problems, build teams and communities, create replicable solutions, and inspire others to contribute in their own ways.

## **Vision**

Argosy's vision is a world where all people are empowered and inspired to make a positive impact on their communities and our world.

## **Guiding Values**

### *Family*

This foundation is formed around a family and is meant to strengthen it. We are committed to encouraging and empowering philanthropy among family members.

### *Fiscal Stewardship*

Argosy Trustees view themselves as stewards of financial and intellectual resources. We expect of ourselves and our partners a disciplined and responsible use of these resources.

### *Decision-Making*

Argosy is deeply committed to informing the decision-making process. Proportionate to their impact, decisions should be the end result of rigorous research, data, and analysis, including best practices, risk contingency, and scenario modeling.

### *Human Resources*

The most important variable in an organization is personnel. We are committed to aggressively seeking out, retaining, and developing an increasingly effective staff. We strongly support our partners in doing the same, particularly in leadership.

### *Method of Engagement*

We seek to make investments that empower through infrastructure and long-term capacity-building. We approach investments with a shared notion of engagement, defined benchmarks, and an exit strategy. We encourage creativity, try to avoid bureaucracy and dependence, and focus on outcomes.

### *Outcomes*

We are committed to continually assessing the effectiveness of ourselves and our nonprofit partners, and equally dedicated to learning from and adapting to the findings. We encourage and support partners to adopt efficient and creative study designs.

### *Volunteer Ethic*

We celebrate and encourage the charitable impulse in society. We believe in interacting with our peers, our partners, our staff, and the community with respect and grace. Where we disagree with others, we try to communicate productively.

### *Collaboration*

What is done well in isolation is often done better in partnership. We seek collaboration and encourage our partners to continually explore potential collaborations when they lead to greater efficiencies, scalability, and pooled-voice advocacy.

### *Curiosity*

We believe that continually examining the world in which we live and the fields in which we work makes us better grantmakers. We are committed to remaining open-minded, sharing knowledge, and learning from our successes and failures.

### *Integrity*

By operating in a manner consistent with our values, we hope our methodology and integrity will earn respect. We value diversity and differences of opinion regarding our decisions and actions. ●

# 2008 FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

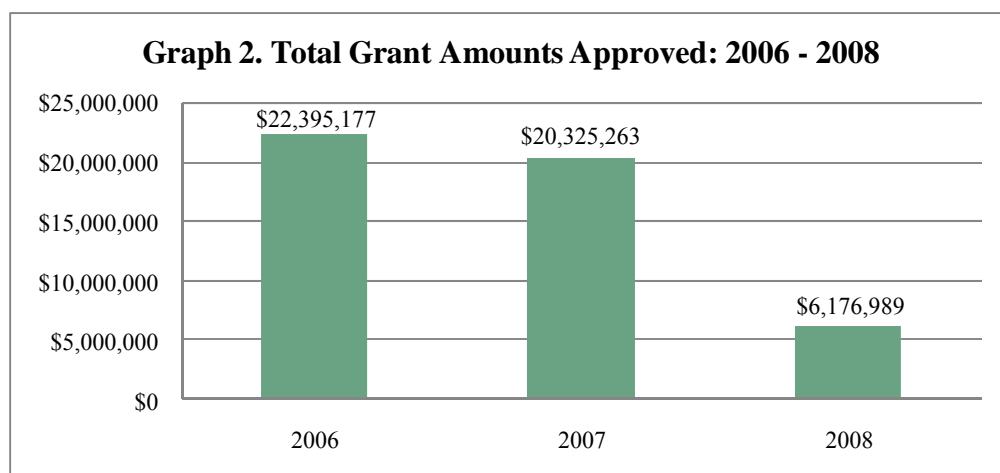
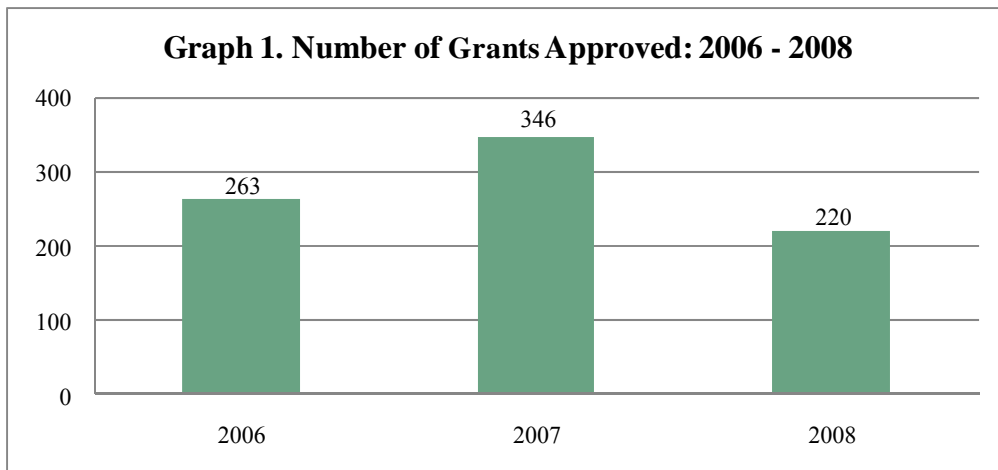
## INVESTMENTS AND EXPENSES

Operating & Administrative Expenses in 2008: \$1,325,441

Charitable Payments Made in 2008\*: \$7,810,233

\*Grants that were paid in 2008 may have been approved in previous years, as grants can be paid over several years.

*Please note that Argosy's investments are not always financial. For example, Trustees and staff frequently serve on executive search committees and advisory boards, provide in-house research, and assist with program evaluations.*



# INVESTMENTS BY TYPE AND ORGANIZATION

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The following lists present Argosy's 2008 approved financial investments classified into three categories: grants \$20,000 and under, grants over \$20,000, and grants pertaining to the Foundation's Contemporary Music Fund. The Contemporary Music Fund was created by Argosy to promote the proliferation and awareness of contemporary classical or "non-pop" music. The Fund supports the commission of new works, training by experienced performers or composers, performances, live or studio recordings and broadcasting.

## INVESTMENT FACTS

- Argosy approved 70 grants in the "\$20,000 and under" category for a total of \$592,299.
- 65 grants were approved in the "over \$20,000" range, totaling \$4,616,690.
- 85 organizations were approved for Contemporary Music Fund grants totaling \$968,000.

*Please note: Some of the organizations listed may have received more than one grant, and some grants will be paid in subsequent years.*

## GRANTS \$20,000 AND UNDER

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**ALS Association– Wisconsin Chapter**  
To sponsor the Walk to Defeat ALS.

**American Heart Association**  
To support the Go Red for Women Luncheon to raise funds to fight heart disease and stroke through research and public education.

**Attention, Inc.**  
To provide matching funds for the annual campaign.

**Betty Brinn Children's Museum**  
To support the annual Gala benefiting early-learning and school-readiness programs.

**Beyond Benign**  
To support green chemistry education and research in K-12 schools.

**Boulder Shelter for the Homeless**  
To provide safe shelter, food, support services, and an avenue to self-sufficiency for homeless adults.

**Boy Scouts of America– Milwaukee County Council**  
To support the Distinguished Citizens Award Dinner.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee**  
To support the MVP Awards Dinner, the Transformations Fashion Show, and the President's Society Dinner.

**CarShare Vermont**  
To support the launch of a shared car service in Burlington, VT.

**Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity**  
To support meals provided by Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf and the heating assistance program serving VT households.

**Charlotte Land Trust**  
To support the Burleigh Farm and Forest Conservation Project.

**City Year**  
To support work with the Washington, DC public schools.

**Columbia St. Mary's Foundation**  
To sponsor a gala event that raises funds to support cancer services.

**The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County**  
To support the Social Venture Partners Fellows program.

**Discovery World**  
To support the 25th Anniversary Gala event.

**Dragonheart Vermont**  
To support the Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival.

**Eco-Cycle**  
To support the Latino Outreach Pilot Program.

**Environmental Grantmakers Association**  
To support the fall retreat.

**FIRST**  
To support the Greater Toronto Regional competition.

**Gathering on the Green**  
To support the fireworks finale for the 2008 event.

**Gilda's Club of Southeastern Wisconsin**  
To support an event that benefits cancer support services.

**Grantmakers for Education**  
To support the effort to strengthen philanthropy's capacity to improve educational outcomes for all students.

**Grants Managers Network**  
To support the effort to adopt and incorporate effective grants management practices that benefit the philanthropic community.

**Greater Milwaukee Committee for Community Development**  
To contribute to the cultural and economic base of the Milwaukee area, and to support a management study and lake safety.

**Greater Milwaukee Foundation**

To sponsor the Wisconsin AIDS Fund's Absolutely the Best Party fundraiser for Wisconsin agencies working on AIDS issues.

**Holiday Home Camp**

To support the renovation of the art room.

**International Institute of Wisconsin**

To support a new lecture series.

**Junior Achievement of Wisconsin**

To support the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame event.

**Lake Park Friends**

To support the restoration of the Waterfall Ravine.

**Literacy Services of Wisconsin**

To support no-cost basic literacy instruction for adults.

**Marcus Center for the Performing Arts**

To support the Broadway Bash event.

**Massachusetts General Hospital: Division of Global Health and Human Rights**

To support the Initiative to End Slavery.

**Milwaukee Chamber Theatre**

To support the Young Playwrights Festival and a play development series.

**Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design**

To support the Creative Fusion fundraising event.

**Milwaukee Public Library Foundation**

To support the Benjamin Franklin Award Dinner.

**Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra**

To support the 50th Anniversary Gala.

**Milwaukee Urban League**

To support the Black & White Ball fundraising event.

**Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra**

To support the Franissimo! event to recognize the Executive Director's service to MYSO.

**Mother Kathryn Daniels Center**

To support the Leadership Achievement Recognition Award event.

**Newton Symphony Orchestra**

To support the Catherine Abele Music Award, which goes to the middle school winner of Newton's Classical Idol Competition.

**Pearls for Teen Girls**

To support leadership development for at-risk teen girls in Milwaukee.

**Prevent Blindness Wisconsin**

To support the 50th Anniversary gala event.

**The Progressive**

To support civil liberties work, and programs educating the American public about health, human services, and the environment.

**Public Interest Projects**

To support the International Human Rights Funders Group.

**Public Policy Forum**

To support research on climate change and attitudes towards local government.

**Smart Growth Vermont**

To support the Community Planning Partnership.

**St. Francis Children's Center**

To support the 2008 Awards Banquet.

**Task Force on Family Violence**

To support the Evening of Hope Gala event.

**United Negro College Fund Milwaukee**

To support the leadership reception and for corporate partnership.

**United Performing Arts Fund**

To support Milwaukee's professional theater, music, opera and dance organizations.

**University of Wyoming Foundation**

To support the Community Sustainability Summit.

**Vince Lombardi Charitable Funds**

To support the Golf Classic and the Award of Excellence Dinner Ball benefiting cancer research, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment protocols.

**Wisconsin Conservatory of Music**

To challenge WCM to seek out new and enhanced giving, and to support new website layout and functionality.

**Wisconsin Historical Foundation**

To support the Wisconsin History Maker's Gala.

**Wisconsin Humanities Council**

To support the Wisconsin Book Festival.

**The Women's Center**

To support the anniversary luncheon, which raises funds for programs and services for women and families affected by domestic violence.

**Women's Wilderness Institute**

To support the Girls' Wilderness Program.

**YWCA of Greater Milwaukee**

To sponsor the Circle of Women Luncheon aimed at broadening awareness and support of the YWCA's programming for women.

**Zoological Society of Milwaukee**

To support the Zoo Ball. ●

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## GRANTS OVER \$20,000

**1 Sky**

To support the Southeastern United States 1Sky Campaign.

**Alaska Conservation Foundation**

To support the Alaska Coal Working Group.

**All Souls Interfaith Gathering**

To support services aimed at offering a safe haven for the exploration of spiritual and human values.

**Amherst College**

To support financial aid, faculty, and the maintenance of college resources.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

To support Phase III of Project Insight.

**Children's Hospital and Health System Foundation**

To support the Safe at Home Luncheon benefiting child abuse prevention.

**Clean Air Task Force**

To support federal policy work on climate change.

**Colorado Environmental Coalition**

To support the Colorado Oil Shale Project and general operating expenses.

**Committee on Temporary Shelter**

To support homelessness prevention and housing retention efforts.

**Community Health Center of Burlington**

To support the design phase of the Center for Integrative Health Care, and to support the center's programs.

**ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain**

To support the Quad film project.

**Engineers Without Borders, U.S.A.**

To support a construction project through the Milwaukee School of Engineering chapter.

**FIRST**

To support underserved schools and scholarships for new teams, and to inspire young people to become science and technology leaders.

**First Stage Children's Theater**

To support technology projects relating to Milwaukee Arts Partners.

**Gathering Waters Conservancy**

To support the stewardship campaign.

**Global Greengrants Fund**

To support the organizational development and strategic planning process.

**Greater Milwaukee Committee for Community Development**

To support a regional cultural audit and research on Milwaukee County government.

**Greater Milwaukee Foundation**

To support the Mitchell Park Domes Lighting Fund and the Milwaukee Fund for Educational Improvement.

**The Healing Center of Aurora Sinai Medical Center**

To support the Bilingual Advocacy Project.

**Int'l Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, U.S.A.**

To support the Chicago regional office.

**Island Conservation**

To support the Rat Island seabird restoration project.

**La Causa**

To support the capital campaign and a challenge grant for the build-out of the orchestra and performing arts area.

**Living Lands and Waters Restoration Organization**

To support the New Boston Bay Restoration Project.

**MACC Fund**

To support the Jim Mech Memorial Golf Outing, which raises funds to fight childhood cancer.

**Milwaukee Art Museum**

To support the Gilbert & George exhibition, the Bal du Lac event, and the launch of Milwaukee Film.

**Milwaukee Public Museum**

To support overall operations and the debt reduction plan.

**Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra**

To support marketing efforts announcing the new Musical Director.

**The Museum of Science, Boston**

To stimulate interest in and further the understanding of science and technology.

**National Association of Health Education Centers**

To support capacity building including and work towards long term sustainability.

**National History Club**

To support the study of history in secondary school education.

**The Nature Conservancy**

To support general expenses, the Energy Initiative and the Lake Champlain Program.

**New York Road Runners Club**

To support the production of the "How to Run" video.

**Pacific Institute**

To support the creation of a tool to measure the greenhouse gas implications of water conservation and efficiency improvements.

**Philanthropy Roundtable**

To support this membership organizations which promotes excellence in philanthropy.

**Royal Shakespeare Company America**

To support RSC's New Work and New Writing program and American education and outreach.

**Smart Growth Vermont**

To support work towards finding solutions to Vermont's growth and conservation challenges.

**Society of Interventional Radiology Foundation**

To support research into leading edge developments in interventional medicine.

**Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance**

To support the Southeast Governor's Coalition on Energy Efficiency.

**Southwest Energy Efficiency Project**

To support transportation efficiency in the Southwest.

**Task Force on Family Violence**

To support the Child Witness to Domestic Violence program.

**Texas Public Citizen**

To support the Texas plan for abating global warming.

**Thistle Community Housing**

To support green and energy conservation measures for the development of permanently affordable homes.

**United Performing Arts Fund**

To support Milwaukee's professional theater, music, opera, and dance organizations.

**Vermont Foodbank**

To support work to end hunger in Vermont.

**Vote Solar Initiative**

To support the initiative to promote clean air, fight global warming, and increase America's energy independence.

**Welfare Auxiliary of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin**

To support the Swan Ball benefiting the Child Protection Center at Children's Hospital.

**Western Conservation Foundation**

To support general expenses and efforts to increase outreach.

**Wisconsin Breast Cancer Showhouse**

To sponsor the Showhouse and supporting events, which raise funds for cancer research.

**Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Institute**

To support nonpartisan civic engagement work.

**WisconsinEye Public Affairs Network**

To support work to communicate state proceedings and encourage public participation in government, and to fund operational expenses related to administration and production.

**WUWM Milwaukee Public Radio**

To support an underwriting partnership consisting of on-air messages for local nonprofits. ●

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## CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FUND

**Adorno Ensemble**

Performance, Recording

**American Composers Forum**

Performance

**American Music Center**

Broadcasting

**American Opera Projects**

Commission, Performance, Broadcasting

**Americas Society**

Commission, Performance, Recording

**Art Re Grup**

Performance

**Austin Classical Guitar Society**

Commission, Performance

**The Azure Ensemble**

Performance

**Bang on a Can**

Performance, Training

**Boston Landmarks Orchestra**

Commission, Performance, Recording

**Bowling Green State University**

Performance

**The Brecht Forum**

Performance

**Brooklyn Academy of Music**

Performance

**California Institute of the Arts**

Performance

**Carnegie Mellon University**

Commission

**The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**

Commission, Performance

**Colorado Chamber Players**

Recording

**Colorado Symphony Association**

Broadcasting, Recording

**Composers, Inc.**

Performance

**counter)induction**

Commission, Performance

**CrossSound**

Commission, Performance, Recording

**Cypress String Quartet**

Commission, Performance

**Ebb & Flow Arts**

Broadcasting, Commission, Performance

**Experimental Sound Studio**

Commission

**From the Top**

Broadcasting, Performance, Recording

**Grand Center**

Commission, Performance, Recording

**Group for Contemporary Music**

Recording

**Group Motion Multi Media Dance Theatre**

Commission, Performance

**House Foundation for the Arts**

Commission, Performance, Recording

**Ives String Quartet**

Commission, Performance

**Janus Trio**

Recording

**Kronos Performing Arts Association**

Commission, Performance, Recording

**La Gran Scena Opera Company**

Broadcasting, Performance

**League of Composers/ISCM**

Commission, Performance, Recording

**Left Bank Concert Society**

Performance, Training

**Live in Concert**

Performance

**Look & Listen**

Commission, Performance

**Lower East Side Performing Arts**

Performance

**Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art Foundation**

Commission, Performance, Recording

**Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia**

Commission, Performance

**Metropolis Ensemble**

Commission, Performance

**Middlebury College**

Commission, Performance, Training

**Minnesota Orchestral Association**

Broadcasting, Performance, Training

**Monadnock Music**

Commission, Performance, Recording

**Music at the Anthology**  
Commission, Performance

**Music Journeys**  
Recording

**Musical Elements**  
Broadcasting, Performance, Recording

**Musical Traditions**  
Commission, Performance

**New England Foundation for the Arts**  
Commission, Performance, Training

**New York City Opera**  
Commission, Performance, Training

**Nexmap**  
Recording

**Nexus Foundation for Today's Art**  
Broadcasting, Commission, Performance

**North Country Chamber Players**  
Commission, Performance

**ODC Dance**  
Commission, Performance, Recording

**Peck School of the Arts at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee**  
Commission, Performance, Recording, Training

**Percussia**  
Recording

**Peregrine Arts**  
Commission, Performance

**The Perlman Music Program**  
Performance, Training

**Perspectives Ensemble**  
Commission

**Philadelphia Chamber Music Society**  
Commission, Performance

**Piffaro, The Renaissance Band**  
Recording

**Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society**  
Commission

**Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble**  
Commission, Recording, Performance

**Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston**  
Broadcasting, Commission, Performance, Training

**Red Light Contemporary Music**  
Broadcasting, Commission, Performance, Training

**Real Time Opera**  
Performance

**Reduta Deux**  
Commission

**RPI Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center**  
Recording

**Rubin Museum of Art**  
Commission, Performance

**Santa Clara University**  
Broadcasting, Commission, Performance, Training

**Skaneateles Festival**  
Commission, Performance, Recording

**So Percussion**  
Commission, Recording, Training

**SOLI Chamber Ensemble**  
Broadcasting, Commission, Performance, Training, Recording

**Southwest Chamber Music Society**  
Performance, Recording

**Stephen Petronio Dance Company**  
Commission

**Symphony Space**  
Broadcasting, Performance, Recording

**Temple University, Esther Boyer College of Music and Dance**  
Performance, Recording

**The University Corporation, San Francisco State**  
Commission, Performance, Recording

**Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble**  
Broadcasting, Recording

**Walden Chamber Players**  
Commission, Performance, Training

**The Walden School**  
Training

**Washington Musica Viva**  
Performance

**Wet Ink Music Productions**  
Performance

**William Ferris Chorale**  
Recording

**Yale Summer School of Music**  
Broadcasting, Commission, Performance, Recording, Training ●