

State of the Arts: AiM at a Glance

Arts in McNairy (AiM) was founded in 2000-01 to provide local creative opportunities. AiM is recognized at the state and national level as a model for rural arts development.

AiM offers McNairy County adults and children high quality programs in music, theatre performance, visual arts, literature, film making, handcraft, folklife, and much, much more.

AiM is financially self-sustaining, managing operations and arts programs through private donations, nonprofit grants, and earned revenues instead of local taxpayer funding.

In addition to participatory program, AiM stewards our artistic heritage, holding a significant collection of artifacts and digital media documenting McNairy County's creative history.

AiM is resident at the Latta through a 20 year state and interlocal agreement designating the property the official visitors and cultural center.

By the end of the 2025-26 fiscal year, AiM will have invested around a half million dollars in grant and private match monies in the Latta property.

The arts are an economic engine for McNairy County making an annual economic impact of more that \$1.2 million.

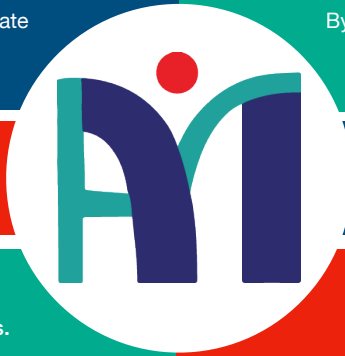
Recently surveyed residents and visitors view AiM programs as critical to our community's livability and identity.

AiM operates on a distinct set of values, principles, and policies that make local children, artists, and community top priorities.

More than 30,000 people (40% nonlocal) attend local cultural events annually, making the arts a lucrative tourism draw.

Thousand of McNairy County residents participate in or attend AiM programs each year, creating an important sense of community and belonging for many.

McNairy County is known as a creative community. The county's music heritage reflected in the Latta restoration and outdoor public art are now considered Tennessee historic landmarks.



“Arts in McNairy is a state, regional, and national leader in rural arts development, and is the gold standard for how an arts organization can positively impact and transform a community. AiM is both an inspiration to its own community and a model to people from around the world. Founded by and run by the people of McNairy County, Arts in McNairy's work connects the community to its rich cultural traditions and in doing so enhances the vibrant, distinct sense of place which will be appreciated for generations to come.” —Anne Pope, Executive Director Tennessee Arts Commission



Midcentury lacquer (acetate) discs recorded by Stanton Littlejohn of Eastview, Tennessee. Arts in McNairy's preservation of the Littlejohn recordings was awarded by the Library of Congress, putting McNairy County on the map as a significant site in the nation's music history. (Photo by Bryan Huff)