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## The MiALA Fine Arts Interest Group: Making Connections Across the Mitten State

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# The MiALA Fine Arts Interest Group: Making Connections Across the Mitten State

**Michael Duffy**, Western Michigan University  
**Grace Haynes**, Michigan State University  
**Laura Thompson**, Central Michigan University

# Origins of Mi(chigan) A(cademic) L(ibrary) A(ssociation)

- Some Academic Librarians were dissatisfied with their standing in the Michigan Library Association
- Statement of Concern posted on [www.miala.org](http://www.miala.org) on May 19, 2014
- Steering Committee formed by June 2, 2014
- Kickoff Meeting on October 10, 2014 at Michigan State University

# M(usic)LA Educational Outreach Program

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- Pre-conference workshop in Collection Development at the Newport, RI Music Library Association meeting in 2008
- Presentation of session on music reference in parallel to ALA meeting in Chicago in 2013 to librarians outside of MLA

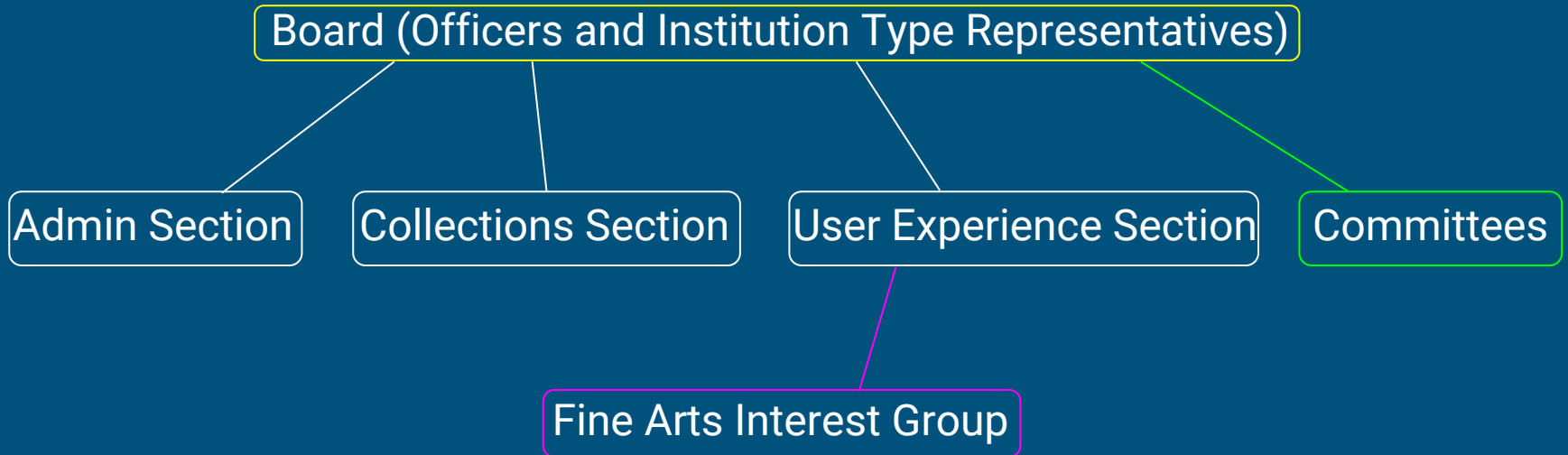
# Michigan Performing Arts Library Spaces

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# Administrative Structure of MiALA

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# NASM Accredited Institutions in Michigan

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- Albion College
- Alma College
- Andrews University
- Central Michigan University
- Cornerstone University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Grand Rapids Community College
- Grand Valley State University
- Hope College
- Michigan State University
- Northern Michigan University
- Oakland University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Spring Arbor University
- University of Michigan
- University of Michigan, Flint
- Wayne State University
- Western Michigan University
















7 views



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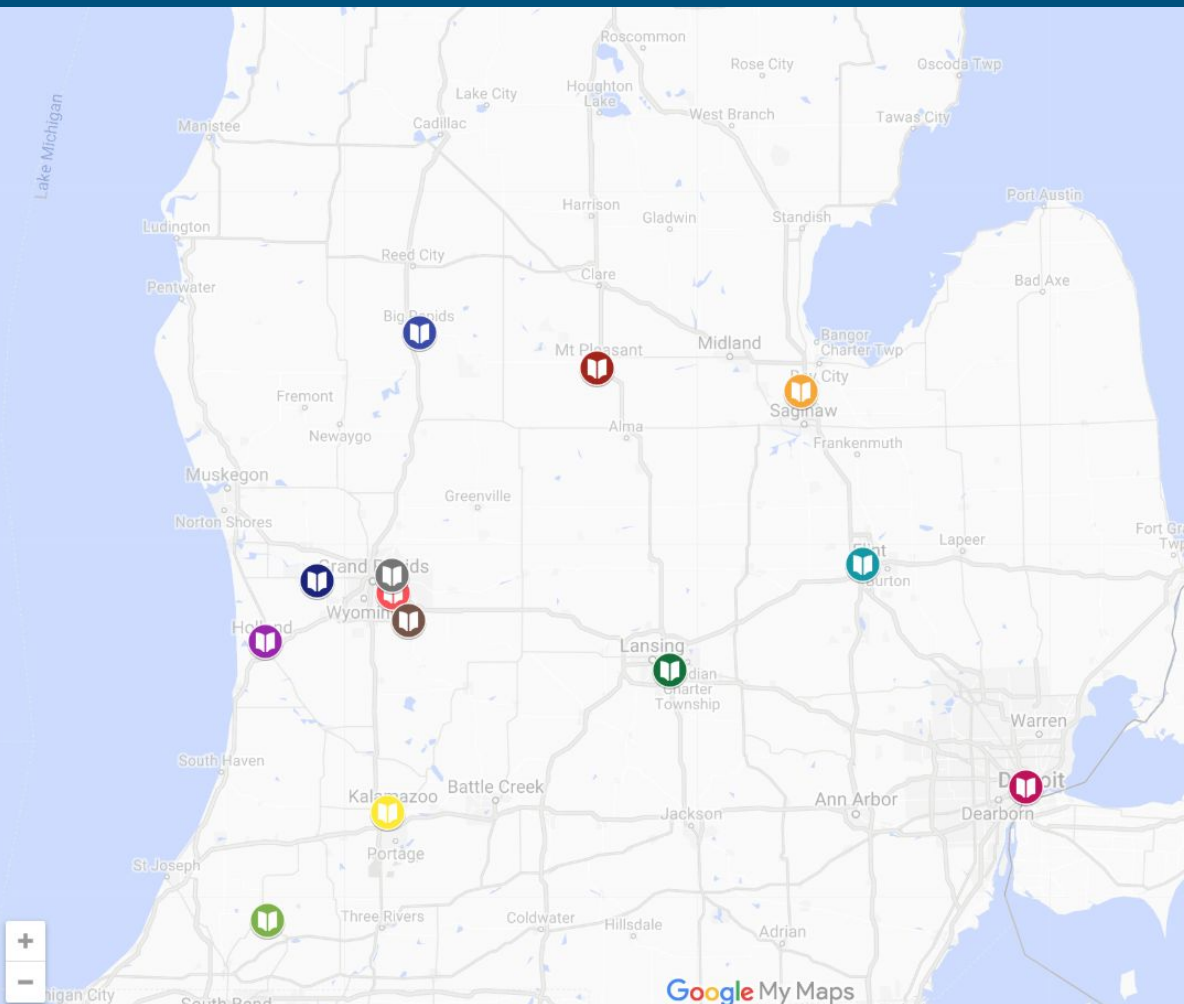


### Institutions Represented

-  Calvin College
-  Central Michigan University
-  Cornerstone University
-  Davenport University
-  Ferris State University
-  Grand Valley State University
-  Hope College
-  Kettering University
-  Michigan State University
-  Saginaw Valley State University
-  Southwest Michigan College
-  Wayne State University
-  Western Michigan University



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Music Librarian  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

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- Started in June 2017
- New to Michigan
- Transition to Librarian role
- Transition from working in branch library environment



# Joining Michigan Academic Library Association

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- New professional looking for networking and service opportunities
- Connecting with Music/Performing Arts Librarians in Michigan
- Connecting with Librarians on other topics:
  - Instruction
  - Outreach
  - Crit-lib
- Annual conference for professional development opportunities

# Fine Arts IG panel: MiALA Presentation, May 2018

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- “Something Creative Here: An Arts-Informed Discussion of Sustainability in Academic Libraries” with Jessica Hronchek (Hope College) and Kathy DeMey (Calvin College)



# Benefits of participation in the Fine Arts IG

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- Developing connections and relationships with more experienced librarians
- Learning from different types of institutions
- Meeting other new(er) professionals
- Service Opportunities



Reference/Music Librarian  
Central Michigan University  
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

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- Started in 2015
- Subject responsibilities in addition to Music: Art & Design, Fashion Merchandising & Design, Interior Design, Recreation, Parks, & Leisure
- New location, new subject areas, professional support





# Michigan Academic Library Association

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- First experience with organization included the first annual conference held at Central Michigan University, May 12-13, 2016.
- Colleagues are also very involved in the organization.
  - 2nd President
  - Board member
  - Many others are regular members



# Connecting: Local Colleagues

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- Google Discussion Group
  - “Developing a professional community” to “discuss professional issues related to music or performing arts librarianship in Michigan.”
- MiALA Interest Group
  - Became official member of MiALA to submit application with five other members for Fine Arts Interest Group
- Other Arts Librarians
  - In addition to support for music librarianship, I have been able to get feedback on working in subject areas where I lack the same in-depth subject knowledge (library instruction for Art & Design)
- Other Early Career Librarians: Collaborating
  - Opportunity to discuss early career topics

# The Fine Arts in MiALA

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- Presentation at 2018 MiALA annual meeting on art exhibition and acquisition at Central Michigan University's Park Library
  - Opportunity to work closely with Library Exhibits Coordinator
  - Opportunity to communicate with other arts libraries also interested in art exhibition and acquisition in academic libraries
    - Better general understanding of what other libraries are doing and not doing
  - Learned more about other arts library organizations
  - Representing Arts Librarianship to an audience of administrators and librarians from other disciplines and areas of expertise.
  - As a result of this presentation and work, CMU's Park Library has very recently reinstated the Library Art and Exhibits Committee



# MiALA Presentation 2018: Art in Michigan Academic Libraries



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To evaluate our art and exhibits program as compared to our peers, we sent a survey consisting of 11 questions related to art collections and exhibitions in academic libraries to a sampling of academic libraries in the U.S. and Canada. The survey was designed to gather general data, and was not meant to be comprehensive. Some of the responses will be shared in this presentation to illustrate a variety of ideas.

## Why art in a library?

Our intent is to illustrate possible answers to this question as we discuss how our art and exhibits program contributes to *sustainability and growth of art and culture in the Park Library.*

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Experiences with similar interest groups in  
other state/regional professional library  
organizations?

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# Questions?

Contact us:

- Michael Duffy ([michael.duffy@wmich.edu](mailto:michael.duffy@wmich.edu))
- Grace Haynes ([haynesq3@lib.msu.edu](mailto:haynesq3@lib.msu.edu))
- Laura Thompson ([thomp4l@cmich.edu](mailto:thomp4l@cmich.edu))

# Selected Bibliography

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