

## FAN Pass sees success in first year

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**Full text:** It just goes to show that you can never have too much of a good thing. Last September we celebrated the first year anniversary of the Fox Arts Network's FAN Pass and suggested that we would be expanding the program to another library. I am very pleased to announce that the FAN Pass is now available at the Menasha Public Library.

In September 2015, the Fox Arts Network and the attractions council at Appleton Downtown Inc., in partnership with the Appleton Public Library, began to offer free vouchers to more than 20 different arts and culture events and venues in the Fox Cities. Now this program will also be available at the Menasha Public Library. Just like the program in Appleton, library membership is required to "check out" one of the vouchers, each of which provides two free tickets or admissions to local art performances, exhibits or cultural venues. One voucher is allowed per patron, but the vouchers don't last long.

The FAN Pass vouchers vary on a monthly basis. Some enable patrons to try out a class at the Bergstrom Mahler Museum of Glass, others offer free tickets to choral, band or orchestral concerts presented by FAN members. A free CD is available in some months as are admissions to various museums. FAN members offer a variety of options to encourage trial in all art forms throughout the year.

The Menasha Public Library has been offering FAN Pass opportunities since January and reports very strong participation with all passes checked out within the first two weeks.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our library patrons to enjoy the arts. We are very grateful to the Fox Arts Network for coordinating this program," said Vickie Lenz, director of the Menasha Public Library.

Kathy Dreyer, FAN Pass Menasha coordinator, has been very encouraged by the launch of the program.

"FAN Passes are going great in Menasha. It seems like I always have a FAN Pass to put out and they go within one or two days."

An important objective of FAN is to encourage people to take advantage of the incredibly vibrant and accessible arts and culture community in the Fox Cities. The FAN pass has made local arts and attractions even more affordable.

The program has been a giant step in opening arts and culture of the Fox Cities to everyone. Many of the residents who checked out FAN passes have shared the event with a friend or family member.

Hundreds of new or previously infrequent patrons to area arts and cultural offerings illustrate the FAN Pass collaboration's success. The member organizations of the Fox Arts Network are happy to be instrumental in bringing the arts to so many. Soon we enter into our third season with even more offering and a new partner, Menasha Public Library.

Mary Ann Wepfer is the director of Fox Arts Network. FAN is a grassroots arts organization made up of nonprofit arts groups serving the Fox Cities and surrounding communities with a goal of encouraging trial in all art forms. Email foxarts

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VOICES OF THE ARTS

A community columnist from the Fox Valley arts community writes on issues, trends and observations from the arts world each Monday in Life. Today's columnist is Mary Ann Wepfer, director of the Fox Arts Network.

### Illustration

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