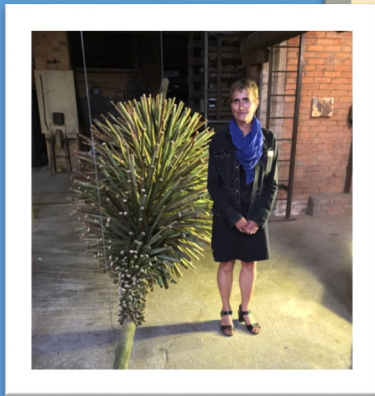




KASSEL-DANE

Sister County Partnership

Established 2007



Dane County, WI and Kassel, Germany Partnership

In 2007 Dane County entered into a cooperative agreement with Landkreis Kassel (Kassel County), Germany to form a sister county relationship. The purpose of the agreement is to exchange ideas and build economic partnerships regarding:

- Renewable energy and climate change mitigation
- Cultural exchanges
- Regional transportation systems



“Birds of Memory”, Angelica Contreras, 2022 EUARCA+ arts camp



Dane County Regional Airport Solar Array
Photo Credit: Steve Salt, Madison Gas & Electric



Kassel RegioTram



Kassel, Germany

Kassel County, with a population of approximately 236,000, has a regional transport system and is home to both the University of Kassel and the Institute for Solar Energy Technologies. The area hosts a technology-based economy, particularly traffic logistics and renewable energy. Its main industries are systems technology for photovoltaics, the manufacturers of train engines, and automotive factories for Volkswagen and Daimler-Chrysler.

In the last 16 years, both Kassel and Dane Counties have remained committed to the goals that were set forth in the 2007 cooperative agreement as demonstrated by many exchanges over the years. This timeline highlights those activities.

2007

A delegation from Dane County went to Kassel to experience and learn about Kassel's commuter rail infrastructure, solar energy initiatives, and the international *documenta* art festival.



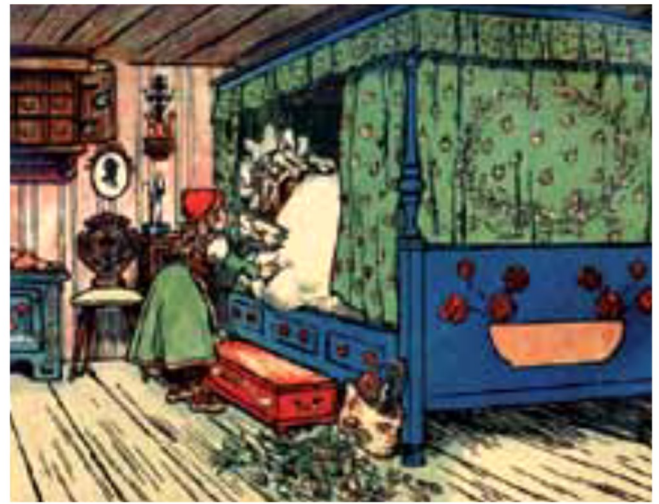
Dane County Delegation to Kassel. From left: Dane County Board Supervisor Chuck Erickson (Madison), Dane County Board Chair Scott McDonell (Madison), Kassel County Executive Uwe Schmidt, Dane County Board Supervisor Mark Opitz (Middleton) and Dane County Supervisor Donna Vogel (Stoughton)

2008

Representatives from Landkreis Kassel came to Dane County to discuss water resource management, visit agri-businesses, tour an organic farm, and attend a performance and a Madison Mallards baseball game.

2010

Kassel County's Fine Arts curator and local officials brought a Brothers Grimm themed exhibition, "Once Upon a Time..." to the Dane County Regional Airport Terminal. On display for the first time in North America, it also represents the start of the Kassel-Dane visual cultural exchange. Copies of the artwork remain on display in the Office of the Dane County Board of Supervisors.



2012

Launched in 1955 to reintroduce Germans to the international cultural scene following World War II, *documenta* is now the world's largest modern art presentation and is held every five years. In part, this festival was created to demonstrate to the world that Germany had extinguished its Nazi ties by focusing on modern art, which had been suppressed under Nazi domination.



Michael Velliquette
Photo credit to Devin Lunsford



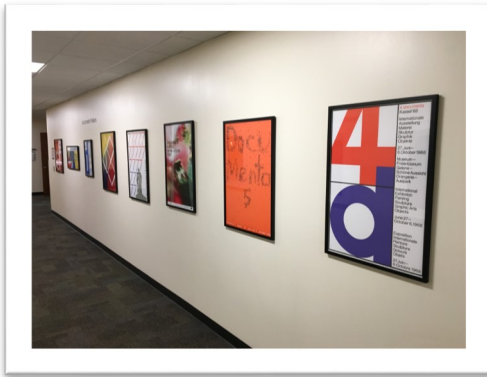
"Power Structure"
Photo courtesy of Michael Velliquette

Artist Michael Velliquette was the first artist selected to represent Dane County at *documenta*. His project, entitled *Power Structure*, was a 12-foot-tall mixed-media sculpture, examining power and responsibility in the built form.

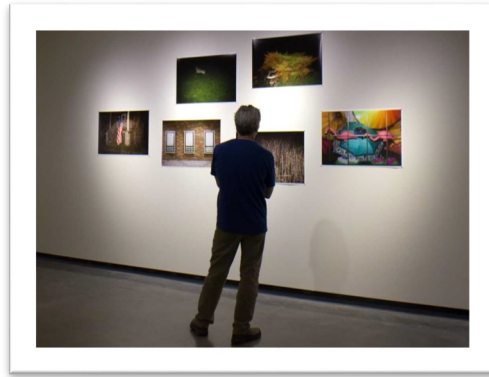
2014

In June, Dane County welcomed Kassel photographer Christian Schauderna as an Artist-In-Residence at Edgewood College. The Kassel-Dane Task Force selected the theme “Technology and Art” for this project.

Schauderna created new works in the Edgewood College Gallery, which were given jointly to Edgewood College and Dane County. His three photos elevate the banal objects of his daily surroundings into formal still lifes. In addition to Schauderna’s photographs, Kassel County donated a complete set of *documenta* posters from 1955-2012 to Edgewood College.



documenta poster exhibit, Edgewood College, Madison, Wisconsin



View of the Edgewood College Gallery, The Stream



Christian Schauderna

2015

During the summer of 2015, a Dane County chamber music ensemble, *con vivo!*, traveled to Kassel to participate in the Kultursommer NordHessen Arts Festival, then performed other concerts in the Kassel area.



con vivo!, chamber music ensemble from Madison and Dane County



con vivo! in Landkreis Kassel

2016

The Edgar Knecht Trio made its first visit to Dane County in October of 2016, performing three concerts, including performances with the chamber music group *con vivo!* and the Madison College Big Band. Members include Edgar Knecht, Rolf Denecke, and Toby Schulte.



The Edgar Knecht Trio performed with the Madison College Big Band at the Mitby Theatre, Madison College Truax Campus



The Edgar Knecht Trio in front of the men's clothing store Jazzman, State Street, Madison

2017

In August of 2017, Dane County artists Brenda Baker and Jennika Bastian attended *documenta 14* in Kassel and participated in the EUARCA+ arts camp in Sensenstein. Dane County celebrated *documenta 14* by featuring the only known complete collection of advertising posters from the storied German art show.

In June, the Madison College Big Band performed in Kassel with the Edgar Knecht Trio in Rüsselsheim (in Hessen, Wisconsin's sister state in Germany) .



Jennika Bastian paints about fairy tales, a fitting theme in the land of fairytales and origin of the Brothers Grimm, EUARCA+



Brenda Baker and her sculpture made with Kassel's most invasive plant species, Japanese Knotwood, at EUARCA + 2017



Lo Marie



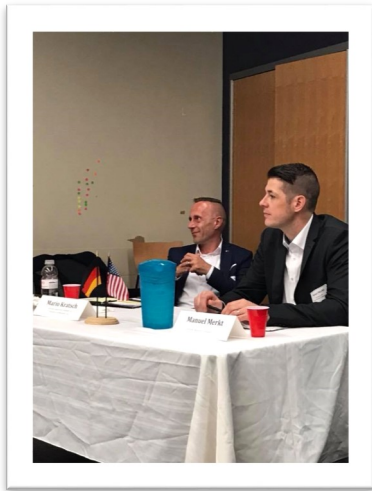
Mandell Mathis



Matt Covert

2018

In May, Kassel-Dane hosted a business and networking event discussing the benefits of German style apprenticeship programs. The event included a presentation by speaker Mario Kratsch, Vice President of the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest and head of the Industry Consortium for Advanced Technical Training Apprenticeship Program, Germany's leading international training program for manufacturing companies. Manuel Merkt, president and COO of Hermle Machine Company and one of their apprentices discussed their experiences.



Mario Kratsch and Manuel Merkt



Mario Kratsch, Vice President of the German American Chamber of Commerce, presents.

In August, Dane County musicians from the Ancora String Quartet went on their first overseas tour to Germany and performed at various venues, including in Kassel County. Like Dane County, Kassel is a place with a vibrant arts community and a passion for classical music.



The Ancora String Quartet and mezzo-soprano Melinda Paulsen in Germany

2019

In September, the Edgar Knecht Trio returned to Dane County. During their visit, the Trio's leader Edgar Knecht, displayed his virtuosity on the piano, blending Teutonic folk songs, jazz, and world music, reviving a seemingly lost musical tradition. While here, they spoke to students at Stoughton and Oregon High Schools, performed at the Stoughton Opera House, with the Madison College Big Band, and with local chamber music group *con vivo!*



Drummer Toby Schulte



Roe Parker and Charles James



Sun Prairie High School clinic with student jazz musicians

2022

Over many years, Kassel County has invited artists from its many international sister jurisdictions to participate in residencies, creating temporary public artworks during *documenta*. In August of 2022, Dane County artists Angelica Contreras and Helen Hawley attended *documenta 15* and participated in the EUARCA+ arts camp located in the city of Sensenstein.



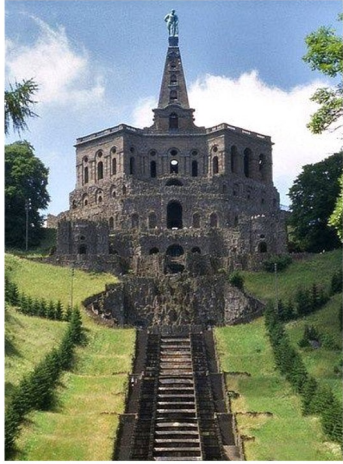
Helen Hawley found inspiration for her work in the natural beauty of Kassel



Participants of EUARCA+ 2022



Angelica Contreras displays a painting she completed during the arts camp



Hercules Monument
Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe, Kassel



con vivo! at Hercules Monument, Bergpark
Wilhelmshöhe, Kassel, July 2015



Bass player Rolf Denecke in front of the
Stoughton Opera House, Sept. 2016



The Edgar Knecht Trio rehearsing at Madison College
October 2016



Commemorating German Unification Day
and German-American Friendship Day by
flying the German Flag outside of the City
-County Building, October 2020.

The Kassel-Dane Sister County Partnership Timeline is dedicated to Marika Fischer-Hoyt, a member of the Madison Symphony Orchestra and co-founder of the Ancora String Quartet who visited Kassel in 2018.

Her music lives on in our hearts and memories.



Photo courtesy of Ancora String Quartet
<https://ancoraquartet.com/about-us/>

For more information about the Dane County—Kassel Sister County partnership,
please contact the Office of the Dane County Board of Supervisors (608) 266-5758 or visit our webpage at
<https://board.countyofdane.com/board-initiatives/sister-county/Kassel-Dane-Sister-County-Partnership>

