

HEATHER HARP

🎨 Artist • Muralist • Designer • Musician • Community Builder

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CREATIVE PROFILE

Color is my language, and connection is my medium.

I am a painter, designer, and musician who builds experiences that unite art, community, and empowerment. With over 30 years of creative practice—and two decades of entrepreneurship and leadership—I transform spaces and stories through art that inspires joy, belonging, and renewal.

Founder of **Wide Tide Designs**, a women-led art and design studio based in Missoula, I bring artistry, heart, and strategy together—infusing every mural, painting, and performance with purpose.

SELECTED CREATIVE WORKS & PROJECTS

Murals & Design

Phillips & Hawthorne Street & Lowell School Mural Project (2025) — *Missoula, MT*

- Designed and led a large-scale community mural focused on color, safety, and togetherness.
- Coordinated 112 participants—including 63 fifth-grade students and Kiwanis Club members—on this AARP Livable Communities project.
- Transformed a high-traffic intersection into a radiant public landmark celebrating creativity and collaboration.

Additional Murals (2025):

Created nine custom murals across diverse environments—home gyms, bedrooms, alleyways, garages, and even the ceiling of a sailboat—each tailored to the spirit of its space.

Interior & Exterior Painting (2024–2025):

Blended artistic technique with design principles to reimagine more than 15 homes and businesses through color consultation, refinishing, and wall artistry.

Wide Tide Designs (2024–Present)

Founded a multi-generational, women-led art and design studio dedicated to creative empowerment, color education, and bespoke interior artistry.

Music & Performance

- *Funk It Coffee & Thrift* – Solo café piano performance (2025)
- *Listening Hat Recordings* – Recorded “Wonder” & “Lyra’s Sky” on vinyl (2024)
- *abunDANCE* at Westside Theater – Dancer in “Brave” and “Jazz!” (2025)

- *Dancing with the Arts Missoula's Stars* – Onstage dancer & fundraiser (2024)
 - *University of Montana* – “Songs for the Birds” solo concert (2021)
 - *First Night Missoula* – “Ode to Theories” piano performance (2020)
 - *Palmerston North, NZ* – “Kia Oro” performance at Mayor’s Residence (2019)
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Textile & Fiber Art

- *“Feltings & Feelings”* — Immersive art show combining live piano, felting, and sewing instruction (2023)
 - *“Home”* — Finalist, Fiber Arts Category, Missoula County Fair (2023)
 - *“Galactic”* — Finalist, Hand Quilts Category, Missoula County Fair (2022)
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COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP

Executive Director — Habitat for Humanity of Missoula (2020–2023)

- Expanded the organization’s budget from **\$500K to \$1.7M** and assets from **\$2.2M to \$4.4M**.
- Raised **\$3M+ in combined grants, donations, and land contributions**.
- Advocated for equitable housing policies while growing capacity for sustainable construction.

City Councilor — Missoula Ward 3 (2018–2021)

- Elected on a platform of creativity, housing, and climate action.
- Founded the **Local Government Citizens Academy** to connect people with civic life.
- Championed a resolution incentivizing contractors to hire apprentices.

Community Leadership:

- Longtime member, Past President, Chair, Kiwanis Club of Missoula (2002–Present)
 - Past President, *Poverello Center & Missoula Area Youth Hockey Association*
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EARLIER CAREER

Financial Adviser (1995–2017) — Managed up to **\$36M in assets**, supporting families and businesses with long-term financial and estate planning. Known for human-centered advising and integrity-based leadership.

EDUCATION & AWARDS

MBA, Business Administration — Western Governors University, 2020

BA, Fine Arts, Cum Laude — Beloit College, 1995

Coleman Foundation Entrepreneurship Grant — 1991 & 1993