

Always

worth the effort

DEAR VERMONT ARTS COUNCIL:

“It’s bad when a circus guy runs out of hyperbole. I keep looking for the right words for the grant we received: spectacular, astounding, inspiring, motivating, timely, generous, and kind. We try hard to provide programs that uplift people’s spirits, to remind people what is best about human nature. The grant is a real model for us, reinforcing that people are generous at heart. In return, I promise your bigheartedness will feed the zany, poignant, amazing, heartwarming programs that bring a tear to your eye and a laugh to your belly.”

Ed LeClair
Executive Director
Circus Smirkus

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VERMONT
ARTS
COUNCIL

136 State Street • Montpelier, Vermont 05633-6001



Images: Top: Sam Johnson performing at Governor's Award honoring Rob Mermin, Bottom: Aerial artist from Nimble Arts

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VERMONT
ARTS
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



JULY 1, 2008 - JUNE 30, 2009

inspiring
a creative state

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ARTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

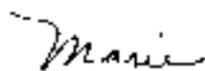
To the Members of the Vermont Arts Council:

I think we can all agree that the economic rollercoaster we've been riding for the past year hasn't been a lot of fun - not for government, not for business, foundations, not-for-profits or individual citizens. However, I am immensely proud of what the Vermont Arts Council has accomplished despite reductions in funding and staff. Reaffirming our strategic plan, examining and improving our internal processes and extending our partnerships has enabled the Arts Council to continue to provide a high level of support to artists, community arts organizations and arts education programs. Here are the highlights:

- organized, with Vermont artists, an art auction that raised more than \$10,000 for the Vermont Foodbank
- co-produced a statewide tour of the State's Art Collection
- partnered with Lyman Orton and associates and awarded more than \$250,000 in commissions to 10 artists to reflect on the findings of the Council on the Future of Vermont's final report (Art of Action)
- developed and delivered statewide projects at the behest of the National Endowment for the Arts (Poetry Out Loud and The Big Read)
- set-up an economic stimulus program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support jobs in the arts - whose impact will be felt in more than 30 communities across the state
- created a Legislative Arts Caucus consisting of more than 40 members of the House and Senate
- and closed out the year by bringing nearly 2000 puzzle pieces decorated by Vermonters, New Yorkers, and Quebecois together at puzzlePALOOZA during the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration.

None of this could have happened without the support of our funders and our talented, energetic and dedicated staff and board members who've worked tirelessly to meet our commitments to artists, arts organizations and our communities.

It was a year to be proud of - and it did turn out to be fun - the photos in this report demonstrate that. With your continued support, we can all work together to inspire a creative state.



Marie Houghton
Chair

The Vermont Arts Council was founded in 1964 on a simple and powerful premise: that the arts enrich lives, expand minds and form a vital thread in the fabric of Vermont community life.

In keeping with its community focus, the Council is a grassroots organization with trustees from every region of the state. They are elected from and by its membership. It is the only not-for-profit state arts agency in the nation and as such it is uniquely qualified to unite both public and private resources to serve its mission:

To advance and preserve the arts at the center of Vermont communities.

The Council accomplishes its mission by pursuing the following goals:

- Increasing opportunities for everyone in Vermont to experience and/or participate in the arts.
- Demonstrating and promoting the positive benefits of investing in Vermont communities through the arts.
- Expanding and sustaining the capacity of the Vermont Arts Council to serve its constituencies.

The Council's funding comes from the State of Vermont, the National Endowment for the Arts, members and other private contributors.



inspiring
a creative state

The mission of the Vermont Arts Council is to advance and preserve the arts at the center of Vermont communities.



Images: Front cover: Performers in New England Youth Theatre's Theatre Adventure Program

Above: 1. Student at St. Johnsbury Academy 2. Rivers Arts Head Start Program 3. Joseph Campanella Cleary in his studio

www.vermontartscouncil.org

Creation

GRANTS

Our Creation Grants help artists grow...

Creation grants support the creation or commission of new work by Vermont artists. Artists often say that the most important thing these grants provide is time...time to create, time to hone their skills and time to reach out to their audience. Artist Development Grants support professional growth opportunities such as attending conferences or developing a business plan.

As an architect, **Karolina Kawiaka** of White River Jct. designs zero-energy-use houses. As a sculptor, she creates work that educates and promotes alternative energy. In "Forces of Nature" Kawiaka created two sculptures that reveal



the power of the sun and wind. "Dervish" is a gauzy cloth structure that levitates and floats on the air currents caused by heat rising through a solar chimney. The rhythmic rise and fall of the fabric makes the air flow visible and is reminiscent of the way a jellyfish moves. "Light and Wall" is constructed of rigid translucent and transparent parts lit by colorful solar-powered LED lights. It demonstrates how light from the sun can be used as a sculptural element. "I hope to elegantly communicate the fact that energy is free all around us," says Karolina,

"and it can be used to beautiful effect."

The brainchild of **Tim Tavcar** of Montpelier, WordStage Vermont is a Chamber Music Readers Theater that brings history and literature to life. Performances incorporate letters, diaries, recorded conversations and contemporary chronicles with musical compositions to illuminate characters in history, literature and

the performing arts. Last season's seven offerings spanned the eras. "Flower and Hawk" adapted the writings of Eleanor of Aquitaine and songs of the Troubadours of Poitiers to chronicle the tough queen who led medieval England and France. "Mozart and His

Woman" was adapted from the book of the same name and the letters and diaries of Mozart, his sister Nannerl, his wife Constanze, and his musical colleagues of the late 1700s. "Speak Low" is a musical journey from Berlin to Broadway through the correspondence and music of Kurt Weill and his wife, Lotte Lenya. Tavcar says grant funding was vital to being able to launch this project. "It allows artists more time for their individual artistic expressions, apart from other work they may have to do on a daily basis for self-sustainability."



GRANT PROFILE

ANAÏS MITCHELL
Plainfield, Vermont

An old legend gets a new twist...

Singer-songwriter **Anaïs Mitchell** was drawn to the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice because "the hero is a very powerful musician who can battle the powers-that-be with his songs." HADESTOWN is her original folk opera based on the Greek tragedy. The show first toured in Vermont and Massachusetts in 2007. In 2009 she received a grant to produce an orchestral arrangement of the original score called "The Music of HADESTOWN." Mitchell traveled to Eau Claire, WI and New Orleans to record guest performers Justin Vernon (Orpheus), Greg Brown (Hades), and Ani DiFranco (Hades' wife, Persephone). The ambitious and imaginative retelling of the fateful love story has been a labor of love for Mitchell. "Orpheus truly believes that if he can just make beautiful enough music, maybe he can reach somebody," she says. "I think, as artists, that's the dream: If you can just create something beautiful enough, you can move the world."

www.anaismitchell.com

Images: Left inset: Tim Tavcar, photo by Robert Lizzari, Jr
Right: Anaïs Mitchell recording HADESTOWN

CIRCUS SMIRKUS

Greensboro, Vermont

Breaking it down circus style...

Here's a Circus Secret: when you're trying something new, like learning how to juggle, break it down into smaller steps. First try it with one ball, then two, before going for three. Guess what? This approach is not only fun to learn but also transferable to any learning situation. Last winter Circus Smirkus conducted week-long residencies in 16 schools to teach learning strategies and make school fun. The goal was to use the excitement of circus arts to captivate students' attention and provide teachers with tools for meeting Vermont State Education Standards. The chosen schools are among Vermont's most rural, where cultural activities are few and far between and 40% or more students receive free or reduced price lunches. Lessons like Try, Try Again, Slow Down, and Break It Into Smaller Parts became exciting learning experiences when taught through circus skills like acrobatics, balance, stilt walking and hoola-hoops. This is one class where 'clowning around' is definitely allowed.

www.smirkus.org

*Images: Right: Students in Circus Smirkus residencies
Right inset: Vergennes Union Elementary School students performing "The Hobbit"*



Arts Learning GRANTS

Our Arts Learning Grants inspire creative learning...

Arts Learning Grants bring artists into schools for hands-on experiences in the arts. Funding is also available to build the creative skills of teachers and the teaching skills of artists.

"I never thought about it before. I can write many poems, and then put them together to become a little book," said Rice Ming Fan, an ESL student at **St. Johnsbury Academy**.

"This is such an amazing thing for me." Rice participated in a poetry and music residency with poet Verandah Porche. The participants, all 80 of whom were from other countries, created and preserved personal stories in poetry. These were

then set to music and performed in a public event at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. Robyn Greenstone, project coordinator, said "Underlying tensions exist between cultures; this residency revealed universal concerns and the beauty of each individual."

Actor/director Peter Gould led seniors at **North Country Union High School** in Newport through the process of writing one act plays. His workshops culminated with the performance

of nine student-created works, three of which will be produced and performed by students next year. English Teacher Kiah Caldwell said she benefited from the experience as well. "Peter used physical activities...to teach new concepts and reinforce learning. This is something I will be incorporating into my own teaching on a regular basis."



Some students liked the costumes best; others liked the elf dance or the chance to be on stage. But every student at **Vergennes Union Elementary School** agreed that the all-school production of "The Hobbit" was a great experience.

Under the direction of Don Wright of The Very Merry Theater, students in grades K-6 helped prepare for the two public performances. In addition to learning important theater skills, students learned some valuable life lessons. One 6th grader said, "I learned that cooperation and teamwork are some of the most important parts of a play," while a 2nd grader said, "I learned that you've got to stay with your partner when you rescue dwarfs."

Community GRANTS

Our Community Grants build connections...

The Community Grants program funds projects in venues ranging from sidewalks to symphony halls and everywhere in between. The scale and type of presentations differ, but all create and celebrate communities through the arts.

Theatre Adventure Program (TAP) gives people with disabilities a place in the footlights.

Families First of Wilmington and **New England Youth Theatre in Brattleboro** have created a theater program in which the majority of participants have disabilities and the minority are 'typically developing.' This unique model of inclusion



allows students with disabilities to dictate the pace and structure of the class. Youth and adults who would otherwise never find their way onto a stage, much less be cast in leading roles, are doing just that. Some use wheelchairs for mobility and some use technology to support their communication skills. Most participate with a caregiver who helps guide the actors through warm-up exercises, singing, creative movement, pantomime, and story development. Performances have included "Snow White" and "The Best of Peter Pan." Disabilities Specialist

Darlene Jenson says, "the performances are opportunities for students to work together to create something larger than themselves and a chance to showcase their abilities, talents and skills."

The **Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival** opened at the Irasburg Town Hall with one of the oldest works on the program, "Sonata No. 2 for Violin and Piano" by Charles Ives. When asked why she chose that particular piece, Festival Director Sara Doncaster said, "Who else would you perform in a beautiful turn-of-the-century hall with a slightly out-of-tune piano?" For

16 years the Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival has presented modern chamber and vocal music in the Northeast Kingdom. The world-class performers are chosen based on their experience collaborating with composers and their dedication to bringing contemporary music to a wider audience. Doncaster says, "I guarantee that you will hear something you've never heard before, something surprising, and moving, and inspiring...the classics before they become classics."



GRANT PROFILE

THE MENTOR CONNECTOR

Rutland, Vermont

It's all about girl power...

The **Mentor Connector** in Rutland County has a special program that connects girls who have a strong interest in art but limited means, with adult artists. Over the past year, girls ages 10-14 have been meeting with female visual artists to visit galleries and museums, study art, and create work for an exhibit. They learned about line, texture, color, form and design, and created collages, drawings, paintings and sculptures. All of the participants, both mentors and mentees, have signed up for next year's program. It is unlikely that these relationships would have formed without the help of the Mentor Connector. The girls wouldn't have access to professional artists or the kind of in-depth arts experience the program provides, and the artists would not have been approached to mentor a child. "We all have personal memories of how art improved and enhanced our childhood," said one artist. "This program gives us a chance to show how to produce beautiful objects that will brighten their world."

www.mentorconnector.com

Images: Left inset: Student in New England Youth Theatre's Theatre Adventure Program

Left: Artwork from Mentor Connector program

GRANT PROFILE

CHARLES B. DANFORTH LIBRARY

Barnard, Vermont

*Stay, even when
you have to “go”...*

Imagine the Saturday morning children's story hour at the **Charles B. Danforth Library in Barnard**: a semi-circle of attentive preschoolers spellbound by the day's tale when suddenly one has an urgent call of nature. Hold everything--literally. There's no potty. Built in 1927, the library has continually provided community programs, book clubs, guest speakers and storytellers, all without the convenience of a restroom. A cultural facilities grant is changing that. Construction of an accessible bathroom will allow the library to expand its programs to include activities like painting (washing hands and rinsing brushes), movies (two hours can be a long time to wait) and even a snack service (running water means coffee and tea). Trustee and librarian Melissa Strayton says, "A working bathroom will have an immediate effect on the comfort of library staff and patrons and the ability to expand gatherings and programs in the quaint and cozy space."

Images: Right Inset: St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Right: Exterior and interior of the Charles B. Danforth Library



Cultural | GRANTS

Cultural Facilities Grants *make the arts accessible in communities....*

The Cultural Facilities Grant Program helps improve, revive or refurbish historic Vermont buildings as community and cultural gathering places. The program is a partnership between the Arts Council, the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance, the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation and the Vermont Historical Society.

The voices of Sarah Bernhardt, Groucho Marx and others still echo in **Rutland's Paramount Theatre**. These icons of the silver screen filled the theater during its 44-year run as a movie house. In 1999, a \$3.5 million renovation restored the 850-seat theater to its 1930's grandeur and allowed the return of music and theater performances. A cultural facilities grant will bring back the big screen but with state-of-the-art digital projection, Dolby sound system and a glass-beaded screen. Paramount Director Bruce Bouchard looks forward to welcoming new and long-lost audiences to the theater. "It will be a theater for the entire community...a perfect compliment to our live performance offerings."



Both floors of the **St. Johnsbury Athenaeum** are adorned with art, from "The Song of Hiawatha" mural in the children's reading room to Albert Bierstadt's "Domes of Yosemite" in the center of the gallery. "And everywhere there is art, there is the need for conservation and protection from harmful UV light," says

Athenaeum director Irwin Gelber. The Athenaeum houses the town library and a collection of priceless 19th-century paintings, sculptures and rare books. A cultural facilities grant has allowed it to install an interior UV-filtering system on the interior of all windows. The system will also provide enhanced energy

efficiency and climate control. "Whether for summer art students engaged in a tour of Hudson River paintings, or for literary enthusiasts gathered on a cold winter night, this project will keep them comfortable, and will allow the art to be cherished for generations," says Gelber.



IN 2007-2008, THE COUNCIL ON THE FUTURE OF VERMONT HOSTED A SERIES OF FORUMS TO IDENTIFY VERMONTERS' VALUES, CONCERNS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE STATE. SEVERAL DISTINCT THEMES EMERGED INCLUDING ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES, SPECIFICALLY THOSE WITH THE POTENTIAL TO UNDERMINE TRADITIONAL LAND USE PATTERNS, THE ECONOMY, AND THE STRENGTH AND UNITY OF COMMUNITIES.



Shaping Vermont's Future Through Art

Vermont philanthropist and art collector Lyman Orton and Arts Council Executive Director Alex Aldrich were paying close attention to the issues emerging from the Council on the Future of Vermont's (CFV's) work and the implications for Vermont communities. The two began toying with the idea of challenging artists to think creatively about these issues and create work that broadens the conversation beyond the written and spoken word. "Alex and I thought that if we could unite a group of today's artists with a broad mission of addressing the challenges we face, an interesting dialogue could result," Orton said.

Over the next several months, THE ART OF ACTION: Shaping Vermont's Future Through Art developed as a public/private partnership between Orton and the Vermont Arts Council. 300 artists from 26 states and three foreign countries applied for the project and ten were chosen. Their task was to create two-dimensional works of art that tackle the issues identified by the CFV. Their commissions, averaging \$25,000, are among the largest awards the Arts Council has given to individual artists.

Each artist chose to tackle a different subject. Curtis Hale of Danville is exploring the aesthetic implications of constructing bridges, transmission towers, and wind turbines. Janet McKenzie of Island Pond is documenting the evolving diversity of Vermont's population including

recent immigrants and Vermont-born minorities. Phillip Godenschwager of Randolph examines development issues, and Kathleen Kolb of Lincoln is looking at logging and the forest landscape.

From September 2009 through June 2010, the completed work, exceeding 100 pieces, will travel to 24 Vermont communities. Some will be exhibited in non-traditional arts venues such as storefronts, car dealerships, town halls and community centers, while others will be in galleries and museums. Senator Patrick Leahy will host an exhibit in the Russell Senate Office Building Rotunda in Washington, DC in April 2010. The project will culminate with a live auction at Main Street Landing's Performing Arts Center in Burlington on July 17, 2010.

In addition to inspiring dialogue and citizen action around the issues, the project has a broader aim: to expand the national market for Vermont's creative and entrepreneurial artists. Orton maintains that outside the state people primarily envision Vermont art as pastoral mountains and maple trees. He hopes this project will ultimately showcase the heart of what makes the state unique. "I think it's our creativity. We have a history of firsts...of innovation. We'd like to reinvigorate that quality."

ART OF ACTION SEMI-FINALISTS

Each semi-finalist and finalist received \$2,500 to support research and proposal development.

- MARIELLA BISSON, Stone Ridge, NY
- COLIN BRANT, North Bennington
- THOMAS DEININGER, Bristol
- CLAIR DUNN, Fairfax
- DAVID GUINN, Philadelphia
- CHARLES HUNTER, Bellows Falls
- KAROLINA KAWIAKA, White River Junction
- DAVID KEARNS, Johnson
- ELIZABETH TORAK, Pawlet
- DANA WIGDOR, Brattleboro

ART OF ACTION FINALISTS

- SUSAN ABBOTT, Marshfield\$25,000
- GAIL CHANDLER BOYAJIAN, Cambridge, MA\$25,000
- DAVID BREWSTER, Halifax\$20,000
- ANNEMIE CURLIN, Charlotte\$15,000
- PHILLIP GODENSCHWAGER, Randolph\$25,000
- CURTIS HALE, Danville.....\$25,000
- VALERIE HIRD, Burlington\$29,000
- KATHLEEN KOLB, Lincoln\$25,000
- JANET MCKENZIE, Island Pond\$25,000
- JOHN MILLER, Coventry\$10,000



AMERICAN MASTERPIECES

American Masterpieces is a grant program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Community organizations can receive funding for performances and workshops featuring artists whose work celebrates Vermont's rich cultural heritage and represents centuries-old traditions that are native to this region or are rooted in the family and community traditions of Vermont's European settlers. 2009 brought the 400th anniversary commemoration of Samuel de Champlain's arrival at the lake that now bears his name. Many communities received grants to include artists from the American Masterpieces roster in their celebrations.



The Burlington Irish Heritage Festival presented Celtic music from Vermont's renowned MacArthur and Flanders collections, as well as original compositions by **Atlantic Crossing**. Lothrop Elementary School in Pittsford and Leicester Central School both hired artisan **Judy Dow** for multi-day residencies. She taught workshops on

Abenaki basketmaking and educated students about life in Vermont before the arrival of Europeans. Students at Harwood Union High School in Duxbury wrote the grant application and created a program featuring **Jeremiah McLane** and **Pete Sutherland**. The two were joined by **Karen Sutherland** for a performance at the Vergennes Opera House "Veillee." The evening included a traditional French-Canadian supper dance workshop. **Michèle Choinière** took to the stage in performances at the Flynn Center in Burlington and at the two-day St. Albans Franco-American Heritage Festival.

The Burlington International Waterfront Festival received a special allocation to support the 12-day extravaganza. The Champlain Stage in City Hall Park hosted daily concerts of Vermont artists including The Beaudoin Project, Counterpoint, Michèle Choinière, Jeremiah McLane, Peter Sutherland, Peter Burns, Atlantic Crossing, and Tim Jennings.

Local Arts

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

A group of organizations exist at the heart of Vermont's community programs that the Arts Council refers to as our Local Arts Partners. These core institutions focus on programs and collaborations that cultivate and sustain the arts in their respective communities. While each approaches this goal in different ways, their common vision is to "inspire a creative state." Here are some examples of how these organizations serve their respective communities:

The year-round, weekly Farmers and Artisan Market at the **River Arts** facility in Morrisville is one example of how **River Arts** views its role in workforce development, incubating new small businesses and supporting local interests in the community.

Burlington's **Flynn Center for the Performing Arts** has created Words Come Alive! projects in Highgate, Hinesburg and Burlington which offer a successful, affordable model for arts integration in rural educational settings.

A partnership among **Pentangle Council on the Arts**, Woodstock High School, and the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park gives students a deeper understanding of

Woodstock's place in history, especially as it relates to the Civil War.

Burlington City Arts is at the hub of a city-wide renaissance in the arts. Its Firehouse Gallery provides studio and exhibition space and is one of the few Vermont institutions that showcases large-scale contemporary art.

Vermont Arts Exchange in No. Bennington partners with area social service agencies to engage 'at-risk' youth and their families in programs and services that provide creative and positive outlets for individual expression.



VSA Arts of Vermont provides professional development workshops for artists with disabilities to help further their careers. Cultural access programs help teaching artists and cultural organizations include people with disabilities in their classes, performances and audiences.

Rockingham Arts & Museum Project (RAMP) in Bellows Falls serves as a bridge between artists and the community, actively promoting the essential role artists play in cultural, social and economic community development.

ART fits VERMONT

A STATEWIDE COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT THAT'S GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS

When the Arts Council launched Palettes of Vermont in January 2006, it couldn't have foreseen its impact. The statistics alone were impressive: nearly 40,000 Vermonters (6% of the population) took part, representing more than 150 organizations and 145 schools from every corner of the state.

Beyond the body of work that was created, the real significance of the project was the number of community connections that were made. It brought people, communities and the entire state together through a shared artistic experience. It uncovered a need for creative expression and the desire to be part of something larger than oneself.

The popularity of the project challenged the Arts Council to find ways to build on the relationships that resulted from the Palettes project. After much deliberation, puzzle pieces were chosen to symbolize the connections people make through communities and art.

Art Fits Vermont launched in April 2008. Funding from corporate sponsors and partnerships with the VT Department of Tourism and Marketing and the Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association allowed the Arts Council to distribute 10,000 wood and 50,000 paper puzzle pieces to individuals, arts organizations, community groups and schools across the state.

The majority of organizations that took part were not arts agencies or galleries, but community

groups such as Chambers of Commerce, historical societies, libraries, senior centers, and recreation departments. At Fletcher Allen Health Center in Burlington, 38 departments created and joined the 15" puzzle pieces to illustrate how each area plays an important role in patient care. One hundred community members from Springfield used puzzle pieces to create a mural memorializing the 112-year-old Park Street School. And at the Dale

Correctional Facility in Waterbury, incarcerated mothers and their children created pieces to symbolize that despite their physical separation, their lives are still connected.

Some detractors have questioned whether Art Fits Vermont has fostered artist development or the growth of ap-

preciative art audiences. Others accused the Council of sacrificing artistic standards in order to appeal to the greatest number of people. Arts Council Executive Director Alex Aldrich responds by saying, "Palettes of Vermont and Art Fits Vermont have dramatically increased the number of people who are no longer shy about expressing their interest in the arts. These projects are audience-building, inclusive, and expand the universe of people who participate in the arts. They are an extension of, not a replacement for, the programs and services we provide that celebrate and honor artistic quality."

Inset: Girl decorating puzzle piece at Art Fits Vermont event



STAFF

Alexander (Alex) L. Aldrich
Executive Director

Michele Bailey
Program Director
504/ADA Accessibility Coordinator

Marie Bernier
Executive Assistant

Elaine Dufresne
Director of Administration

Lindsey Harty Calson
Development Associate
Sculpture Garden and Spotlight Gallery Curator

Lori Hayer
Fiscal and Technology Assistant

Susan McDowell
Program Assistant

Jen Pelletier
Technology Projects Manager

Sonia Rae
Community Programs Manager

Stacy Raphael
Education Programs Manager

Diane Manion Scolaro
Development and Communications Director

John Zwick
Art of Action Project Director

EMPLOYEES WHO SERVED IN THE PAST YEAR:

Danielle Baroudi
Summer Office Clerk

Diane Zeigler
Technology Projects Manager

TRUSTEES WHO SERVED IN THE PAST YEAR:

Carolyn (Sam) Chandler
Fair Haven

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Montpelier

Alison Clarkson
Woodstock

Brian Cosgrove
Keene, NH

Jay Hathaway
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Nancy Beck Hoggson
Norwich

Marie Houghton (Chair)
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Margaret (Peggy) Lampe Kannenstine
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Warren Kimble
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Burlington

Greg Worden (2nd Vice Chair)
Brattleboro

Governor James H. Douglas (Ex-Officio)

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council
.org



Grants

In FY09, the Vermont Arts Council awarded 206 grants totaling \$841,030 to individual artists, arts organizations, schools, community groups and through various partnerships. Grants help support the creation of new work, the presentation of cultural events and opportunities for creative learning for students of all ages. All grants must be matched dollar for dollar with funding from other sources. Because the application process is rigorous and grants are awarded through a competitive peer review, receiving one not only provides financial support but also valuable recognition and credibility.

The Arts Council encourages you to seek out grant recipients in your community and to support their efforts.

Awards

"When I started out, some people called me an idealist, a pie-in-the-sky kind-of-guy," said **Rob Mermin**, founder of Circus Smirkus and recipient of the 2008 **Governor's Award for Excellence** in the Arts. "But folks, let me be clear: I'm strictly a pie-in-the-face kind of man." This award is the state's highest honor in the arts. It is presented annually to an artist who demonstrates exemplary standards of professional integrity and personal commitment to cultural life in Vermont. At a State House ceremony where the 200 attendees wore red clown noses, Governor James Douglas said, "Rob has shown citizens of the world that underneath their surface differences lie common values and a shared appreciation for artistry, athleticism, and humor."

Dorset Theatre Festival founder **John Nassivera** received the **Walter Cerf Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts**. The award honors individuals who have made a sustained contribution to the arts and whose work has had an impact on Vermont's cultural life. "One of the great strengths of Vermont, and the reason why so many artists end up here, is because the subtle

forms of censorship and destruction of artistic spirit that exist elsewhere are not so powerful here," he said.

Citations of Merit are presented to artists, organizations, educators and others in recognition of distinguished service to the arts in Vermont. In his 14 years as the Vermont Youth Orchestra's Artistic Director, **Troy Peters** touched the lives of hundreds of young musicians in Vermont. He was honored for the leadership and vision he brought to the organization and for his impact on Vermont's musical community. **Jane Lendway** received a Citation Award for her unwavering commitment to preserving the character and unique qualities of Vermont communities during her 33 years in the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. **Mark Vogelzang**, former President and General Manager of Vermont Public Radio, was cited for his dedication to delivering quality public broadcasting to Vermont. Mark grew VPR to statewide coverage and created two distinct networks—an award winning news and information service, plus a station devoted entirely to classical music.

GRANTS TO ARTISTS:

Creation

Joseph Campanella Cleary

Burlington
\$3,000 to support the design of a five piece modern mandolin family.

Sarah Frechette

Georgia
\$3,000 to support the creation of a puppet piece titled "The Snowflake Man."

Wayne Hankin

Newport
\$3,000 to support the creation of the film "7 Solos."

Meredith Holch

East Hardwick
\$3,000 to create an animated video concerning walls, freedom of movement, and undocumented Vermont dairy farm workers.

Karolina Kawiaka

White River Junction
\$3,000 to support the creation of two solar-powered kinetic sculptures.

Karen Kevra

Montpelier
\$3,000 to support the recording, editing and production of a CD recording of romantic music for flute and piano.

Anaïs Mitchell

Montpelier
\$3,000 to support the creation of a studio recording of the "folk opera" HADESTOWN.

Teresa Stores

Newfane
\$3,000 to support the creation of a young adult novel entitled "Letters to Holden."

Timothy Tavcar

Montpelier
\$3,000 to support the creation and production of five new theatrical performance pieces.

Upper Valley Arts

Norwich
\$3,000 to support the production of a collaborative film about the history of Vermont.

Artist Development

Ken Anderson

West Townshend
\$428 to attend a workshop at the Augusta Heritage Center's Intensive Guitar Week in Elkins, WV.

Michael Arnowitz

Montpelier
\$725 to support training necessary to complete the development of a display system for visually-impaired musicians.

Rachel Baird

Middlebury
\$500 to support the creation of a website.

Barbara Benoit

Brattleboro
\$250 to attend New England College's Post-MFA Symposium in Henniker, NH.

Sarah Blair

Montpelier
\$500 to support participation in a trade mission to Ireland.

Robert Blais

Montpelier
\$450 to support the creation of a young adult novel entitled "Letters to Holden."

Meg Brazill

South Woodstock
\$405 to support attendance at the Vermont Artists Residency Week at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson.

Patricia Burleson

Townshend
\$500 to build a website.

Michael J. Caduto

Norwich
\$1,000 to record a storytelling CD.

Elissa Campbell

Montpelier
\$500 to attend the Focus on Book Arts 2009 conference in Forest Grove, OR.

Dianne Clouet

Brattleboro
\$450 to upgrade the storybike.com website.

Michelle Colling

Underhill
\$350 to support the development of a website.

Arlene Distler

Brattleboro
\$500 to attend the Vermont Studio Center while completing a manuscript.

Rachael Elliott

Lyndonville
\$399 to attend the 2008 national conference of the College Music Society in Atlanta, GA.

Wylie Sofia Garcia

Burlington
\$400 to support the creation of a textile installation for the Champlain Quadracentennial Celebration.

Tossy Garrett

Northfield
\$371 to attend a workshop in mold making and casting at Metal Werx.

Lisa Goodrich

Essex Junction
\$500 to attend the National Music Teachers Association's 2009 national conference in Atlanta, GA.

Bonny Hall

West Brattleboro
\$250 to attend the New England Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators conference in Nashua, NH.

Rebecca Hall

West Townshend
\$428 to attend a workshop at the Augusta Heritage Center's intensive Guitar Week in Elkins, WV.

Ailyn Hoey

Bellows Falls
\$250 to participate in the Provincetown Community Compact's artist residency.

Caryn King

South Newfane
\$380 to attend a week-long workshop with Christopher Chippendale at Art New England.

Barbara Molloy

Johnson
\$500 to create and implement a website.

Erin Narey
Barnet
\$575 to attend the Howth Writers Week in County Dublin, Ireland.

Janice Perry
Ferrisburg
\$1,000 to attend an artist collaboration in London.

Jesse David Potts
Bennington
\$800 to support attendance as an Artist in Residence at the European Ceramic Work Center.

The PuppeTree
Post Mills
\$700 to support attendance at the Puppeteers of America National Festival in Atlanta, GA.

Thomas L. Read
Burlington
\$1,000 to produce and market a compact disc with Zimbel Records.

Tiffany Rhynard
Middlebury
\$500 to videotape a performance for the purpose of creating promotional materials.

Dianne Shullenberger
Jericho
\$433 to attend the Fiber Techniques in Wire seminar at North Country Studios.

Brendan Taaffe
Brattleboro
\$670 to participate in workshops at a Zimbabwean Music Festival titled ZimFest in Boulder, CO.

David E. Woolf
Burlington
\$700 to support the development of a website.

GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES

Local Arts Partnerships

Burlington City Arts
Burlington
\$7,000 to support providing art classes, exhibitions, artist residencies, and partnerships with schools and service organizations.

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
Burlington
\$7,000 to support providing performance space, educational and community programming, workshops and exhibitions.

Pentangle Council on the Arts
Woodstock
\$7,000 to support programs in the Town Hall Theater and partnerships with community organizations and schools in the Woodstock area.

River Arts of Morrisville
Morrisville
\$7,000 to provide community arts programming.

Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP)
Bellows Falls
\$7,000 to support artists' activities and to demonstrate that the activities create healthy communities.

Vermont Arts Exchange
North Bennington
\$7,000 to support the organization in its efforts to sustain, develop and strengthen community development and arts partnerships in Bennington County.

VSA Arts of Vermont
Winooski
\$7,000 to provide events in preschools, shelters, community centers and schools with the goal of increasing accessibility of the arts.

Community Arts

Bella Voce Women's Chorus of Vermont
Essex Junction
\$5,000 to support a world music workshop for women's choral groups.

Brattleboro Museum and Art Center
Brattleboro
\$5,000 to support an outdoor installation of photographic portraits of Brattleboro area residents and visitors.

Building a Better Brattleboro
Brattleboro
\$2,500 to support the Brattleboro Literary Festival.

Burlington Book Festival
Williston
\$5,000 to support the Burlington Book Festival.

Capitol Chamber Artists, Inc.
Benson
\$5,000 to support Capitol Chamber Artists' 40th season.

Center for Photographic Studies
Montpelier
\$1,500 to support an after-school photography and oral history project with Barre High School students.

Champlain Valley Folk Festival
Ferrisburgh
\$5,000 to support the 26th Annual Champlain Valley Folk Festival.

Chandler Center for the Arts
Randolph
\$5,000 to support a daytime performance series and related arts-based activities.

Families First in Southern Vermont
Wilmington
\$2,500 to support a year-round educational theater program for people with developmental disabilities.

First Night Burlington, Inc.
Burlington
\$5,000 to support First Night Burlington.

Friends of the Vergennes Opera House
Vergennes
\$4,500 to support a Champlain Valley-themed oral history/storytelling series.

Grass Roots Art and Community Effort
Hardwick
\$5,000 to support GRACE's community partnerships, workshops and exhibition programs.

Kingdom County Productions
Barnet
\$3,000 to support the development and production of "Radio Stage," a Vermont radio variety show.

Mentor Connector
Rutland
\$2,500 to support the Arts Mentors Program.

Moondance
Windsor
\$5,000 to support a community festival.

Opera Theatre of Weston
Weston
\$5,000 to support Opera Theatre of Weston's Opera for Kids program.

Paramount Theatre
Rutland
\$4,500 to support a live performance series for young audiences.

Poultney Summer Theatre Company
Poultney
\$5,000 to support the Poultney Summer Theatre Company's 2009 production of "Much Ado About Nothing".

Readsboro Arts Corporation
Readsboro
\$1,000 to support the Readsboro Arts Festival.

Rutland Creative Economy
Rutland
\$5,000 to support the addition of music to the existing art and culture hops.

Social Band
Hinesburg
\$5,000 to support the commissioning of three choral works.

T.W. Wood Art Gallery and Center
Montpelier
\$5,000 to support art education and outreach programs.

Upper Valley Presents
Norwich
\$5,000 to support Upper Valley Rock School's programs.

Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble
Fairfax
\$5,000 to support four programs of new chamber music.

Vermont Jazz Center
Brattleboro
\$5,000 to support a multi-cultural jazz concert series.

Vermont MIDI Project
Essex Junction
\$4,000 to support the Vermont MIDI Project.

Vermont Mozart Festival
Burlington
\$5,000 to support three family series concerts.

Vermont Performing Arts League
Burlington
\$5,000 to support the 16th Annual Vermont International Festival.

Vermont Philharmonic
Montpelier
\$5,000 to support the composition of a work for symphony orchestra.

Vermont Symphony Orchestra
Burlington
\$5,000 to support the 2008 "Made in Vermont Music Festival" statewide tour.

Vermont Youth Orchestra Association
Colchester
\$4,000 to support spring 2009 performances by the Vermont Youth Orchestra.

Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival
Irasburg
\$5,000 to support the 16th Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival.

Weston Playhouse Theatre Company
Weston
\$5,000 to support the Weston Playhouse Theatre Company's education and outreach programs.

Yellow Barn Music School & Festival
Putney
\$5,000 to support ten interactive chamber music events in Windham County.

Technical Assistance

Brattleboro Museum and Art Center
Brattleboro
\$1,000 to send the Education Curator to the Visual Thinking Strategies Professional Development Institute in Seattle, WA.

Chandler Center for the Arts
Randolph
\$1,000 to support the development of on-line ticket purchasing, donations capabilities and increased e-mail marketing capacity.

Lost Nation Theater
Montpelier
\$800 to support hiring a graphic designer to create marketing/branding materials for Montpelier as an arts destination.

New England Center for Circus Arts
Brattleboro
\$530 to send two staff members to the American Youth Circus Organization's Educators' Conference in Boulder, CO.

New England Youth Theatre
Brattleboro
\$300 to attend a training conference in New Hampshire.

Paramount Theatre
Rutland
\$1,000 to support a two-day retreat for the trustees and Executive Director led by Jessica Andrews.

River Arts of Morrisville
Morrisville
\$500 to support research and strategic planning efforts for River Arts.

Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP)
Bellows Falls
\$250 to add marketing/fund-raising capabilities to the RAMP website.

Vermont Youth Orchestra Association
Colchester
\$750 to support development planning with Cari Palmer.

Weston Playhouse Theatre Company
Weston
\$350 to attend a training conference.

Cultural Facilities

Black River Academy Museum
Ludlow
\$18,000 to support the purchase and installation of an elevator.

Brookfield Community Partnership
Brookfield
\$4,410 to support rewiring areas of the Old Town Hall including stage lighting and sound.

Carving Studio & Sculpture Center
West Rutland
\$18,000 to support the construction of an accessibility ramp, ADA parking, and connecting walkways.

Center for Cartoon Studies
White River Junction
\$11,200 to support renovation of the gallery space including street level bay windows.

Charles B. Danforth Library
Barnard
\$6,900 to support construction of a new accessible bathroom.

Dummerston Historical Society
Brattleboro
\$2,714 to support the construction of appropriate cabinetry to house the collections, library, and other artifacts.

Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium
St. Johnsbury
\$3,019 to support the installation of safety glass in 65 glass display cases in the grand gallery of the Museum.

Fletcher Free Library
Burlington
\$4,950 to support updating existing lighting in the Library's meeting rooms/art galleries.

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
Burlington
\$17,000 to support the purchase of stage equipment including high-quality video projection equipment and a mid-sized screen.

Morristown Historical Society
Morristown
\$18,000 to support the construction of an elevator.

Northeast Kingdom Arts Council
Hardwick
\$5,105 to support the purchase and installation of new granite steps and handrails at the entrance of the Hardwick Town House.

Paramount Theatre
Rutland
\$13,313 to support the installation of a state-of-the-art large screen for the "Big Flicks at the Paramount" Paramount Center initiative.

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum
St. Johnsbury
\$20,000 to support the installation of a UV-filtering interior secondary glazing system.

Town of Londonderry
South Londonderry
\$7,500 to support stage improvements in the Town Hall.

Town of Strafford
Strafford
\$15,588 to support the purchase and installation of a safe LP gas heating system in the 1799 Town House.

Walter S. Burnham Committee
Lincoln
\$15,000 to support improvements of Burnham Hall's performance space in Lincoln.

American Masterpieces

Aldrich Public Library
Barre
\$250 to support Halloween storytelling for two age groups.



Arts Achievement Day gets it done...

The Council has been told that legislators enjoy the annual Arts Achievement Day at the State House. Staff and arts advocates descend on 'the people's house' and create a colorful stir with artist showcases, displays, workshops, advocacy trainings and award ceremonies. This year, dozens of advocates took the opportunity to lunch with their legislators, and many toured the State House art collection with State Curator David Schütz. The highlight of the day came at the opening of the House assembly. A few weeks earlier, Council staff met with singer/songwriter Jon Gailmor to create an original song for the occasion. Advocates learned and rehearsed the tune on the morning of the event and joined Gailmor in the House chamber. The words to "The Arts Will Get It Done" were distributed to legislators who joined in the chorus. The rousing performance received a standing ovation, and many people reported that the catchy tune was stuck in their head the rest of the day.

Image: Montpelier High School student sketching in the State House

Arvin A. Brown Public Library
 Richford
 \$300 to support a performance by Peter Burns at the Richford Summer Day Camp.

Burlington City Arts
 Burlington
 \$8,000 to include performances by American Masterpieces artists in the Burlington Waterfront Festival.

Burlington Irish Heritage Festival, Inc.
 Burlington
 \$1,000 to support a performance of Champlain Basin Celtic music by Atlantic Crossing.

Champlain Valley Folk Festival
 Ferrisburgh
 \$1,500 to support performances by Peter and Mary Alice Amidon.

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
 Burlington
 \$1,500 to support a residency and performance by Michele Choiniere during the Lake Champlain quadricentennial celebration.

Harwood Union High School
 South Duxbury
 \$300 to support performances by Jeremiah McLane and Pete Sutherland.

Leicester Central School
 Leicester
 \$500 to support workshops about traditional crafts and children's games with Judy Dow.

Lothrop Elementary School
 Pittsford
 \$883 to support instruction in Abenaki heritage, traditions and crafts by Judy Dow.

Manitou Project
 Williamsville
 \$1,220 to support a concert in the Williamsville woods with Nightingale.

Memphremagog Arts Collaborative
 Newport
 \$500 to include the Constitution Brass Quintet in the second annual Art on Main Street event in Newport.

Monkton Central School
 Monkton
 \$825 to support three workshops about Native American toys and games, basketry and technology with Judy Dow.

Montgomery Historical Society
 Montgomery
 \$300 to support a performance by Atlantic Crossing as part of the Montgomery Historical Society's concert series.

New England Youth Theatre
 \$525 to support the presentation of "Silents are Golden" by Rob Mermin and related workshops at NEYT's Salmagundi Theatre Festival.

Onion River Chorus
 Plainfield
 \$500 to support a concert with the Constitution Brass Quintet.

Pentangle Council on the Arts
 Woodstock
 \$450 to support performances by Atlantic Crossing in Pentangle's Brown Bag Concert Series and at a local assisted living community.

Randolph Union High School
 Randolph
 \$600 to support workshops with Verandah Porche for 7th and 8th grade Humanities classes.

Rochester Chamber Music Society
 Rochester
 \$800 to host two performances by the Constitution Brass Quintet.

Sara Holbrook Community Center
 Burlington
 \$1,000 to support summer middle school rug and map making programs with Judy Dow.

St. Albans for the Future, Inc.
 St. Albans
 \$1250 to include a performance by Michèle Choinière.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Bennington
 Bennington
 \$250 to host a performance by Nightingale at the Meetinghouse Café.

Vergennes Area Chamber of Commerce
 Vergennes
 \$1,500 to include performances by Pete & Karen Sutherland and Jeremiah McLane in the 2009 French Heritage Days.

Wallingford Elementary School
 Wallingford
 \$555 to support instruction by Judy Dow in native weaving and technological innovation.

GRANTS FOR EDUCATION

Arts Learning Grants

Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.
 Arlington
 \$5,000 to support residencies with Circus Smirkus, Alexandra Langstaff, Three Apple Storyteller, No Strings Marionette and Jeremy Seeger.

Circus Smirkus
 Greensboro
 \$5,000 to support "Ringmaster Residencies" in sixteen underserved schools.

Doty Memorial School
 Worcester
 \$1,200 to support the ARTS PLUS collaboration teaching visual arts and movement.

Folsom Educational Center
 South Hero
 \$5,000 to support arts integration and professional development activities using the Flynn Center's Words Come Alive! program.

Great River Arts Institute
 Bellows Falls
 \$4,000 to support Great River Arts after-school OPEN ART program.

Green Mountain Youth Symphony
 Montpelier
 \$5,000 to support the Green Mountain Youth Symphony's fourth annual summer music program at Johnson State College.

In-Sight Photography
 Brattleboro
 \$5,000 to support black and white photography classes for youth in Windham County.

Marlboro College
 Marlboro
 \$5,000 to support a dance residency with four choreographers at Marlboro College.

New England Youth Theatre
 Brattleboro
 \$4,600 to support the hiring of professional artists to instruct students in the design, creation, and painting of full-scale scenery.

Northern Stage
 White River Junction
 \$5,000 to support school residencies, production and touring for Northern Stage's PROJECT PLAYWRIGHT.

Peoples Academy
 Morrisville
 \$5,000 to support integration of arts into the curriculum through collaboration between local artists and teachers.

Thomas Fleming Elementary School
 Essex Junction
 \$2,475 to support a two-week residency and culminating school-wide performance with Circus Smirkus.

Vergennes Union Elementary School
 Vergennes
 \$2,000 to support a ten-day residency and performance with The Very Merry Theatre Company.

Vermont Studio Center
 Johnson
 \$5,000 to support art and writing residencies for secondary school teachers in Lamoille County interested in developing new curricula.

Teaching Artist Residency

Cambridge Elementary School
 Jeffersonville
 \$1,500 to hold an interdisciplinary five-day in-school residency with Michael Zerphy.

Cornwall Elementary School
 Middlebury
 \$1,497 to support a five-day bookmaking residency with Linda Lembke.

Jericho Elementary School
 Jericho
 \$1,200 to support a residency with Jon Gailmor.

North Country Union High School
 Newport
 \$1,500 to hold a residency and culminating performance with Peter Gould for the Contemporary Voices English classes and the drama class.

Ripton Elementary School
 Ripton
 \$1,100 to support a five-day residency with the Ghanaian group Shidaa.

Rumney Memorial School
 Middlesex
 \$900 to support a ten-day residency with Circus Smirkus.

Rutland Town School
 Rutland
 \$1,500 to support a ten-day residency with Judy Dow for grades K-8 using the theme of Native American culture.

St. Johnsbury Academy
 St. Johnsbury
 \$1,100 to support a residency with Verandah Porche for students in the ESL, music, and art programs.

Head Start

Brattleboro Museum and Art Center
 Brattleboro
 \$2,800 to support instruction by one clay artist and one music/movement artist in fifteen classrooms.

Burlington City Arts
 Burlington
 \$2,800 to support an artist-in-residence program at two pre-schools in Burlington.

Lost Nation Theater
 Montpelier
 \$2,400 to support presentations, outings and a workshop provided in partnership with the Central Vermont Community Action Council.

Paramount Theatre
 Rutland
 \$2,800 to support songwriting and creative movement activities with Linda MacFarlane in eight Rutland area schools.

River Arts of Morrisville
 Morrisville
 \$1,200 to support four artist sessions with River Arts staff at three Head Start sites.

Special Project Grants

Governor's Institutes of Vermont
 Montpelier
 \$7,000 to support the immersion of Vermont high school students in a two-week program exploring the creative experience in all areas of the arts.

New England Foundation for the Arts
 Boston, MA
 \$12,000 to support NEFA programs in Vermont.

Vermont Alliance for Arts Education
 Waterbury
 \$4,000 to support the VAAE 2008 Fall Conference at Goddard College.

Vermont Crafts Council
 Montpelier
 \$3,000 to support the 2009 Open Studio Weekend.

Vermont Design Institute
 Burlington
 \$1,500 to support the Vermont Design Institute in community design and educational outreach across the state.

Vermont Folklife Center
 Middlebury
 \$2,000 to organize 40 community site visits to expand cultural heritage and diversity outreach.

ART IN STATE BUILDINGS GRANT

Jim Cole
 West Rupert
 \$1,000 to support the presentation of initial design concept for the Archives State Office Building in Middlesex.

Jim Cole
 \$250 to support preparation for an interview for the Archives Project.

Phillip Godenschwager
 Randolph
 \$250 to support preparation for an interview for the Archives Building renovations.

Gregory Gomez
 Putney
 \$250 to support the preparations for a finalist interview for the Vermont Fire Academy Project in Pittsford, VT.

Daniel Gottsegen
 Woodstock
 \$150 to support preparation for interview as an artist Finalist for the Brattleboro Courthouse Project.

Charles Hunter
 Bellows Falls
 \$250 to support preparation for an interview for the Archives Project.

John Kemp Lee
 White River Junction
 \$150 to support preparation for an interview as an artist Finalist for the Brattleboro Courthouse Project.

Peter Mauss
 Marlboro
 \$150 to support preparation for an interview as an artist Finalist for the Brattleboro Courthouse project.

Alan Nyiri
 Poultney
 \$250 to support preparations as a Finalist for the Vermont Fire Academy project in Pittsford, VT.

Terry Sylvester
 Brattleboro
 \$150 to support preparation for an interview as an artist Finalist for the Brattleboro Courthouse project.

Elizabeth Torak
 Pawlet
 \$250 to support preparations as a finalist for the Vermont Fire Academy Project in Pittsford, VT.

Julia Zanes & Donald Saaf
 Saxtons River
 \$150 to support preparation for an interview as artist Finalists for the Brattleboro Courthouse Project.



Doing
our pART

When the staff of the Vermont Arts Council learned that as many as one in four Vermonters might need help from the Vermont Foodbank last winter, they felt compelled to do something. They organized "doing our pART," an online art auction, and invited the state's creative community to contribute. Seventy-five artists and arts organizations stepped to the plate, donating an array of items that included original art, home décor, jewelry, theater tickets, photography sessions and art lessons. Several musical groups offered to perform private house concerts, and poet Verandah Porche gave bidders the chance to have a personalized poem written in their honor. When the bidding closed, \$10,254 in art had been sold and the Vermont Foodbank received 100% of the proceeds. The contribution equates to 15 tons of food, or approximately 27,000 meals for hungry Vermonters. Everyone involved felt good about the effort. Porche said, "I am glad that starving artists can help feed the people." They did...in more ways than one.

www.vtfoodbank.org

Image: Alex Aldrich presents check to staff of the Vermont Foodbank



THE *Big Read*

Fahrenheit 451 is Ray Bradbury's visionary parable of a society gone awry. Firemen burn books and the state suppresses learning while citizens sit around in a drug-induced, media-saturated indifference. The Arts Council chose the classic novel for its 2009 Big Read project, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture and address the national decline in literary reading. The Council distributed 790 books plus reader and teachers' guides to 29 libraries, 34 schools and 11 community organizations across the state.

In addition to encouraging Vermonters to read the book, the Arts Council promoted community discussions about how artists like Bradbury use their work to inspire public awareness and affect social change. Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now! was the keynote speaker at the kick-off event. She linked the work of Bradbury to issues of free speech and censorship in today's news. The Council commissioned independent

filmmaker Deb Ellis to create a documentary about artists who are social activists. *Six Vermont Artists* features interviews with poet Major Jackson, filmmakers Alan Dater and Lisa Merton, papermaker Drew Cameron, performance artist Janice Perry, and Bread & Puppet founder Peter Schumann. Each discusses the issues of censorship, protest, media bias and the role of the artist in a democracy.

The Brownell Library in Essex Junction was a dynamic partner in The Big Read. They helped organize the kick-off event and distributed 50 books to their patrons. They hosted "451 Reasons Why . . ." a mock town meeting where community members discussed the power of books and issues of censorship. They also organized "Read and Recite," where participants selected passages from books they would save. The Arts Council is grateful to Penny Pillsbury, Kat Redniss and the staff of the Brownell Library for their dedication and support of this project.

Development LETTER

Let us shake your hand.

Because of you, the Arts Council came within a hair's breadth of achieving its financial goals for FY 2009. Given the nation's tumultuous economic situation, this is a real accomplishment!

The message that resounded most clearly was that **arts = jobs in Vermont**. During the past five years, the Arts Council has provided 30,000 employment opportunities for artists and arts educators through our grant programs. We appreciate, too, the recommendation from the Governor and the Legislature to keep the Arts Council level funded. This is a strong acknowledgement of the value of the arts to Vermont communities. On the federal level, the chorus of arts advocates across the nation and resulted in a 28% increase to the National Endowment for the Arts budget—which translates to a \$117,000 increase to the Vermont Arts Council—proving that your voice really can make a difference.

We are always grateful for opportunities to meet people who may not be aware of our programs and services. Sue Schiller, a longtime supporter from Norwich, held a benefit concert in her home featuring pianist Michael Arnowitz and Steve Klimowski on clarinet. A slightly different kind of friend and fund-raising gala took place in Burlington at the second "Stompin' With the Stars." Eight Vermont celebrities teamed up with professional dance coaches to kick-up their heels in support of the Arts Council and hundreds of people purchased 'votes' in support of their favorite celebrities.

We often receive gifts designated for specific programs or services. Circus Smirkus founder Rob Mermin was the recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts and contributions made in his honor will support the American Masterpieces program. These grants fund artists whose work celebrates Vermont's rich cultural heritage and centuries-old traditions that are native to this region. John Nassivera, founder of the Dorset Theatre Festival, received the Walter Cerf Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts. Gifts in his honor will be used to promote community development through the arts.

We encourage you to visit our website and subscribe to our e-newsletter, ArtMail, to see how your investment in our work continues to impact the state. On behalf of the board and staff, we thank you for your support and friendship to the arts!

Sincerely,

Barbara Morrow
Development Committee Chairman

Diane Scolaro
Communications & Development Director



Poetry out loud

Audrey Kiely's parents were elated when their daughter was named Vermont's Poetry Out Loud State Champion. They also had a distinct sense of déjà vu--two years ago, Audrey's brother Henry claimed the title and represented Vermont in the national competition.

A senior at People's Academy, Audrey traveled to Washington, DC for the 2009 national finals. She performed for a panel of judges that included Garrison Keillor, actress Tyne Daly, and poets Suji Kwock-Kim, Patricia Smith, and Luis Rodriguez, and was ultimately chosen as a top 12 finalist. She received a \$1,000 award, and her school was given \$500 for the purchase of poetry books.

Poetry Out Loud is a national competition that encourages high school students to memorize and perform great poems. Created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, the program builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in popularity of slam poetry movement and rap music among youth. Students chose poems from an anthology of great American poets. Among them were five of Vermont's Poets Laureate: Robert Frost, Galway Kinnell, Louise Glück, Grace Paley and Ruth Stone.

www.poetryoutloud.org

Image: Audrey Kiely, 2009 Poetry Out Loud State Champion

INDIVIDUAL *Donors*

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$1,000 +

Anonymous (1)
Robert & Gretchen Babcock
Frederick & Judith Buechner
James Clubb
Ruth Goldstone
Louis & Margaret L. Kannenstine
Barbara Kaufman
Elizabeth Steele

\$500-\$999

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David Carris & Anne Labrusciano
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David Ellenbogen
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\$100-\$499

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Irving Adler
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Charles Browne
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Jane Burkhardt
Patricia Burleson
Gilles & KyuHee Bussod
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Paul Calter
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Jean Cannon
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Graham & Linda Gordon
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Elaine Harrington
Anne Havel
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Donald & Victoria Herzberg
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Homer Johnson
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Liz Nickerson
Nancy A. Olson



STOMPIN' WITH THE Stars

“On the list of things I never thought I’d do is dance for money,” said PR maven **Gerianne Smart**, “but now I can take that off my list.” Last fall, Gerianne joined the roster of Vermont celebrities at the Arts Council’s fundraiser, “Stompin’ With the Stars.” Based on a popular television dance competition, Vermont personalities were paired with professional dance partners to learn a dance in the style of their choice. Other ‘stompers’ included meteorologist **Mark Breen**, singer/songwriter **Patti Casey**, artist **Sabra Field**, musician **Adam Frehm**, Circus Smirkus founder **Rob Mermin**, radio personality **Zeb Norris**, and returning champion and business developer **Melinda Moulton**. The celebrity judges were **Pamela Polston** (Seven Days), **Syndi Zook** (Lyric Theater Company) and **Troy Peters** (Vermont Youth Orchestra). **Fran Stoddard** (Vermont Public Television) was the Mistress of Ceremonies. The public could purchase ‘votes’ in support of their favorite dancers both online and at the gala. In the end, Gerianne and professional dance instructor Kevin Laddison took top honors. Bearing a remarkable resemblance to Sarah Palin, Gerianne performed a maverick fox trot to “Nice She Ain’t” from the musical *Gypsy*.

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> *Continued*

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Collette Paul
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Lynne Jaeger Weinstein & William Strauss
Londa Weisman
William P. Weiss
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Kathleen Kolb
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Margaret Newton
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Zeb Norris
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Michele Nydegger
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Bonnie Tucker
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Nancy Means Wright

Business & Organization CONTRIBUTIONS

Grants and Foundations

Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation
Google Matching Gift Program
IBM Matching Grants Program
Polk Family Fund II
Roy Foundation
Vermont Community Foundation

Educational Institutions

Fletcher Farm Art Craft School
Folsom Educational Center
Governor's Institutes of Vermont
Great River Arts Institute Inc
Lake Region Union High School
Lyndon State College
Monteverdi Music School
Mountain School at Winhall
Wellspring School
Yellow Barn Music School

Corporations

Anonymous (1)
Addison Outfitters
A Joshua Sherman Living Trust
Actors' Repertory
Aldrich Public Library
Art on Main
Artisans Hand
Arts Council of Windham County
Barre Historical Society
Bear Pond Books
Bella Voce - Women's Chorus of Vermont
Bethel Council on the Arts
Big Heavy World
Billings Farm & Museum
Birds of Vermont Museum
Bleu Sky Creative
Brattleboro Women's Chorus
Bristol Historical Society, Inc.
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Cambridge Arts Council
Capitol Chamber Artists Inc
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City of Burlington
Concept II, Inc.
Constitution Brass Quintet
Cornerstone Fulfillment Service, LLC
Craftsbury Chamber Players
Diamond and Robinson, P.C.
Discover Jazz Festival
Ellis Music Company Inc
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Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee
First Night Burlington
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Footprints
Friends of Music at Guilford
Friends of the Brandon Town Hall
Friends of the Vergennes Opera House
Greater Manchester Arts Council
Green Mountain Chorus
Green Mountain Cultural Center
Green Mountain Video Inc
Greensboro Free Library
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Jeudevine Memorial Library
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Lost Nation Theatre
Main Street Arts
Maplewood, Ltd.
Memphremagog Arts Collaborative
Middlebury Festival On The Green
Montgomery Historical Society
New England Youth Theatre
Nimble Arts Trapeze & Circus School
Northern Stage Company
Norwich Historical Society
NRG Systems, Inc.
Opera Theatre of Weston
Pentangle Council on the Arts
Poultney Historical Society
Quechee Library Association
Quickstep Design
Ripton Elementary School
Robert Hull Fleming Museum

Shidaa African Cultural Troupe
Smart Communications
St. Johnsbury Athenaeum
Stave Puzzles
Swenson Granite Company
The Drawing Board, Inc.
The Dressing Room
The Mailing Center
The Puppetree
Thunder Mill Design
Timothy D. Smith & Associates
Town Hall Theater, Inc.
Town of Hartland
Town of Montgomery
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Valley Arts Foundation
Vermont Alliance for Arts Education
Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble
Vermont Crafts Council
Vermont Fire Extinguisher
Vermont Jazz Center
Vermont MIDI Project
Vermont Mozart Festival
Vermont Shakespeare Company
Vermont Stage Company
Vermont Symphony Orchestra
Wells River Savings Bank
Weston Playhouse Theatre Company
White River Craft Center
White River Valley Players
Wooden Horse Arts Guild



www.vermontartscouncil.org

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this report. We encourage you to bring any errors to our attention.

Image: Right: Students from Barre Town Elementary perform
Far Right: Girl decorates puzzle piece at Art Fit Vermont event

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

September, 2009

During difficult times the tendency is for people to “circle the wagons” and in general, behave more conservatively. With few exceptions, this behavior is also true for corporations, foundations, and other critical sources of support for the not-for-profit sector. It is behavior that is entirely understandable and especially, given the context of the year just past, expected.

What is less expected is a condition that I have witnessed at the Arts Council. People doing more. People opening up and sharing their resources. People being generous with their time, their talent, their art. People being concerned about their future more than about their present.

As a state arts agency whose capacity for service and support is based entirely on the generosity of the American public—and in particular the Vermont public—it is gratifying to work with such outstanding representatives in Washington and in the Vermont State House. Where other colleagues of mine around the country are dealing with huge cuts to their programs and services, Vermont's delegates, like its citizenry, have an intuitive understanding of the role that the arts play in our daily lives.

For some this role is their life's work, and for them we have a broad array of programs and services to help them complete their work, market and promote it, and bring audiences to it. For others, the role of the arts is something else entirely. For kids separated from their incarcerated parents, it is a vehicle through which they are able to express their sense of connectedness to the absent parent. For people with limited income, it is an opportunity to turn a hand made creation into a cash donation to a food bank so that others might have a hot meal.

We are occasionally criticized for having abandoned our artistic standards in the pursuit of projects and collaborations that expose new audiences to the benefits of participating in the arts. But nothing could be further from the truth—to receive support, artists and arts providers must still adhere to the very highest standards of excellence that are the hallmark of the Council's panel review system. What community arts projects achieve is entirely different. They bring new/more people to the arts in fun, non-threatening ways. It is this service to the public (who, remember, enables us to exist to begin with) that distinguishes us from our work a decade or two ago.

And it is likely to be a staple of what we help to foster across the state for decades to come.

Sincerely yours,



Alexander L. Aldrich
Executive Director

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FY2009 Statement of Fiscal Activities *

REVENUE	AMOUNT
State General Fund, unrestricted	\$ 507,607
Other Restricted State Revenue	206,015
Federal Grants	733,833
Private grants, contributions, other	466,125
Total Revenue	\$1,913,580

EXPENSES	
Creation & Presentation Grants	\$ 512,639
Arts Education Grants	92,572
Community Development Grants	235,819
Program Services, Partnerships, Projects	687,764
Fundraising & Development	93,622
General, Administrative	288,574
Total Expenses	\$1,910,990

NET ASSETS	
Net Assets, audited 6/30/08	\$748,744
Change in net assets, unaudited	2,590
Net Assets, unaudited 6/30/09	\$751,334

* Unaudited - Audit Report available upon request

