

1st

1966



Vermont Council on the Arts, Inc.



STATE OF VERMONT  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
MONTPELIER

We acknowledge today that if the arts are not an immediate and significant part of a man's life, he has been deprived of his heritage.

Indeed, the excitement and beauty of man's experience as expressed through the arts is not only part of our democratic heritage, but should be part of every man's daily sustenance.

Adding this dimension to life is not only a goal of the individual artist, of the promoters and supporters of the arts, but it is an essential objective of our free society.

*Philip H. Hoff*

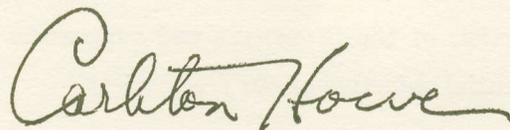
Governor

Dear Governor Hoff:

Pursuant to No. 170 of the Acts of 1965, it is my pleasure to submit to you this first annual report of the Vermont Council on the Arts.

The Trustees of the Council having met regularly during the year have outlined for your information the major activities of the Council. We have also included background information for general reference and have taken the liberty to suggest areas of action for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carlton Howe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

President

## **Background**

In the Spring of 1964, at the invitation of Governor Philip H. Hoff, forty people, noted for their interest and leadership in cultural activities, were invited to meet at the State House for the purpose of discussing the formation of an arts council. Mr. Edwin Earle of Derby Line, an early proponent of a Vermont Arts Council, was elected temporary chairman of the meeting. In the Fall of 1964, a second Governor's Conference was held and Articles of Association, previously drafted by a steering committee, were accepted by the members present and filed with the Secretary of State. With this action, the Governor's Art Commission became formally the Vermont Council on the Arts Inc.

The first official meeting of the recently created Council was held later in the Fall of 1964. The names of the following Trustees and officers were presented to the assembled members and accepted thereof:

Carleton Howe, President  
Alan Carter, Vice President  
Sheldon Dimick, Treasurer  
Ruth Coburn, Secretary  
Paul Ashenbach  
William Avery  
Mrs. Franklin Billings  
Harlow Carpenter  
Edwin Earle  
Samuel Ogden

One of the first actions taken by the new Trustees and officers was to prepare

a questionnaire for distribution among people interested in the arts to better determine the specific role of an Arts Council in Vermont. Also, leaders in individual art forms were requested to investigate activities in their areas and report back to the next general meeting of the Council with recommendations on what the Council's role should be in their particular art.

The result of these meetings and subsequent meetings was the formation of a general philosophy which would serve as a guide for future policy decisions by the Trustees. The following points were later spelled out in a statement issued by the Trustees:

The Vermont Council on the Arts has been established and incorporated under the laws of the State of Vermont for the purpose of:

1. Surveying, evaluating, preserving and developing the arts of and within the State of Vermont.
2. Promoting both the diversity and the high quality of the arts in Vermont.
3. Cooperating with such other organizations, city, state, or private as may seem beneficial to the Arts of Vermont.
4. To initiate from time to time exhibitions, performances, and projects in the interest of the arts in the State of Vermont.
5. To represent the state in Federal Art Programs.

The term "Arts" shall include but not be limited to:

Architecture	Music	Literature
Painting	Drama	Crafts
Sculpture	Dance	Photography

During the 1965 Legislative Session, H. 255, **An Act to establish Recognition of the Vermont Council on the Arts, Inc. and to Make an Appropriation therefore** sponsored by Mr. Graf of Rupert and Mr. Simpson of Lyndon was passed by the General Assembly and became No. 170 of the Acts of 1965. This Legislation formally designated the Council as the Agency to formulate and apply for funds under the National Arts and Humanities Foundation Act of 1965. The State Legislation carried an appropriation to the Vermont Council of \$500.00 a year for a two year period. This sum, helped pay the expenses of organizing the Council and conducting routine business.

Formal recognition of the Council by the State was a significant event in the short history of the Council and this recognition became more meaningful when in September of 1965, P. L. 89-209, **The National Foundation on the Arts & Humanities Act**, became law. Under the provisions of this Act, each State was to be allotted approximately \$50,000 in Federal funds for conducting surveys, planning, and sponsoring programs on a matching basis. Only the Agency recognized as the official State Art Agency would be eligible to make application for these funds.

The Trustees of the Council realized

that with the opportunities made available under this new Federal Act, the Council would have to employ a professional secretary and open an office; such a move was recommended and approved at the annual meeting of the Council on October 26, 1965. As guest speaker for this Annual Meeting the Council was fortunate to have Mr. William Hull, Assistant Director of the New York State Council on the Arts. Mr. Hull's talk inspired the members present to take action on the opportunities of service to the arts as illustrated by the course set by the New York Council. Mr. Hull stressed the importance of the environmental arts, especially in a State relatively unspoiled like Vermont.

In November of 1965, the first paid employee, an executive secretary, was hired by the Council with the charge to open an office in the Capital city and investigate application procedure under P. L. 89-209. Mr. Arthur F. Williams, former State Representative, was chosen to administer the Vermont Council. In the interim period ensuing, while the application for Federal funds was being structured, the Council embarked upon an Architecture Worth Saving Program, inspired by a similar program undertaken by the New York Council and given official impetus for Vermont through a tour of European architecture then recently completed by Mrs. Philip H. Hoff, wife of the Governor. Such a program was found to be well oriented to a history-rich region such as Vermont and a likely project with which to introduce the Council to the citizens of this State. Although the Council was with-

out funds for this project, it was able to successfully complete the first stages of the plan; and through the solicited service of a Vermont architect, Mr. Robert Burley of Fayston, a pilot study of the architecture of importance in the Capital region was conducted. An enthusiastic public eye focused on the program when the results of the study were shown at a Council dinner at the historic Pavilion Hotel. This early project became the base for a grant to Mr. Burley for a detailed study of man-made structures in the North Central Region of Vermont.

By May 1, 1966 application for Federal funds was completed. A summary of this program follows:

A. Application for a \$25,000.00 study grant in order to survey and evaluate the arts in Vermont.

B. Application for \$25,000.00 in matching funds on behalf of the following organizations and institutions:

1. \$4,000.00 in Federal matching funds to Robert Burley, architect, to conduct an architectural study of important structures in North Central Vermont, the study and resultant publication to be the first phase of architectural study in the State.
2. \$6,000.00 in Federal matching funds to the Lane Series of the University of Vermont for the extension of its program to other areas of the State not having the benefit of such quality performances.
3. \$5,000.00 in Federal matching funds to the Vermont Symphony Orchestra

for the expansion and continuation of two projects; the string project, string instrument instruction in elementary schools; and the string quartet project, exposure of elementary school children to a professional string quartet with a live performance in the school.

4. \$2,000.00 in Federal matching funds to the Bennington Composers' Conference to heighten opportunity for young composers to rehearse and record their works with a professional orchestra.
5. \$3,000.00 in Federal matching funds to the Vermont philharmonic Orchestra to promote increased professionalism in the orchestra and conduct concerts in rural areas of the State.
6. \$5,000.00 in Federal matching funds to the Dance Department of Bennington College to introduce a new dance program in ten or more Vermont communities with particular emphasis on exposing school systems to the opportunities and delights of the dance form.

The State plan as submitted by the Council was generally accepted by the National Council on the Arts; however, due to a last minute cut in the Federal arts appropriation by Congress, Vermont and other states were informed that program matching grants would have to be reduced to one half of the requested amount. At the time of this report the Vermont Council has been informed that instead of \$25,000.00

matching money, the State will receive \$12,053 in matching funds. The Trustees will decide with the applicants on how this reduced sum will be allocated.

It is our hope that, even with this curtailment, our plan for 1966-1967 will result in a meaningful contribution to the arts in Vermont.

## *Future*

During the Fall months of 1966, the Council, under the Federal plan, will conduct a survey of the arts in six or more regions of the State. Plans call for a series of conferences with art and business leaders in order to gain a thorough insight into art activities in the State and chart a course for the future. A facility survey in each region will follow up the conferences. Mr. Frank Hensel of Stowe has been named by the Trustees to conduct the research and planning for the Council.

The Trustees and staff of the Council feel that the Council can be of great service to the arts, the artists, and the people of Vermont. Already areas of possible future service are opening up and along with the current and continued programs of aid to the arts under Federal and State sponsorship, the Trustees and administrators of the Council see the following areas in which the Council can perform a service:

1. The Council office may well serve as a clearing house for art information publishing calendars of events, information of public and private funds available to individuals and institutions, and coordinating art activities in the State.

2. The Council would hope to assist the Department of Education in designing art programs for Vermont schools and help initiate art programs under Title III, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
3. The Council would like to work with the Development Department, The Board of Historic Sites, and the State Building Board in their efforts to stimulate a heightened cultural awareness in Vermont.
4. The Council should be in a position to advise the Executive Office on communications and matters of cultural concern to the State.
5. The Council should provide formal recognition to the State's leading figures in the arts.
6. The Council can encourage public and private support of the arts by seeking ways in which corporations and individuals may aid the arts through increased patronage.
7. Equipped with consultants in the different arts, the Council should render technical assistance to artist and art organizations desiring such aid.

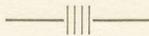
These are a few of the many areas in

which the Vermont Council on the Arts should serve. The Council has been formed and should exist to fill a need that has not been filled by any other group or organization. Our survey will point out problems that need attention, and also indicate the potential existing in the arts. The survey will lead to a plan of action.

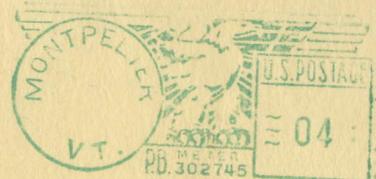
The success of the Council relies, in large part, on the support and active

interest by public agencies, the press, and most importantly, by each individual towards whom the ultimate concern of the Council is directed.

With this support, the Council can flourish and will achieve its assignment to develop an environment both physically and spiritually conducive to the arts; an environment with which art's highest standards are readily identified.



Vermont Council on the Arts, Inc.  
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1965-1966

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