

PRESS RELEASE

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Vermont Arts Council Announces 2015 Governor's Arts Awards

Montpelier -- Each year, the Vermont Arts Council, in association with the Governor's office, recognizes outstanding individual and organizational contributions to the arts. Awards and citations are given to educators, artists, performers, advocates, administrators, volunteers, and scholars. In 2015 the Vermont Arts Council will be recognizing the contributions of Vermonters in five different awards categories, as well as installing a new Poet Laureate. Here are the names of all honorees:

[Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts](#)

Grace Potter, *Waitsfield*

[Vermont Poet Laureate](#)

Chard DeNiord, *Putney*

[Walter Cerf Medal for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts](#)

William and Elizabeth Metcalfe, Burlington

[Ellen McCulloch-Lovell Award in Arts Education](#) (4)

Karen Amirault, *Burlington*, Jon Gailmor, *Elmore*, Geof Hewitt, *Calais*, Verandah Porche, *Guilford*

[Margaret L. \(Peggy\) Kannenstine Award for Arts Advocacy](#)

John Killacky, Burlington

[Arthur Williams Award for Meritorious Service to the Arts](#)

Gary Eckhart, Warren

Executive Director Alex Aldrich said, "It is a measure of the depth and vitality of the Vermont Arts sector that we are able to field such an extraordinary group of honorees in this, our 50th Anniversary 'Year of the Arts' Awards celebration. At the front of the pack, and no stranger to headlining, is Grace Potter—fresh off the debut of her new solo album—who will receive the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. This is the first time this award has gone to an artist in the category of Rock and Roll—a circumstance that is long overdue and well-deserved! The other awardees and Poet Laureate, who will officially be assuming his duties that evening, are all shining examples of people who have committed themselves to and made a magnificent impression on the arts in Vermont. From the elder statesman/woman of music in Burlington (Cerf Awardees), to the elder statesmen/women of arts education (McCulloch-Lovell Awardees), to the movers and shakers behind the scenes in their community (Williams Awardee) or in the Vermont Legislature (Kannenstine Awardee), the 2015 Governor's Arts Awards honorees all represent the best of the best. We are proud to join the Governor in honoring them!"

The Governor's Arts Awards celebration will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, November 2 in Alumni Hall at the Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier. Seating is limited; free tickets for the event will be available October 2, 2015. More at www.vermontartscouncil.org/blog/2015-governors-arts-awards.