

Carrie Caouette-De Lallo

Chelsea Arts Collective; Arts Festival & Gallery



Chelsea, Vermont

Story

The Chelsea Arts Collective started when Carrie Caouette-De Lallo wanted to create a way for her community to have access to fine art in all forms. Carrie's daughter, Sarah, laid the groundwork for the the collective and they both had the vision of reviving Chelsea and to turn it into an arts destination that is accessible to all. Working with close friends, Carrie and Sarah put together the first annual Arts on the Green Festival three years ago. The festival was a huge success, with over 500 people in attendance. Now, each year, local musicians, food vendors, and artists from all around New England come together on Labor Day weekend for a day full of fun, expression, and bonding. In addition to running the festival, Carrie and her daughter also ran the North Common Arts and Cafe. It doubled as a gallery for local artists to display and sell their art, musicians to come and play every second Saturday, and writers to read their work. Carrie and Sarah are aided tremendously by volunteers who give their time and effort to help support the arts through the gallery and the festival. All money made goes back into improving the space and providing support for the artists.

Community

The Arts on the Green Festival is a space where the community can come together in a shared love for the arts without being stressed financially. Carrie and the Chelsea Arts Collective are dedicated to providing fine art to all people because they believe that everyone should have access to art in some form. Local artists, musicians, and writers are in the spotlight in Chelsea, and they receive 70 percent of the profits made from selling their art in the gallery, showing the Collective's dedication to supporting local work. Admission into the festival is free for visitors, and it encourages community engagement and showcases the best that Chelsea and the rest of Vermont have to offer.

Right Now

As of right now, the Chelsea Arts Collective is unable to operate. Rent is too high to maintain without income, and it must shut down for the time being. Unfortunately, as of May 14, the North Common Arts and Cafe has closed permanently. The cafe added a goodbye message on Facebook: "We would like to thank the many supporters of this endeavor; the extraordinarily talented artists, artisans, musicians, writers and the folks who came out to enjoy what was offered." The space is now being rented out to Free Verse Farm & Apothecary to add to its production needs in Chelsea. Additionally, the Arts on the Green Market & Festival 2020 has been canceled due to the governor's order to not allow fairs and festivals during the pandemic. Now, the Arts Collective must figure out how to be creative with what they offer and how to make that accessible to all in the community. Everyone must adapt to the new normal, but the great support that the Chelsea Arts Collective has received gives it hope that the organization will endure.

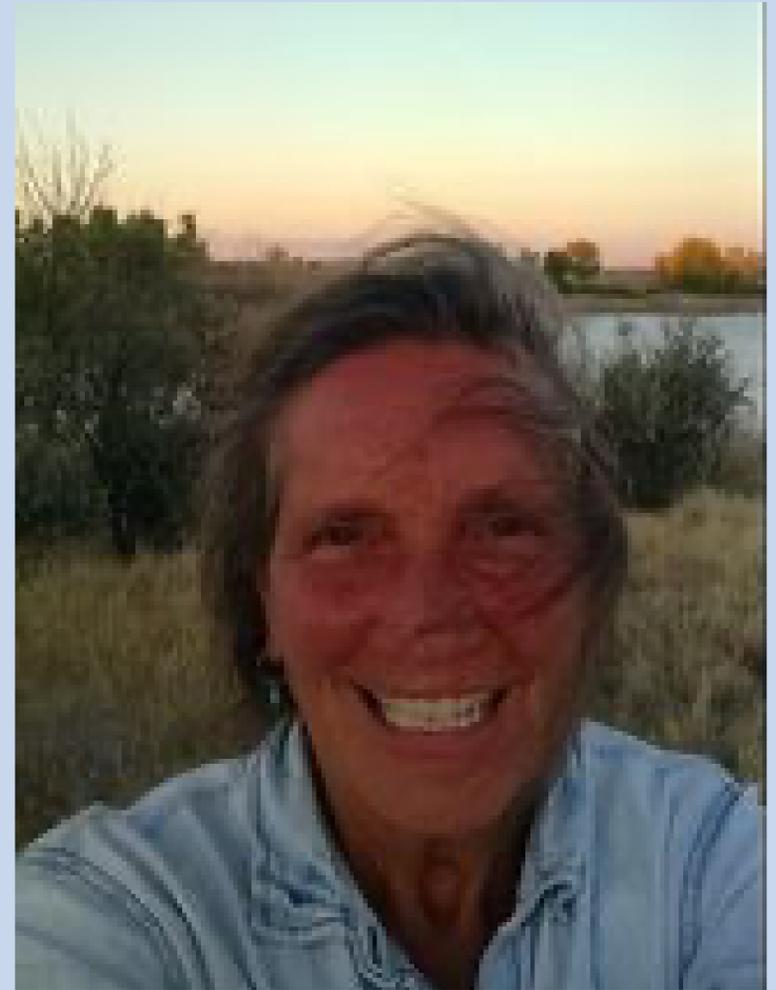


Photo credit: Carrie Caouette-De Lallo

Final Words

If you find yourself in Chelsea, be sure to notice the variety of barn quilts found throughout town and in the surrounding area. You'll find about 100 of them, each showcasing not only beautiful colors and patterns but the strength and vibrance of this community as well. The Chelsea Community Barn Quilt Project continues to thrive and has grown to include surrounding communities. If you're a creative person thinking about settling in Vermont, Carrie is sure that there is no better place. The capacity for idea incubation through connections with other creatives, the space to build your life and portfolio, and the dense network of artists are all reasons to choose Vermont as a place to live and work as a creative.

Written by Peri Buck
Edited by Korey Ward

"It was just an idea
at a dinner table."

<https://www.chelseavt-arts.com>