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Images: Above: Left: VSA Arts students; Right: "Mind the Gap" by Sheila Pepe; Far Right: "Fred Tuttle" by Peter Miller



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ANNUAL REPORT



VERMONT
ARTS
COUNCIL

2008

ARTS

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.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To the Members of the Vermont Arts Council:

As you read this report of the Council's activities for the year, I hope you will remember that we are in a time of change. You will see it all throughout these pages.

You will observe that local arts initiatives and organizations come to us for assistance and training. Artists apply for project funding and schools for services and support. You will note the arts working harder and more effectively at becoming more integral to the center of life in every town. And you will hear about our next statewide community arts project, "Art Fits Vermont" which is designed to inspire Vermont citizens of all ages and abilities to share their creativity in their own communities.

The Board of Trustees is fully aware of the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for all of us working in the arts, whether volunteer or professional. We on the Board work well with the VAC staff to develop policy that will strengthen creativity in our wonderful home of Vermont. You should be aware that we have a very strong Board of Trustees, coming from all over the state. Each person on our Board is highly qualified and gives or his or her time and expertise with great generosity.

This is my last time to write in these pages as Chair of the Board of VAC, and I want to close by stating that it has been not only an honor, but a pleasure to hold this position. Alex and his staff have been splendid to work with-and I could not have asked for a more delightful Board to share this work. Thanks to all of you for your commitment to the arts, and for the zest you bring to the Council.

I have spent a great deal of my time working on regional and national arts efforts, and find that many people in other states envy us our atmosphere, our creativity, and our freedom. When asked why, I can only respond: it is obvious that "Art Fits Vermont"!

With sincere gratitude,

Peggy

Margaret L. Kannenstine

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



Creation GRANTS

Our Creation Grants help artists grow...

Creation grants help fund the development or commission of new works 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 like attending conferences or workshops. They also help artists develop their business plans or promotional and marketing materials.

Erik Nielson of Brookfield was composing a piece for the Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble (VCME) consisting of five movements. He estimated that the completed com-



position for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano would be 15 minutes long and take three months to create. As a full-time composer, commissioning fees and payments for composing and mentoring constitute Erik's entire income. Grant funding made it possible for him to focus on this project without having to take on other money-making activities. "I was able to concentrate on creating a work which was both effective and a genuine development for me in my chamber music writing," he said. "The grant

allowed me time for artistic growth."

Photographer **Tarrah Krajnak of Burlington** received funding to offset the cost of attending a portfolio review session at Fotofest Houston. "The meeting allowed me to have my work individually reviewed by some of the most important people in photography and the photo-related art world," she said. "Thus far I have

several interested parties for possible exhibitions, book deals and representation."

A year ago, sculptor **Jim Florschutz of Newfane**, was looking at 2008 as a pivotal time in his artistic career. He had been awarded a major one-person exhibit at OK

Harris, a premier gallery in New York, and had exhibits scheduled in Castleton, VT and Greenfield, MA. However, he needed two months of concentrated time to create the work. Jim received a Creation Grant to help cover the time and materials necessary to complete fourteen wall relief sculptures. "With this grant the Arts Council has given me the opportunity to pursue my sculpture uninterrupted at a very crucial time in my career," he said.



GRANT PROFILE

THEA STORZ

Lyndonville, Vermont

One community's unique remembrance...

Photographs are most often displayed in frames or albums but Thea Storz is sharing portraits of her hometown in a less conventional way--on a quilt. She is photographing each of the 487 residents of Kirby, VT and transferring the 4"x5" cyanotype or blueprint images to fabric. Photos will be blocked with a black velvet border and the subject's names embroidered along the edging. The Kirby Quilters, a group of women who have been sewing together for 25 years, will help with the hand stitching. The finished piece will be permanently hung in Kirby Town Hall. Thea's goals for the project are both personal and community-oriented. "I hope to preserve and celebrate Kirby's heritage," she said. "I'm interested in portraying the wonderful, diverse, and changing population of my small Vermont town."

Images: Left inset: Thomas Brennan's work titled "Janus Soft Butterfly" Right: Portrait of a girl with her chicken for the Kirby quilt.

GRANT PROFILE

MARLBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Marlboro, Vermont

Art breaks winter's chill...

Monday mornings, especially in mid-winter, might be the toughest days to get excited about going to school. But not in Marlboro. Throughout the snowy months, Monday mornings at **Marlboro Elementary School** meant drumming, dance, pottery, bookmaking and Japanese Kamichibai. For six weeks, students and staff began each week with workshops lead by five local artists. The extended time allowed everyone in grades K-6 to take part in an in-depth exploration of an art form, apply new skills and create a work they were proud to share. As kindergartner Alice said, "I like that I don't have to hurry." Long after the workshop series ended, lessons learned continued in the classrooms. "Each artist modeled what they wanted students to learn and do," said Principal Francie Marbury. "Staff members were reminded of the power of incorporating that into all instruction."

*Images: Left: Students from Marlboro Elementary School
Right inset: Student from VSA Arts*



Education | GRANTS

Our Education Grants inspire creative learning...

Education Grants bring artists into schools for a day, week or even a whole year. Funding is also available to build the creative skills of teachers and the teaching skills of artists. Planning Grants help schools work towards integrating the arts into their curricula and supporting achievement.

Last spring, the **Folsom Educational Center** in South Hero and **North Hero Elementary School** partnered with Burlington's Flynn Center on an integrated arts learning program called "Words Come Alive!" Classroom teachers took part in workshops on improving reading comprehension through the use of drama and movement. One 8th grade math teacher used movement in a study of geometric shapes and terms. Language arts and social studies teachers incorporated drama in literature and history classes. Michael Freed-Thall, Principal of Folsom Educational Center said that teachers reported increased interest in reading, writing and math-

ematics. "The project worked extremely well and there is great enthusiasm for continuing to develop this arts-academic integration work next year and beyond."

VSA Arts' mission to "make the world of the arts accessible to Vermonters of all abilities" is demonstrated in their new after school poetry program for English Language Learning (ELL)



students. The native languages of the immigrant and refugee populations in Chittenden and Washington counties span the globe and include Turkish, Russian, Bosnian, Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, French, Ewe, Japanese and Farsi. "These new students and their families can often feel isolation and a keen sense of otherness from those around them," says Elaine Harrington, ELL Coordinator for the Barre Supervisory District. "This program helps our immigrant and refugee students gain literacy skills, confidence in using the English language and a sense of artistic achievement."

Community GRANTS

Our Community Grants build connections...

Through its Community Grants program, the Arts Council supports the arts in venues ranging from sidewalks to symphony halls, and from churches to coffee houses. While the scale and genre of the presentations may differ, their common goal is to create and celebrate communities through the arts.

"Dear Manchester Music Festival," the third grader's letter began, "Your orchestra was the best one I have ever heard. Thank you, orchestra and Mr. Tchaikovsky." Last spring, as part of the "Meet the Music" program, a chamber quartet



from **Manchester Music Festival** performed 35 concerts in Southern Vermont elementary school classrooms. The musicians introduced each piece by explaining the playful or passionate dialogue between instruments. Jared Shapiro, music director at Maple Street School, said, "The musicians played with the same intensity and artistry as they would have had they been on the stage of a major concert hall. In this intimate setting, the students felt as if they were inside the music...and were unanimously moved by the experience." Scenic Grand Isle County lacks art galleries,

a theater and an art center but **Island Arts** makes sure residents and visitors don't lack art opportunities. They have been bringing quality arts events to this rural county for 25 years, integrating the arts into community life. The summer concert series spans the islands from South Hero to Isle LaMotte and the new Island

Arts Academy provides hands-on workshops. Recent offerings included music instruction and art camps for youth and adults, plus Astronomy as Art, half-hull boat modeling, Shakespeare theater workshops and bookmaking. Katya Wilcox, president of the all-volunteer organization says,

"We believe in the life-long benefits of creative activities for people of all ages."

Performances are an integral part of the programs at **Yellow Barn Music School** in Putney. A Community Arts Grant allowed young gifted and emerging artists to perform nine concerts in community settings across Windham County. These included health and childcare facilities, a museum gallery and senior centers. Former Director Daniel Lichtenfeld says, "This project is a natural outgrowth of what we do and allows us to give back to this community and some of its more vulnerable, at-risk members."

GRANT PROFILE

VERMONT STAGE COMPANY

Burlington, Vermont

It's all about creating drama...

"'King Lear' is one of the great plays in the western theatrical canon," said Mark Nash, Artistic Director for **Vermont Stage Company**. "As such, it deserves a great production." A key component of his vision was to incorporate live music. He hired percussionist Brian Johnson to create an original score that would heighten the emotional power of the play. Brian integrated an array of tools and objects. He raided salvage yards for auto-coil springs and brake drums, and altered standard instruments by placing a cymbal on top of his timpani and hanging a long chime in a bucket of water. Brian performed the music live, onstage behind a black metal screen. Brett Hallenbeck of the Burlington Free Press wrote, "Johnson created subtle rumbles as Lear begins to melt down, as if we're hearing the blood pounding and swirling within his head. Music is only worthwhile in a play like 'King Lear' if it gives additional insight into the characters' situations and Johnson's thoughtful score certainly accomplished that."

To learn more, visit www.vtstage.org

Images: Left inset: Yellow Barn Music School and Festival Right: Participants from the Vermont Stage Company

GRANT PROFILE

ROXBURY FREE LIBRARY

Roxbury, Vermont

Giving patrons a reason to stay...

For the past 75 years, patrons of the Roxbury Free Library may have been more inclined to take books home rather than linger and read. The small (450 sq ft) library houses 3,900 books, CDs and videos, wi-fi service and 40 or so community programs a year...but no bathroom. When the need arises, people have had to duck behind a snow bank or head to the neighboring Congregational Church to use its facilities. With support from a Cultural Facilities grant and volunteers from Norwich University's School of Architecture, the library is getting a modern, accessible bathroom plus a ramp and new entryway. Susan D'Amico, the "head and only librarian," is looking forward to having a comfortable place for patrons to sit and read without having to leave the building when nature calls. "It will make a world of difference," she says. "We will have a space that is welcoming, comfortable and wheelchair accessible. People are already stopping by and asking to use the bathroom."

To learn more, visit www.librarian.net/roxbury

Images: Right Inset: Greensboro Free Library

Right: Roxbury Free Library



Cultural | GRANTS

Cultural Facilities Grants put the arts at the center of community life...

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 Greensboro Free Library has been the intellectual and cultural hub for residents of Greensboro, Stannard and surrounding communities for 113 years. In 1992, the library counted 5,400 patron



visits. The library now averages 12,600 visits annually with about 1,700 people regularly checking out books, attending book discussions, classes, workshops and children's programs. To accommodate this growth, the library is expanding into the adjacent Cuthbertson House. Formerly a nursing home and clinic, the historic building is undergoing a renovation that includes removing a labyrinth of bed and bathrooms and installing an energy efficient heating system. Community volunteers have helped

demolish some of the interior walls, haul out ceilings, doors and radiators, and scrape layers of wallpaper from the old plaster and lathe. Contractor John Hunt is impressed by the enthusiasm of the volunteer work crew. "It's nice to see that in a community like this," he said.

The **Grange Hall in Chittenden** sits on a hill above the fish hatchery and the hamlet of Holden. It was built in 1833 as the Congregational Church and became actively used as the Grange Hall in the 1880s. It has been a community gathering place for more than a century and

is the only town-owned building outside of the flood zone of the Chittenden Reservoir. As part of an extensive renovation of the facility, the Historic Building's Preservation Committee applied for a \$15,000 grant to install electricity on the upper level and a lift to increase accessibility. "The renovated Grange Hall will not only restore a valuable piece of Chittenden's history," said Committee Chair Karen Webster, "it will be an arts and recreation site to encompass all ages."

ART fits VERMONT

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

When the Vermont Arts Council launched Palettes of Vermont in January 2006, we couldn't have foreseen the depth of creativity or the community connections that would result. The statistics alone were impressive: nearly 40,000 Vermonters (that's 6% of the state's population) took part. Participants represented more than 180 organizations and 145 schools from every corner of the state.

Beyond the level of participation or even the body of work that was created, the significance of Palettes of Vermont was the number of connections that were made. The project brought people, communities and the entire state together through a shared artistic experience.

This year the Arts Council created a second statewide community arts project that takes this concept to the next level. Piece by piece, **Art Fits Vermont** is (literally) connecting Vermont and Vermonters through art.

The Arts Council has distributed 60,000 wood and paper puzzle pieces (20,000 more than palettes) allowing even more people to create, showcase and celebrate art. Thanks to generous sponsorship from the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing, Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association, Chittenden Bank, Entergy, Hub-

barton Forge and Vermont Artisan Designs, the puzzle pieces are free to individuals, organizations, schools or community groups that want to participate.

Art Fits Vermont exhibits and events began in early summer 2008 and will continue in communities across the state through 2009. The Council's Art Mobile is visiting as many communities as possible, providing a traveling exhibit of puzzle pieces and craft activities.

In July 2009, all participants will be invited to share their art and help create the world's largest puzzle at **puzzlePALOOZA**. While each puzzle piece is a stand-alone work of art, when joined together they will create an amazing display of diversity and inspiration. The event will take place in Burlington in conjunction with the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration. The 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's discovery of the lake gives us an opportunity to expand the project beyond Vermont's borders. Puzzle pieces will also be given to artists in New York State, Quebec and France. These pieces will be added to the display of Vermont-made puzzles to signify the creativity, history and water that unite the region and to demonstrate that Art Fits...everywhere!



"I've always been a little suspicious of awards given for excellence, especially in the arts," said cartoonist **Ed Koren**, "until right now." Ed was the 2008 recipient of the **Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts**. The award is presented annually to an artist who demonstrates exemplary standards of professional integrity and personal commitment to cultural life in Vermont. At the State House ceremony Governor Jim Douglas said, "Ed Koren is a humorist whose generosity to local charitable causes is well known. His art is completely original. His fuzzy creatures immediately reveal the identity of their creator. What his creatures say and do, however, immediately reveal the content of their creator's character."

Citations of Merit are presented to artists, organizations, educators and others in recognition of distinguished service to the arts in Vermont. Three Citations were presented in a ceremony at the 2008 Arts Achievement Day.

During her ten years as Executive Director of Pentangle Arts Council in Woodstock, **Sabrina Brown** was instrumental in making the local arts agency a pillar of the community. Sabrina was honored for her expertise in linking individuals, businesses, schools and organizations to create a better community through the arts.

As the Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development, **Paul Costello** has helped communities set priorities, develop resources and create action plans. Paul was honored for his passionate and patient conviction that every community has the capacity to be prosperous and sustainable through coordination, collaboration, and the effective use of public and private resources.

Mary Prior has been a tireless community advocate in the Danville Transportation Enhancement Project. The goal has been to redevelop the section of Route 2 which runs through the center of Danville while maintaining the community's unique historic and natural features. Mary was honored for her perseverance in making sure that Danville's aesthetic details are not lost and for passionately speaking out on behalf of the community.

Clockwise from left: Rep. Peter Welch, Alex Aldrich, Curtis Koren, Ed Koren, Gov. Jim Douglas, Peggy Kannenstine and John O'Brien; Peggy Kannenstine, Sabrina Brown and Alex Aldrich; Paul Costello; Mary Prior

Art of Vermont:

THE STATE COLLECTION

Celebrating Art in State Buildings Program's 20th Anniversary

"It was a tie," explains David Schütz, Vermont State Curator. In 1837 the Senate was at an impasse on whether to purchase the state's first piece of art --a large oil portrait of George Washington by George Gassner. Lt. Governor David Camp broke the tie by voting in favor of the purchase and as Schütz proudly asserts, "the State of Vermont has been collecting art ever since."

Since its founding in 1964, the Vermont Arts Council has played a significant role in expanding the collection beyond the walls of the capitol building. In 1968 the Council selected internationally-



heralded artists to create large marble and concrete sculptures for rest areas along the newly-completed interstate. Many remain there today. The Council also purchased a variety of pieces for the newly-constructed Pavilion State Office Building and other state facilities throughout the 1970's and 80's.

In 1988 the General Assembly passed the Art in State Buildings Act. Through this program, which is managed by the Arts Council, Vermont artists are commissioned to create site-specific work for state facilities. Over the past 20 years, funding for more than two dozen projects in state-owned

facilities and public spaces has greatly expanded the state art collection.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Art in State Buildings Program, the Arts Council and the Department of Buildings and General Services have organized a touring exhibit. **Art of Vermont:**

The State Collection features approximately 50 of the 1,000 pieces the state has accumulated. While the exhibit has its share of portraits honoring governors and military heroes, it also demonstrates a rich and varied interpretation of the people, places and principles that define our state.

The traveling exhibit is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpieces program. The display will vary from venue to venue, reflecting the particular aesthetic, historic or regional focus of the sponsoring institutions. What will remain constant are paintings and sculptures rarely seen by the general public and the people who own them--the citizens of Vermont.

Visit the Arts Council's website at www.vermontartscouncil.org to view images from the State collection as well an interactive map indicating the location of Art in State Buildings installations.

Inset: "Sara Reclining" by Janet Fredericks



The Big Read

In 2004, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) issued *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*. The study identified a critical decline in literary reading, and found that less than half of Americans are reading any kind of literature including novels, short stories, poetry or drama. The NEA created **The Big Read** to restore reading to the center of American culture by encouraging reading for pleasure and enlightenment.

The Arts Council chose Dashiell Hammett's 1930 classic *The Maltese Falcon* for Vermont's Big Read. In addition to being one of the best detective novels ever written, it is a thriller, a love story, and a dark, dry comedy. While 117 organizations nationally took part in the 2007-08 initiative, the Vermont Arts Council's project was the only one encompassing an entire state.

Six high schools and 31 libraries signed up to receive copies of the book plus readers and teach-

ers guides. Dozens of towns organized community book studies and some created more extensive programs. Springfield Public Library, for example, has a stuffed falcon (named Sam Spade) that made its way around town trying to "catch" folks reading the book.

Montpelier's Lost Nation Theater performed a series of staged readings of *The Maltese Falcon*. These were videotaped in front of a live audience by ORCA Media then edited for broadcast on Vermont's network of cable access stations. Each episode included introductory remarks by Senator Patrick Leahy plus an interview spotlighting one of Vermont's great mystery writers.

Several participants commented that the program was a great reminder of how pleasurable literary reading can be. One remarked, "There's a wealth of words that I'm encouraged to pursue at our library."

Images: Left: Lost Nation Theater cast with Alex Aldrich, Kenric Kite (ORCA Media) and David Kipen (NEA)
Right: Student posing with the Maltese Falcon at the opening event



Spotlight on: AMERICAN MASTERPIECES

American Masterpieces is a grant program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Schools, libraries and other community organizations can receive funding for performances and workshops featuring artists whose work celebrates Vermont's rich cultural heritage. These performances represent centuries-old traditions that are native to this region or are rooted in the family and community traditions of Vermont's European settlers.

Circus Smirkus received a special American Masterpieces grant to support community activities in conjunction with their 2008 Big Top Tour. **Rob Mermin**, a circus arts performer and founder of Circus Smirkus, visited five Vermont communities in the weeks before the traveling youth circus

came to town. His program, "100 Years of Circus in Vermont: True Stories of High Adventure and Low Comedy in the Circus Ring," chronicles the rich tradition of "mud shows" in Vermont and is illustrated with photos and film clips from a century of traveling circuses. Rob's presentation balances performance (demonstrations of circus tricks) and lecture (the lingo, traditions and lifestyle of the itinerant show) to provide a vibrant history of the circus culture. "Even The Big One—Ringling & Barnum—came through Vermont back then," Rob says. "Those were the days when the whole town would shut down for Circus Day. Smirkus carries on the traditions, though it's a mystery why schools, banks, and municipal affairs don't close up when we come to town!"

American Masterpiece Program artists (clockwise from bottom left): Peter Amidon, Jesse Larocque, Social Band & Rob Mermin

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504/ADA Accessibility Coordinator

Marie Bernier
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Elaine Dufresne
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Employees Who Served in the Past Year:

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John Zwick
Public Arts Project Manager

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Grants

In FY08, the Vermont Arts Council awarded more than \$616,900 in grants to individual artists, arts organizations, schools, community groups and 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 Arts Council 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 provides not only 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.

GRANTS FOR ARTISTS

Creation Grants

Nathan Beaman

Burlington
\$3,000 to support the creation of a feature length documentary film about serial killer Arthur Shawcross.

Renee Bouchard

Bennington
\$3,000 to support the creation of a 12'x8' wall piece.

Thomas Brennan

Hinesburg
\$3,000 to support the creation of a photographic series.

Stephen Cramer

Burlington
\$3,000 to support the writing of a book of poetry.

James Florschutz

Newfane
\$3,000 to support the creation of sculptures for a one person exhibit at OK Harris in NYC.

Erik Nielsen

Brookfield
\$3,000 to support the creation of a new work for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano.

Mira Niagolova

Essex Junction
\$3,000 to support script research and storyboard development.

Angela Patten

Jonesville
\$3,000 to support the completion of a poetry manuscript.

Rachel Perlmeter

Shelburne
\$3,000 to support the creation of "Ostentatious Poverty: An Economic Quartet", a new play.

Social Band

Hinesburg
\$3,000 to support the commissioning of fourteen choral works to be performed throughout the state.

Thea Storz

Lyndonville
\$3,000 to support the creation of a photographic quilt.

Christopher Thompson

Burlington
\$3,000 to support the creation of a nine piece art installation.

VT Center for Crime Victim Services

Waterbury
\$3,000 to support the "Keeping Heart Sculpture", the center for the Courage in Bloom Memorial garden.

Lynne Jaeger Weinstein

Putney
\$3,000 to support the creation of a photographic portfolio.

Teo Zagar

Barnard
\$3,000 to support the creation of a 30-minute documentary in high-definition digital video.

Artist Development Grants

Emily Anderson

Burlington
\$300 to support workshop attendance at the Tucson Creative Dance Center.

Kathleen Berry Bergeron

Jericho
\$250 to attend the Vermont Art Event conference in Colchester, Vermont.

Alisa Dworsky

Montpelier
\$500 to support the design and printing of a professional stationary and business cards for marketing and promotion.

Becky Graber

Brattleboro
\$500 to support the participation in a vocal improvisation training program.

Mary Senior Harwood

South Hero
\$300 to attend the Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference and bookfair in New York City.

Jeh Kulu Dance & Drum Theater

Burlington
\$250 to revise the existing Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater website and Drum Festival brochure.

Karen Kamenetzky

Brattleboro
\$500 to attend the fiber artist symposium "Breaking New Ground" in Wayne, PA.

Tarah Krainak

Burlington
\$400 to attend a portfolio review session at FOTOFEST2008.

Carol MacDonald

Colchester
\$500 to support a four-week residency at the Vermont Studio Center in printmaking.

Katie Martin

Bennington
\$500 to support travel and rehearsal fees associated with a dance performance in New York City.

Elizabeth Myers

Brandon
\$250 to support the attendance at an artist's residency program at the Centre d'Art Natura in Spain.

Marie Pitti

Newfane
\$250 to support a weekend workshop "More than Meets the Eye" at Geryunant in West Dummerston, Vermont.

The PuppeTree

Post Mills
\$500 to create a self-mailing brochure for two venues on two productions.

Kathy Stark

Craftsbury Common
\$400 to support the creation of a brochure.

GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES

Local Arts Partnership Grants

River Arts of Morrisville

Morrisville
\$7,500 to support year three of a grant partnership with schools, the Town, LCPC, Copley Fund and social service agencies to provide arts programming in Lamoille County.

Rockingham Arts & Museum Project

(RAMP)
Bellows Falls
\$7,500 to support year three of promotion of the arts in Rockingham and the region as both a cultural enrichment and economic development tool.

Vermont Arts Exchange

North Bennington
\$7,500 to support year three of a grant to help (VAE) sustain, develop and strengthen a variety of community development and arts partnerships focused on the Bennington county community.

Community Project Grants

Bella Voce Women's Chorus

Essex Junction
\$5,000 to support the world premiere production of "Lessons from the Sea" by Gwyneth Walker.

Bethel Council on the Arts

Randolph
\$500 to support a performance by Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys.

Brattleboro Museum and Art Center

Brattleboro
\$3,850 to support the development and presentation of a work by composer Elizabeth Swados and accompanying photographic exhibition by O. Winston Link.

Burlington Book Festival

Williston
\$2,750 to support the third annual Burlington Book Festival. Burlington City Arts
\$3,850 to support the multi media exhibition "Location Shifts" and related educational activities.

Burlington Discover Jazz Festival

Burlington
\$4,900 to support the 2008 Burlington Discover Jazz Festival and related educational programming.

Chaffee Art Center

Rutland
\$2,750 to support the 07-08 Jazz Café series and related educational activities.

Champlain College

Burlington
\$1,000 to support the hiring of Janice Perry to work with students at Champlain College to produce multi-media performance projects on the subject of gender, race and sexuality.

First Night Burlington, Inc.

Burlington
\$3,850 to support a one day arts festival taking place in over 25 venues around the city of Burlington.

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts

Burlington
\$4,900 to support the presentation of the Flynn's "Identities Series", based on themes relating to race, gender, class, religion, sexual orientation and ability.

Green Mountain Cultural Center

Waitsfield
\$5,000 to hold a residency program and present "La Traviata".

Hall Farm Center for Arts & Education

Townshend
\$3,850 to support the Brattleboro Literary Festival.

Island Arts

North Hero
\$2,750 to promote and provide visual arts workshops and a jazz camp.

Lost Nation Theater

Montpelier
\$3,150 to support a production of "Henry V" including 21 performances, outreach and educational activities.

Manchester Music Festival

Manchester
\$7,000 to introduce students to classical music through a series of workshops and performances.

Middlebury Festival on the Green

Middlebury
\$2,750 to present the Middlebury Summer Festival on the Green.

Montgomery Historical Society

Montgomery
\$1,000 to support three concerts in Pratt Hall in Montgomery.

MRC Bundy, Inc.

Waitsfield
\$1,500 to support the Transcontinental Duo's presentation of a workshop and concert at the Bundy Center for the Arts.

Northern Stage

White River Junction
\$4,900 to support the production and performance of the Third Annual Northern New England Primary Playwrights Festival at Northern Stage.

Opera Company of Middlebury

Middlebury
\$2,750 to support a 12-piece orchestra for a production of "La Boheme".

Pentangle Council on the Arts

Woodstock
\$3,850 to support Pentangle's 2007-2008 Performance Art series.

Pipers' Gathering

South Ryegate
\$5,000 to support the planning and presentation of a four-day bagpipe gathering in Killington.

River Arts of Morrisville

Morrisville
\$3,850 to create an Artist-in-Residence program collaborating with organizations throughout the Lamoille Valley.

Sandglass Center for Puppetry

Putney
\$7,000 to plan and produce the "Puppets in the Green Mountains" festival.

University of Vermont

Burlington
\$3,850 to support the exhibition "Co-opting Craft".

Vermont International Film Festival

Burlington
\$2,750 to support the presentation of the Vermont Filmmaker's Showcase at the Vermont International Film Festival.

Vermont Jazz Center

Brattleboro
\$2,750 to support a series of jazz concerts.

Vermont Stage Company

Burlington
\$3,850 to support the composition and performance of original live music in a production of "King Lear".

Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival

Irasburg
\$4,000 to pay performer fees for the Warebrook Festival.

Write Action

Brattleboro
\$1,100 to support a workshop with poets and jazz musicians.

Technical Assistance Grants

Barre Opera House

Barre
\$500 to support attendance at the annual Association of Performing Arts Presenters Conference in New York.

River Arts of Morrisville

Morrisville
\$409 to support attendance in a conference sponsored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in Portland, Maine

Rochester Chamber Music Society

Rochester
\$500 to attend the biennial Suzuki Association of the Americas conference in Minneapolis.

Weston Playhouse Theatre Company

Weston

\$350 to support attendance at the 2007 Association for Fundraising Professionals in Portland, Maine.

Underserved Community Project Grants

Bethel Council on the Arts

Randolph
\$1,000 to support hiring Donald Knaack for 2 Junk Music workshops in the Bethel Schools followed by a community concert.

Capitol Chamber Artists Inc.

Benson
\$5,000 to support the "Romanticism: 150 Years..." project.

Center for Photographic Studies

Montpelier
\$1,013 to support a photo documentary project with Barre High School Students and Barre elders.

Chandler Center for the Arts

Randolph
\$2,250 to support the presentation of three concerts featuring the world premiers of music by three local composers.

GRACE

Hardwick
\$3,300 to support GRACE's arts instruction workshops and exhibition program for elders, underserved populations and developmentally disabled adults.

Great River Arts Institute Inc.

Bellows Falls
\$3,850 to support the "Open Art" after school program.

Kingdom County Productions

Barnet
\$4,900 to support the making of a film based on the Voices Project musical.

Lakes Region Youth Orchestra

Castleton
\$2,250 to support a concert with Elizabeth Von Trapp, and subsidized tickets for underserved members of the community.

Opera Theatre of Weston

Weston
\$2,250 to support the Opera for Kids "The Happy Prince" program, the Storybook Opera Project and the Young Artists Apprentice Training Program.

Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble

Fairfax
\$2,250 to support the 2007-2008 concert season.

Vermont MIDI Project
Essex Junction
\$2,250 to support live, concert performances of compositions created by students participating in the Vermont MIDI Project using professional musicians.

Vermont Shakespeare Company
North Hero
\$2,750 to perform Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors".

Vermont Symphony Orchestra
Burlington
\$3,150 to support the VSO's "Made in Vermont Music Festival" statewide tour.

Weston Playhouse Theatre Company
Weston
\$7,000 to expand and continue the outreach programs of the theatre.

Yellow Barn Music School & Festival
Putney
\$3,850 to support a 9 concert chamber music series in Windham County.

Cultural Facilities Grants

Barre Historical Society
Barre
\$4,778 to support the improvement of the performance/presentation space by installing stage lighting and staging.

Barrett Memorial Hall
South Strafford
\$7,920 to support the purchase and installation of exterior lighting, stage lighting and for the renovation of the stage floor.

Bryan Memorial Gallery
Jeffersonville
\$8,000 to support the renovation of Bryan Memorial Gallery's Middle Room.

Burlington City Arts
Burlington
\$3,729 to support the renovation of electrical, lighting and ventilation systems in the Burlington City Arts Clay and Craft Studio.

Capitol City Grange #469
Northfield Falls
\$20,000 to support ADA-accessibility improvements including the installation of a ramp a new entry way and an accessible bathroom.

Friends of the Brandon Town Hall
Brandon
\$20,000 to support the installation of a fire suppression system.

Greensboro Free Library
Greensboro
\$12,450 to support the installation of a new heating system.

Jamaica Town Hall Restoration Committee
West Windham
\$13,151 to support the upgrade of curtain and lighting facilities of the Town Hall stage, including shades in the main hall windows.

Norwich Historical Society
Norwich
\$20,000 to support ADA compliance with the installation of a new accessible ramp, bathroom and designated parking area.

Pierce Hall Community Center
Rochester
\$20,000 to support the installation of the heating system.

Roxbury Free Library
Roxbury
\$14,900 to support an addition to include an accessible ramp, foyer, and bathroom.

Town of Chittenden
Chittenden
\$15,000 to support the installation of electrical wiring, security and emergency lighting and for the purchase and installation of an accessible lift.

Town of Montgomery
Montgomery
\$4,325 to support the correction of drainage problems, the rebuilding of the exterior ADA ramp, and repair of the elevator.

Town of Worcester
Worcester
\$20,000 to support the installation of an accessibility lift and to renovate the rest rooms making them ADA compliant.

United Church of Putney
Putney
\$10,000 to support the installation of an enclosed accessibility lift to the second floor.

Vermont Independent School of the Arts
Sharon
\$15,747 to support the installation of an accessibility lift.

American Masterpieces Grants

Bakersfield School
Bakersfield
\$732 to support presentations and workshops with Judy Dow about the cultural heritage of Vermont and Abenaki basketry.

Burlington Parks & Recreation
Burlington
\$400 to support a storytelling performance with Tim Jennings and Leanne Ponder for seniors at the Isley Library.

Champlain Valley Festival
Ferrisburgh
\$10,000 to support the presentation of folk and American Masterpieces artists at the 25th annual Champlain Valley Folk Festival.

Circus Smirkus
Greensboro
\$12,000 to support the creation and presentation of Circus Smirkus' 2008 Big Top Tour in conjunction with a lecture series in selected communities with Rob Mermin.

Music for a Sunday Afternoon
Newport
\$300 to present a concert by Michele Choiniere in the Music for a Sunday Afternoon Series.

St. Albans for the Future
Saint Albans
\$725 to support a performance by Michele Choiniere at the St. Albans Franco-American Heritage Celebration.

Vergennes Area Chamber of Commerce
Vergennes
\$1,500 to support performances by the Beaudoin Legacy and Michele Choiniere on French Heritage Day in Vergennes.

GRANTS FOR EDUCATION

Education Project Grants

Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.
Arlington
\$5,000 to support a multi-disciplinary arts enrichment program for children, parents, teachers and community members.

Brookfield School
Brookfield
\$2,412 to support a 10-day residency with Karen Amirault where all students will work with the artist every day, creating dances to be performed in a final evening community event.

Crossett Brook Union Middle School
Duxbury
\$1,400 to support a Circus Smirkus residency with an interdisciplinary unit on statistics, physics, history of circus, geographical connections and creative and nonfiction writing, readings and vocabulary.

Dothan Brook School
White River Junction
\$2,915 to support a poetry and drama residency with Marv Klassen-Landis and Michael Zerphy using written expression and self-exploration.

In-Sight Photography Project, Inc.
Brattleboro
\$5,000 to support classes involving other collaborating youth-based organization in an effort to reach more youth and further utilize the skills of photographers connected to In-Sight.

Marlboro Elementary School
Marlboro
\$4,000 to support the second-annual Winter Workshops, a six-week program of artist-led workshops for the entire grade school population.

Tinmouth Elementary School
Tinmouth
\$1,360 to support "Tinmouth in Motion," a school wide dance residency with Karen Amirault that will positively associate dance with the current supervisory union wellness initiative.

Underhill Central School
Underhill Center
\$1,500 to support a six-day residency with Jon Gailmor to write and perform music school wide.

Underhill I.D. School
Jericho
\$1,337 to support a week long residency with Karen Amirault as the culmination of a year long, all-school interdisciplinary unit titled "Energy!"

VSA Arts of Vermont
Winooski
\$5,000 to support a series of poetry writing classes for English language learning students in five elementary schools in Washington and Chittenden counties.

Waitsfield Elementary School
Waitsfield
\$2,420 to support a 10-day residency with Karen Amirault that integrates social studies, physical education and arts curricula.

Walden School
West Danville
\$1,500 to support student enrichment in the arts, primarily music, through a week long residency with Burlington Taiko.

Education Initiative Grants

Folsom Educational Center
South Hero
\$10,000 to support students to improve reading comprehension and content area learning by integrating academics with theatre and movement.

Peoples Academy
Morrisville
\$10,000 to support school and community collaborative planning and implementation of arts integration through ongoing, high-quality professional development, diverse residencies, and performances.

Winooski School District
Winooski
\$10,000 to support arts integration in the school curriculum through a school wide unit on the diversity of the Winooski community.

Head Start Arts Partnership Grants

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 provide artist-in-residence programs with Jude Bond at two local pre-schools.

Chaffee Art Center
Rutland
\$2,800 to support songwriting and creative movement activities with Linda MacFarlane in eight different Rutland area schools.

Lost Nation Theater
Montpelier
\$2,500 to support seven family outings with artists and seven site residencies in Washington and Orange County Head Start facilities.

River Arts of Morrisville
Morrisville
\$1,800 to support four artist sessions with River Arts staff at three Head Start sites.

Art in State Buildings Grants

Andrea Stix Wasserman
Vershire
\$10,500 to support creation and installation of a suite of artwork at 133

State Street in Montpelier.

Annemie Curlin
Charlotte
\$620 to support educational signage for the Rutland Courthouse Art in State Buildings Project.

Annemie Curlin
Charlotte
\$3,250 to support the creation and installation of a suite of 18 paintings at the Rutland County Courthouse.

David Brewster
Halifax
\$6,000 to support the creation and installation of 5 paintings for the interior of the new St. Albans Department of Public Safety facility.

Elizabeth Billings
Tunbridge
\$9,000 to support the fabrication and installation of a suite of artwork for the State office Building at 133 State Street.

Special Project Grants

Big Heavy World
Burlington
\$10,116 to support the Vermont Jukebox Project and the Vermont Music Library's Digital Cultural Initiative.

Governor's Institutes of Vermont
Montpelier
\$7,000 to support the Governor's Institute for the Arts.

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

VT Alliance for Arts Education
Waterbury
\$4,000 to support the VAAE in providing professional development for arts and classroom teachers and artists during a two-day arts education conference.

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

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

Vermont Folklife Center
Middlebury
\$2,000 to support the Folklife center in planning for future American Masterpiece program development and continued outreach activities regarding cultural heritage and diversity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Vermont Arts Council extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to the many individuals who contributed their time, expertise, and judgment as volunteer panelists, committee members and workshop organizers.

Local Arts Partnership Grants Panel
Lisa Ryan, Montpelier
Liza Sacheli Lloyd, Middlebury
Michael Levine, Montpelier

Creation Grants Panel (Multi-disciplinary)
Maura Campbell, Burlington
Tim Fort, Weston
Jody Gladding, Calais
Peter Kent, Montpelier
Erik Nielsen, Brookfield
Gary Smith, Walpole, NH

Creation Grants Panel (Visual)
Charlie Hunter, Bellows Falls
Ric Kadour, Burlington
Annie Tiberio Cameron, Montpelier
David Woolf, Burlington

Community Arts Grants Panel
Steve Ames, Morrisville
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Middlebury
Allison Carroll, Middlebury
Mary Margaret Schoenfeld, Washington, D.C.
Mickey Myers, Jeffersonville
Bob Fogelgren, Arlington

Education Grants Panel:
Robert Stevens, Montpelier
Geof Hewitt, Montpelier
Steve Small, Middlebury
Cheri Skurdall, Montgomery Center
Robyn Davis, Charlotte

Art in State Buildings Legislative Advisory Committee:
Alex Aldrich, Vermont Arts Council
Gerry Meyers, Dept of Buildings & General Services
David Schütz, State Curator
Ed Wolfstein, VT State Board of Architects
Rep. Alice Emmons, Springfield
Rep. Alison Clarkson, Woodstock
Sen. Phil Scott, Montpelier

Art of Vermont exhibition:
Paul Gruhler, Project Curator
David Schütz, State Curator
Tracy Martin, Assistant State Curator
Jeb Wallace-Brodeur, Photographer

Poetry Out Loud:
Judges:
Peter Gilbert, Montpelier
Maura Campbell, Burlington
Steven Sandy, North Bennington
Gail Kilkelly, Berlin
Guest Artists:
Morgan Irons, Calais
Geof Hewitt, Calais
Baron Wormser

Non-Board Committee Members:
Nancy Judge, Woodstock
Barbara Korecki, Plainfield
Tony Pietricola, Grand Isle
Bruce Wilson, Burlington
Adriana Katzew, Burlington
Elaine Harrington, Montpelier

Accessibility Workshops:
Renee Wells, Ripton
Gregory Sharrow, Middlebury
Marcy Hermansader, Putney
Debora Lisi-Baker, Montpelier
Ann Potter, Brattleboro
Ryland White, Putney
Timothy Nitz, Burlington
Jean Shiner, Exeter, NH

Big Read Set Design:
Julie Mueller, Stowe

Media Room Consultant:
John Russell, Montpelier



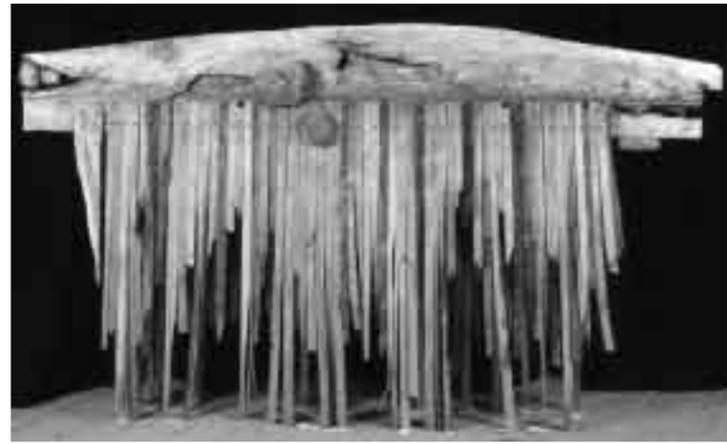
GRANT PROFILE

Art comes to rural communities...

In too many school districts, funding for arts education programs is limited or non-existent. "Schools today are so constricted in what they can offer," says Jackie Fehrenbach, Education Outreach Director at **Great River Arts Institute (GRAI)**. "We're providing a creative opportunity for kids." With help from a Community Arts Grant GRAI is offering high-quality after-school arts programs to about 200 children in eleven towns in the Upper Valley. Professional artists weave elements of science, social studies, environmental studies and language arts into the artmaking. The program is especially valuable in rural communities where low incomes and lack of transportation affect participation. Westminster Schools principal Steve Tullar says, "For many of our students these classes are the only chance they have to participate in an arts enrichment program. Factors such as the rural nature of our town, distance from cultural events, increasing costs of food and gas limit our students' access to programs that are not offered on the local level."

To learn more, visit www.greatriverarts.org

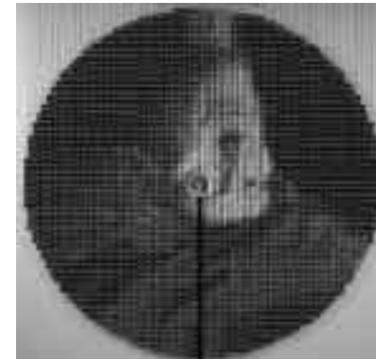
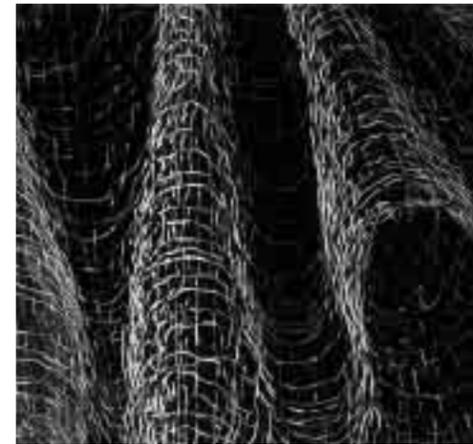
Image: Students creating art as part of GRAI



Clockwise from left: Great River Arts Institute (GRAI) students, "Untitled" by James Florschutz, Kirk Murphy with a student at GRAI, GRAI student art, "vacant 3" by Tarrah Krajnak



inspiring
a creative state



Clockwise from top left: students, "Wave, Particle, Duality II" by Alisa Dworsky, "Luna" by Thomas Brennan, Lake Regions Youth Orchestra musician, student photo from GRAI, Ruth Stone, "harmony of the Spring Mountain Range" by Viuu Niiler, "After van Eyck" by Devorah Sperber

[www.vermont arts council .org](http://www.vermontarts council.org)

Contributions

On behalf of the board and staff, we thank everyone who contributed to the Vermont Arts Council in the past year!

Members tell us there are two primary reasons they support our work. The first is the grants and services we offer artists, cultural organizations and community groups. In the past year member contributions helped fund 137 grants totaling \$616,907. While membership is only one part of the funding formula, it directly influences the second reason members support the Arts Council: our advocacy work.

As the state's primary resource for arts information and advocacy, we represent Vermont's cultural community at the State House and in Washington, working to promote public understanding, appreciation and funding for the arts. Our voice is much stronger when we can demonstrate that a significant number of Vermonters value the arts in our schools, our communities, and our lives. This year these efforts were recognized on both the State and Federal levels.

In a year where many agencies received level funding or a decrease, the Governor and Legislature recommended a 2.6% increase for the Arts Council. Vermonters joined the chorus of arts advocates across the nation and their advocacy resulted in a 28% increase to the National Endowment for the Arts budget—which translates to a \$116,000 increase to the Vermont Arts Council—proving that your dollar and your voice really can make a difference.

We are always pleased to receive gifts that are designated to support particular programs or services. Some of these are from the estates of our friends who wished to leave a legacy of support, and some are in recognition of particular individuals. This year the Council received special gifts in honor of our new Poet Laureate, Ruth Stone. Because of her lifelong dedication to the importance of literary education, gifts in her honor will support the Council's Arts in Education programs. Cartoonist Ed Koren was the recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts and 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 keep abreast of how your investment and our efforts continue to impact the state. On behalf of the staff and trustees of the Vermont Arts Council, I thank our contributors for their continued support and friendship to the arts.

Sincerely,



Diane Scolaro
Communications & Development Director

individual donors

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Preston Bristow

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

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Isabeth Hardy
Robert & Karin Hardy
Celine Hargraves
Elaine Harrington
Mary Senior Harwood
Anne Havel
Mary Hays & Stephen Long
Shelby Hearon
Zeke & Linda Hecker
Inez Hedges
James & Nancy Henry
Marcy Hermansader
Georgia Higley
Heidemarie Holmes-Heiss & Stephen Holmes
Virginia L. Hood
Bob Hooker & Greg Sharrow
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Cynthia Huard
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Ralph Jacobs
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Susan Jarvis
Sandy Jefferis
Chris Jeffrey
Jeudevine Memorial Library
Homer Johnson
Jane May Jones
Jeffrey & Rachel Kahn
Karen Karnes
Muffy Kashkin Grollier
Karolina Kawiaka
Steven & Bonnie Klimowski
Patricia Klinefelter
David & Lowell Klock
Donald Knaack
Anne Knapp
Edward & Curtis Koren
Frederick & Emily Kunreuther
Rep. Michele F. Kupersmith
George Kurjanowicz
Jann LaBelle-Prince
Ms. Carol Langstaff
James Lantz
Emese Laszlo
Sydney Lea & Robin Barone
Jack & Susi Learmonth
Hubert & Mary Lechevalier
Herbert & Cornelia Levin
Harry Chen & Anne Lezak
Dan Lindner
Terry Lindsey
Kathryn Link
Barbara Lipstadt
Evan & Sally Littlefield
Robert Lloyd
Veronica Lopez
Peter & Melissa Lourie
Daniel Lusk & Angela Patten
Shayne Lynn
Carol E. MacDonald
Joan MacKenzie
DeWitt & Vera Mallary
Theodore & Patricia Mandeville
Martha Manheim
William & Dana Mann
Patty Manning
Frances Marbury
Dennis W. Marden
Pamela Marron
Bryan J. Marsh
Katie Martin
Bill & Anne McCormick
Lisa McCormick
Ann McFarren
James & Ann McGarrell
Janet McKenzie
Robert & Jeanne McWaters
Carolyn Mecklosky
Rebecca Merrilees
Lynn Miles
Gary D & Margaret Miller
Margaret Miller
Peter Miller
Peter M. Miller
John & Robin Milne
Joey Morgan
Joan M. Morris
Warren Morse & Mary Byrnes
Timothy & Anne Morton
Polly Motley
Caroline M. Murphy
Liza Myers

Jeffrey Kinsey & Elizabeth Nelson
Lisa Nelson
Radetta Nemcosky
Donna Nestle
Betty Nickerson
James & Penelope Nolte
John Norton
Ellen O'Brien
Rosamond Orford
Anthony Otis
Amy Otten
Emma Ottolenghi
John & Alice Outwater
Rik Palieri & Marianna Holzer
Gabe Palmer
Parish Players
Emily Parker
Patricia O'Brien Parsons
Collette Paul
Henry & Barbara Payson
Eve S. Pearce
Carrie Perkins
Ralph Perkins
Janice Perry
Peter McNaull & Marcia Pierce
Tony & Susan Pietricola
Ellen & Ronald Pitkin
John & Lucille Plaustein
John & Peggy Poffenberger
Susan Pollock
William & Linda Pollock
Fred Stetson & Katherine Pond
Verandah Porche
Christopher Preston
Fred & Granthia Preston
Constance J. Price
Stephen Procter
Catharine & Robert Rachlin
Shanna Ratner
Kathrena Ravenhorst-Adams
John & Pam Rehlen
Nancy Reid
Stephen Reid & Judith Irving
Jim Reiman & Linda Grant
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Chip Greenberg & Linda Rubinstein
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Frank Salomon
Anita Sandler
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Benjamin Schore
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Gary Smith
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Jing Ji Stangel
David Connor & Ann Stanton
Kathy Stark
Stephen & Bonnie Stearns
Elizabeth Steele
Aaron Stein
Georg & Hanne Steinmeyer
Marion Stenger
Robert Troester & Joan Stepenske
Robert & Judith Sterns
Steve Stettler
Martha L. Stevenson
Janice & Gerald Stockman
Teresa Stores
Robert Nassau & Nancy Storrow
Catherine N. Stratton
Lori Stroutos
James Sturm
Altoon Sultan
Pete & Karen Sutherland
Fred & Diane Swan
Dorothy A. Sweeney
Suzanne Tanner
Josephine Tate
Julie Teta
Gordon & Pat Thomas
Mary Thompson
Lydia Thomson
John S. Tidd
Peter Jack Tkatch
Margaret Torrey
Robert & Karen Tortolani
Roger E. Truelsen
Mark & Robin Twery
David & Cynthia Twombly
Claire Van Vliet
Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance
Village Harmony
VSA Arts of Vermont
Gwyneth Walker
Peter & Meg Walker
Ruth Wallman
Susan J. Walp
Mary Walz
Paul & Jennifer Waring
Knight & Mary Jane Washburn
Waterbury Activity & Cultural Committee
Michael & Phyllis Wells
Roderick Wells
D. Billings & Sally Wheeler
Warner & Phyllis White
Ruth Fuller White
Marian Willmott
Irene Schrauth Wilson & David Wilson
Howard & Betsy Wing
Mrs David H. Winton
Elaine Franz Witten
Dori & Jeff Wolfe
Nancy Means Wright
Glenn Ziemke
Terry Zigmund

\$1 - \$40

ANONYMOUS - 4
Lorraine Abramson
Linda Anderson
David Aldrich

Rep. William Aswad
George & Marianne Becker
Steven Bogart
David Brewster
Honorable & Mrs. Alden T. Bryan
Gilles & KyuHee Bussod
Marialisa Calta
Rebecca Carleton
tarin chaplin
Margaret Cheney
Sandra & Thomas Cooch
Meg Cottam
Jay Craven & Bess O'Brien
Mary Curtin
Joan Curtis
Porter & Mary Dale
Lois D'Arcangelo
Arlene Distler
Pierre & Carolyn Donnet
John & Ruth Drake
Matt Dunne & Sarah Taylor
Kevin Dunwoody
Bonnie Fallon
John & Rachi Farrow
Edward & Mary Feidner
Polly S. Foley
Sienna Fontaine
Laurie Foster & Michael Livingston
Patsy & Patrick French
Kim Friedman
Margot George
Charles Gibson
Ernest & Charlotte Gibson
Robert & Phyllis Grossbaum
Richard & Betsy Hale
Ellen Hart
Stephen & Catherine Hays
David & Michelle Holzapfel
James Hroncich
Morgan C. Irons
Kimberly Jones
Barbara Kaufman
Rona Klein
Kathleen Kolb
Bettina Krampetz
John Lane
George & Elaine Latzky
John & Marcia Leader
Willard W. Brown & Nicole Librandi
Ellison Lieberman
George & Elaine Little
Isabella McFarlin
Dean & Dona Meltzer
Rob Mermin
Andrea Morgante
Donald L. Morrison
Rep. Michael J Obuchowski
Ghita Orth
Susan Osgood
Mary Pacifici
Linda Peavy & Ursula Smith
Giovanna & David Peebles
Cristina Pellechio
Albert & Marcia Perry
Gordon & Sylvia Pettingell
Pierce Hall Community Center
Charlotte Potok
Kenneth & Frances Quackenbush
Jim Ralph
David Rath
Marcus Ratliff
Janet Ressler
Ginni Richard
Robin Rothman
Coralie H. Sloan
Sydney Alonso & Jacqueline Springwater



Poet Laureate

Sharing a piece of her Vermont...

The Vermont Poet Laureate is appointed by the Governor and serves for a term of four years. The Arts Council oversees the nomination and selection process. In order to be considered, candidates need to have produced a critically acclaimed body of work and have a long association with Vermont. Ruth Stone certainly fits the bill.

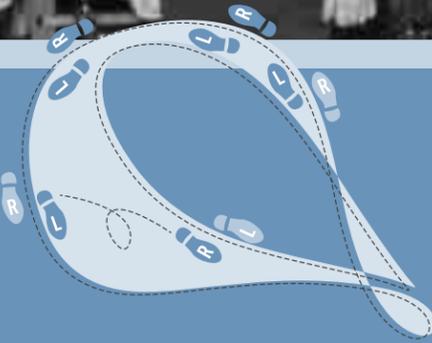
Ruth has made her home in Vermont since 1957 and her life in the Green Mountains figures prominently into her work. *In The House Is Made of Poetry: The Art of Ruth Stone*, fellow poet Willis Barnstone said, "Her Vermont house is one of the main characters in her life, and each room has rocking chairs, old pumpkin pine bedsteads, a barn-tin roof, delicate blue wallpaper, and windows with rain, orchards, and farmer neighbors directly outside the panes. All figure in the moments of her verse."

In presenting this citation, Governor Douglas said, "Ruth is well-known and well-respected throughout the world for her extraordinary contributions to American literature. She will represent Vermont with great distinction."

Photo from left to right: Peggy Kanenstine, Gov. Jim Douglas, Alex Aldrich, Ruth Stone



STOMPIN' WITH THE Stars



“I’m not a dancer so when asked what I wanted to learn, I said ‘the Tango’ not realizing it was one of the most difficult dances to master. What an absolute challenge and joy to be a part of this fun and worthwhile event.”

In the Hollywood version of “Dancing with the Stars” celebrities like Olympic speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno, singer Marie Osmond, and talk show host Jerry Springer waltz, samba, cha-cha and quick-step their way toward a grand prize disco ball trophy.

Last fall the Arts Council organized a fundraising gala based on the popular television show and called it “Stompin’ With the Stars.” In the Green Mountain State’s version, eight Vermont celebrities were paired with professional dance instructors to learn a dance in the style of their choice. Participants included development consultant Billi Gosh, cartoonist Ed Koren, singer Jenni Johnson, State Representative Mitzi Johnson, artist Warren Kimble, business developer Melinda Moulton, attorney Dan Smith and singer/songwriter Patrick Fitzsimmons.

Left: Staff and board dance Right: Melinda Moulton and Gerd Hirschmann

Fran Stoddard of Vermont Public Television was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Celebrity judges Andrea Rogers (Flynn Center), Will Voigt (Vermont Frost Heaves) and Jimmy Swift (First Night Burlington) offered color commentary, but it was the audience that determined the winner with their votes. In the end, Melinda Moulton and her dance instructor, Gerd Hirschmann of Rutland, took the trophy and bragging rights with their sizzling Argentine tango. Moulton said, “I’m not a dancer so when asked what I wanted to learn, I said ‘the Tango’ not realizing it was one of the most difficult dances to master. Well, a month and several lessons later, Gerd and I stomped our way to the championship! What an absolute challenge and joy to be a part of this fun and worthwhile event.”

INDIVIDUAL GIVING > Continued

Andrea Stander
Thea Storz
Enrique Bueno & Yvonne Straus
Doug LaPoint & Camilla Strauss
Alf Svendsen
Kenneth & Marie Tatro
Steven Thomas & Deborah Bassett

M. Emmet Walsh
John Weaver
Lynne Jaeger Weinstein
Patricia & Francis Whitcomb
Thomas Wicker & Pamela Hill
Stuart & Sarah Williams
T. Hunter Wilson & Jill Hulme

Organization & business donors

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Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing
Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association
Vermont Yankee – Entergy Nuclear

Grants and Foundations

ANONYMOUS – 1
American Express Foundation
The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation
IBM Matching Grants Program
Polk Family Fund II
The Estate of Georgia Rese
Vermont Community Foundation

Corporate

AIG/Stowe Mountain Resort
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Art on Main
Artisans Hand
Barnes Frame & Moulding Company, Inc.
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Barrett Memorial Hall
Bassoon Project
Bear Pond Books
Bella Voce - Women’s Chorus of Vermont
Bethel Council on the Arts
Billings Farm & Museum
Birds of Vermont Museum
Brattleboro Arts Initiative
Brattleboro Museum & Art Center
Brattleboro Women’s Chorus

Bread & Puppet Theater
Bristol Historical Society, Inc.
Burklyn Arts Council
Burlington Choral Society
Burlington Magazine
Capitol Chamber Artists Inc
Capitol City Grange #469
Capitol Copy
Champlain Valley Festival
Chandler Center for the Arts
Charles Shackleton Furniture/
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Development & Art: Peace Tiles Project
Diamond & Robinson, P.C.
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Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium
Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
Friends of the Brandon Town Hall
Friends of the Vergennes Opera House
Furchgott Sourdiffe Gallery
Governor’s Institutes of Vermont
Greater Manchester Arts Council
Green Mountain Chorus
Green Mountain Cultural Center
Green Mountain Festival Series
Green Mountain Fine Art Gallery
Green Mountain Video Inc
Greensboro Free Library
Henry A. Bromelkamp+Co.
HMC Advertisting, LLC

Island Arts
Jay Zwynenburg
Jeh Kulu Dance & Drum Theater
Killington Arts Guild
Lamoille County Players
Legal Sea Foods
Lyric Theatre Company
Main Street Arts
Manchester Music Festival
Maplewood, Ltd.
Middlebury Festival On The Green
Montgomery Historical Society
MRC Bundy, Inc.
New England Youth Theatre
No Strings Marionette Company
Norwich Historical Society
Opera Company of Middlebury
Opera Theatre of Weston
Orleans County Historical Society
Paige & Campbell
Paramount Center Inc
Pawlett Historical Society
Pierce Hall Community Center
Place Creative Company
Poultney Historical Society
Randolph National Bank
Rochester Chamber Music Society
Rokeyby Museum
Sam’s Department Stores
ShoeLess Management
Shrewsbury Historical Society
Social Band
Southern Vermont Artists Inc
St. Albans Artists Guild
Swenson Granite Company
The Ascutney Trio
The Drawing Board, Inc.
The Main Street Museum of Art
The Music Box
The Piper’s Gathering, Inc.
Timothy D. Smith & Associates
Town Hall Theater, Inc.
Town of Hartland
Town of Jamaica
Town of Montgomery
Trust Company of Vermont

Vermont Fiddle Orchestra
Vermont Fire Extinguisher
Vermont Hand Crafters, Inc.
Vermont Jazz Center
Vermont MIDI Project
Vermont Performing Arts League
Vermont Shakespeare Company
Vermont Stage Company
VT State High School Dance Festival
Wall/Goldfinger
Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival
Warren Public Library
Washington Electric Cooperative
Webster Construction
Wells River Savings Bank
White River Craft Center
White River Valley Players
Wooden Horse Arts Guild

Educational Institutions

Addison Central School PTA
Bakersfield School
Georgia Elementary & Middle School
Great River Arts Institute Inc
Lake Region Union High School
Lyndon State College
Monkton Central School
Monteverdi Music School
Peoples Academy
Vermont Independent School of the Arts

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

October, 2008

Dear Friends,

The year just passed might best be described as a planning year—but not in the sense that one usually thinks of planning. We didn't do extra outreach for the specific purpose of developing or updating our strategic plan. We didn't do a statewide survey, or hire a consultant to help us identify our strategic goals, or amend our mission statement. And we didn't have a special board/community committee established to help us oversee the planning process.

What we did was take time to recover from the "Palettes of Vermont" project and plan and begin to execute our second statewide, community arts project called "Art Fits Vermont" (aka the Puzzle Project). We also spent a lot of time looking at how we might become better at engaging our members and constituents in advocacy and art-making through new online tools. We spent an enormous amount of time dealing with the legislature trying to explain that the National Endowment for the Arts appropriation requires a one-to-one match and as a consequence we face a significant loss of federal funds if the state doesn't step up to the plate now that the NEA increased our appropriation by about \$117,000.

We also got involved in a project with Lyman Orton to commission works of art from 10 artists to create works that respond to challenges and opportunities facing Vermont in the future. And, as ever, we gave grants to dozens of worthy projects in arts centers, community centers, schools, studios, and public spaces all over Vermont.

Looking forward it is becoming clearer and clearer to those of us closest to the pulse of trends and new directions influencing our field that the role of a state arts council is significantly different than it was just 10 years ago. We are spending more time helping people and organizations to help themselves. We are providing more support than ever for professional development, technical services, grant writing, and other things. We are encouraging more people to engage in art-making not necessarily so that they might be inspired to become artists themselves, but so that they might better appreciate the work of those who do make such a life-long commitment. We are constantly improving our online tools that help people and events market their artistic products and services; from "art trails" to the statewide arts calendar, from blogs to Google videos.

Everything we do now can be traced back to our 2001 Strategic Plan in which YOU, our constituents, asked us to make the arts more central to—and more valued in—the lives of people in Vermont communities.

We think we're still very much on the right track. But let us know if there is something we are missing.

Sincerely,



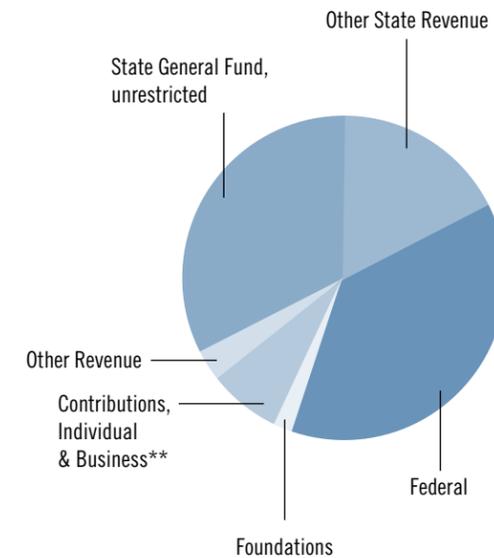
Alexander L. Aldrich
Executive Director

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FY2008 Statement of Fiscal Activities *

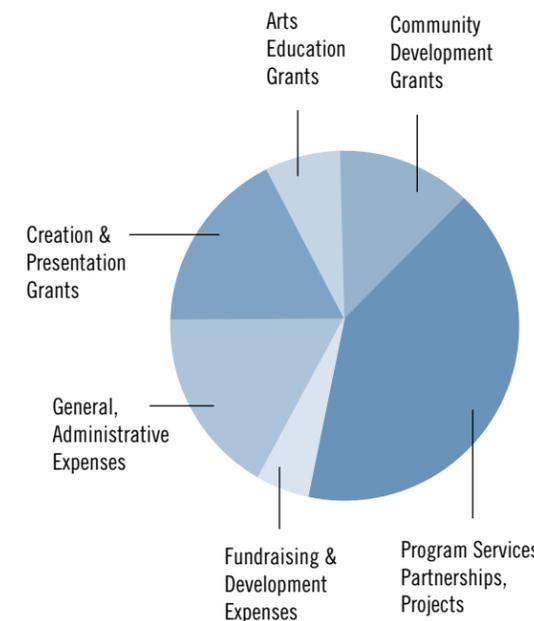
REVENUE

State General Fund, unrestricted	545,618
Other State Revenue	297,308
Federal	649,200
Foundations	14,977
Contributions, Individual & Business**	128,368
Other Revenue	41,343
Total Operating Revenue **	\$1,676,814



EXPENSES

Creation & Presentation Grants	266,440
Arts Education Grants	89,804
Community Development Grants	260,663
Services, Partnerships, Projects	667,897
Fundraising & Development Expenses	83,328
General, Administrative Expenses	279,654
Total Operating Expense	\$1,647,786



NET ASSETS

Net Assets, audited 6/30/07	734,306
Change in net assets, unaudited	29,028
Net Assets, unaudited 6/30/08	\$763,334

* Unaudited - Audit Report available upon request
** Includes donated capital equipment valued at \$5,619