The Vermont Arts Council was founded on a simple and powerful premise: The arts enrich lives, expand minds, and form a vital thread in the fabric of Vermont community life. We work to advance and preserve the arts at the center of Vermont communities.
VERMONT ARTS: PERSONAL STORIES CREATING A BIG IMPACT

DEAR FRIEND OF THE ARTS IN VERMONT,

Thanks to you, the arts are thriving in Vermont. In this report you will find several stories about real people who sustain the arts at the center of Vermont communities. These people, and the organizations they represent, have received Council funding, and their creative efforts have enriched those around them and their communities. Through their stories, we hope you will get a sense of the scope of support we offer, the excellence of the work that is supported, and why this work is so important.

Stories, however, only provide part of the total picture. The work of Individuals and organizations funded by the Council has a profound and growing impact on the entire state, its economy, and its quality of life. For example, in the past fiscal year, arts and community organizations funded by the Council served more than 1.2 million people through arts activities across the state. These organizations, in turn, contributed more than $34 million to the economy through arts-related activities. The total state and local tax revenue generated by the arts and cultural sector is five times greater than state and local investment in the arts. Even after the worst recession since the 1930s, employment in the sector has remained rock steady, and the vast majority of arts and culture entities have grown stronger in the ensuing years.

But statistics don’t tell the story. People do. As we approach our 50th year as Vermont’s state arts council, we will be telling a lot of stories. Please tell us yours.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Morrow
Chair (through June 2014)

Alexander L. Aldrich
Executive Director

In the past fiscal year, arts and community organizations funded by the Council served more than 1.2 million people through arts activities across the state.
THE ARTS IN VERMONT ARE ABOUT PEOPLE AND THEIR STORIES.

Through art, people come together as artists, as teachers, as community members.

Through art, young people learn about themselves, their culture, the world.

Through art, the fabric of Vermont becomes stronger, richer, and ever more vibrant.

In the following pages, we introduce you to some of these people and their stories.
ARTS PARTNERSHIP GRANTS provide operating funds over a three-year period to nonprofit arts organizations that offer year-round, high-quality arts programs that help to “advance and preserve the arts at the center of Vermont communities.”

In FY2014, the Arts Council awarded 13 Arts Partnership Grants totaling $95,900.
Zach Stephens leans over a light table, examining a strip of negatives with one of his students. Even in this digital age, Zach is still intrigued by film. He is also passionate about introducing a new generation of young people to the art of photography.

Zach’s interest in photography started when he took a class at In-Sight Photography Project in his teens. His talent and skill led to a successful nine-year career as a photo journalist. For Zach, though, something was missing. When he read that In-Sight was looking for a program director, he jumped at the chance to share his love of photography—especially film.

“When the job opportunity at In-Sight came up it was the perfect transition for me. It was a chance to get back to the artistic side of photography, but also to give back to the organization that gave me my start. I was excited about sharing what I’ve learned, and helping to grow the organization. I didn’t hesitate for a moment.”

In-Sight Photography Project offers classes and summer residencies to young people, from 11 to 18, regardless of ability to pay. The goal of In-Sight is to provide a welcoming and creative environment where, through photography, students learn about storytelling and how to think about things in a visual manner. They discover how to open their eyes to the world around them and gain a new awareness of community and place.

“As a teacher, it’s really fulfilling to be able to share what I’ve learned. Photography is so fun for me that just being able to talk about it with my students is kind of a blast. Knowing that they’re having as much fun talking about it as I am is all I need. It’s great.”
Aline Niyonzima displays both power and grace as she demonstrates a series of dance steps to the young women gathered around her. These steps, and the traditional songs that accompany them, are Aline’s most prized possessions. They are also among the few items she brought when she immigrated to Vermont from Burundi just five years ago.

Even during an interim stay at a Tanzanian refugee camp, Aline found a way to continue dancing. “In Tanzania, I had no access to traditional Burundian dancing. I longed to be with people who understand me, my culture, who speak the same language.” Another young Burundian woman at the camp wanted to form a dance group but couldn’t find a leader. Aline recalls with pride that she approached the woman and said simply, “I can do that.” Thus began her journey as a teacher and advocate for Burundian traditions and culture.

After arriving in Vermont, Aline was introduced to the Vermont Folklife Center. Recognizing her expertise and her passion for sharing her cultural roots, the Folklife Center staff helped Aline set up a series of community workshops. Through this support, Aline’s workshops have expanded, and she now teaches several groups of young women.

“The group gives these girls a chance to come together and talk about their culture. They can say ‘This is ours. This represents who we are.’” Through this shared experience, her students have developed a touchstone for the country they left behind. They have also gained confidence in all areas of their lives. Their English language skills have improved as well as their academic performance. Some of Aline’s students have gone on to college and are sharing their culture with new groups of people.

With a broad smile, Aline says “They know who they are. They can say ‘I’m a Burundian.’”
SPECIAL GRANTS are awarded to organizations that partner with the Council to provide statewide services or outreach and assistance to underserved populations.

In FY2014 the Council awarded five Special Grants totaling $29,000.
approaching art in new ways

The Vermont Art in State Buildings Program is administered by the Council in partnership with the Department of Buildings and General Services and is dedicated to enhancing working environments by improving the character and quality of State-owned buildings and public spaces.

In FY2014 the Council awarded $94,500 to nine artists for three Art in State Buildings projects.
The fawn taking a nap in a sunny corner is irresistible. It begs to be stroked along its warm back. This fawn, though, is part of a bench carved from granite inside the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital. This sculpture, along with six others, was created as part of a Vermont Art in State Buildings Project. The artist team, headed up by sculptor Chris Miller, worked collaboratively with staff at the hospital to create a work of art that blends beautifully with the architecture, landscaping, and therapeutic approach of the facility. “This project added a new dimension to our creative process,” said Chris. “We knew that every surface had to be approachable.”

For Chris, the most surprising and interesting part of the project was the collaborative process. “The carving is always fun, but what really surprised me was how creatively inspiring it was to interact with the focus groups, the staff, the construction crew, and the architects. We needed to blend together all this input while remaining true to the central concept of the project. It was just an incredible process.”

Kathleen Bushey, Associate Director of Nursing, was involved in the project from the beginning. “We went into the process with high expectations, but the resulting art, and its positive impact on this facility, has far exceeded what we could have imagined.”

“The resulting art, and its positive impact on this facility, has far exceeded what we could have imagined.”

– Kathleen Bushey

“This project added a new dimension to our creative process. We knew that every surface had to be approachable.”

– Chris Miller

Facing page: “Ottters” by Gampo Wickenheiser
Top right: “Fawn Bench” by Chris Miller (pictured)
Middle right: Kathleen Bushey with “Collie Bench,” by Ryan Mays
Bottom right: Detail from “Beaver Lodge,” by Heather Ritchie
When Toby MacNutt was five, she thought she wanted to be a cheerleader. At the first round of try-outs, though, she felt overwhelmed. It was clear that dance was more her style and she turned to ballet. Toby worked hard, began taking jazz and tap classes, and dreamed of a life as a dancer. Then, in her teens, she was diagnosed with a congenital condition. “I was told that dance was bad for me and that I should stop—and I did. It was a difficult decision.

“It took ten years for me to figure things out and to realize that there was more than one way to be a dancer. I acknowledged that I would not be dancing in the same way, but that I could certainly be a dancer again.”

Toby is committed to a dance form called adaptive dance. “The way adaptive dance happens so fundamentally informs how I move, how I think, and my aesthetic that I can’t ignore it.” Her journey from dancer to choreographer occurred almost by accident. She took part in a mixed ability dance performance, and afterwards realized that “every dance movement that I did in the show I had personally made. I said ‘maybe I can do this after all!’”

Toby moved quickly to establish herself as a choreographer. She landed a grant from the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, and an Arts Council Creation Grant. This funding enabled the development of “One, Two,” which premiered in Vermont in May, 2014, and in England in the summer of 2014.

Toby credits these grants for jump-starting her career as a choreographer. “Having an infusion of investment in the beginning is foundational to getting anything going at all. Through the Creation Grant, I gained critical credentials—a sold-out performance in the U.S. and the chance to take my work to the U.K. That’s pretty amazing.”
CREATION GRANTS SUPPORT the development of new work by Vermont artists working in all disciplines. Grantees are encouraged to develop work that aims to stimulate greater public understanding of the art form and has a strong potential for public presentation either during or after the grant period.

In FY2014 the Council awarded 10 Creation Grants totaling $30,000.
OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS help fund the operations of arts organizations through a two-year cycle.

In FY2014 the Arts Council awarded Operating Support Grants to 29 organizations totaling $95,000.
Santiago Galvis walks among tables of artists intent on their work. He conveys warmth and excitement as he stops to confer about whether a marker is pink or purple (“I think it’s magenta,” he says). Santiago is wholly attuned to the participants around him. “Being in a community of people who are creating art is very nourishing,” Santiago says with a grin.

On a typical Thursday, more than 50 people come to HowardCenter in South Burlington to participate in Grass Roots Art and Community Effort (GRACE) workshops. As a facilitator, Santiago helps them choose art supplies and offers art books for inspiration, but there is no actual “teaching” involved.

**FINDING GRACE IN ART**

The mission of GRACE is to provide a welcoming, art-filled space to enable anyone to explore their own creativity. “After participants have been coming for a while, they start to transform their ideas of themselves and their creativity. They feel empowered as artists.”

Santiago believes that working at GRACE has a strong influence on his own art-making. He is a glassblower and metal artist, and credits Larry Bissonette for changing his attitude about creativity. Larry has been coming to GRACE for more than 25 years. Experiencing Larry’s fearless approach to art has caused Santiago to worry less about the final product and to focus more on enjoying the process.

“That’s really the heart of it—to enjoy art-making and make it part of your life.”

“My art is not looking to make a statement about my autism working to overcome the limitations of my disability through art.”

– Larry Bissonnette

“...that’s really the heart of it – to enjoy art-making and make it part of your life.”

– Santiago Galvis
SUPPORT VERMONT ARTS

Become a member of the Vermont Arts Council.
Your membership tells the state legislature that you value the arts as an integral part of Vermont culture. Join us.

Contribute to the arts.
Organizations like GRACE, In-Sight Photography Project, and the Vermont Folklife Center depend on contributed income to provide the programs and services that bring art into — and change — lives. Support them.

Purchase art.
Chris Miller, Zachary Stephens, and Santiago Galvis strive to make a living as artists. Support them.

Attend live performances.
Toby MacNutt and Aline Niyonzima share their art through performance. Support them.

CREATE IMPACT
vermontartscouncil.org
In FY2014 arts and community organizations funded by the Council served more than 1.2 million people through arts activities across the state of Vermont. Of those, more than 180,000 were young people.

**ART IN STATE BUILDINGS AWARDS** support and promote the work of Vermont artists engaged in preserving and enriching the state’s cultural landscape for its citizens and visitors.

**Bennington District Court and State Offices**
- Gordon Auchincloss, Hardwick $2,500
- Gordon Auchincloss, Hardwick $34,000

**Vermont Agency of Human Services, Waterbury**
- Gordon Auchincloss, Hardwick $1,000
- Gordon Auchincloss, Hardwick $5,000
- Julie Zanes & Donald Saaf, Brattleboro, $1,000
- Leslie Fry, Winooski $1,000
- Natalie Blake, Brattleboro $1,000
- Sarah-Lee Terrat, Waterbury $1,000
- Sarah-Lee Terrat, Waterbury $5,000

**Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital, Berlin**
- Chris Miller, Calais $1,000
- Chris Miller, Calais $34,000
- Daniel Gottsegen, Woodstock, $1,000
- Elizabeth Billings, Tunbridge, $1,000
- Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architecture, Burlington $1,000

**ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS GRANTS** help schools develop in-class residency relationships with Vermont artists.

- Albany Community School, Albany $2,250
- Aurora School, Middlebury $750
- Bakersfield Elementary Middle School, Bakersfield $2,500
- Barre Town Elementary and Middle School, Barre $500
- Concord School, Concord $1,250
- Dothan Brook School, White River Junction $2,500
- Edmunds Middle School, Burlington $1,250
- Essex Middle School, Essex Junction $2,500
- Folsom Educational and Community Center, South Hero $2,500
- Guilford Central School, Guilford $1,000
- Hunt Middle School, Burlington $2,500
- Jamaica Village School, Jamaica $1,750
- Milton Town High School, Milton $1,250
- Monkton Central School, North Ferrisburgh $2,250
- Montpelier High School, Montpelier $1,250
- Mount Holly School, Mount Holly $1,000

**ARTIST DEVELOPMENT GRANTS** fund activities that enhance an artist’s professional career.

- Carol Langstaff, Sharon $500
- Caroline L. Webster, Essex Junction $300
- Courtney Reckord, South Burlington $250
- Dianne Shullenberger, Jericho $350
- Elissa Campbell, Montpelier $500
- Erica Venuti, Chelsea $350
- Erin Duffee, Burlington $500
- Hadley E. Mueller, Pittsford $400

Jane Boxall, Milton $500
Jeff Farber, Montpelier $250
Jerilyn Virden, Greensboro $400
Joshua Primmer, Bennington $900
Libby Davidson, Colchester $250
Lida Winfield, Burlington $800
Lisa Kippen, Tunbridge $400
Mary Zompetti, Jericho $500
Michael Bodel, Putney $450
Michelle Saffran, Moretown $350
Paige Berg Rizvi, Burlington $500
Rodrigo Nava, Putney $500
Sandra Williams, Hartland $250
Stephanie Seguino, Burlington $400
Terry Carter, Brattleboro $250
Tim Jennings, Montpelier $500

“The experience filled me with great ideas to chew on, and these ideas will continue to challenge and influence me for some time. I would not have been able to afford this program... without this grant from the VAC.”

— Erin Blair Duffee, Artist Development Grant recipient
In FY2014 Schools paid artists more than $85,000 to provide residencies in schools through the Artists in Schools program.

New England Kurn Hattin Homes, Westminster $1,250
Reading Elementary School, Reading $1,250
Red Cedar School, Bristol $2,500
River Rock School, Montpelier $2,500
Robinson School, Starksboro $2,500
Rumney Memorial School, Middlesex $2,250
Shelburne Community School, Shelburne $2,500
Townshend Elementary School, Townshend $1,750
Troy School, North Troy $1,250
Twin Valley Elementary, Wilmington $2,500

Arts Partnership Grants support the annual operations of Vermont arts organizations through three-year grants.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro $7,000
Burlington City Arts, Burlington $7,000
Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, West Rutland $7,000
Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, West Rutland $7,000
Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington $7,000
In-Sight Photography Project, Brattleboro $7,000
Lost Nation Theater, Montpelier $6,300
New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro $7,000
Paramount Center, Rutland $7,000
Pentangle Arts Council, Woodstock $6,300
River Arts of Morrisville, Morrisville $6,300
Rockingham Arts and Museum Project, Bellows Falls $7,000
Vermont Arts Exchange, North Bennington $7,000

Creation Grants support the creation of new work by Vermont Artists.

Hanna Satterlee, Montpelier $3,000
Janice Perry, Ferrisburgh $3,000
Jericho Parme, Montpelier $3,000
Kate Donnelly, Burlington $3,000
Kate Gridley, Middlebury $3,000

Cultural Facilities Grants support nonprofit organizations and municipalities to enhance, create, or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural activities for the public.

Catamount Film & Arts Center, Saint Johnsbury $30,000
City of Winooski, Winooski $2,122
Friends of the Wardsboro Library, Wardsboro $9,082
Goddard College, Plainfield $30,000
Lamoille County Players, Hyde Park $13,710
Main Street Arts, Saxtons River $30,000
Paramount Center, Rutland $30,000
Pentangle Arts Council, Woodstock $16,000
Pope Memorial Library, Danville $9,536
Town of West Rutland, West Rutland $30,000
Town of Huntington, Huntington $28,942

Cultural Routes Grants support transportation costs to museums, historic sites, performances, or other cultural activities for PreK-12 students.

Folsom Educational and Community Center, South Hero $200
Gilman Middle School, Gilman $200
J F Kennedy Elementary School, Winooski $200
Lamoille Family Center, Morrisville $200

Laraway Youth & Family Services, Williston $200
Milton Town High School, Milton $200
Missisquoi Valley Union High School, Swanton $200
Sheldon Elementary School, Sheldon $200
Stockbridge Central School, Stockbridge $200
Stowe Elementary School, Stowe $200

Head Start Grants support a network of pre-kindergarten education programs.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro $4,000
Burlington City Arts, Burlington $4,000
Catamount Film & Arts Center, Saint Johnsbury $1,500
Lost Nation Theater, Montpelier $3,000
River Arts of Morrisville, Morrisville $3,000
Vermont Arts Exchange, North Bennington $4,000

Operating Support Grants support the annual operations of Vermont arts organizations through two-year grants.

Barre Opera House, Barre $3,300
Bella Voce Women’s Chorus, Essex Junction $1,800
Bryan Memorial Gallery, Jeffersonville $3,300
Burlington Discover Jazz Festival, Burlington $5,000
Chandler Center for the Arts, Randolph $4,000
Circus Barn, Greensboro $5,000
First Night Burlington, Burlington $3,300
Friends of the Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro $3,300
Frog Hollow Craft Association, Burlington $3,300
Grass Roots Art & Community Effort, Hardwick $2,000

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Missisquoi Valley Union High School, Swanton $200
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Circus Barn, Greensboro $5,000
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Friends of the Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro $3,300
Frog Hollow Craft Association, Burlington $3,300
Grass Roots Art & Community Effort, Hardwick $2,000
Arts and community organizations funded by the Council in FY2014 contributed over $30 million to the economy through arts-related activities, paying nearly 5,000 artists and spending $6 million in artist-related fees.

Green Mountain Cultural Center, Waitsfield $3,300
Helen Day Art Center, Stowe $3,300
Island Arts, North Hero $1,800
Kingdom County Productions, Barnet $5,000
Music-COMP, Essex Junction $2,000
Revels North, Hanover $1,800
SafeArt, Chelsea $1,800
Shelburne Museum, Shelburne $5,000
Town Hall Theater, Middlebury $3,300
Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble, Fairfax $1,800
Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury $3,300
Vermont Performing Arts League, Burlington $2,000
Vermont Stage Company, Burlington $4,000
Vermont Studio Center, Johnson $5,000
Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Burlington $4,000
Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, Colchester $4,000
Weston Playhouse Theatre Company, Weston $4,000
Yellow Barn, Putney $3,300

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS** support nonprofit arts organizations by enabling them to take advantage of unique opportunities to enhance their organizational development, professional skills, or to expand marketing capacity.

Burlington Chamber Orchestra, Burlington $1,000
Chandler Center for the Arts, Randolph $1,000
In-Sight Photography Project, Brattleboro $1,000
New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro $900
Pentangle Arts Council, Woodstock $535
The Art House, Craftsbury Common $400
Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury $1,200
Vermont Performance Lab, Brattleboro $800
Weston Playhouse Theatre Company, Weston $1,000

**SPECIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

Brattleboro Literary Festival, Brattleboro $400
Gallery at the VAULT, Springfield $1,800

The Council awarded nearly $40,000 in grants to 32 individual artists for professional development projects and the creation of new work in FY2014.

“*At the end of this process the Board had a better understanding of what it takes to run the organization ...as well as the financial requirements those activities demand of the organization.*”

– Sarah Mutrux
Executive Director of The Art House
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Statement of Activities
FY 2014 STATEMENT OF FISCAL ACTIVITIES*

Revenue

State Appropriation, Unrestricted $641,607
Other Restricted State Revenue 479,426
Federal National Endowment for the Arts Grant 679,400
Private Grants, Contributions, Interest & Misc 80,493
Total Revenue $1,880,926

Expenses

Creation & Community Project Grants $99,701
Arts Education Grants 87,750
Community Development Grants 512,818
Danville Project Services 108,855
Direct Program Services 137,204
Program Support 460,210
Other Program Operating Expenses 98,738
Fundraising & Development 9,981
General, Administrative 328,784
Total Expenses $1,844,041

Change in net assets from operations 36,885
Endowment fund, nonoperating revenue 13,368
Total change in net assets $50,253

Total Net Assets, 6/30/13 $1,150,374
Total Restricted and Unrestricted Net Assets, 6/30/14 $1,200,627

* Unaudited - Audit report available upon request

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Senior Program Director, 504/ADA Coordinator
Marie Bernier
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Ferrisburgh
“I am looking for an aesthetic in my choreography that incorporates a broader idea of what is interesting or beautiful.”

– Toby MacNutt