

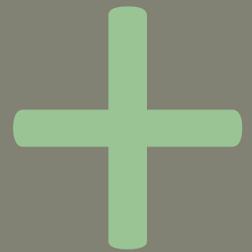
ANNUAL
REPORT
FY2015

Building Community

vermont arts council



BUILDING
COMMUNITY



vermont arts council



PLANNING FOR THE
NEXT FIFTY YEARS.

DEAR MEMBERS,

FY2015 was a pivotal year for the Arts Council. It marked the close of the first half-century of the Council's existence and provided the impetus for broad, creative thinking to delineate the blueprint for the next 50 years.

Over the past year, hundreds of Vermonters participated in Council-hosted meetings, forums, and informal discussions to build consensus around the critical components of an arts-rich Vermont. Those interactions led to the development of three focus areas that will inform the work of the Council going forward. First, we believe in the importance of bringing the arts into children's lives at an early age, so we will work to expand arts education. Second, we believe that a robust creative economy is an essential part of a strong state economy, so we are developing a network to harness creative energies. And, third, we believe that the arts should be recognized as an integral part of the Vermont brand, so we are investing in marketing Vermont arts.

The next four pages offer an outline of work to date and plans for the future related to each focus area. We welcome your ideas and invite your participation in helping to turn these concepts into reality.

Our 50th year is coming to a close, but the work to build a firm foundation for the next 50 Years has just begun. We welcome you to join us on the path towards Vermont Arts Council 2065.



Irwin Gelber
Chair

Alexander L. Aldrich
Executive Director



PLANNING FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS

During FY2015, Council staff, trustees and constituents explored the question: *How do we create the foundation for the next 50 years of arts in Vermont?*

The Council sought ideas from artists, educators, community members, governmental officials, and many others throughout the year. As a result, the Council developed three initiatives to serve as a road map for our work going forward:

- **Implement the Vermont Arts Integration Initiative**
- **Develop the Vermont Creative Network**
- **Strengthen the arts as an integral part of the Vermont brand**

The first step in bringing this ambitious agenda to the forefront was the 2014 Vermont Legislature declaring 2015 the “Year of the Arts.” Legislators, the media, artists, arts organizations, and residents enthusiastically embraced the Year of the Arts. Reflection, creative thinking, and planning for the future began.

Left: Students gather in preparation for the 2015 Poetry Out Loud semifinals.
Below: A boy examines his artwork during VSA Vermont's Start With The Arts lesson at his home-based childcare center.

**Vermont Arts
Integration Initiative:**
Arts Access for All

Every student in Vermont has the right to learn in, about, and through the arts.

We believe that actualizing that right will, in large part, determine both students' creative futures as well as the cultural landscape of our state. Our goal is to transform that right into a reality.

In FY2016, the Council will continue to implement its 5-year plan for integrating the arts into the education of every Vermont child.



**Vermont
Creative Network:**
Enlivening Vermont
Communities and
their Economies



The Vermont Creative Network is envisioned as a broad collective of organizations, businesses, and individuals—all sharing a goal to advance Vermont’s creative sector. We aim to make the Vermont Creative Network a strong voice in Vermont’s development.

The Council, in concert with a community-based steering committee, has begun a strategic planning process that will guide the launch of the Vermont Creative Network in FY2016.

Below: "Expanded Form #1, Large"
by Rodrigo Nava.

Vermont. Arts. Everywhere.

Connecting the Arts
to the Vermont Brand

Vermont is well known for skiing, fall foliage, and maple syrup. We want the arts to become another recognized element of the Vermont brand. Our goal is to help visitors and residents alike discover and enjoy the rich creative culture that defines Vermont.

In FY2016, the Council will continue to develop its online presence, marketing programs, collaborations, and other communications tools to ensure that when people think of Vermont, they think of the arts.



Community:

the whole is
greater than the
sum of its parts

THIS YEAR,





OUR ANNUAL REPORT IS ABOUT COMMUNITY

We tell stories about how engagement in the arts builds community—whether among a group of high school students, within a village hoping to revitalize its town hall, or at an international festival. Community is one lens through which to view the power of the arts to make life better. The Council will continue to examine our work through many lenses to ensure we are contributing to the advancement and preservation of the arts at the center of Vermont communities.

The success of our efforts depends upon the commitment and support of the many artists, arts organizations, communities, legislators, and arts advocates who believe that the arts thrive in Vermont because we collectively recognize their value in building the character of our children, the civic pride of our towns, and the economy of our state. The next several pages reveal examples of how the arts build community and make our beautiful Green Mountain State a better place to visit, live, work—and thrive!

Above: Middlebury's Town Hall Theater Young Company in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."
Opposite: Choreographer Beth Gill during "Open Lab" at the Vermont Performance Lab.

Kelly Fletcher

**“The festival is about exploring our humanity
and our understanding of community.”**

– Eric Bass, festival director

Walking to the Borders



to Explore Community

Results

In FY2015, Project Grants totaling \$41,467 supported arts and community organizations across the state.

Above: An actor from Teatro de las Estaciones performs in “El Patito Feo.”

Top right: Magali Chouinard in “La Femme Blanche.”

Bottom right: Teatro de las Estaciones Company Director Rubén Darío Salazar.



Isabelle Litalien

Creating opportunities to inspire dialogue, share perspectives, and build community.

An enthralled group of children giggle at the funny little duck trying to find its way in the big world. The Cuban puppeteers on their first-ever trip to the United States are performing “El Patico Feo” (The Ugly Duckling) and are pleased with the response of this Vermont audience. Joy sounds the same in any language.

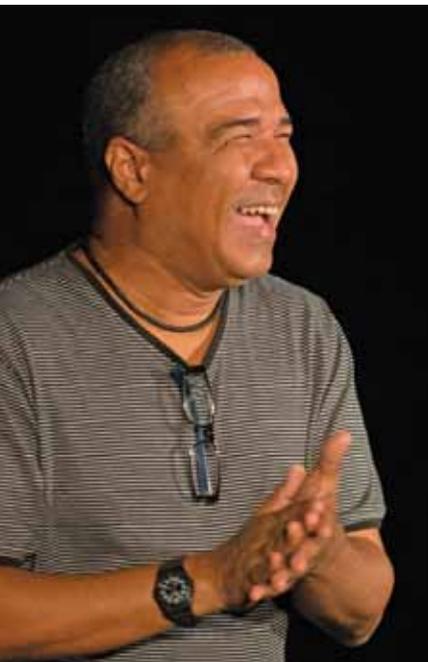
Bringing a Cuban puppet company to the Puppets in the Green Mountains Festival this year was a significant achievement for Festival Director Eric Bass. The Festival is a “container for many parts of the community to come together for an equal exchange,” says Bass. “We are interested in creating a place where different truths and perspectives can exist simultaneously and safely.”

The theme for the 2015 festival was “Walking to the Borders.” It acknowledged that people are all members of communities and that all communities have borders. “For us,” says Bass, “walking to the borders means taking

the effort to approach ‘The Other;’ to invite us to meet and to invite our communities to hear each other.”

The Puppets in the Green Mountains Festival, which is celebrating its ninth season, has always focused on cultural exchange with artists from all over the world. Over the years, the event has brought together more than 75 companies from 20 countries. Performances celebrate the many interpretations and practices of puppetry, an art form that often embodies the traditions from which it comes. The cultural exchange, however, goes far beyond the performances. Local homestays for visiting artists, community suppers, a gala opening event, and—for the first time this year—public interviews with the artists, are all opportunities to inspire dialogue, share perspectives, and build community.

“The Puppets in the Green Mountains Festival is about art, performance, and creativity,” says Bass. “But it is also about exploring our humanity and our understanding of community.”



Left and below: Jeff Woodward

TEATRO DE LAS ESTACIONES: CROSSING A NEW BORDER

For the first time, the Puppets in the Green Mountains Festival welcomed a company from Cuba. The award-winning Teatro de las Estaciones presented “El Patico Feo” (The Ugly Duckling—Cuban style) to delighted audiences in two sold-out school performances. In addition, company Director Rubén Dario Salazar participated in a special community dialogue during which a capacity crowd asked him about his country, his theater, how he makes art, and his perspective on visiting the U.S.—another opportunity to walk to the borders.



A Community Takes a Curtain Call

“The Curtain Project has had a domino effect in our community.”

– project manager Karen Davis

An audience packs the Wardsboro Town Hall awaiting a performance by a local folk duo. Red velvet curtains glow. When the curtains part, the crowd is transported to a shaded country lane lined with leafy trees.

Just over a year ago, audiences were greeted by a dingy beige theater curtain with a huge grease spot. “The curtain was so discouraging,” said Karen Davis, project manager for the Wardsboro Curtain Project. “The biggest function for the stage was to store extra folding chairs, broken furniture, and all kinds of odds and ends. It was hard sometimes for the performers to find room to stand on the stage!”

Davis wanted a change. She and others were sure that new curtains would help to revitalize the Town Hall. But for a volunteer group, the cost of acquiring new drapes seemed insurmountable.

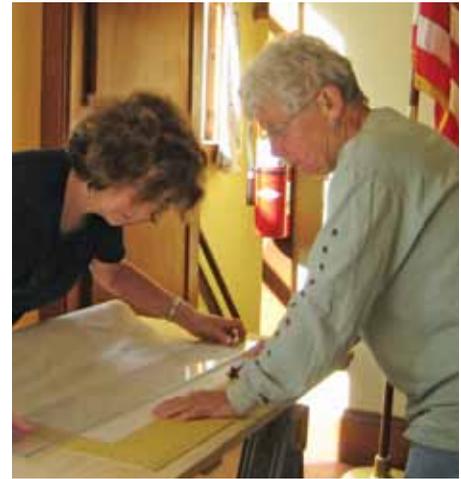
A chance meeting with Chris Hadsel, an expert in historic painted curtains, offered a potential solution. Hadsel secured the donation of historic painted curtains that had been moldering in the basement of a grange in Maine. And so, the Wardsboro Curtain Project was born.

With procurement of the curtains assured, the newly formed Wardsboro curtain call committee got serious about fundraising. They applied for, and received, a Cultural Facilities Grant. “We realized that with the help of the grant, we could not only conserve and install the painted scenic curtains, but might also be able to add new front stage drapery,” said Davis.

A multi-day work party brought the community together to mend, repaint, and restore the original beauty of the century-old paintings on muslin. When the refurbished curtains were first unfurled in their new home, spontaneous applause broke out among the volunteers.

That spirit has carried forward. “The Curtain Project has had a domino effect in our community,” said Davis. “Since the curtains were installed, a local person donated the refinishing of the stage floor and parents from the Wardsboro Elementary School successfully petitioned to have graduation ceremonies moved to Town Hall.”

Now when the community gathers for an event they are greeted by the rich glow of the front drapes and a beautifully restored set of curtains. There is not an extra chair in sight.



A multi-day work party brought the community together to mend, repaint, and restore the original beauty of the century-old paintings.



Results

Cultural Facilities Grants were awarded to 16 organizations in 12 counties.

Opposite: Local folk duo Hungrytown performs at the Wardsboro Town Hall.
Top right: Lise Fortin and Carol Steiner work on curtain restoration.
Lower right: One of the restored curtains.

ART COLLABORATION



Results

More than 3,500 students participated in FY2015 Artists in Schools residencies taught by Vermont teaching artists.

“It’s been months since we created the mural and I still think about it all the time.”

– student Marina Leno

INSPIRES COMMUNITY



Abigail DiMario is passionate about stretch marks. She is also passionate—and articulate—about her photo essay featuring the bellies of her classmates. “I wanted to bring these images into the light so everyone can see that you are beautiful no matter what you look like,” said Abbie. “There was concern that my photographs might be too provocative. That makes me think that I’m pushing my limit and people are seeing it and they’re noticing it.”

Opposite top: Marina Leno, Joanna Elliott, Lanna Johnson, and Nancy Wuttke work on the mural.

Bottom left: Marina Leno and Nancy Wuttke
Bottom right: Teaching artist Joanna Elliott holds the infant of one of the students.

“Whenever you have young parents, what you inspire in the parents can carry into the child.”

– teacher Nancy Wuttke

Four young women huddle on hands and knees around a bright painting spread on the floor.

A teaching artist, holding the infant of one of the students, looks on as they discuss how to get the correct skin tones for the baby depicted at the center of the painting. The artist, Joanna Elliott, is leading a ten-week Artists in Schools residency at Capstone Community Action’s Family Literacy Center in Barre. All of the high-school-age students are either parents or are about to be parents. The project is a large mural created entirely by the students—from beginning to end.

“Joanna asked the kids to start thinking about the theme of the mural prior to the residency,” said teacher Nancy Wuttke. “The kids jumped right in to create their vision for the mural. It was a very collaborative planning process, and by the time Joanna arrived, they were eager and ready to go.”

The resulting mural depicts two intertwined babies—with perfectly realized skin tones—gently supported on all sides by outstretched hands. “The mural is about family and being connected in all sorts of ways. It shows our originality and how we are all different but still support and care for each other in this unpredictable world,” said student Marina Leno. “It’s been months since we created the mural and I still think about it all the time.”

Nancy reflected on the impact of the residency and the collaboration among the teacher, artist, and students. “Whenever you have young parents, what you inspire in the parents can carry into the child. Many of these students are now more likely to do art with their children. Creating good behaviors in the parents that are then transferred to the children—that’s what the Family Literacy Center is all about.”

BUILDING COMMUNITY OUT OF SILOS

**“I have lived here all my life and have never
seen such deep community involvement.”**

**– Cambridge Arts Council trustee
Justin Marsh**

“Jeffersonville Fiercely Debates Proposed Public Art” proclaimed the “Stowe Reporter” headline. Asked about those words, Justin Marsh, trustee of the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC) laughs. “Fierce may be a bit strong, but there has certainly been debate. And I think the project has been more successful because of it.”

Six months earlier, Marsh and CAC president Carol Plante didn’t have an idea in mind when they decided to attend a Vermont Arts Council grant seeker workshop. They were intrigued by the grant name, Animating Infrastructure, and CAC was looking for a new project. “It was a bit daunting,” said Marsh, “but the workshop organizers were encouraging and the first phase required only a one-page proposal so we went for it.”

The eventual proposal was to paint two abandoned concrete silos near the center of town. When the grant was approved, the project committee—dubbed the Silo Sisters—proudly posted online that CAC received the grant. Impassioned responses soon followed, some excited about the new project, and some that were firmly against it. The critics were few but vocal and the controversy caught the attention of “Seven Days” as well as the “Stowe Reporter.”



It was then that the Silo Sisters recognized the need to bring the community into the decision process earlier, and more deeply. Several open forums, community meetings, and impromptu conversations later, Jeffersonville residents gathered to vote on whether to proceed with the project. The decision was a unanimous “yes.”

Using a community-focused process, the CAC selected Sarah Rutherford to paint the murals. The Silo Sisters are understandably pleased with the outcome of the project. “I have lived here all my life and have never seen such deep community involvement,” said Marsh. “Because of the controversy, people have become engaged in thinking about what we want for our town. People are talking about art and that’s a good thing.”

The silos will be painted in spring, 2016.

Jeffersonville residents were asked to vote on whether to proceed with the project. The decision was a unanimous “yes.”

Opposite: The Silo Sisters (left to right) Justin Marsh, Ellen Hill, Ellen “LN” Bethea, Carol Plante, Tamra Higgins. Above: Artist Sarah Rutherford presented her proposal at the Jeffersonville Festival of the Arts. Below: A sketch from Sarah Rutherford’s Silos Project proposal.



Results

In FY2015, the Council awarded three Animating Infrastructure Grants totaling \$43,930.

Emily Bernard: Searching for Community in Words

**There is one story that is unequivocally true,
and that true story goes like this:
I am their mother on Earth, their here and now.**

from Emily Bernard's essay, "Bounty"



Emily Bernard
with her
children
Isabella (L)
and Giulia.

Emily Bernard, writer, professor of English and ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies at the University of Vermont—and mother—received a Creation Grant to support research for “Black is the Body: Essays.” The essays explore what it means to be at home in one’s skin as well in a society in which racial disparities continue to divide us. The following is an excerpt from “Mother on Earth.”

6. Bounty

EMILY BERNARD

Perhaps because of the adoption stories I grew up with, our daughters have known that they were adopted from the moment they were capable of knowing anything. Some stories about adoption emphasize poverty or lack; a child unwanted or abandoned, a lost history. The stories we tell the girls are about bounty. You are adored on two continents, I tell them. You have two worlds, two countries, two languages, and two stories to tell about how you came to be. So far, this strategy seems to be working. One of their favorite babysitters did not know they were adopted until the girls told her. The babysitter reported to me that in response to this news she had said, “Ohhhh,” in a high pitch and put on a sympathetic face. Giulia knew the look. “Well, it’s not *sad*,” she explained.

For as many Ethiopians as there are in Vermont, exponentially more live in Washington, D. C. When the girls were two years old, we traveled to D. C. to meet our Ethiopian adoption liaison for dinner. It was his first visit to the United States. He had spent the day playing tourist, visiting monuments and museums. “Americans,” he said, “you know how to preserve your stories.”

We all met up at Queen of Sheba, one of the many Ethiopian restaurants in Washington. When I took Isabella to the bathroom, Giulia accompanied us but agreed to stay behind with the waitress, a beautiful young woman in traditional dress, who knelt and held Giulia’s hands.

“Twins?” asked the waitress when Isabella and I emerged from the bathroom. I nodded.

She asked me what part of Ethiopia they were from.

“Tigray,” I said.



I knelt with Isabella while the waitress began to speak to Giulia in Tigrinya. Giulia nodded and shook her head.

Then, Giulia looked at me and put her arm around my neck. She pulled me closer as her conversation with the waitress seemed to pull her deeper and deeper into memory. *You belong to me*, said her fierce two-year old grip. I leaned in until our bodies made a bridge between the present and the past. With all of my might, I assured her through my skin, *And you belong to me*.

We do belong to each other, but Giulia, along with her sister Isabella, also belongs to something and somewhere else. They belong to a history preserved in the recesses of their minds and hearts; in their bodies, too, perhaps down to the level of the cell. Where the girls’ identities reside in the worlds between past and present, there and here—that is a story that they will make up on their own.

There is one story that is unequivocally true, and that true story goes like this: I am their mother on Earth, their here and now. The one who prepares them for spelling quizzes, smells their breath to make sure they’ve brushed their teeth, and nags them to tidy their room—that’s me. I am the present and, with any luck, the future, too. As they grow older, questions about their past will not be the only ones I will not be able to answer. They will come upon other mysteries in their lives to unravel, and I will encourage them to view life’s mysteries as vitalizing and not crippling. But like everyone else who resides on Earth, they will have to go there to know there and, ultimately, find out about living for themselves.



vermont arts council

Grants

In FY2015, the Council granted nearly \$75,000 to improve accessibility in Vermont's cultural facilities.



In FY2015, Arts Partners engaged more than 554,000 people through performances, exhibits, and community collaborations.

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

- Barre Opera House, Barre, \$5,250
- Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro, \$5,250
- Burlington City Arts, Burlington, \$6,250
- Catamount Film and Arts Center, Saint Johnsbury, \$7,000
- Chandler Center for the Arts, Randolph, \$6,250
- Circus Barn, Greensboro, \$6,250
- Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington, \$7,000
- Friends of the Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro, \$5,250
- Grass Roots Art and Community Effort, Hardwick, \$5,250
- Helen Day Art Center, Stowe, \$5,250
- New England Center for Circus Arts, Brattleboro, \$7,000
- New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro, \$6,250
- Opera North, Lebanon, \$6,250
- Paramount Theatre, Rutland, \$5,250
- River Arts of Morrisville, Morrisville, \$6,250
- Rockingham Arts and Museum Project, Bellows Falls, \$5,250
- The In-Sight Photography Project, Brattleboro, \$6,250
- The Vermont Jazz Center, Brattleboro, \$6,250
- Town Hall Theater, Middlebury, \$6,250
- Vermont Arts Exchange, North Bennington, \$5,250
- Vermont International Film Foundation, Burlington, \$5,250
- Vermont Performance Lab, Guilford, \$6,250
- Vermont Stage Company, Burlington, \$5,250
- Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, \$7,000
- Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Burlington, \$5,250
- Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, Colchester, \$7,000
- VSA Vermont, Essex Junction, \$7,000
- Weston Playhouse Theatre Company, Weston, \$6,250
- Yellow Barn, Putney, \$6,250

Left: Yellow Barn violinist Luke Hsu answers questions from young audience members.

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.

- Barre Opera House, Barre, \$12,909
- Burlington City Arts, Burlington, \$13,655
- Dorset Players, Dorset, \$12,950
- Friends of the Brandon Town Hall, Brandon, \$4,030
- Friends of the Capital City Grange Hall, Montpelier, \$25,265
- Friends of the Enosburg Opera House, Enosburg Falls, \$7,636
- Ilsey Public Library, Middlebury, \$2,994
- Isle La Motte Historical Society, Isle La Motte, \$2,500
- LPCTV Corp., Ludlow, \$13,750
- New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro, \$7,500
- Norwich Historical Society, Norwich, \$4,913
- Orleans County Historical Society, Brownington, \$3,600
- Town of Fairlee, Fairlee, \$30,000
- Town of Wardsboro, Wardsboro, \$5,664
- Town of Waterbury, Waterbury, \$30,000
- Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, \$2,139

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

- Emily Bernard, South Burlington, \$3,000
- Heather Bryce, Burlington, \$3,000
- Hannah Dennison, Chelsea, \$3,000
- Lauren Feldman, Brattleboro, \$3,000
- Brian McCarthy, Colchester, \$3,000
- Rodrigo Nava, Putney, \$3,000
- Cathy Osman, Marlboro, \$3,000
- Bill Ramage, Rutland, \$3,000
- Dan Snow, Dummerston, \$3,000
- Sumru Tekin, Charlotte, \$3,000
- Abigail Waring, Wolcott, \$3,000

Cultural Routes Grants support transportation costs to museums, historic sites, performances, or other cultural activities.

- Bishop John A. Marshall School, Morrisville, \$200
- Guilford Central School, Guilford, \$200
- Integrated Arts Academy at H.O. Wheeler, Burlington, \$200
- J F Kennedy Elementary School, Winooski, \$200
- Lamoille Union Middle School, Hyde Park, \$200
- Laraway Youth and Family Services, Williston, \$200
- Robinson Elementary School, Starksboro, \$200
- Twin Valley Elementary, Wilmington, \$200
- Winooski High School, Winooski, \$200
- Woodstock Union Middle School, Woodstock, \$200

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

- Barre Opera House, Barre, \$4,600
- Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro, \$4,600
- Burlington City Arts, Burlington, \$4,600
- Catamount Film and Arts Center, Saint Johnsbury, \$4,600
- Vermont Arts Exchange, North Bennington, \$4,600

Project Grants support art activities that enhance the quality of life for Vermont’s citizens, attract visitors, and help stimulate local economies.

- BEAMS at Brattleboro Area Middle School, Brattleboro, \$1,950
- Burlington Discover Jazz Festival, Burlington, \$3,000
- Cobleigh Public Library, Lyndonville, \$350
- Community Engagement Lab, Montpelier, \$2,100
- First Night St. Johnsbury Community Partnership, St. Johnsbury, \$3,000
- Friends of the Brattleboro Music Center/ Windham Orchestra, Brattleboro, \$2,250
- Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild, Burlington, \$2,100
- Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival, Winooski, \$2,400
- Lakes Region Youth Orchestra, Rutland, \$1,800
- Middlebury Actors Workshop, Weybridge, \$2,100
- Middlebury Studio School, Leicester, \$1,500
- Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, Burlington, \$3,000
- Opera Theatre of Weston, Weston, \$2,250
- Revitalizing Waterbury, Waterbury, \$1,750
- Sandglass Center for Puppetry and Theater Research, Putney, \$2,250
- Sustainable Woodstock, Woodstock, \$1,400
- The Burlington Book Festival, Williston, \$2,100
- Vermont Independent School of the Arts, Sharon, \$767
- Vermont Shakespeare Company, North Hero, \$2,400
- Waterbury Duxbury School District, Waterbury, \$3,000

Special Project Grants support statewide services or are awarded at the discretion of the Council’s executive director.

- Burlington School District, Burlington, \$5,000
- Governor’s Institute on the Arts, South Burlington, \$10,500
- Music-COMP, Essex Junction, \$3,000
- Vermont Crafts Council, Montpelier, \$4,000
- Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury, \$2,000

Technical Assistance Grants support activities that help Vermont arts organizations strengthen their capacity to serve constituents.

- Generator, Burlington, \$1,000
- River Arts of Morrisville, Morrisville, \$1,309
- Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Burlington, \$550
- VSA Vermont, Essex Junction, \$1,500



Expenses paid by schools for artist residencies through the FY2015 Artists in Schools program totaled more \$80,000. Of that sum, \$70,000 was directed to artists as income.

Right top: The Weston Playhouse Theatre Company’s cast of “Guys and Dolls.”
 Right bottom: “11 Paper Place” by Daniel Houghton, award winner of the Vermont International Film Festival Filmmakers’ Showcase.

In FY2015, the Council and partnering arts organizations invested nearly \$50,000 to train artists and 44 Head Start educators to provide artist residencies to pre-k children.



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Don Bredes and Eileen Boland
Sarah Bowen
Terry Boyle and Robin Worn
Gayl Braistid
Laurie Brittain
Henry A. Bromelkamp & Co.
Maurice and Barbara Brown
Paul Calter
Elissa Campbell
Diana Carris
James and Andrea Chandler
Gordon Clapp
Peter and Nicki Clarke
Susannah Colby

John and Polly Connell
 Jo Sabel Courtney
 Paschal DeBlasio and Jo-Ann Beaudin
 Ronald and Martha Decoigne
 Gov. James and Dorothy Douglas
 Sen. William and Olene Doyle
 Matt Dunne and Sarah Taylor
 Zon Eastes and Peggy Spencer
 Lynn Eisenbrey
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Ellovich
 Charles and Charlotte Faulkner
 Elizabeth Fram
 Betty A. Gaechter
 Galvin G. Gall
 Barbara Garber
 Jeff Glassberg and Amanda Bodell
 Jonathan Goldsmith
 Erica Gongloff
 Google Matching Gift Program
 Mr. and Mrs. Donal K. Gordon
 Becky Graber
 Muffy Kaskin Grollier
 Paul Gruher
 Mark Hage and Susan Mesner
 Carleton and Josephine Haines
 Catherine Hall
 Emmy and Rick Hausman
 Mary Hays and Stephen Long
 Zeke and Linda Hecker
 Jill and George Helmer
 Arthur Henchel
 Troy Hickman
 Amy Howell
 Charlie Hunter
 Robert R. Huntoon
 IBM Matching Grants Program
 Paul and Peggy Irons
 Henry Isaacs
 Paul Carnahan and
 Eve Jacobs-Carnahan
 Nicholas and Geraldine Jacobson
 Deb Joecks
 Rep. Kathleen Keenan
 Morgan Kelner
 Sen. Jane Kitchel
 Emily Kunreuther
 George Kurjanowicz
 Kenneth and Robin Leslie
 Kelly and Walt Levering
 William Lipke
 Carolyn Long
 Main Street Arts
 Theodore and Patricia Mandeville
 Martha Manheim

David Marchant
 Dennis W. Marden
 William and Donna Marshall
 Middlebury Festival
 on the Green
 Jean Miller
 Sarah Miller
 John and Robin Milne
 Hannah Morris
 Rick Norcross
 Nancy A. Olson
 Bill Merrylees and Lucy Patti
 Amy Pollack
 Fred Stetson and
 Katherine Pond
 Constance J. Price
 Shanna Ratner
 Michele Ratté
 Kathrena Ravenhorst-Adams
 Mary Ready and Scott Campbell
 Mildred A. Reardon
 Margo Rome
 Marcia and Joseph Rosen
 Tina Ruth
 Howard Schapiro and
 Jan Carroll
 Stephen Scrivens
 Michael and Jeanne Shafer
 Jeryl and Shelagh Shapiro
 Helen Shulman
 Jeff Shumlin and Evie Lovett
 Sallie Soule
 Jing Ji Stangel
 Dr. Dominique Moyses Steinberg
 Robert and Judith Sterns
 Judy and Will Stevens
 Tolya and Otto Stonorov
 Lesley and Larry Straus
 Peter Jack Tkatch
 Claire Van Vliet
 Vermont Hand Crafters, Inc.
 Susan Wahlrab
 Lynne Jaeger Weinstein and
 William Strauss
 D. Billings and Sally Wheeler
 Marian Willmott
 Suzanne Zeliff

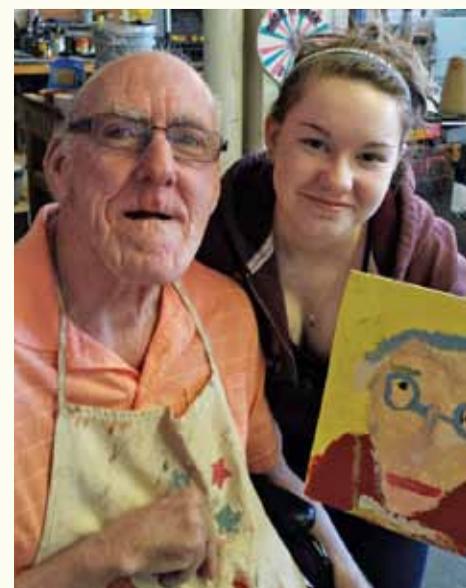
FRIENDS
 (UP TO \$50)

Anonymous
 Gretchen Abendschein
 Beverly D. Alberts
 Amazon Smile
 Robert S. Bast

Lois M. Beardwood
 Crawford Blagden
 Naomi Bossom
 Mary Byrnes
 Michael J. Caduto
 Dan and Marta Cambra
 Ann W. Campbell
 Jean Cannon
 John and Mary Carnahan
 Sarah Carter
 William and Sandra Cathey
 Nancy N. Diefenbach
 Nelson and Carolyn Dittmar
 Christine Dobson
 Kim Friedman
 Ernest and Charlotte Gibson
 Stacey Glazer
 Colleen Grout
 Recille C. Hamrell
 Karen Hansen
 Elaine Harrington
 Janet Hazen
 Chris Jeffrey
 Diane Kagan
 Karolina Kawiaka
 Patricia Klinefelter
 Bettina Krampetz
 Lee Krohn
 John Lane
 Anjali LaPierre
 Mrs. Adair Lobdell
 Honey Loring
 Sandra Mangsen
 Pamela Marron
 Dawn McConnell
 Gabrielle McDermit
 Evelyn McNichols
 Peter Miller
 Susan Osgood
 Emma Ottolenghi
 Marilyn Parker
 Henry and Barbara Payson
 Cristina Pellechio
 Philip and Lois Perlah
 Janice Perry

Peter and Gay Regan
 Janet Ressler
 Edward L. Richards, Jr.
 Abby Rose
 Robin Rothman
 Martin Frank and
 Rebecca Seibel
 Jill Skillin
 Steve Stettler
 Stephanie Stouffer
 Lydia Thomson
 Margaret Torrey
 Robert and Karen Tortolani
 M. Emmet Walsh
 Warren Public Library
 Andrea S. Wasserman
 Kristen Watson
 Stuart and Sarah Williams
 Judith Wrend

Left: Rice High School student
 Marlynn Serwili participated in the
 2015 Poetry Out Loud semifinals.
 Right: Vermont Arts Exchange
 Intergenerational Art Program.



“The project opened dialogue, created shifts in perspective, and opened a door to the arts for those who may have been excluded from performance in the past due to accessibility and/or cost.”

– Heather Bryce, choreographer and Creation Grant recipient



CULTURAL FACILITIES AWARDS

Cultural Facilities Panel

Don Hirsch
Judi Kamien
Tracy Martin
Lisa Ryan

Cultural Facilities Coalition

Alex Aldrich
Caitlin Corkins
Mark Hudson

ACCESSIBILITY CONSULTANTS

Andrew Crane
Renee Wells

ART IN STATE BUILDINGS LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Alex Aldrich
Jennifer Arbuckle
Rep. Alice Emmons
Sen. Peg Flory
Commissioner
Michael Obuchowski
David Schütz

POET LAUREATE ADVISORY PANEL

Peter Gilbert
Tamra Higgins
Sydney Lea
Ronald Lewis
Reeve Lindbergh
Rep. Marjorie Ryerson

POETRY OUT LOUD PROGRAM

Teaching Artists

Andy Butterfield
Elizabeth Fox
Geof Hewitt
Morgan Irons

Judges

Rick Agran
Kim Bent
Judith Chalmer
Morgan Irons
Major Jackson
Sydney Lea
Reeve Lindbergh
Julia Shipley
Geeda Searfoorce

GRANT PANELS

Project Grants

Marguerite Adelman
Jane Ambrose
Jeff Domoto
Hannah Morris
Sarah Mutrux
Gerianne Smart

Creation Grants

Allison Coyne Carroll
Cristina DiChiera
Alisa Dworsky
Reeve Lindbergh
Ken Leslie
Rebecca McGregor
Erik Nielsen
George Pearlman
Stephen Pite
Jim Schley

Animating Infrastructure Grants

Rebecca Borden
Deborah Carey
Karen Glitman
Leanne Tingay

LEGISLATIVE ARTS CAUCUS

Rep. Bill Botzow
Pownal

Rep. Mollie Burke
Brattleboro

Rep. Alison Clarkson
Woodstock

Rep. Sarah Copeland-Hanzas
Bradford

Rep. Peter Fagan
Rutland City

Rep. Sandy Haas
Rochester

Rep. Mary Hooper
Montpelier

Rep. Willem Jewett
Ripton

Rep. Mitzi Johnson
South Hero

Rep. Diane Lanpher
Vergennes

Sen. Dick McCormack
Bethel

Rep. Alice Miller
Shaftsbury

Rep. Mary Morrissey
Bennington

Rep. Michael Mrowicki
Putney

Rep. Carolyn Partridge
Windham

Rep. Albert "Chuck"
E. Pearce
Richford

Rep. Ann Pugh
South Burlington

Rep. Marjorie Ryerson
Randolph

Sen. Diane Snelling
Hinesburg

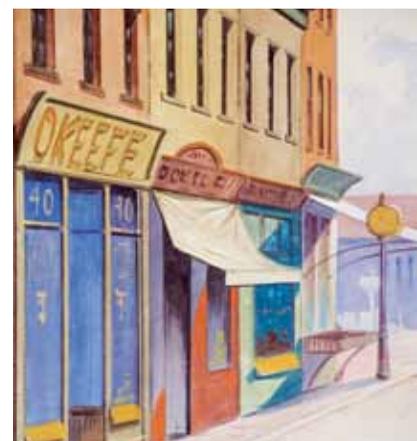
Rep. Tom Stevens
Waterbury

Rep. Valerie Stuart
Brattleboro

Rep. George Till
Jericho

Rep. Tristan Toleno
Brattleboro

Rep. Kate Webb
Shelburne

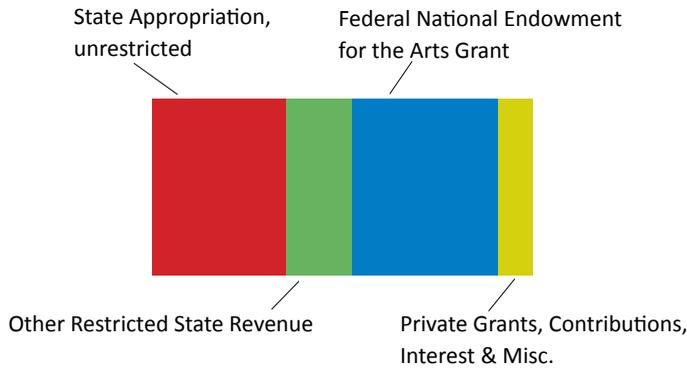


Top: Thingumajig Theatre from England performed "Hullaba Lulu" at Sandglass Theater's Puppets in the Green Mountains Festival. Bottom: A restored curtain at Wardsboro Town Hall.

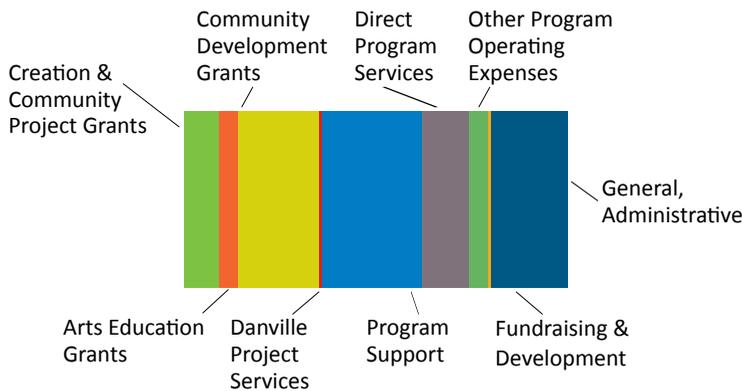
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FY 2015 STATEMENT OF FISCAL ACTIVITIES*

Revenue



Expenses



Revenue

State Appropriation, unrestricted	\$645,307
Other Restricted State Revenue	316,805
Federal National Endowment for the Arts Grant	698,907
Private Grants, Contributions, Interest, Misc	171,373
Total Revenue	\$1,832,392

Expenses

Creation & Community Project Grants	\$175,081
Arts Education Grants	91,250
Community Development Grants	413,207
Danville Project Services	25,710
Direct Program Services	235,256
Program Support	501,644
Other Program Operating Expenses	101,568
Fundraising & Development	15,961
General, Administrative	384,120
Total Expenses	\$1,943,797

Change in net assets from operations	(111,405)
Interfund transfers, endowment, other changes	(41,199)

Total change in net assets **(152,604)**

Total Net Assets, 6/30/14 \$1,200,628

Total Net Assets, 6/30/15 \$1,048,024

* Unaudited - Audit report available upon request

STAFF (as of 9/30/2015)

Alexander L. Aldrich <i>Executive Director</i>	Troy Hickman <i>Grants and Information Specialist</i>
Kira Bacon <i>Communications Manager</i>	Erika Lowe <i>Arts Education Programs Manager</i>
Michele Bailey <i>Senior Program Director, 504/ADA Coordinator</i>	Susan McDowell <i>Content Manager</i>
Joan Carter <i>Director of Administration</i>	Sarah Mutrux <i>Artist and Community Programs Manager</i>
Zon Eastes <i>Director of Outreach and Advancement</i>	The Council thanks these FY2015 staff members
Thaddeus Gibson <i>Executive Assistant</i>	Ben Doyle <i>Education Programs Manager</i>
Lori Hayer <i>Fiscal and Technology Associate</i>	Elaine Dufresne <i>Director of Administration</i>
	Sonia Rae <i>Artist and Community Programs Director</i>

BOARD (FY2015)

Mark Burke Brattleboro	Mary Hepburn Saxtons River	Robin Perlah Burlington
Ed Clark Guildhall	Peter Kriff South Burlington	Edie Sawisky North Bennington
James Clubb Dorset	Reeve Lindbergh St. Johnsbury	Gerianne Smart Ferrisburgh
Irwin Gelber West Barnett	Barbara Morrow Sutton	Bob Stannard Manchester Center
Stacey Glazer Thetford	Nicole Nelson Burlington	Edmond Strainchamps Corinth
Elisabeth Gordon Boston, MA	Gayle Ottmann Quechee	
Holly Groschner Corinth		



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front and back cover: Zoltan Horvath

**Large
Print**

This publication is available in large print or alternative format upon request.

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