Dancing With History
An abandoned granite quarry in Barre might seem an unlikely place for a dance performance. For Hannah Dennison, the site’s rich history and majestic stone walls were immediately captivating. Hannah’s ensemble is months away from premiering a dance-theater piece in one of Vermont’s oldest and deepest quarries, inspired by both the stunning natural environment and the labor history of the region.

A grant from the Arts Council helped Hannah and her artistic partners to tackle the many challenges of choreographing in this unusual—and uniquely compelling—space.

“In this setting, we place floating, moving stages on which are colorful dancing musical bodies and skeletal structures that are a memory of their former selves.”

Hannah Dennison
artistic director, Cradle to Grave Arts

Dolls Deliver TLC
A message tucked into the tiny pocket of a TLC doll promises “My ears were made for listening.” The soft fabric creations are designed by young women at the Vermont School for Girls, guided by teaching artists. With support from the Arts Council and others, the Vermont Arts Exchange manages this imaginative project, donating the dolls to the Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE), first responders, and hospital emergency rooms—anywhere they can offer comfort to children in crisis. Discussions are underway to provide dolls to opiate clinics and other sites of healing and recovery across the state.

“Our community unfortunately has more than its share of families in crisis. The TLC project is about making a real difference, both to the girls who create the dolls and the children who receive them.”

Matthew Perry
executive director, Vermont Arts Exchange
Amplifying Our State’s Creative Voices

Who is a Vermont artist? A wide range of artistic perspectives shapes Vermont’s rich cultural landscape, but public perceptions can be slow to change. I Am a Vermont Artist is an interview project launched in 2019 to illuminate our state’s artistic diversity. The series explores how artists’ creative expressions reflect their experiences of ethnicity, gender identity, religion, ability, or age.

From the Afropop group A2VT to spoken word poet LN Bethea to Korean-American painter Misoo, artists share their thoughts about whether living in Vermont affects their creative process, how their practice has changed over time, and what they envision for the future. Follow the series on our website or sign up to receive our monthly newsletter: vermontartscouncil.org.

“Vermont fits me, fits my poetry, fits my music, fits my hat making, and most dearly, Vermont fits my spirit. Living in Vermont has radically enabled my creativity to blossom…”

Toussaint St. Negritude
artist featured in the I Am a Vermont Artist series

Where Art and Science Intersect

Artists Rachel Mirus Sargent and Alexandra Turner take their artistry and passion for nature into art and science classrooms. Artist residencies supported by the Arts Council introduced students at Edmunds Elementary School and Crossett Brook Middle School to nature journaling, 3-D cell modeling, and embedding fossils in glass. Rachel worked with students in a science classroom to explore historic and contemporary scientific illustrators, and to delve into the question of how visual representations of natural objects can influence how they are understood.

Rachel and Alexandra, along with six other artists, were added to the Council’s Teaching Artist Roster this year. All were selected by an expert panel for their teaching talents, artistic excellence, and collaborative planning skills.
Mapping the Creative Economy

Nationwide research tells us that creative industries and enterprises can be vital catalysts for economic growth. In Vermont, creativity and innovation are at the heart of our state’s identity, strengthening communities, creating jobs, and attracting tourists and new residents.

The Arts Council, on behalf of the Vermont Creative Network, is developing an ambitious action plan for Vermont’s creative economy. The plan builds on several years of research, partnership-building, and community inquiry, including studies of east-central Vermont and the Northeast Kingdom.

Slated to be released later this year, the plan focuses on these priorities: promoting creativity as part of the Vermont brand; investing in creative enterprises and individuals; supporting emerging entrepreneurs; and leveraging partnerships between the creative sector and other sectors of Vermont’s economy.

Did you know?

- Vermont’s share of creative economy jobs (9.3 percent of all employment) is higher than the national average. Most of those jobs are in design, specialty foods, and visual arts and crafts.
- Nearly 50 percent of Vermont’s creatives are self-employed.
- The creative economy needs a boost. Job growth in this sector is slow (8 percent growth in Vermont from 2010 to 2018, compared to 14 percent nationally).

Read more and follow our progress on the Vermont Creative Network website: vermontcreativenetwork.org will take you there.

A Big Frog in Randolph

This big green amphibian, posed as if peeking out of the water, greets visitors to the Vermont Agriculture and Environmental Lab (VAEL) in Randolph Center. Designed and created by sculptor Jim Sardonis, the frog is the latest Art in State Buildings project.

Since 1988, works of public art have been commissioned in thirty-five buildings across Vermont, drawing on the talents of more than sixty artists. The Arts Council collaborates with the Department of Buildings and General Services to administer this program, which is dedicated to enhancing state-owned buildings and public spaces through art.

“Frogs have smooth, moist skin that is permeable to substances in the water. The fact that only the head of the frog is showing emphasizes . . . that other more dangerous things may be hidden below the surface.”

Jim Sardonis
sculptor
FY2019 Grantees

Animating Infrastructure Grants support community projects that integrate art with infrastructure improvements.

Downtown Brattleboro Alliance, Brattleboro, $15,000
Middlebury Underground, Middlebury, $15,000
Paran Recreations, North Bennington, $15,000
Wilmingtom Works, Wilmington, $14,000

Artists in Schools Grants help schools develop in-class residency relationships with Vermont artists.

Academy School, Brattleboro, $2,500
Bridge School, Middlebury, $2,500
Brattleboro Central School, Brattleboro, $1,250
Calais Elementary School, Plainfield, $1,250
Capstone Community Action, Barre, $2,500
Chester-Andover Elementary School, Chester, $750
Chittenden East Supervisory Union, Richmond, $2,500
C.P. Smith Elementary School, Burlington
Crossett Brook Union Middle School, Duxbury, $2,250
Edmunds Elementary School, Burlington, $2,500
The Grammar School, Putney, $2,500
Green Street School, Brattleboro, $1,500
Guilford Central School, Guilford, $2,000
Harwood Union Middle and High School, Moretown, $2,500
Integr8ed Arts Academy at H.O. Wheeler, Burlington, $2,500
Lyndon Town School, Lyndonville, $1,250
Miller’s Run School, Sheffield, $2,500
Molly Stark Elementary, Bennington, $1,250
Montpelier High School, Montpelier, $1,000
Mount Abraham Union High School, Bristol, $2,500
Randolph Elementary School, Randolph, $1,500
Richmond Elementary School, Richmond, $2,500
Rollins Village School, Rollins, $1,500
Wardsboro Elementary School, Wardsboro, $1,250
Westminster Community Schools, Westminster, $1,750

Artist Development Grants support professional development for artists at all stages of their careers.

Nico Amador, Bristol, $375
David Cooper, Burlington, $500
Melissa Crimin, South Burlington, $1,000
Jonathan Gilson, Brattleboro, $500
Elizabeth Greenberg, Richmond, $600
Jeri Griffith, Brattleboro, $360
Bonny Hall, Brattleboro, $897
Ashley Hensel-Browning, Weathersfield, $450
Sarah Hewitt, Burlington, $400
Ev Huppert, White River Junction, $400
Gioia Kuss, Weybridge, $650
Anjaniyet Lemak, Rochester, $1,000
Rachel Lindsay, Burlington, $700
Angus McIlvain, North Bennington, $650
Amanda Palmer, Hartland, $150
Dian Parker, Chelsea, $475
Elvira Piedra, Lunenburg, $450
Hannah Satterlee, Burlington, $900
Alexandra Turner, Essex Junction, $500
Stefania Urist, Londonderry, $500
Marysa Walcerz, Brattleboro, $525

Arts Impact Grants expand access to and participation in the arts.

Art in the Neighborhood, Brattleboro, $3,000
Arts Bus, Randolph, $1,350
Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro, $3,000
Cathedral Square, South Burlington, $3,000
Chandler Center for the Arts, Randolph, $3,000
Green Mountain Youth Symphony, Montpelier, $2,700
Music-COMP, Duxbury, $3,000
Scrag Mountain Music, Marshfield, $3,000
Sherburne Farms, Sherburne, $3,000
Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture, Montpelier, $3,000
The Vermont Jazz Center, Brattleboro, $3,000
Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, $3,000

Art in State Buildings Grants promote the work of Vermont artists and enrich the state’s cultural landscape through public art installations.

Roxy Fish Hatchery, Roxbury
Sean Williams, Johnson, $40,000
Vermont Agriculture and Environmental Lab, Randolph Center
Jim Sardinos, Randolph, $28,000
Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Randolph Center
Karen Petersen, Randolph, $20,000

We are working to build a Vermont where everyone has access to the arts and creativity in their lives, education, and communities.
Thank You
From July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, the Vermont Arts Council was generously supported by the following contributors.

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New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
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Financials
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019

Statement of Activities

Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State appropriation</td>
<td>$717,735</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other restricted state revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Endowment for the Arts grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private grants, contributions, interest, misc.</td>
<td>$100,188</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,791,329</strong></td>
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Expenses

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and related services</td>
<td>$697,347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program support</td>
<td>$328,151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising, marketing, and advocacy</td>
<td>$178,801</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vermont Creative Network</td>
<td>$91,514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$468,539</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,764,352</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net operating surplus/(deficit)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,977</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets beginning of fiscal year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$768,089</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets end of fiscal year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$795,066</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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