

PRESS RELEASE

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Vermont Arts Council Announces Cultural Facilities Awards to Sixteen Organizations

Montpelier – The Vermont Arts Council awarded Cultural Facilities Grants to sixteen arts and community organizations across the state. Grants provide critical funds to nonprofit organizations and municipalities to improve safety, upgrade equipment, and ensure that the arts are accessible to all Vermonters. This program is one of the [Building Communities Grant Programs](#) established by the Vermont Legislature to “help communities preserve important historic buildings and enhance community facilities.”

Since 2001, Cultural Facilities grants totaling \$3.2 million have enabled more than 200 theaters, museums, town halls and community arts centers across Vermont to make essential improvements to their buildings (such as upgrades to lighting, sound, and heating systems). Many of these improvements address critical safety issues in Vermont’s historic structures. The Isle La Motte Historical Society, for example, received a grant to support electrical upgrades in the historic Duba Blacksmith Shop. Theatrical lighting at The Paramount Theatre in Rutland, the Phantom Theater in Warren, and the Hyde Park Opera House will improve both energy efficiency and the viewing experience for audiences.

Three of this year's awards will make public libraries more fully accessible. The Jeudevine Memorial Library in Hardwick and the Bradford Public Library will install accessible lifts; and the Kimball Public Library in Randolph will upgrade its physically accessible restroom.

"Cultural Facilities grants are a vital investment in Vermont's cultural infrastructure," said Arts Council executive director Karen Mittelman. "They preserve the town halls, theaters, library buildings and other public spaces where all Vermonters can come together and enjoy a sculpture exhibit, a cello concert, or a dance performance."

The 2020 Cultural Facilities Grant recipients are:

Bradford Public Library, Bradford
\$28,200 to support the installation of an accessible lift

Burlington City Arts, Burlington
\$28,200 to support sound and electrical upgrades in Contois Auditorium

Friends of the Capital City Grange Hall, Northfield Falls
\$26,126 to support air quality upgrades to the lower level renovation of the Capital City Grange Hall

Helen Day Art Center, Stowe
\$18,864 to support new gallery infrastructure and technology

Heritage Winooski Mill Museum, Winooski

\$3,121 to support renovations to a media display and window shades in the gallery

Isle La Motte Historical Society, Isle La Motte

\$1,200 to support electrical upgrades in the Duba Blacksmith Shop

Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick

\$24,000 to support the installation of a physically accessible elevator

Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier

\$5,750 to support the installation of air conditioning in the Hayes Room and on the second floor of the library

Kimball Public Library, Randolph

\$15,668 to support upgrades to the library's physically accessible restroom

Lamoille County Players, Hyde Park

\$25,200 to upgrade theatrical lighting in the Hyde Park Opera House

Paramount Theatre, Rutland

\$24,992 to support lighting upgrades

Park-McCullough Association, North Bennington

\$3,412 to support electrical wiring upgrades in the historic mansion

Phantom Theater, Warren

\$3,760 to support installation of LED lights in the theater

Rockingham Free Public Library, Bellows Falls

\$2,753 to support the purchase and installation of a hanging rail system for art exhibits

Stone Valley Arts, Poultney

\$4,606 to support electrical upgrades

Westminster West Public Library, Putney

\$3,102 to support electrical upgrades and the purchase of a projector system

About the Vermont Arts Council

The Vermont Arts Council envisions a Vermont where all people have access to the arts and creativity in their lives, education, and communities. Engagement with the arts transforms individuals, connects us more deeply to each other, energizes the economy, and sustains the vibrant cultural landscape that makes Vermont a great place to live. Since 1965, the Council has been the state's primary provider of funding, advocacy, and information for the arts in Vermont.

www.vermontartscouncil.org.