

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Vermont Arts Council Announces Selection for Art in State Buildings Project**

Randolph – The Vermont Arts Council is pleased to announce that Vermont artist Jim Sardonis, sculptor and longtime resident of Randolph, was selected for a commission through the Vermont Art in State Buildings program. Sardonis will create a work of art for the Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Lab (VAEL) in Randolph Center. His concept was chosen by a project review committee comprising representatives of the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services, the project architect, the departments responsible for the site, and members of the community.

The proposal by Sardonis depicts the head of a frog emerging from the water. Of his concept the artist says, “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 the idea that, like the rest of his body, other more dangerous things may be hidden below the surface. My concept highlights one of the most important functions of the VAEL, which is to test waterways for dangerous pollutants.”

Sardonis’ commissioned work can be seen in multiple sites around Vermont and New England including several colleges and universities, Norwich Public Library, the Braintree Historical Society, the New England Aquarium, and along Interstate ’89 in South Burlington where his piece “Reverence” (often referred to as the “Whales Tails”) is prominently visible.

The Art in State Buildings Program is a partnership between the Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services. Funded by the Art in State Buildings Act, the program allows up to two capital construction projects to be selected each year. Find more information about the [Art in State Buildings Program](#).

The Vermont Arts Council envisions a state where everyone has access to the arts and creativity in their life, education, and community. Through its programs and services, the Council strives to increase public awareness of the positive role artists and arts organizations play in communities and to maximize opportunities for everyone to experience the arts. Since 1965, the Council has been the state's primary provider of funding, advocacy, and information for the arts in Vermont. [www.vermontartscouncil.org](http://www.vermontartscouncil.org).

The Vermont Arts Council is funded, in part, by a grant from the [National Endowment of the Arts](#), which requires a 1:1 match from the Vermont State Legislature. Council grants, programs, and statewide arts promotion would not be possible without the critical funding provided by these government agencies.

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