## 2025-2026 Creative Aging Teaching Artist Roster

The following teaching artists have completed a Creative Aging training sponsored by the Vermont Arts Council. Past trainers have included Lifetime Arts and Teaching Artist Connect. These artists have honed skills for providing skill-based, sequential lessons for older adults while focusing on the importance of embedding intentional social engagement opportunities into their programming.

| Artist's name: | County: | Artistic discipline(s): | |
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| **Alexandra Turner**<br> | Chittenden | Visual Arts | Alexandra works in a wide variety of media, including glass, photographic processes, fabric, print, clay, and paint. Her work combines arts integration, Universal Design for Learning, mindfulness, and collaboration to develop curriculum that engages many types of learners.<br><br>Her glass fossil residencies combine fused glass art with ecology, integrating science skills such as using hand lenses, microscopes, plant identification, and principles of working with glass. |

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| **Rebecca Mack**<br> | Chittenden | Music, Visual Arts | Rebecca is a composer who specializes in voice, harp and drums. As a teaching artist, Mack works with adults and children.<br><br>Rebecca Mack's formal training includes drawing, photography, vocal performance, music history and music composition. Independently she has studied animation, printmaking, sound recording, turntablism and percussion. |
| **Jen Berger**<br> | Chittenden | Visual Arts | Jen Berger works as an interdisciplinary, community, and socially engaged artist and educator. Jen uses street, stage and guerilla theater; visual arts; painting; printmaking; installation and dialogue to raise awareness of social issues that affect us all. Along with individually designed projects, Jen creates community engagement opportunities through her studio work at At the Root. She is currently a full-time lecturer at the University of Vermont. |

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| **Miriam Block**<br> | Chittenden | Textiles | Miriam is a teaching artist with a background in textile design and weaving. Her goal is to gently guide participants through the creative process as they explore new materials, carefully observe, problem solve, discover, and make their own connections.<br><br>Miriam is the Executive Director of the Heritage Winooski Mill Museum. |
| **J.T. Turner**<br> | Essex | Theater | J.T. Turner is an award-winning professional actor, director and playwright, with credits on stage, screen and audio. He tours across N. America with his original solo shows. His play “Within These Walls” appeared at the Smithsonian Museum of American History and won the Essex National Heritage Pioneers in Partnership Award.<br><br>J.T. is also a professional lecturer, fight choreographer, circus ringmaster, public speaking coach & TaiChi/Qigong instructor. |

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| **Polly Giantonio**<br> | Orange | Creative Writing, Poetry | Polly enjoys the experience of uncensored creative expression that arouses rich material.<br><br>She designs and facilitates workshops on creative writing and poetry. She has mentored students from ages 4 to 84 in academia, independent workshops, and in 1:1 settings.<br><br>As a lifelong learner, she continues to study and work on the craft of poetry and writing. Pollys is a trained Amherst Writer & Artists (AWA) writing workshop facilitator.<br><br>Her poems and interviews have found homes in various print and online journals including Poets & Writers. |
| **Kailie Larkin**<br> | Orange<br>Windham | Theater | Kailie Larkin is a teacher and artist who cultivates creative environments for individual and collective growth. Her expertise includes improvisation, devising, Shakespeare, clowning, mask, shadow cinema, Bunraku puppetry, filmmaking, and stop motion animation.<br><br>She is interested in exploring the different mediums by which we tell stories and in empowering people to find new skills of how they express, create, refine, share, and honor.<br><br>She has a Masters in Theater Education from City College of NY, is a member of The Royal Frog Ballet, and directed the Chelsea Funnery Shakespeare Intensive for 14 yearsprofessional development leader, and full-time theater teacher. |

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| **Barbara Paulson**<br> | Orange | Puppetry | Barbara is a touring marionette puppeteer and teaching artist who partners with organizations to help participants tell their personal story through the voice of puppetry.<br><br>As co-creator of the No Strings Marionette Company, Barbara knows bravery, flexibility, tenacity, and fun are essential to her creative process and encourages participants to fearlessly examine the cycle of creation and revision as they make meaningful connections to original and inspired work. |
| **Joanne George**<br> | Orleans | Visual Arts | Joanne is a self-taught mixed media teaching artist living in Glover, VT. She brings a focus on mindful art practices for self care, self discovery and healing and offers individual and group art lessons for all ages and abilities.<br><br>She promotes an "outside the lines" approach to art making with an emphasis on the process rather than the finished product. She believes that art is for everyone. We are all artists! |

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| **Alana Rancourt Phinney**<br> | Washington | Dance | Alana facilitates classes and workshops using improvisation and movement as the primary language with the intention to build trust and community for all ages and abilities, and to develop ways to navigate and shift through ever-changing times.<br><br>She holds special expertise in dementia care and creative engagement. Alana is a certified TimeSlips™ Facilitator and a Master Trainer in the Best Friends™ Approach to dementia care. She has designed workshops in creative care for family and friends of loved ones with dementia. Currently, she works as the Life Enrichment Coordinator and staff trainer at a local memory care provider. |
| **Elissa Campbell**<br> | Washington | Visual Arts | In a studio in beautiful Montpelier, you will find Elissa hand binding journals, photo albums, and guest books using traditional bookbinding techniques. She offers a range of bookbinding workshops appropriate for either students or teachers. She has worked in both traditional and nontraditional educational settings, art centers, community festivals, and online.<br><br>Her training as an art therapist has given her invaluable tools that she uses when teaching and workshops are easily adapted to make them accessible to a variety of populations. |

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| **Geof Hewitt**<br> | Washington | Theatre, Literature | Geof is the author of four books of poems and Vermont's reigning poetry slam champion. He offers readings of his poems, serves as slammaster/host for school and community-wide poetry slams, and leads writing workshops for all ages above third grade. |
| **Christy Mihaly**<br> | Washington | Community Engagement, Literature/Poetry | Christy has published nearly 40 books, primarily nonfiction for young readers, on topics from hayfields to free speech to food.<br><br>Christy enjoys working with people of all ages. She finds when helping people experiment with different poetic structures, poetry frees them up to express themselves in new ways. She offers workshops using poems to illuminate how one can use one's freedom of expression and to facilitate civic conversations between people of differing points of view.<br><br>When not writing, she enjoys walking in the woods and playing cello (though not simultaneously). |

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| **Hanna Satterlee**<br> | Washington | Dance, Interdisciplinary | Hanna Satterlee creates performance experiences and conceptual artworks for stage, site and film. Hanna holds degrees and certifications in dance therapy, psychology, performance, choreography, vinyassa/yin/restorative yoga, non-profit management and arts integration.<br><br>Hanna shares these passions as an intergenerational educator, interdisciplinary performer + collaborator, experimental curator and event producer. |
| **Linda Whelihan**<br> | Windham | Visual Arts | Linda Whelihan works with a multitude of media, designing engaging art experiences for participants of all ages. She is an artist and art integration specialist who aims to engage individuals, build community and provide hands-on learning through shared art experiences.<br><br>In her studio, she crafts wood, paper and fabric into whimsical pieces that charm and delight. |

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| **Susan Rosano**<br> | Windham | Visual Arts, Ukulele, Life Maps | Susan has been a master teaching artist for the past 15 years, bringing visual and expressive arts projects to schools, libraries, hospitals, museums and other venues for people of all ages, from Pre-K to senior citizens. |
| **Naima Wade**<br> | Windham | Writing, Storytelling | Naima K Wade is a poet, literary artist, and certificated creative aging idea exchange teaching artist.<br><br>Her Legacies : Reckoning + Resilience (LRR) project is a multi-disciplinary project that promotes social connection for older Vermonters. LRR workshops, classes, and sessions lift up our shared experience expressed through narrative storytelling of our past and present through reinforcing the mantra to always live consciously, creatively, and know that it is a privilege to age.<br><br>Naima received her BA degree from Goddard College in Education and Theater Arts, a Master in Language Teaching (MAT) from the School for International Training, and a SSEHV Advanced Teacher Training Certification from the University of California, Santa Barbara. |

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| | | | Her poetry engages transformational connections across diverse demographics. |
| **Bidi Dworkin**<br> | Windham Bennington | Singing, Folk/Traditional, Jazz, movement | Bidi received a Masters Degree from NYU in Teaching Dance. She is a certified yoga instructor and enjoy guiding elders in ways of healthy aging. She is a certified Somatic Voicework teacher - teaching from her home studio and via zoom.<br><br>She enjoys teaching vocal and movement workshops, either in person or via zoom. There are simple, holistic and enjoyable exercises to strengthen the vocal mechanism...a useful tool for all voices as we age. |
| **Evie Lovett**<br> | Windham | Visual, multi-media storytelling | Evie's work spans cyanotype, photography, digital media, storytelling, encaustic painting, and community art making. Evie is drawn to explore the spaces where people and the natural world meet and interact.<br><br>Bringing a social and environmental justice lens to her work is a priority. What fuels her is putting the tools of art-making in people's hands, enabling them to explore aspects of themselves and the world around them through art-making, fearlessly and with joy.<br><br>In 2024 Evie was selected for the peer-reviewed Lifetime Arts Creative Aging Roster of Professional Teaching Artists and completed the Barthol Foundation Training in Trauma-Informed Practice. |

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| **Verandah Porche**<br> | Windham | Literature and Poetry | Verandah works with the nonprofit Art in the Neighborhood, an after-school arts program with children who live in public housing. She has presented poetry for Vermont Humanities' Poetry in the Woods project and offered an online workshop called "Poetry Without Tears" for them.<br><br>Verandah has done online workshops for the Rural Assembly. She created an interdisciplinary residency for previously unhoused people at Great River Terrace in Brattleboro. She continues to write and create poems with community elders. |
| **Christine Mix**<br> | Windsor | Visual Arts, Literature, Folk/Traditional | Christine Mix is a published children's illustrator/author, PAL Member of SCBWI, and a member of CBIG-NYC. She is a teaching artist for K-12 schools, libraries, galleries, community organizations, and creative aging programs, introducing drawing, illustration and cartooning to all ages. |

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| **Finnie Trimpi**<br> | Windsor | Visual Arts | As the Outreach Coordinator at Artistree Community Arts Center, Finnie leads visual art-based programming that fosters creativity, connection, and confidence. Her teaching practice focuses on foundational skills across a variety of mediums, tailored to meet the needs of individuals living with disabilities, social-emotional challenges, and in memory care/assisted living facilities.<br><br>Rooted in process-based learning, her approach emphasizes exploration and self-expression over outcomes—making art accessible, engaging, and meaningful for every participant. |
| **Marci Diamond**<br> | Windsor | Circus Arts | Marci Diamond is an Vermont-based teaching artist, actor, circus performer, and movement specialist.<br><br>Marci is a SAG-AFTRA and AEA actor, circus artist, intimacy choreographer, and arts consultant. She served as National Sexual Violence Resource Center Advisory Council Chair, and her work is consent-forward and trauma-informed.<br><br>She was a certified high school teacher, trained in circus arts therapy, and has experience providing adaptive programming for all ages and abilities. She enjoys collaborating with organizations to design custom performances, workshops and theatrical services. |

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| **Marv Klassen-Landis**<br> | Windsor | Writing, Storytelling | Marv Klassen-Landis tells stories, performs poetry and leads written and spoken word residencies and workshops, as well as one-to-one coaching. Marv is a poet, storyteller and theatre artist who was the founding creative writer at Dartmouth Health's Arts and Humanities Program from 2009-2023. |
| **Susie J. Gray**<br> | Windsor<br>Orange | Visual Arts, Folk/Traditional | As a child Susie loved playing outside, creating landscapes for her dollhouse out of things found in her yard-leafy twigs became trees, chunks of moss made hedges, flowers became shrubs, pebbles became stone walls and pathways.<br><br>A lifelong interest in the landscape coupled with her love for everything 'old-fashioned' provided a natural segue towards traditional green wood crafts, including living willow structures, basketry, sculpture, and charcoal making. Her creative practice encompasses other historic crafts of felting, rug hooking and knitting; egg tempura painting; and, most recently, map-making.<br><br>She continues to look for ways to combine her varied interests and mediums, both as an artist and as a teacher. |

Other Artists who have completed Creative Aging training and are:

| Artist's name: | County: | Artistic discipline(s): | Affiliations: |
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| Janet Warner-Ashley | Caledonia | Theatre | Quahog Dance Theatre |
| Carrie Caouette-De Lallo | Orange | Visual Arts | Chelsea Arts Collective |
| Jess Weitz | Windham | Visual Arts, Literature | River Gallery School |
| Angie Follensbee-Hall | Windsor | Visual Arts | Jai Studios |