

ARTSNEWS

NOVEMBER 2020

And She Will Lead by Andrew Courtney



Give Us the Vote Exhibition Celebrates Women's Suffrage

A PUBLICATION OF ARTSWESTCHESTER SPONSORED BY:





Westchester gov.com From the County Executive

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking a few moments to read this fall edition of ArtsNews. As the temperatures cool down and the leaves begin to turn colors and fall, I want to encourage all of you to enjoy the many events that our local arts groups have to offer both online and in person across Westchester County. Over the past several months, many arts events were forced to be canceled or postponed in the wake of the pandemic. But, as we do our best to manage the impacts of Coronavirus, we are making great strides towards rebuilding our County back to what it was before. There are plenty of in-person and virtual arts happenings for you to explore. This fall, ArtsWestchester will be providing a robust schedule of strong programming offered by arts groups throughout the County, including:

- an artistic call to action for voting (see page A6)
- the work of artistic masters right here in Westchester (A12)
- giving our local giving our local teens creative ways to express themselves through film (see page A18)

I encourage all of you to take a few moments of respite, and participate in these wonderful opportunities if you can. As Westchester County makes its return to "normal," remember that the arts are here to help heal us, and the arts will still be here for us when we get through this crisis stronger than ever before.

Sincerely,
George Latimer

.....

The work of ArtsWestchester is made possible with support from Westchester County Government.

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ArtsNews (artsw.org), your guide to arts and culture in Westchester County, NY, is published by ARTSWESTCHESTER, a private, not-for-profit organization established in 1965. The largest of its kind in New York State, it serves more than 150 cultural organizations, numerous school districts, hundreds of artists, and audiences numbering more than one million. The goal of ArtsWestchester is to ensure the availability, accessibility, and diversity of the arts in Westchester.



FROM THE CEO

by Janet Langsam,
ArtsWestchester CEO



(photo credit: Cathy Pinsky)

The Creative Economy

The word "creative" used to belong predominantly to the right-brain arts community. Lately however, the word has wandered into the left-brain analytical zone. Phrases such as "creative economy," "creative industries" and "creative class" have crept into the business vernacular. So what's going on here? Have the economists hijacked creativity? Not at all. The truth is that creativity has become a shared virtue. Take for example the creative industries—those which have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent, and create wealth by the generation of intellectual property. These can include advertising and architecture as well as museums and theaters. It's a mix of profit and non-profit. These creative industries seem to proliferate in culturally rich environments...That, is places where culture thrives.

Don't take my word for it. A study by Americans for the Arts says the following: Westchester County, NY is home to 3,085 arts-related businesses that employ 14,493 people. The creative industries account for 5.3 percent of the total number of businesses located in Westchester County, NY and 2.4 percent of the people they employ.

This puts Westchester on par with creative centers like Miami Dade County, Florida, and Cook County, Chicago, and is well above the national averages. Westchester, in this regard, is only out-flanked by two places: New York City and Los Angeles. That's a long way around to say that the arts are important economically to our county. Fortunately, our county leadership understands this and they have kept cultural funding alive during this pandemic period. But it's been a tough time for this creative sector as theaters have been unable to open. The recent announcement of the permanent closing of the venerable Westchester Broadway Theatre (WBT) has sent a chill up the spine of the arts community here. Like many theaters since March, WBT was closed due to Covid. Also closed have been the Tarrytown Music Hall, the Jacob Burns Film Center and the Purchase Performing Arts Center. And so long as the COVID-19 continues, they are all at risk. Our economy is a creative economy. And that's just one more good reason to support the arts.



Westchester Broadway Theatre (photo source: broadwaytheatre.com)

➔ Don't miss Janet's weekly blog posts at: thisandthatbyjl.com

feature

Bringing Women to the Fore

by Caedra Scott-Flaherty



“Why have a women-only exhibition?” Many people have asked Laura Vookles this question. Sometimes the Chair of Hudson River Museum's Curatorial Department answers with a question of her own: If you walk into a museum gallery and all the artists are men, would you ask why? She explains: “We don't need to have a centennial of the 19th Amendment to curate an exhibition that brings women to the fore.”

And yet, that is exactly what happened. *Women to the Fore*, on display through January 3, features art works by more than 40 female-identifying artists. The works span 150 years and were selected from the museum's permanent collection. Additional pieces were loans from local artists, galleries and collectors. A varied range of mediums and artistic movements are represented, as well as a diversity of nationalities, races, gender identities and sexual orientations. Works by internationally recognized artists such as Mary Cassatt and Judy Chicago are displayed alongside under-appreciated historical artists, as well as emerging contemporary artists like Jessica Spence and Tuesday Smillie.

At first the room may appear haphazard, but it is thoughtfully laid out to create visual conversations. *The Garden of the Divine Feminine* welcomes visitors as they descend into the gallery. The vibrant mixed-media mural by Yonkers-based artists Nancy Mendez, Patricia Santos and Katori Walker, commissioned by the museum and ArtsWestchester, and covering an entire wall, celebrates the female body. “This mural represents the power of what makes

“The power to harness life, the power to create and nurture.”

At the bottom of the stairs is Helen Searle’s *Nature’s Bounty* from 1872. It is fitting to begin with a still life painting, as food and foliage were some of the only subjects deemed appropriate for female artists in the 19th century. Beside the painting is a bright mixed-media piece from 2017 by textile designer Ebony Bolt, and a charcoal drawing by Georgia O’Keeffe from 1934. History bends and cultures overlap, and artists who could have never spoken are now allowed to inform each other’s work. Across the room, Rose Clark and Elizabeth Flint Wade’s *Miss M. of Washington* from 1900, a superb example of the pictorial photography movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, is beside Barbara Morgan’s 1940 *Martha Graham in Letter to the World* photograph.

In the middle of the room, Ola Rondiak’s *Montanka Installation*, a group of sculptures based on Ukrainian ragdolls traditionally made by mothers and given to their daughters as talismans of good health and fortune, spreads out like an army. The faceless figures guarding the space are covered in maps, protest pamphlets and Ukrainian folklore.

At the edge of the center resides Vinnie Bagwell’s *Model for Victory Beyond Sims*. An 18-foot version of this small bronze sculpture will soon replace Central Park’s controversial monument to J. Marion Sims, a 19th-century gynecologist who experimented on enslaved black women. “There are so few women and people of color

“...visitors will discover that female-identifying artists have a long and diverse history and ‘that they have much to say—to us and to each other.’”

in the public art arena,” Bagwell says. “I am proud to have stayed the course to represent the voice of Black people and women at this pivotal moment in our history.”

While the museum is offering virtual tours, a visit to the space can be a crash course in feminist art history within its chosen works, as well as a respite in these strange times. Vookles hopes that visitors will discover that female-identifying artists have a long and diverse history and “that they have much to say—to us and to each other.”



Sunday Evening, from the It's a Process series by Jessica Spence (photo courtesy of Hudson River Museum)

feature



A photograph of a sunset over a field with trees and a building. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The foreground is a lush green field. In the middle ground, there are dark silhouettes of trees and a building on the left.

A Call to the Ballot

by Kathleen Reckling, Deputy Director of Public Programs, ArtsWestchester

Vote. By mail or in person. Absentee or early. This is the call to action by many artists in ArtsWestchester's [Give Us the Vote 2020 online exhibition](#). In the midst of a year that has challenged every American in some way, the call to the ballot box has been loud and emphatic, resonating across all forms of media, amongst friends and families, and in the streets on billboards and posters. Artists too have taken their civic duty seriously, not only committing to voting themselves, but in also reminding others to cast their ballot. This exhibition explores the history of voting rights in America and celebrates the power of the ballot. Twenty-eight artists from across the country contributed works, many of which serve as a creative way to encourage people to vote.

For several decades, photographer Andrew Courtney has been documenting community leaders, social movements and the everyday conditions of those who live on the socio-economic

feature

...the call to the ballot box has been loud and emphatic, resonating across all forms of media.

margins. As an artist and teacher, his camera often serves as a tool for shedding light on the areas in which he feels that change needs to happen. In *Give Us the Vote 2020*, Courtney shares two group portraits of a woman surrounded by teenagers. Each figure wears a cloth mask to protect from the spread of COVID-19. The woman, who is central, wears one with the word "vote" emblazoned across it. The portraits are an homage to the role women have played, and continue to play, in the important social movements of American history – from the suffrage



Women's Vote by Michelle Pred (photo courtesy of the artist)

VOTING
Matters!

Voting Matters (detail) by Queen Andrea

movement of the 19th and 20th centuries to today's movements for social justice.

Like Courtney's photographs, many of the works in *Give Us the Vote 2020* are a tribute to the 19th century suffragists, while also serving as a call to action in the present. *Vote* by Allison Belolan is a collage that draws on several symbols from social movements across the 20th and 21st centuries. The artist has blended traditional collage techniques with digital finishing. Sunflowers and yellow roses in the background symbolize the women's suffrage movement and a raised fist in the mid-ground recognizes the current Black Lives Matter movement. She says: "While making this collage, I was thinking about the power we have as citizens to make real change with our votes."

Encapsulated Vote by Enne Tesse is a pill bottle filled with capsules that contain fragments of fabric, each with the handwritten word "VOTE." The small sculpture, presented in a photograph, takes on several symbolic meanings. First, it replicates on a microscale the process of sorting, counting and casting ballots. Perhaps more significantly, the work offers a treatment for the challenges that we face collectively as a society: our vote.

In addition to featuring new works for a digital experience, *Give Us the Vote 2020* revisits many works that were created for ArtsWestchester's 2017 exhibition, *Give Us the Vote*, which was made possible with a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. *Give Us the Vote 2020* is [now on view](#).

artist spotlight: sidra bell

Heading to the New York City Ballet

by Michelle Falkenstein

This past summer, choreographer Sidra Bell was asked by Wendy Whelan, Associate Artistic Director at New York City Ballet (NYCB), if she was interested in creating one of five site-specific commissions for the company. With its in-person season scrapped due to COVID-19, NYCB planned to have the new dances performed and filmed around Lincoln Center and at other New York City locations, then shown online over a five-week digital season.

Bell became the first Black woman to create an original work for the NYCB when she accepted Whelan's offer and choreographed the six-minute *pixilation in a wave (Within Wires)* for two female and two male dancers.

"It's such a tremendous feeling," says Bell, whose company, Sidra Bell Dance New York (SBDNY), was founded in 2001. "I carry all of my teachers, mentors and family in this moment. I feel so grateful to everyone who supported me for so many years." Among those supporters was ArtsWestchester, which has given the Greenburgh-based Bell five honors, including three Arts Alive project grants.

"I feel so supported in the community, especially by ArtsWestchester," Bell says. "I also spent a few years with Steffi Nossen as a teacher in their children's program and was also a guest choreographer for their teen ensemble. Those early experiences were instrumental in my growth as an educator."



Sidra Bell (photo credit: David Flores Productions)



Dancer Mira Nadon of New York City Ballet in Sidra Bell's *pixelation in a wave (Within Wires)* (photo credit: Erin Baiano)

Bell was asked to follow the NYCB's coronavirus-related restrictions—for example, the dancers had to stay 10 feet apart. "Normally, I use a lot of touch in my dance," says Bell. There was, however, one exception to the no-touch rule. "Two of the dancers were a couple who lived together, so they told me that if I used the couple they can touch," she says, which she did.

After the choreography was completed, Bell spent a week on Zoom watching the dancers in a studio. This was followed by four days on

the Lincoln Center plaza, rehearsing and overseeing the choreography as a production crew filmed. Bell also observed the taping of the work's original score by four members of the NYCB orchestra. "It was exciting to have so many resources, even in a time of COVID-19," she says. "It was a very generous experience and lots of fun."

pixelation in a wave (Within Wires) was shown as part of NYCB's "[Festival of New Choreography](#)" at the end of October and will stream for an indefinite period on [YouTube](#), NYCB's [Facebook page](#) and at [nycballet.com](#).

Bell's interest in dance began in pre-school at Miss Patti Ann's Dance in Riverdale, close to Inwood where she grew up. By age seven, she had earned a scholarship to study at Dance Theatre of Harlem, and within six years she was taking classes in the group's professional division. At 14, Bell was accepted to The Ailey School, creating solo dances that she performed at student showcases both at Ailey and The Spence School, which she attended.

While studying history at Yale University, Bell founded the Alliance for Dance at Yale College and believes she helped inspire the university to establish a dance studies program. Two years after graduating, Bell attended Purchase College Conservatory of Dance, earning an MFA in Choreography.

Bell has worked on more than 100 commissions, including for The Julliard School, Ailey II, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Sacramento Ballet, Ballet Austin and BODYTRAFFIC. Her pieces have been seen throughout the U.S., as well as in Aruba, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Korea, Slovenia, Sweden and Turkey.

Bell explains that SBDNY is something of a family affair. Her father, jazz pianist Dennis Bell, serves as its artistic consultant and composer, and wrote the score for *pixelation in a wave (Within Wires)*. Executive Director Claudette Bell, her mother, is a graphic designer who also handles the group's publicity, web design and marketing.

And for those who like to celebrate, in 2017 White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach issued a formal proclamation naming February 3 "Sidra Bell Day," citing her "meaningful contributions to the community."

spotlight



Union Church of Pocantico Hills (photo credit: Jaime Martorano Photography for Historic Hudson Valley)

Matisse and Chagall in Westchester

by Mary Alice Franklin, ArtsNews Editor

One doesn't need to travel to a foreign country, or even to New York City, to see artworks from the masters. All they need to do is visit the hamlet of Pocantico Hills in the town of Mount Pleasant. There, among the houses on Bedford Road, is a small church – a historic landmark stone building with a slate roof. This unassuming church holds one of the most unexpected sanctuaries of stained glass windows in the world.

Just behind the wooden doors of the Union Church of Pocantico Hills are ten works by artists Marc Chagall and Henri Matisse – colorful stained glass masterpieces with a storied history. Their legacy

is also tied to yet another notable name – the Rockefellers. It was the wealthy philanthropic family that commissioned these works beginning in the 1950s. As it were, John D. Rockefeller Jr. was a founder of Historic Hudson Valley (HHV), the organization that now owns and operates the church.

Says Rob Schweitzer, Vice President of Communications and Commerce at HHV: "It surprises some that Union Church is in fact an extraordinary repository of stunning work from two global masters of the 20th century art world. How these incredible stained glass windows came to the church, and came to be on display for public

enjoyment, is an inspiring story of faith, family and legacy.”

First was Matisse’s *Rose Window*, which was designed in memory of Abby Rockefeller and commissioned by her sons Norman and David. The work was Matisse’s last. A maquette of the window, completed two days before his passing, was present in his bedroom when he passed away. It was created in the style of the artist’s paper cut-outs, a technique that he experimented with during his final years. Seemingly symmetrical leaves envelop the yellow petals in this circular work, yet each portion and leaf differs slightly from the next. The window was fabricated after Matisse’s death and dedicated to Abby Rockefeller two years later. It sits in a place of prominence, above the church’s altar.

Pablo Picasso once said: “When Matisse dies, Chagall will be the only painter left who understands what color really is.” Perhaps it was kismet then that Peggy Rockefeller, David’s wife, was so taken by Chagall’s work during her visit to the Louvre. The artist’s *The Good Samaritan* window, a fitting parable given the family’s propensity for helping others, was created to memorialize the life of John D. Rockefeller Jr.

As David Rockefeller remembers it, when Chagall attended the window’s dedication he commented that the other eight windows in the church were “not harmonious” with the *Rose Window* and *The Good Samaritan* – and so he agreed to a commission for the remaining windows.

To Picasso’s credit, a sweep of color, thoughtfully arranged and purposeful in its execution, is exactly what Chagall accomplished. The remaining windows, abstract yet representational in style, each depicting a prophet from *The Old Testament*, pull colors from Matisse’s window. Being mindful of Matisse’s work, Chagall muted his own colors for a more cohesive overall feel, officially ridding the church of its previously “unharmonious” problem. The result is a room befit for worship.



The Good Samaritan window by Marc Chagall at Union Church of Pocantico Hills
(photo credit: Jaime Martorano Photography for Historic Hudson Valley)

Through November 8, Union Church of Pocantico Hills is operating self-guided tours on a limited capacity basis. [Advance ticket reservations for a specific time slot is required.](#)

artswestchester's 2020 gala

Jazz Legend Wynton Marsalis to Perform at ArtsWestchester's Gala



ArtsWestchester has announced that it will be joined by world-renowned trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis for its [virtual gala on November 21](#).

The fundraiser comes at a critical time, during which the arts industry is devastated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and when the survival of many Westchester County arts groups is at stake.

During the ["Maskquerade" event](#), Entergy will be honored with the 2020 Corporate Award for its longtime support of the arts in Westchester, and three local arts champions will receive Leadership Awards: Kenneth Jenkins, Deputy County Executive; Kevin J. Plunkett, Director of Strategic Initiatives at Simone Development Companies; and Jeffrey P. Haydon, President/CEO at Ravinia Festival and former CEO of Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts.

ArtsWestchester, as the County's largest funder of the arts, is appealing to the community for help in keeping the arts in Westchester alive at this unprecedented time. CEO Janet Langsam explains: "This year, we're not asking people to sponsor gala tables. Instead, we're asking them to support a community arts program, like an artist residency, art exhibition, public art mural or teen scholarship."

Nationally, COVID-19 has dealt an estimated economic blow of \$14 billion to America's arts and cultural sector since mid-March. "This moment of crisis has put the life-affirming value of the arts into sharper focus," said Marsalis, who is Managing & Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center. The musician will perform for the event, as well as speak about the importance of the arts.

He continues: "Art has always been an indispensable tool of survival, teaching us about our history, helping us to process turmoil and grief, and delivering serious meaning with joy. Let's face this challenge by challenging ourselves and by choosing to rise to the occasion."

According to Langsam, there are many ways to rise to the occasion this fall. She explains: "While the arts community has been incredible in pivoting to virtual arts education, streaming concerts and online exhibitions, the toll on their revenue streams has been staggering. There are many ways in which people can help right now: bidding in our online gala auction, sponsoring an arts scholarship, making a donation, or by simply buying a journal ad to celebrate the outstanding 2020 gala honorees. It all helps the arts to survive in your hometown."

Support the arts at ArtsWestchester's Gala: artsw.org/gala2020.



A pumpkin sculpture installation at The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze, organized by Historic Hudson Valley and supported by Entergy (photo courtesy of Historic Hudson Valley)

CORPORATE AWARD HONOREE ENTERGY

Entergy came to Westchester County in 2000 when they purchased Indian Point Energy Center. As a New Orleans company, they knew how to win the hearts of New Yorkers. Jazz and art was the magic formula. Thus began the powerful partnership between two primary arts organizations—Jazz at Lincoln Center and ArtsWestchester. With its generous embrace and corporate citizenship, Entergy's support became transformational to both organizations.

With more than \$30 million in contributions, their generosity has touched more than 100 organizations,

both large and small, in Westchester and beyond — like the Daisy Jopling Foundation, Music Conservatory of Westchester, Hudson River Museum, White Plains Performing Arts Center and Historic Hudson Valley's The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze. Entergy also gave major support for restoring the 1930s historic Paramount Hudson Valley to its former glory. In addition, it provided major support for the Westchester Library System and the Hendrick Hudson Free Library. Entergy's 20 years of significant investment in the cultural and the nonprofit sectors has been a powerful example for other corporations.

As Entergy phases out their business interests in Westchester, its legacy is assured by its deep meaningful commitment to its communities. Their efforts helped to make Westchester better by fostering equity, social justice, community-building, education and

accessibility of the arts in under-resourced areas in the County.

ArtsWestchester is honoring Entergy, and the colleagues it has worked with over the years, especially the formidable Kenneth Theobalds, Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs. ArtsWestchester also salutes the company for recognizing that art and culture defines a community, acknowledging that the arts are an economic driver that boost cultural tourism and understanding that the arts feed the soul of a country and can help it to heal in these challenging times.



Kenneth Jenkins at ArtsWestchester's ArtsBash 2019 (photo credit: Leslye Smith)

LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREE

Kenneth Jenkins

As Deputy County Executive, former Chairman and member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, Kenneth Jenkins has put forth a great deal of time and effort into expanding the County's vision of the arts to include many forms of creative expression that organically spring forth from the grassroots community. Jenkins has strengthened the public-private partnership between the arts and government by supporting innovative programs, particularly those for underserved communities, recognizing the arts as a critical economic engine. Jenkins was instrumental in launching the successful "Yonkers Arts Initiative," an innovative approach to promoting arts in the City.

Jenkins has been a leader in Democratic politics for more than 25 years. During that time, he has been actively engaged in serving the public and the community through his work on key committees, and as a leader in cultural and ethnic diversity issues. Jenkins is a "people-person," and nowhere is that more evident than in his hometown of Yonkers where, for more than five years, he was President of the Yonkers' Branch of the NAACP, and was host of a public access cable show that discussed issues relevant to the African-American community. Jenkins has served on numerous prestigious boards of community groups and organizations that improve the lives of Westchester residents, including Greyston Foundation, United Way and Westchester County Crimestoppers, among others. Jenkins and his wife Deborah have three children and are longtime Yonkers residents.

artswestchester's 2020 gala

LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREE

Kevin J. Plunkett

As former Deputy County Executive, now Director of Strategic Initiatives at Simone Development Companies, Kevin J. Plunkett came to ArtsWestchester as a board member in 2005 and imparted his sage lawyerly advice and strategic wisdom. As Deputy County Executive, he recognized that the arts are not only for its intrinsic value, but for its economic impact which, pre-COVID, was \$172 million, supporting 5,200 jobs. Now the arts are in trouble, with many cultural organizations and artists facing an uncertain future. Plunkett recently returned to ArtsWestchester's Board as an Emeritus Member, asking "What can I do to help?"

Plunkett, who has practiced law for more than three decades, is currently a member of the American, New York State, Florida, Westchester and Westchester Women's Bar Associations. He served on four Governor Judicial Screening Committees from 1997 to 2017. He is currently on the board of Tompkins Mahopac Bank and has served on the boards of numerous other not-for-profit and educational institutions, including Westchester ARC Foundation and Iona College. He is a lifetime resident of Tarrytown, and he and his wife Rosemary have five children and seven grandchildren.



Kevin J. Plunkett and his grandson, who is wearing an ArtsWestchester hat (photo courtesy of Kevin Plunkett)



Jeffrey P. Haydon, on stage during Caramoor's American Roots Music Festival (photo courtesy of Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts)

LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREE

Jeffrey P. Haydon

With 25 years of arts management experience and a lifelong love of music, former CEO of Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts Jeffrey P. Haydon has played a significant role in partnering with ArtsWestchester annually on countywide arts advocacy efforts. With his leadership, he has worked with ArtsWestchester to successfully communicate the vital role that the arts play in people's lives and as

part of Westchester's economy. Haydon has spent the past eight years leading a renaissance at Caramoor, including raising more than \$40 million to quadruple the endowment and invest over \$15 million into the Center's historic Rosen House, grounds and gardens on the 90-acre estate. During his tenure, Haydon has also launched several new initiatives, including a collaboration of more than six years with Jazz at Lincoln Center, as well as an expansion of Caramoor's American Roots series and its acclaimed *In the Garden of Sonic Delights* sound art exhibition.

He also led Caramoor to expand its yearly programming by over 80 percent and initiated numerous community collaborations, all while improving the Center's financial performance by more than 20 percent. Haydon now serves as President and CEO at Ravinia Festival in Highland Park, Illinois, the nation's oldest music festival.

SPECIAL GALA GUEST

Legendary Jazz Musician Wynton Marsalis

Trumpeter Wynton Marsalis is Managing and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, of which Entergy is a sponsor. Marsalis, a world-renowned trumpeter and composer born in New Orleans, Louisiana, began his classical training on trumpet at age 12, entered The Juilliard School at age 17, and then joined Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. He made his recording debut as a leader in 1982, and has since recorded more than 60 jazz and classical recordings, which have won him nine Grammy Awards. In 1983, he became the first and only artist to win both classical and jazz Grammys in the same year and repeated this feat in 1984. In 1997, Marsalis became the first jazz artist to be awarded the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in Music for his oratorio *Blood on the Fields*, which was commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center. In 2001, he was appointed Messenger of Peace by Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and he has also been designated cultural ambassador to the United States of America by the U.S. State Department through its CultureConnect program. Marsalis helped to lead efforts to construct Jazz at Lincoln Center's home—Frederick P. Rose Hall—the first education, performance and broadcast facility devoted to jazz, which opened in October 2004.



Wynton Marsalis (photo credit: Frank Stewart)

SUPPORT THE ARTS AT ARTSWESTCHESTER'S GALA: [ARTSW.ORG/GALA2020.](https://artswestchester.org/gala2020)

spotlight



Amplifying Teen Voices Through Film

One of Irvington Theater's "Videos for Change" participants editing their film (photo credit: Kate Abrams)

A global pandemic, state-mandated shutdowns, an ongoing fight for inclusiveness, and a tumultuous election season. The year 2020 has been a difficult one – for adults, but also for children and teens. It has challenged many to look inward, understand their priorities and think about themselves as part of a larger global entity. That's a lot to process. Now, several local arts groups are encouraging teens to think more critically about topics that are important to them and express their voices through film.

Through its new ["Quaran-Teen" program](#), YoFiFest's Digital Media Art Center is asking teens to submit short films of three minutes or less. The films, to be submitted by December 1, will allow teens to share their feelings and stories about how COVID-19 has affected their lives. The expansive variety of formats accepted, from documentary and animation to dance and spoken word, provides a broad platform for expression. The movies will be screened online, and possibly in-person once conditions allow.

At Westchester Community College's [Center for Digital Arts](#), a Digital Filmmaking class for teens aged 11-17 is a calendar staple, having been offered since 2005. Students produce movie shorts, often 30 seconds to one minute long. This year, the pandemic presented new challenges for instructor Chris X. Carroll.

Carroll explains that the benefit of an in-person class is equipment that is typically available from the tech department, but they adapted: "[Students] not only have high quality cameras in the form of cell phones, but [are] completely comfortable and savvy about how to

exploit every feature... Though Zoom seemed like a barrier at first, we quickly got past it, ignored it as much as possible, and carried on with the filmmaking." The class will be offered again next summer with two two-week sessions.

Meanwhile, [Irvington Theater](#) is in its second round of "Videos for Change," an online filmmaking class for teens in grades six through ten. Participants research a social justice issue that they care about, and then create, edit and promote a one-minute film about that topic.

Says Shana Liebman, one of the Theater's commissioners: "There are so many crucial social justice issues exploding all around teens... [They are] eager and capable of acquiring the skills to make change happen." In the class, a teacher explains filmmaking styles and techniques over Zoom, and then students work independently online.

Thirteen-year-old Frieda Belasco, a "Videos for Change" participant, explains: "The program helped me to explore and talk about important issues by making me think harder about the problems in the world and how I, as a student, can help fix them." Belasco's film, *Reducing Your Carbon Footprint*, spotlights activities that are harmful to the environment, as well as positive alternatives. Another student shines a light on an LGBTQ teen's struggle with coming out to family and friends. Two sixth-grade boys describe how humans can stop pollution. Others focus on bullying, police brutality and gender equality.

Liebman says the theater plans to have an in-person festival of the films as soon as they can reopen. A third round of the class will also be presented in the near future.



MARSHA ON THE MOVE

Monthly Web Feature

When Business Council of Westchester President Marsha Gordon, is not advocating for businesses in the County, she can be found at the cinema or theater. Read Marsha's reviews on ArtsWestchester's "As a Matter of Art" blog: artsw.org/artsblog.



Screenshot from Father of the Bride: Part Three (ish) via YouTube

Father of the Bride: Part 3 (ish)

How wonderful it is to visit "old friends" who make you laugh by the antics of their personalities, beloved "schticks" and timeless talent. For those of us who love the movie *Father of the Bride* and its sequel, this new Netflix special – *Father of the Bride: Part Three (ish)* shows the Banks family 25 years after the sequel. In it, they are Zooming...a wedding, of course. Diane Keaton, Steve Martin and Martin Short still make me laugh just by seeing their faces and hearing their voices. Some other well-known talent make appearances as well. It is wonderful to see artistic creativity happening in new ways...and in this case, for a great cause. The reunion special raised money for World Central Kitchen, an organization that has delivered over 20 million meals to those in need during the pandemic.



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Workshop at Westchester Children's Museum, an Art\$WChallenge grantee
(photo courtesy of Westchester Children's Museum)

Double Your Donation to the Arts

Despite the havoc caused by COVID-19, the Westchester arts community has rallied in a way that continues to provide engaging cultural programs for county residents. However, in order to support these programs given the decline in ticket sales, groups have had to get creative with fundraising. This is where the [Art\\$WChallenge](#) matching grant program comes in.

For this year's program, County Executive George Latimer and Chairman of the Board of Legislators Benjamin Boykin increased funding for Art\$WChallenge, allowing ArtsWestchester to add 60 new arts groups to the list of eligible participants. This means that a total of more than 120 groups can participate in this year's program.

Through December 31, new money donated to any of the eligible groups will be matched by ArtsWestchester with support from Westchester County Government. The program was initially designed as a partnership between these two entities in 2007, leveraging County funding to encourage new donations in the arts community.

Explains Susan Abbott, ArtsWestchester's Director of Grant Programs: "The majority of the groups added in this year's cycle are smaller, grassroots organizations that serve the community at the local level by providing community workshops, artist residencies (now virtually) and creating works of art all over the County."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, arts and culture organizations have dedicated themselves to maintaining their programs, creating online education programs and following safety protocols to make their facilities safe for in-person activities. They have done so at tremendous financial cost and demonstrated considerable ingenuity.

The arts have the power to help, heal, educate and bring communities together safely in times of difficulty. The power is in the hands of the community to support these groups with donations that will help them to sustain operations and continue serving Westchester. A list of Art\$WChallenge eligible groups [can be found online](#).

spotlight



Janet T. Langsam (photo credit: Cathy Pinsky)

As CEO of ArtsWestchester, Janet Langsam is not simply some advocate for local culture. She is a warrior at the frontlines, fighting tooth and nail virtually around the clock to boost Westchester's arts organizations and venues, help secure vital funding for individuals and nonprofits alike, and come to the rescue of countless local artists who would likely have nowhere else to turn. This role firmly places Langsam at the very heart of the region's arts' scene, so she has witnessed firsthand the effects of COVID-19 on Westchester's cultural landscape.

Langsam notes that during the early days of the pandemic, it was remarkable how rapidly and drastically priorities changed. "We collectively spent thousands of hours sanitizing our whole building

Arts Warrior

By Paul Adler for Westchester Magazine

Janet Langsam, ArtsWestchester CEO, discusses the impact of COVID-19 on area artists and why our cultural framework may never be the same.

and just dealing with the process of finding out how to do this, who could do it, and what was a legitimate price for it," recalls Langsam. "Then I found out that everyone needed the same information, so we

Most of us still can't do events, can't do concerts, and can't do gallery talks... But worst of all, we can't do fundraisers...

—Janet Langsam

did a group Zoom call with engineers and cleaners. Not exactly the information that every arts organization needed in the past."

Langsam adds that the tremendous variety of local organizations further complicated matters. “Not everybody in the arts community in Westchester is the same, so you have small groups who were saying, ‘Can I have a class of 10 come in for a lesson, or do I have to wait for phase four?’” explains Langsam. “There is such a diversity of situations that when the guidelines came out, everybody was interpreting them differently, and rightly so. But there was nobody to ask how to apply them.”

“I think there is an enormous amount of grit in the cultural space. The people who work in the cultural arena are tough people. They really care about what they do.”

There was, however, one bright spot that seemingly united both large and small arts organizations. “The PPP Loan [Paycheck Protection Program] was a lifesaver,” says Langsam. “As they loosened the guidelines, it became more and more helpful to us. In fact, I was recently on the phone with a bunch of colleagues from the state, and I would say about 95 percent of those who filed for the PPP got it.”

Langsam is quick to add that this does not mean there was no fallout. “Most of us still can’t do events, can’t do concerts, and can’t do gallery talks,” she says. “But worst of all, we can’t do fundraisers, and most of our community and most of the not-for-profit community relies on golf tournaments, galas, award luncheons, and things like that in order to balance the budget.” ArtsWestchester itself was not exempt from this issue. “We normally get \$500,000 in funding from our events,” shares Langsam. “We had to cut that in half and budget \$250,000, and I don’t even know how we are going to reach that.”

One possible lifeline, grants, has been similarly impacted by the rise of COVID-19. “We’ll get a grant to do a series of concerts or an artist’s residency, but nobody provides grants for general operating support,” explains Langsam. “Most general operating support comes through events, so what I am seeing is that not being able to do the events is not just a loss in revenue but also a loss in flexible revenue — in unrestricted revenue.”

Yet, even during this nadir of funding, Westchester’s cultural organizations have proven to be incredibly adaptive. “We have

all pivoted. We are all doing virtual programs; even the smallest organizations are doing workshops with artists over Zoom,” she says. “Everybody has found a way to use the internet to maintain contact with their audiences.” ArtsWestchester itself has organized everything from Paraguayan folk-arts programs to Pride events, all via Zoom.

Believe it or not, some organizations have even found a way to grow during this period. “You would think that organizations would be losing audience,” says Langsam, “but the executive director at RiverArts, Doug Coe, said they have a lot of people on staff who are very savvy with the internet and are finding a whole new audience.” The artists who rent space at ArtsWestchester’s White Plains gallery have supplied another cause for optimism, with virtually all of them not only returning to their spaces but even paying rent through the quarantine, despite not having been on the premises.

Yet Langsam remains pragmatic. “I think one of the challenges that we have to be mindful of is to do what we can to allay fears, to let people know that we have taken this COVID crisis seriously and that we are doing our best to sanitize, to wear masks, to wear gloves, to clean surfaces, and do all the prerequisites that we can do so that people will feel comfortable and confident coming back to a gallery or a theater.

“It’s not going to be the same; we are just not going to be the same cultural community,” Langsam continues. “But I think there is an enormous amount of grit in the cultural space. The people who work in the cultural arena are tough people. They really care about what they do. There is no fooling around, and they are determined to make it work.”

“We are just not going to be the same cultural community... But I think there is an enormous amount of grit in the cultural space. The people who work in the cultural arena are tough people.”

—Janet Langsam

Reprinted with permission from the October issue of Westchester Magazine. This article also appeared on Westchester Magazine’s website with the title: [Janet Langsam Fights for Westchester’s Arts Scene During COVID-19.](#)

news briefs

NEWS BRIEFS

Community Mural Unveiled at Sleepy Hollow Riverwalk

The Village of Sleepy Hollow recently unveiled *The Wishing Wall*, a temporary mural that celebrates the aspirations of the Sleepy Hollow community. Located near the Tarrytown Lighthouse, the 520-foot wall consists of 65 concrete panels that were painted by local artists and Sleepy Hollow community members. The designs are organized into four categories: air, earth, water and humanity. After this year, the mural panels will be removed as part of what is required to turn the ex-industrial riverfront into a new public open space.



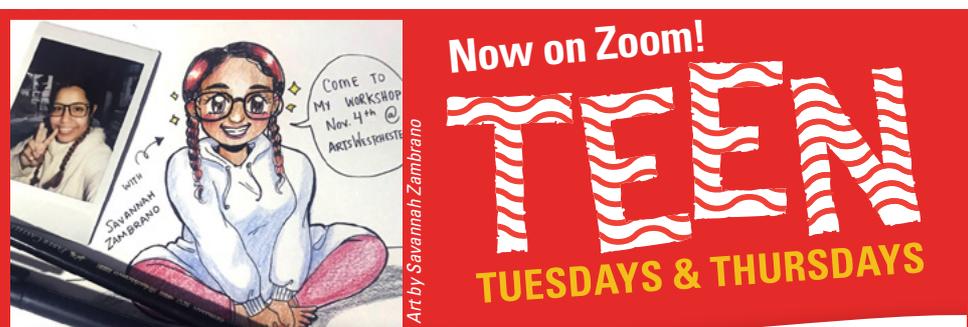
Detail of The Wishing Wall (photo credit: Kathleen Reckling)

Call For Poets: Westchester County Launches Poet Laureate

ArtsWestchester, in partnership with Westchester County Executive George Latimer, has announced a competitive call for an inaugural Westchester County Poet Laureate position. Westchester's Poet Laureate will be an advocate for poetry and the literary arts, have significant personal poetic work and will encourage the community to engage with poetry by creating and leading activities that inspire writing and poetry performances among all age groups. They will also initiate a dialogue between local poets, cultural organizations and community institutions.

County Executive George Latimer explains: "When we think about memorializing a time, place, struggle or occasion, we turn to one of the highest forms of expression—poetry. It is this language in the hands of a Poet Laureate that we can reframe and restate the ideals we hold true." ArtsWestchester CEO Janet T. Langsam adds: "The concept of a Poet Laureate is an affirmation that in our present day society, words matter and that it is important for these words to be truthful, poetic and emblematic of our principles and aspirations. We look to a Poet Laureate to express for us the things we might like to say ourselves, if only we had the poetic license."

Poets can apply for the 2021-2022 position, a two-year term that will take place from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of judges, after which top candidates will be interviewed and a final selection will be made and announced by the County. Full eligibility requirements and terms [can be found here](#). The deadline is November 16.

**Anime Character Creations**
Thurs., Nov. 5, 4:30–5:30pm**Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays is on ZOOM!**

Join ArtsWestchester artist Savannah Zambrano on **Thursday, November 5 from 4:30–5:30pm** for an **Anime Character Creations Workshop**.

Savannah will explore character creation inspired by various anime during this drawing workshop for youth 11-16yrs. Workshop focus will be on the basic skills of visualizing a new world through illustration. No drawing experience is necessary to participate.

To register email **Jessica Cioffoletti** at jcioffoletti@artswestchester.org.

Zoom log-in info will be sent to you upon registration.

Artist Vinnie Bagwell Receives Inaugural Award From Americans for the Arts

Americans for the Arts (AFTA) recently announced that Westchester-based artist Vinnie Bagwell will receive its inaugural Jorge and Darlene Pérez Prize in Public Art & Civic Design. This award celebrates and highlights the work of individuals who support, develop and manage the incorporation of art into the design of places and spaces across the United States.

According to AFTA, Bagwell: “has been a longstanding champion for utilizing the arts to drive social, educational and economic growth in her community. She conceives her work ‘to provoke critical thinking, spark the imagination and facilitate the unlearning of hate by giving humanity to the stories of marginalized people.’” Bagwell will be a featured guest on [AFTA’s virtual panel](#) about art and civic design on December 3. A maquette of Bagwell’s upcoming Central Park sculpture is currently on view in Hudson River Museum’s *Women to the Fore* exhibition (see page A4).

Eighth Annual YoFiFest Goes Digital This Month

The eighth annual YoFiFest (Yonkers Film Festival) will take place virtually this year, with a full lineup of Video on Demand screenings. True to its typical in-person festival, this year’s YoFiFest will include more than just the film screenings. Most screenings will include an invitation to a live online Q&A talkback event with the filmmakers. These events will give viewers the opportunity to learn more about the movie and its creation. Nearly 140 filmmakers will participate in these programs throughout the festival. Other events include a Red Carpet Kick-Off event and an Audience Choice Awards ceremony. Ticket configurations include a Full Festival Pass, which allows access to all films, 5-Ticket and 10-Ticket Bundles, and single tickets.

ArtsW Arts Deal: *ArtsNews* readers will receive a 20% discount [when purchasing Full Festival Passes](#) with code **YOAW20**.



Bobby Sanabria performing at PJS Jazz Society (photo courtesy of PJS Jazz Society)

PJS Jazz Society Receives Grant from Black Arts Futures Fund

[PJS Jazz Society](#), an institution that has brought jazz to the Westchester community for the past 40 years, was recently awarded a \$7,500 board-directed grant from the Black Arts Futures Fund (BAFF). This collective of emerging philanthropists holds a mission to “promote the elevation and preservation of Black arts and culture.” It is for this reason, as stated in a letter of award notification sent to PJS President John Brathwaite, that BAFF’s executive board chose PJS for their grant.

PJS Jazz Society, one of ten organizations to receive funding from BAFF nationally, presents a monthly live jazz series at the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Vernon. The series features young musicians and master artists, many who have roots in Southern Westchester and the New York Metro Area. The organization has become a mainstay for local community – a place where jazz enthusiasts, educators and artists gather to grow, support and promote jazz culture. While PJS has had to cancel its fall season due to the pandemic, a 2021 season is expected.

BAFF, through grant making, board-matching and organization-to-donor cultivation, raises and disburses funds to small nonprofit organizations that are working to enhance and strengthen the future of Black arts. It was founded by DéLana R.A. Dameron as a philanthropic initiative of Red Olive Creative Consulting in 2017, and operates as a donor advised fund with the Brooklyn Community Foundation.

upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities



Choreographer Alison Cook Beatty's Central Park Field #4 dance will take place during Steffi Nossen School of Dance's virtual Evening of Dance event on 11/21 (photo courtesy of Steffi Nossen School of Dance)

[Alliance Française de Westchester](#) offers a selection of French intensive online classes for those who want to improve their French.

[Arc Stages](#) presents online and in-person classes, live-streamed concerts, open mic night sessions and classes, both on-site and online. arcstages.org/connects

[ARTS 10566](#) provides fun and enriching instructional lesson-based activities through its new interactive platform, available for students, parents and the community. New classes are posted every Monday at 3pm. To learn more, [click here](#).

[ArtsWestchester](#) is providing an "Art of the Week" assignment every Monday on [Instagram](#), [ArtsMobile activities](#), [Teen Tuesdays](#) and [Thursdays](#) programs and more.

- **[Give Us the Vote 2020](#)**, an online exhibition that explores the history of voting rights in America and celebrates the power of the ballot. Through December 31.

- Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays program - Anime Character Creations: November 5 at 4:30–5:30pm via Zoom. To register, email jcioffoletti@artswestchester.org
- **[Virtual Arts Gala](#)**, honoring Entergy, Kenneth Jenkins, Kevin J. Plunkett and Jeffrey P. Haydon: Sat. Nov 21 at 6pm.

[Bedford Playhouse](#)'s Virtual Playhouse brings a selection of interactive programs, from comedies to environmental documentaries, author talks, weekly trivia for kids and more. The theater recently began **IN PERSON** movie screenings.

[Bethany Arts Community](#) presents **[Art in the Time of COVID](#)**, an exhibition, featuring the works of teaching artists from the New York State Artists Teacher Association, that explores current issues through confrontation, escape, negotiation and affirmation (**IN PERSON**). Reservations are encouraged but not required. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri: 10am-12pm and 1-3pm.

[Blue Door Art Center](#) is open to the public and is currently exhibiting *Photography: Black, White and Shades of Gray*, online and **IN PERSON** through November 21. The center will also host a series of free art workshops for kids and writing workshops for adults on Saturdays via Zoom. Hours: Sat: 1-5pm.

[Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts](#) offers a variety of music and family programs. Audiences can enjoy new live-streamed concerts and past performances by world-renowned artists on [youtube.com/caramoor](https://www.youtube.com/caramoor).

- Callisto Quartet (livestream): November 1 at 3pm
- Dashon Burton (livestream): November 8 at 3pm

[Westchester Community College Center for the Digital Arts](#) will host Fall classes online and via remote learning. The Center offers digital arts education, including web development, 2D/3D animation, digital video and more. [Click here](#) for the full list of classes.

[Clay Art Center](#) has reopened its studios for open studio sessions by appointment (**IN PERSON**). The Center also offers virtual classes, artist lectures and demonstrations, as well as a virtual exhibition, [Concepts in Clay: Artists of Color](#), which features the work of eight Black artists.

- Virtual Artist Talks: [Paul Briggs \(November 9\)](#), [Shanna Fliegel \(November 16\)](#), [New Resident Artist Talk \(November 23\)](#)
- Adult Clay Bento Box Class: Saturdays from November 7-21 at 2pm (**IN PERSON**)
- Learn to Use the Potter's Wheel: [November 6 & 20](#) at 7pm (**IN PERSON**)
- [Virtual Handmade Wall Pockets Class](#): November 7 at 10:30am
- [Family Wheel Night \(Ages 9-99\)](#): November 21 at 6pm (**IN PERSON**)
- Saturday Clay (Ages 6-99): [November 7 & 21](#) at 2pm (**IN PERSON**)

[Color Camera Club of Westchester](#) will be presenting photographic programs via Zoom. Audiences can also visit the photography club's website to view an exhibit of images from its members. [colorcameraclub.com](https://www.colorcameraclub.com)

- Zoom Presentation with Photojournalist Bill Wadman: November 9 at 7:30pm
- Exploring the Nights Skies: Zoom Presentation with Gabriel Biderman: November 30

[Copland House](#)'s virtual performance and conversation series, **UNDERScoreD**, offers premieres, revivals and classics by American composers. Each program includes a conversation, performance and live Q&A.

[Friends of Music Concerts](#) will offer five recordings by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, each for a period of five days. On November 7, [a recording by clarinetist David Shifrin](#) will feature the works of Mozart, Verdi and Duke Ellington.

[The Ground Glass](#) presents an online group photography exhibition, *The Decisive Moment Revisited*. thegroundglass.org



Birth of Jemmah by Paul Wandless, on view in Clay Art Center's Concepts In Clay: Artists of Color online exhibition, Through 12/31 (photo courtesy of Clay Art Center)

upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities

Hammond Museum presents an Artist Members Virtual Gallery, featuring the works of the museum's members through June 5, 2021. **An opening reception for the November exhibition** will be held on November 7 on Zoom and Facebook. For a complete list of programs and workshops, visit hammondmuseum.org.

Harrison Public Library is offering suggestions on its website for what to read, watch, listen to and learn, as well as virtual workshops for teens and adults via Zoom, online book clubs, yoga classes for adults and more. For a complete list of programs, virtual classes and workshops, visit harrisonpl.org/events/harrison.

- ***The Colors of My World***, a virtual Exhibition by Dorothy Cancellieri: Ongoing

Historic Hudson Valley presents its annual ***The Great Jack O' Lantern Blaze*** event at Van Cortlandt Manor through November 21 (**IN PERSON**). Guests will walk through an 18th-century landscape and discover a display of more than 7,000 illuminated jack o' lanterns—all designed and hand-carved on site. hudsonvalley.org

Hoff-Barthelson Music School presents a fall classes program for grades 1-12, which will offer students the opportunity to grow in their enjoyment and practice of music. hbms.org

Hudson River Museum presents ***Women to the Fore***, an exhibition that gives voice and space to more than forty female-identifying artists, spanning one hundred and fifty years (**IN PERSON**). Also on view: ***Landscape Art & Virtual Travel: Highlights from the Collections of the HRM and Art Bridges***. Museum Hours: Thurs-Sun: 12–5pm.

Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art is reopened by appointment, with an expanded exhibition of ***How We Live***. Virtual tours, and an in-depth ***Sculpture Trail Walk*** are available on the Museum's website. Hours: Thursday-Saturday by appointment.

- ***Climbing the Walls*** - A Virtual Theater, Poetry and Image

Shop for the Arts With ArtsWestchester's Gala Auction

ArtsWestchester is making holiday shopping easy this year. Its **online gala auction** includes gift-worthy items, from VIP tickets for *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* to a football autographed by New York Giants' Evan Engram. Arts lovers can also treat themselves, with items like a beach resort vacation in St. Lucia or a day on the greens at Dunwoodie Golf Course. All proceeds from the auction benefit the programs and services of ArtsWestchester. Bidding at BiddingForGood.com/ArtsWAuction ends on Sunday, November 22 at 6pm.

Project in collaboration with Studio Theater in Exile: On view now

Hudson Valley Music Club announced its 96th season with virtual concerts by internationally acclaimed artists on Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings.

Hudson Valley Writers Center will present free readings throughout the month and a special offer on Slapering Hol Press chapbooks. A series of classes and readings, all online, are open for registration. For a complete list, visit writerscenter.org.

Irvington Theater's "Videos for Change" program, in which students research and craft short films about social justice issues that they care about, will culminate with a virtual festival on November 6.

India Center of Westchester presents a Diwali Virtual Shopping Spree on November 8 at 11am, during which local vendors and artists will showcase and discuss their products from their own shops or home.

Jacob Burns Film Center is highlighting staff-chosen films, as well as its "Viewing and Doing" series, which provides short films with related activities. education.burnsfilmcenter.org/education/blog

Jazz Forum Arts has launched Jazz Forum @ Home, a series of concerts that are live-streamed on Facebook Live every Saturday at





Callisto Quartet will perform for a Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts livestream event, 11/1 (photo credit: Titilayo Ayangade)

7pm, and [Jitterbugs @ Home](#), an online jazz program for kids aged 2-7. [facebook.com/jazzforumclub](https://www.facebook.com/jazzforumclub)

- [Livestream: Melanie Scholtz & Brian Charette](#): November 5 at 7pm

[John Jay Homestead](#)'s site offers interactive activities, such as children's projects, a virtual tour and downloadable worksheets on its website. [Johnjayhomestead.org](https://www.johnjayhomestead.org)

[Katonah Museum of Art](#) has reopened its Museum and Learning Center, which is offering art workshops for all ages. Visitors can

purchase tickets to see the [Hands & Earth: Perspectives on Japanese Contemporary Ceramics](#) and [Rothko](#) exhibitions, which are on view through January 24, 2021 (IN PERSON). Admission is by advance reservation. Hours: Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm, and Sun: 12-5pm.

- [Family Day- Sculpt & Sketch](#): November 7 at 12pm

[Lagond Music School](#) is offering in-person music classes and private lessons to children aged 6+ and adults. [lagondmusic.org](https://www.lagondmusic.org)

[Lyndhurst Mansion](#) offers a variety of outdoor tours that will allow audiences to explore its 67-acre site (IN PERSON). Tours include: the

upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities

[Rose Garden, Greenhouse & Pool Tour](#), [Riverfront & Bowling Alley Tour](#) and [Lyndhurst Ramble Tour](#). [Virtual tours](#) of the mansion and its Bowling Alley are also available on its website.

[Rye Arts Center](#)'s Half Day for Half Pints program offers creative and educational programs for preschool students (**IN PERSON**). For a complete list of in-person and virtual classes, [click here](#).

- Virtual Exhibit: [Brigitte Loritz Retrospective](#), Through December 31

[Mamaroneck Artists Guild](#) will present *The Artist Perseveres*, an online group show of all media in which exhibiting artists express messages of perseverance. On view November 2 – 30.

- Online Professional Development Workshop: [Marketing Your Art and Yourself](#): November 15, 2pm.

[M&M Performing Arts Company](#) and the Red Monkey Theater Group offer virtual readings of [The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes](#) on YouTube.

[Music Conservatory of Westchester](#) is offering early childhood classes in music basics, as well as youth and teen music classes in classical, jazz and rock. Private lessons are also offered.

[Neuberger Museum of Art](#) provides pre-recorded [20-minute guided meditations](#) on its website, as well as weekly [art-related projects and activities for kids](#). purchase.edu/neuberger-museum-of-art

[New Rochelle Council on the Arts](#) and Iona College's Brother Kenneth Chapman Gallery present [Unapologetically Me: A Response by Alvin Clayton](#), a virtual exhibition that features works by painter Alvin Clayton with works that respond to the aftermath of George Floyd's death and the international wave of support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

[Oak and Oil](#) presents *Artistic Journey*, an online exhibition of paintings by artist Mireille Duchesne. oakandoil.com

[OSilas Gallery at Concordia College](#) presents [A Photo Album of Ireland Art](#), a touring exhibition that features more than 120 photographs that tell of the triumphs and turmoils in the life of a nation (**IN PERSON**). From the earliest photographs taken in the 1850s to the advent of the digital era in the early 1990s, these images reveal details about how people lived, worked and gathered that official historical records may have overlooked. Through November 7. Gallery hours: Sun-Mon, Wed & Fri: By appointment only, Thurs: 12-5pm, Sat: 2-5pm.

[Ossining Public Library](#)'s Virtual Mother Goose Time will take place every Thursday at 10am on [Facebook](#), and other resources while we are all [Stuck at Home](#).

[Pelham Art Center's Domestic Brutes](#) exhibition, which examines diverse approaches of what feminism means in American society today, will be on view through November 7 (**IN PERSON**). The Center also offers a series of virtual studio visits and workshops.

- [Virtual Collection Tour & Discussion with Charlotte Mouquin](#): November 8 at 2pm

[The Picture House](#) is presenting short films, each with discussion questions and activities that can be adapted into teaching tools for students of any grade level. [instagram.com/the_picturehouse](https://www.instagram.com/the_picturehouse).

[The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College](#)'s online offerings include a range of live, recorded and curated events, education and entertainment. [Click here](#) to learn about [The PAC in Your Living Room](#) initiative.

[Play Group Theatre](#)'s performing arts programs have been adapted for [in-person and online participation in Fall 2020](#).

[Purchase College Conservatory of Music](#) will host a [virtual music and technology showcase](#), featuring the Conservatory's Studio Composition and Studio Production Students on November 13 at 7pm. The Conservatory will also present a [livestream concert with the](#)

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Speak Up for the Arts

Local citizens are encouraged to demonstrate their support for continued funding for the arts as Westchester County Executive Latimer and the Board of Legislators deliberate on the 2021 County budget. This will help Westchester arts groups to sustain ongoing programming during the pandemic and beyond.

Speak up for the arts at one of these upcoming public budget hearings:

- Wednesday November 18, 7pm (virtual meeting via Zoom)
- Wednesday, December 9 at County Chambers, White Plains

[Percussion Ensemble](#) (November 16 at 7pm) and [The Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra](#) (November 17 at 7pm).

[Rehabilitation Through The Arts](#) (RTA) offers screenings of two documentaries: *Amazing Grace*, a film about RTA's original performance at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, and *Dramatic Escape*, which follows the entire arc of RTA mounting Aaron Sorkin's play *A Few Good Men*.

[Ruth Keeler Memorial Library](#) is offering curbside service and highlights its digital collection, including e-books, audio books, music and streaming movies, and more for anyone with their library card. westchesterlibraries.org/listen-read

[Rye Arts Center](#) offers in-person and virtual classes in drawing, painting, ceramics, coding, robotics and more.

- [Make a Unicorn with Polymer Clay](#): November 7 at 2pm
- [Loosen Up And Paint](#): November 12 at 6:15pm
- [Online Artisan Boutique](#): November 23-December 1

[Steffi Nossen School of Dance](#) will offer an evening of dance films on November 21 at 6:30pm. The dances were choreographed during the COVID-19 pandemic by five New York choreographers as a response to the pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement.

[Taconic Opera](#) and the New York Opera Conservatory offer a [pre-recorded production of Mozart's 'Don Giovanni' via YouTube](#). The Conservatory reimagined the dark tragedy as a comedy taking place

during a pandemic. The entire production was staged, filmed and edited using digital technology and cell phones.

[Tarrytown Music Hall](#) "Night In With the Music Hall" series continues this fall with live weekly streams. A series of free one-hour workshops for kids are also offered.

[Teatown Lake Reservation](#) will host various weekly nature classes for children aged 3-12 with enrollment limited to eight children (**IN PERSON**).

[Westchester Children's Museum](#) is supplementing its virtual learning programs with [eight-week programs offered on-site](#) (**IN PERSON**). Topics will include: physics, earth science, archeology, biology, forensics, chemistry, astronomy and neuroscience. This program meets every Thursday through Nov 19 at 11am-12pm for a child and their caregiver.

[Westchester Chordsmen](#) has shared a YouTube video of its performance, *Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor*, which features excerpts of a poem by Emma Lazarus with music by the Chordsmen's Music Director Keith Harris. [Click here](#) to listen.

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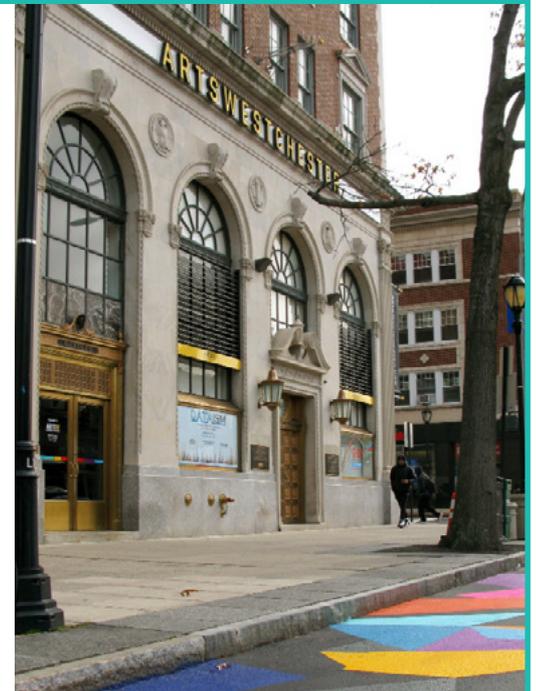
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upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities



Brian Charett will perform for a livestream event by Jazz Forum Arts, 11/5 (photo credit: Nils Winther)

[Westchester Italian Cultural Center](#) presents [live-streamed webinars](#), featuring lectures, concerts and demonstrations.

[The Westchester Oratorio Society](#) are presenting socially distanced rehearsals for its upcoming fall repertoire, which will include a virtual *Messiah* sing-along.

[The Westchester Symphonic Winds](#) will host a webinar in place of its annual Fall Concert, on November 8 at 3pm. This virtual meeting will discuss plans the band has for the future and highlights musical selections of future performances.

[White Plains Performing Arts Center](#) announces its fall 2020 education programs, which include a youth theatre production of *The Addams Family* and in-person and/or online classes for youth and adults.

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[White Plains Public Library](#) is open to the public and allows a limited number of patrons into the building to browse and borrow materials (**IN PERSON**). The library's "Stuck at Home" webpage also provides online

resources for families. Library hours: Mon-Thurs: 10am-7pm and Fri-Sat: 1-5pm.

[YoFiFest](#) presents its eighth annual Yonkers Film Festival, which will take place virtually this year, with a full lineup of Video on Demand screenings and live online Q&A talkback event with the filmmakers. Through November 20. See page A25 for an ArtsW Arts Deal discount. yofifest.com

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