

ARTSNEWS

FEBRUARY 2021

AMPLIFYING DIVERSE VOICES

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Westchester gov.com **From the County Executive**

Dear Readers,
Thank you for taking a moment to read this edition of *ArtsNews*. As we continue to spend more time indoors, masking up and being safe through the winter, I want to encourage all of you to enjoy the many events that Westchester’s arts community has to offer. While

this pandemic has forced the cancellation or postponement of many of our arts events, they have not disappeared. I hope you take some time to explore these events and that they provide you with joy this winter. This issue of *ArtsNews* provides valuable arts news and a robust schedule of strong programming offered by arts groups throughout the County, including:

- the announcement of Westchester's Poet Laureate (see page A4)
- a nationally touring statue of Harriet Tubman in Peekskill (see page A12)
- creative ways for students to spent their midwinter breaks (see page A20)

We could all use a few moments of respite, and we have many wonderful opportunities to explore within our own County. As we patiently await our 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
Westchester County Executive

.....

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

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FROM THE CEO

by Janet Langsam,
ArtsWestchester CEO



(photo credit: Cathy Pinsky)

Truth Be Told

When I was a kid growing up in Far Rockaway, I was inquisitive, or so I'm told. Even in my stroller days I would ask each person who stopped to chat: "Who you?" One gentleman had the audacity to say he was George Washington, to which I replied: "Aren't you dead?" I remember that story as a beacon because we were taught to revere our first president not for all his bravery, but for always telling the truth. We were told that he chopped down a cherry tree, as ridiculous as that sounds, and when asked about it he owned up to it, saying: "I cannot tell a lie." You might say that was the gold

How we go forward now to restore truth and dignity in our civic dialogue is in question."

standard for behavior. This story was so ingrained in us kids that in art class we all drew hatchets and cherry trees to celebrate him. Well, George Washington really is dead and so are many of the principles he embodied, including the strict adherence to truth. There were no alternative facts. In today's world, we have allowed the normalization of lies, and it has been to our peril. How we go forward now to restore truth and dignity in our civic dialogue is in question. And, while it is the sworn oath of all of our presidents, it is really up to all of us to elevate truth-telling to its rightful honor. If George could do it, we can too.



"Father, I Can Not Tell a Lie: I Cut the Tree" engraving by John C. McRae (image source: nps.gov)

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

feature

Westchester County's First Poet Laureate: BK Fischer

BK Fischer of Sleepy Hollow believes that all poetry is dialogue—"a conduit not only for expression, but for collective energy, empathy and connection." With these values in mind, she will help to amplify the voices in Westchester's diverse communities during her two-year role as Westchester Poet Laureate.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer and ArtsWestchester recently announced Fischer as the inaugural Poet Laureate after a panel of poets, writers and county representatives unanimously chose her for the position.

According to Latimer: "Everybody agreed that Fischer... would be an advocate for passing the mic to the voices that we don't get to hear as often in Westchester." She was one of 23 applicants. The four other finalists were Robin Dellabough, Eric Odynocki, Loretta Oleck and Rachel M. Simon.

Fischer has proposed projects that revolve around hearing current experiences of "sheltering in place," gathering poetry that speaks to the landscape of the Hudson Valley, showcasing the poetry of others throughout the County, and drawing together performers who combine spoken word with other artistic disciplines, like dance, music and visual art, in dynamic new ways.

Fischer is the author of five books of poetry and has been a teacher of poetry for more than 25 years. Her poems and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Boston Review*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *FIELD*, *Literary Mama*, *Modern Language Studies*, *Ninth Letter* and other journals.

ArtsWestchester CEO Janet T. Langsam explains: "The concept of a Poet Laureate is an affirmation that, in our present-day society, words matter and that it is important that these words be truthful, poetic and emblematic of our principles and our aspirations."



Westchester Poet Laureate BK Fischer
(photo credit: Gina DeCaprio Vercesi)

An Amplified Poetic Voice

by Rashaun J. Allen

While reading her poem "Liars Hall of Fame," BK Fischer sketches the shape of an asterisk in the air. Conjuring up her own poetic voice, she sways in her home office chair to the rhythm of her words. Prior to virtually reading this poem from her *Mutiny Gallery* collection, published in 2011 by Truman State University Press, she says: "Even when they are already in print, I keep messing with my poems."

That mess—revising, remixing on the fly and repurposing poems—has artistically paid off. Fischer is the author of five books of poetry and has been a teacher of poetry for more than 25 years. In the majority of that time, she has called Westchester home and is the County's inaugural Poet Laureate. The time and dedication put into her craft may seem lengthy, but she is still producing and creating with high energy.

Her upcoming collection *Ceive*, which will be published by BOA Editions, is a deep meditation on the Latin root word meaning, "get, receive," as well as a retelling of the story of Noah's Ark in the present day on a container ship. Excitedly, Fischer said: "All of the poems about the journey have titles that use the root word in some way." Her excitement for words hasn't left her since childhood, as BK explains: "since I was about 5, I always wrote poems."

Although her love affair for words hasn't changed, her writing process has grown. She went from a budding poet "who wrote one lyric poem at a time" to a time-constrained editor who, motivated by parenthood and the interruptions it brings, "started writing interconnected sequences in a more project-based way." She explains: "I could pick up wherever I left off in the short intervals of time I had available for writing."

As a teacher, Fischer has taught hundreds of students in university classrooms, schools and community centers like Hudson Valley Writers Center. One of her most "soul-changing"

experiences was her time teaching at Taconic Correctional Facility, where she taught an introductory creative writing class to women in a college program. Says Fischer: "They were pursuing degrees and, in many ways, it was just like teaching any other class. And yet, they were speaking from this very different condition as incarcerated persons. That changed how I think about the carceral state ... and about justice more generally in the whole society."

“Her view about justice is intertwined with her belief that poetry plays a vital role in efforts to 'mobilize access.'”

Her view about justice is intertwined with her belief that poetry plays a vital role in efforts to “mobilize access.” In our Westchester communities, Fischer as Westchester Poet Laureate will have an amplified opportunity to do so in word and deed alongside activated stakeholders.

However, her advice to aspiring poets—young, old, marginalized or incarcerated—is more practical: “Read. Read everything. There are so many ways to be a writer, because there are so many communities of writers. You start by being a reader—you see what you like, and see what those people are reading, and then you read that, and you see where those people were published in magazines and you send your stuff there. It's all a network, and it branches out like a big ecosystem, and it has room for everybody.”

Liars Hall of Fame

by Westchester Poet Laureate BK Fischer

Jackalope. Pinocchio. Nixon. Thank you for coming. We'd love to but we have a lot on our plate. He couldn't hurt a fly. The check's in the mail. He didn't see her the night of the murder. When they put the baby in your arms, you will know what to do. I can stop any time I want. This won't hurt a bit. I'm five minutes away. Final closeout sale ends Saturday. Satisfaction guaranteed. It will change your life. Ponzi, Barnum, Gatsby, Iago (asterisk: insinuation). Münchhausen. They're no more addictive than coffee, tea, or Twinkies. I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally. I'm the last of the Romanovs. Coyote, Loki, Prometheus, Crow. Weapons of mass destruction. It's going to disappear—one day, it's like a miracle, it will disappear. It's a Vermeer. You look amazing. Of course I remember you. That makes a lot of sense. I've got the school nurse on the other line. I have read and understood the terms and conditions. The boy who cried wolf. Lance Armstrong. Saint Peter, three times before the rooster crowed. The 1919 White Sox. The Trojan Horse. No interest, no money down. Nobody could have known a thing like this could happen. He didn't lay a hand on her. Let's keep in touch. The worst is over. It will go away on its own. When she's grown she won't even remember.

(originally published in *Ninth Letter*, updated 2020)

Sheltering in Stanzas: An Evening of Poetry and the Arts

March 4, 7pm (via Zoom)

Remembering that "*stanza*" means "*room*," Westchester poets will gather to speak to their experiences of poetry and art during the pandemic. In a time of isolation, these writers will share what's "in the room" for them as they navigate this collective moment. The evening will feature poets from across the

County, including Westchester Poet Laureate BK Fischer and Westchester Youth Poet Laureate Danielle Kohn.

Follow #westchesterpoetry for updates on the Westchester Poet Laureate and new poetry events along the way.



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feature



Unrest by Kyle and Kelly Phelps (image courtesy of Clay Art Center)

Concepts in Clay

by Adam Chau

"Concept, and how that content is met with craft, is all important to me," explains Paul Briggs, co-curator of Clay Art Center's current *Concepts in Clay* online exhibition. When most people think about ceramics, they might conjure up their grandmother's tea set, or fine china that was gifted on their wedding day. The more art-savvy viewer might also think of ancient terracotta vessels and translucent porcelain, perhaps seen at a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. What isn't often thought of is how pottery can be used as a conduit for activism.

Exhibitions that surround craft at the intersections of art, design and social discourse have been circulating in recent years, from vibrantly crocheted coral reefs (as seen in *Toxic Seas* at Museum of Art and Design in 2017) to beaded kitchen scenery (as in *Making Knowing*, on view at the Whitney Museum of Art). Ceramics, rooted in craft tradition, is having a revival in popularity, but is also being seen for its social commentary. As such, *Concepts in Clay* is a manifestation of timely discussions that are being had as a nation.

As with many institutions across the United States, Clay Art

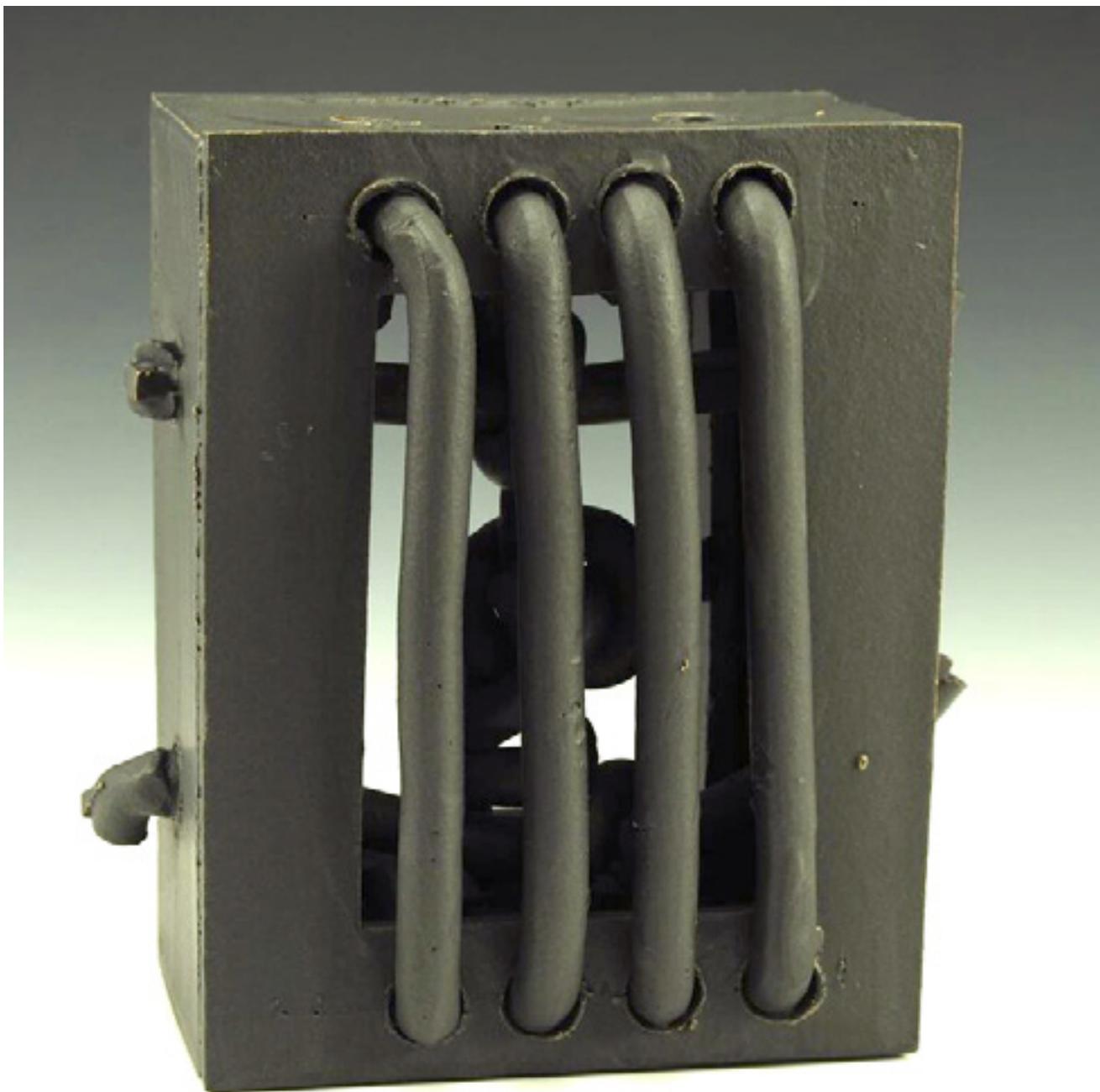
Center affirmed an "anti-racist agenda" in the summer of 2020 by submitting a public manifesto that outlines resources and objectives for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) artists and community members. Out of this came a virtual exhibition that was co-curated by artist and educator Paul Briggs. The exhibition features the artworks of 11 Black artists alongside didactics that explain the process and intention behind their practices.

Any artist in any era negotiates identity with content, but more sensitive is a show during a time in which there is a call for more representation in the art world."

There are many celebrated artists featured, including brothers Kyle and Kelly Phelps, who grew up in blue-collar Indiana. Their realistic portraits of American life within the perspective of Black Americans document themes of resilience, rage and protest. These are snapshots that capture both human emotion and environment, as all of the figures are interacting with backgrounds that add to the narrative – such as an American flag or industrial settings reminiscent of a factory. Their didactic statement explains that these sculptures tell stories that cover the struggles of race, class and identity in the American Midwest.

Briggs talks about himself as an 'editor' for this slate of artists. Any artist in any era negotiates identity with content, but more sensitive is a show during a time in which there is a call for more representation in the art world. His curatorial statement offers insight into this negotiation:

"What then makes this Black Art? It may not be Black Art in the sense that the themes narrate aspects of the Black experience... What makes 'Dave the potter's' work significant as Black expression is that he was Black in America, a slave in America. Achievement out



Untitled (Cell Persona) by Paul Briggs (photo courtesy of Clay Art Center)

of oppressive states of existence should be amplified and celebrated, even when the subject matter is not the very oppression from which it emerged."

Briggs is also represented in the exhibition, with two pieces from his "*Cell Persona: The Impact of Incarceration on Black Lives*" series. The visual weight of the clay, which could be mistaken for iron, is a way to translate emotion and elicit a reaction in combination with its title. The use of sharp edges with bent and knotted coils create an effective juxtaposition.

[*Concepts in Clay*](#), on view through February 28, is multi-faceted in how artists broach both their material and their identity.

Artists: Raise Your Voices for Change

ArtsWestchester announces a major new competitive artist grant program, [Voices for Change](#), in which three artists will be awarded grants of \$10,000 to propose and actualize new works. This is the first new program in a series of initiatives that the organization is undertaking as part of its rededication to the social justice ideals of equity, diversity, inclusion and access.

Beginning in the summer of 2020, ArtsWestchester began working with a well-known consultant in the field of racial equity and inclusion, Donna Walker-Kuhne (see page A11), who had previously worked with ArtsWestchester to develop its diversity and policy in 2005. As an organization, ArtsWestchester is well on its way toward reframing its mission, rededicating itself to social justice in all of its programs, and launching seven new initiatives in the coming year. These initiatives represent, in part, expanded funding opportunities for artists and organizations, and public programs that will be rolled out during 2021.

“ArtsWestchester has a long history of supporting historically under-represented communities,” says ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam. “We want to ensure that our programming continues to respond to the people we serve, especially our immigrant and indigenous communities, and communities of color. We want to listen more closely to, and honor the expressions of, diverse voices in our community. *Voices for Change* is one way to focus on concerns of equity.”

The *Voices for Change* grant initiative is made possible through contributions from board members and the Kathwari Foundation. Ethan Allen CEO and ArtsWestchester board member Farooq Kathwari says: “This grant that supports new artistic work comes at a critical time for creatives, when so many independent artists are

unemployed as a result of the pandemic. The *Voices for Change* grant acknowledges that art can serve as a catalyst for change.”

Mid-Hudson Valley regional artists working in all disciplines are invited to submit proposals for visionary work that encourages deep thinking about complex issues such as social justice, civic equity and the public good. A unique aspect of the program is that proposals are asked to include a collaboration with a service or cultural community-based organization. Three artists will receive a grant of \$10,000 to implement and present their vision. Proposals may address a broad

range of issues, including but not limited to incarceration, homelessness or racial equity. The deadline for application is April 5.

Speaking for the *Voices for Change* Committee, ArtsWestchester board member Betty Himmel says: “ArtsWestchester’s exhibition and performance programs are deeply rooted in the belief that art has the power to illuminate complex issues, encourage civic discourse and open the community to new ways of thinking.

In past programs, ArtsWestchester has explored themes such as the new immigrant experience, gender identity, voting rights, the expanded definition of family, the age of data, and the economic crisis of 2008.”

The debut of the *Voices for Change* artworks will come on the heels of ArtsWestchester’s fall exhibition *Who Writes History?* a National Endowment for the Arts supported project that seeks to bring marginalized stories to the fore through contemporary art.

ArtsWestchester plans to announce additional social justice initiatives throughout the coming months.

[Click here for Voices for Change application guidelines.](#)

“The *Voices for Change* grant acknowledges that art can serve as a catalyst for change.”

—ArtsWestchester board member
Farooq Kathwari

Donna Walker-Kuhne: Helping Arts Organizations Put EDIA Into Their DNA

by Megan Thomson Connor

Donna Walker-Kuhne is a busy woman. Lately, a regular week for her consists of Zoom calls, workshops, training, keynote addresses for conferences, working on her *Arts and Culture Connections* blog, and completing her forthcoming book, *Champions for the Arts* – an apt title for someone whose career spans 40 years with a focus on audience development. This new book will present case studies and tactics for community engagement worldwide, and interviews with “champions for the arts who are creating access to the community in smart, effective ways,” says Walker-Kuhne.

In 2005, Walker-Kuhne published her first book, *Invitation to the Party: Building Bridges to the Arts, Culture and Community*, a guide that was inspired by her time as the marketing director for the Public Theater in New York and, before that, at Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Since then, the focus of Walker-Kuhne’s work has evolved, through her work as Senior Advisor of Community Engagement at the New Jersey Performing Arts Centre and her consulting agency Walker International Communications Group, into community engagement.

Still, in 2020, after the murder of George Floyd, Walker-Kuhne began building social justice programs and leading EDIA (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access) training. She is currently working with five nonprofit organizations to develop their EDIA initiatives and is also teaching an EDIA course at Columbia University.

Around the same time that Walker-Kuhne’s focus narrowed, ArtsWestchester’s Board of Directors began examining its own progress in supporting the four pillars of EDIA. The organization formed a subcommittee to work with Walker-Kuhne, who then led a series of workshops to inform the Board on the values and implementation of EDIA. ArtsWestchester had worked with Walker-Kuhne in the past, when it looked at ways to encourage Westchester’s cultural institutions to diversify its audiences. More than a decade later, it was time for a self-evaluation.

The workshops were supported by reading materials and discussions on critical topics. Walker-Kuhne developed the agenda for these workshops in consultation with the organization’s CEO,



Donna Walker-Kuhne (photo courtesy of Donna Walker-Kuhne)

Janet Langsam. While the work is still ongoing, ArtsWestchester has emerged with a revised mission and vision statement, and reaffirmed its commitment to advancing social justice through several new initiatives (see page A10).

What is Walker-Kuhne hoping for when she addresses this type of work with organizations? “That they make a commitment to becoming an anti-racist arts organization,” she says. “That they are intentional about uprooting systemic racism and focus on applying the principles of EDIA as part of their DNA. It will take time, but it should be the singular goal.”

spotlight

Harriet Tubman's Journey to Peekskill

by Mary Alice Franklin



Struggle. Determination. Heroic. Perseverance. These are words that shaped a “word cloud” in sculptor Wesley Wofford’s notes as he developed a concept for his Harriet Tubman statue. Wofford describes these word clouds as “empathy-building machines” that help him to answer the question “Where am I trying to take my audience emotionally?”

He explains: “As a sculptor, I’m generating these works in [my studio](#). It’s like making a child. You never really know how it’s going to go once it leaves the studio.”

Now the eight-foot-tall, 2,400-pound bronze statue has made its way to Westchester County. The nationally touring sculpture will be [on view in Peekskill](#) through the end of February. It is said that Peekskill is among the secret hiding spots on the Underground Railroad, along which slaves traveled as they sought freedom. Harriet Tubman is believed to have led some of those journeys. Wofford’s statue, *Harriet Tubman: The Journey to Freedom*, depicts the abolitionist leading an enslaved young girl to freedom.

Says Brian Fassett, President of the Peekskill Business Improvement District (BID)’s Board of Directors: “In light of recent events like the pandemic and the racial equality movement, the presence of this statue in our downtown takes on even more meaning...celebrating our community’s rich history and cultural diversity.”

Wofford explains that, although the work “seems reactionary” to the current national discussions of social justice, it was actually commissioned by a private client in 2018. “The fact that it happened to land when all of these social justice conversations started to happen was serendipitous... and illustrates that there is

still a lack of representation for People of Color that needs to be filled in.”

The original work, which was installed in an undisclosed location in 2019, took 16 months to construct. The touring piece is a recast of the original. When developing his concept for the statue, everything was intentional. “Before I did anything, I learned as much as I could about Tubman,” he says. He and his team researched original first-person documentation, read biographies and reviewed first-hand accounts from safe-houses along the Underground Railroad.

“I see myself as a filter for amplifying her message, or authentically representing who she was and the ideas she espoused.”

—Sculptor Wesley Wofford

Then there was the 10-inch maquette model that helped Wofford to figure out how the two figures in the piece would interact; the 30-inch model to study the anatomy and muscle groups, for which a nude model posed; and a head study to get the expressions just right. The sculptor hired a seamstress to build historically accurate clothing, and also worked with a museum that provided a satchel, shoes and historical details so that he could ensure authenticity. All of this before the actual sculpture was underway.

“I see myself as a filter for amplifying her message, or authentically representing who she was and the ideas she espoused. So it was really about channeling that. Putting myself in her head and seeing what comes out.”



(Photos left and above – credit: Wesley Wofford Sculpture Studio / photo courtesy of Peekskill BID)

What “came out” was a meticulously thought-out statue. When considering his question of “Where are we trying to take our audience emotionally?,” he says: “I don’t have a pre-conceived hope for what the viewer will feel, but there are lots of intentional symbolic things driving the viewer emotionally.”

The unseen wind is a metaphor for the struggle that Tubman was working against, oppression pushing on her. She leans into this wind, bracing herself against the elements. Her dress protectively envelops the girl, whose foot hangs slightly off the edge of the cliff, signaling peril for the viewer. The base on which they stand is a geographical contour of the Chesapeake Bay. The dramatic step up represents the Mason-Dixon Line leading into Pennsylvania, like she’s stepping into freedom. “And the shackles are broken; they have left the bonds of slavery behind them.”

In downtown Peekskill, the statue has become a platform for programming – a jumping-off point for discussion. [Events in conjunction with the sculpture’s visit](#) include an online event with photographer Ocean Morisset on February 6 and a panel discussion focused on the descendants of Harriet Tubman on February 20. The statue will remain on the corner of Central Avenue and Division Street, sponsored by Peekskill BID, until the end of February.

feature

Creative Culture: Fostering Stories Untold

by Mary Alice Franklin

In 2020, no female directors were nominated for Academy Awards. This is a common story in the film industry. In fact, only five women have ever been nominated for the Award in the history of the Oscars. However in the town of Pleasantville, female filmmakers are being embraced and supported.

Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC)'s [Creative Culture program](#) for emerging filmmakers places priority on voices often unheard. Though unusual for the industry, the majority of fellows in the program's four-year history identify as female; but, the door is open for anyone who has passion and a story to tell.

During their time with Creative Culture, every fellow produces two short film projects in a collaborative community. "Important narratives about underrepresented populations exist; they are just untold," says the program's director, Sean Weiner.

JBFC is making a name for itself as a safe space for these stories. Weiner continues: "When awarding fellowships, we hope to engage with stories that we haven't seen enough of. This resonates with us because we're trying to champion those voices and infuse them into the film industry."

The film world is beginning to take notice. Films produced through Creative Culture have won awards in the independent film circuit. Four of them have qualified for the Oscars, and two of them have premiered on the Criterion Channel. Former fellows have moved on to successful and notable careers – for instance, Crystal Kayiza, who was awarded \$80K by Tribeca Chanel's "Through Her Lens" program, which celebrates women's artistic voices. The Sundance Film Festival even chose JBFC as its sole New York-area "satellite screen," though this partnership will now play out virtually due to COVID-19.

Creative Culture, it seems, is setting the pace for the industry.

Each semester, eight fellows from across the country participate in Creative Culture: while four filmmakers move on from the program, four new fellows begin and yet another four continue onto their second and final semester. This creates an environment in which there are always four "greener" fellows and four "established" fellows working together. They are all provided with production space, equipment, mentorship, networking opportunities and a community of peers.

According to Weiner, the nature of the rotating positions allows participants to "influence each other in positive ways – to humble, to boost confidence, to help evaluate one another." He explains: "We want to take away the ego and instead cultivate community..."





and then we want to keep mentoring and supporting our fellows through the trajectory of their careers.”

Says former fellow Emily Ann Hoffman: “They never kick you out of the program. I’ve continued to receive so much support from JBFC.” Lucy Adams echoes Hoffman’s sentiments, saying that 90 percent of the work she has done since Creative Culture has been a result of the program’s community. This includes being able to use JBFC’s equipment, getting Weiner’s feedback, and working with other fellows.

Like many artistic programs, Creative Culture was forced to pause earlier this year due to the pandemic, but Weiner says that JBFC is committed to restarting the fellowship program this April. “We will

pick up with the exact cohort of fellows who had their experience interrupted last March... Things will be a bit different in order to create a safe experience... but we feel strongly about following through, and completing our support of these filmmakers and their projects.”

In addition, [applications will open in April](#) for filmmakers hoping to enter the program in September, when Creative Culture will continue to foster the storytellers of tomorrow, whoever they may be.

spotlight



The Arts Raise a Million Through Matching Grant Program

*Art\$WChallenge grantee Rye Arts Center's Head Start program
(photo courtesy of Rye Arts Center)*

Since its inception in 2007, the [Art\\$WChallenge](#), a nationally unique matching grant program, has raised \$4.7 million in private donations for arts and culture. The annual program gives the opportunity for arts groups to raise private funds within a set period of time, and for those funds, up to a maximum amount, to be matched 1:1 by ArtsWestchester, with support from Westchester County Government. Through the Art\$WChallenge, \$2.4 million has been matched on top of the private funds.

This program continues each year to be a vital revenue source for participating arts groups, but was especially critical this year with arts groups struggling through the pandemic. For instance, when the arts needed help more than ever, the matching grant program broke several records. For one, 2020 had the largest amount of private funding ever raised in a single year: \$757,993. This will be matched with \$353,753 in County funding, totaling just over \$1 million dollars in combined support for the arts and culture community.

ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam says: "This unprecedented outpouring of more than 2000 individual community donors for large and small arts groups throughout the county shows the genuine affection that Westchester residents have for their art and culture

quality of life."

Langsam continues: "We are grateful to all those who came to the rescue during these troubled times, especially our County legislators who invested \$250K in the Challenge program."

This year's program was eligible to 126 arts groups – more than any other year. Benjamin Boykin, Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, explains: "The Art\$WChallenge program is a powerful example of a public/private partnership that pays dividends for the economy... This investment makes good sense when you consider that, pre-COVID, on an annual basis, arts and culture added \$172.3 million in total economic activity to Westchester."

Adds Westchester County Executive George Latimer: "Despite the havoc caused by COVID-19, the Westchester arts community has rallied in a way that continues to provide engaging virtual and in-person cultural programs for county residents." He continues: "However, to support these programs, given the canceled events and decline in ticket sales, groups have had to get creative with fundraising. This is where the Art\$WChallenge matching grant program has helped."

Here is a list of groups that participated in the 2020 Art\$WChallenge program:

A Palo Seco Flamenco Company
 Accent Dance NYC
 Actors Conservatory Theatre
 Antonia Arts
 Arc Stages
 ArchForKids
 Arts and Culture Committee
 Arts10566
 Asbury-Crestwood United
 Methodist Church
 Ballet des Ameriques School
 and Company
 Bedford Playhouse
 Bethany Arts Community
 Blue Door Art Center
 Chappaqua Orchestra
 Clay Art Center
 CLC Foundation
 Clocktower Players
 Concordia Conservatory
 Copland House
 Cross Cultural Connection
 Downtown Music at Grace
 Emelin Theatre for Performing Arts
 Friends of Music Concerts
 GoJo Clan Productions
 Gooseberry Studio
 Greenburgh Public Library
 Hamm & Clov Stage Company
 Hammond Museum
 Harrigan Educational & Cultural Center
 Harrison Public Library Foundation
 Historic Hudson Valley
 Hoff-Barthelson Music School
 Hudson Chorale
 Hudson Stage Company
 Hudson Valley Museum of
 Contemporary Art
 Hudson Valley Writers Center
 India Center of Westchester
 Jacob Burns Film Center
 Jazz Forum Arts
 Katonah Museum of Art
 Lagond Music School
 Lyndhurst, A National Trust Historic Site

Mamaroneck Artists Guild
 Mount Vernon Friends of Recreation
 Music Conservatory of Westchester
 Neuberger Museum
 New Era Creative Space
 New Rochelle Opera
 New Westchester Symphony Orchestra
 Northern Star Quilters' Guild
 Nowodworski Foundation
 Peekskill Arts Alliance
 Pelham Art Center
 Performing Arts Center at
 Purchase College
 Picture House Regional Film Center
 PJS Jazz Society
 The Play Group Theater
 Pleasantville Music Theatre
 Rehabilitation through the Arts
 The Revelators
 Rivertowns Arts Council, Inc.
 Rivertowns Village Green
 Ruth Keeler Memorial Library
 The Rye Arts Center

Schoolhouse Theater
 Sidra Bell Dance New York
 Songcatchers
 Sound Shore Chorale of New Rochelle
 Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation
 Taconic Opera
 Tarrytown Music Hall
 Thomas H. Slater Center
 Tutti Bravi Productions
 Untermyer Performing Arts Council
 Urban Studio Unbound
 Westchester Children's Museum
 The Westchester Chordsmen
 Westchester Collaborative Theatre
 Westchester Dance Artists
 Westchester Philharmonic
 White Plains Performing Arts Center
 YoFi Fest
 Yonkers Arts
 Young at Arts
 Youth Theatre Interactions



Art\$WChallenge grantee Jazz Forum Arts (photo courtesy of Jazz Forum Arts)

artist opportunities

Artist OPPORTUNITIES

ArtsW.org is Westchester County's guide for all-things-art. On its "Artist Opportunities" page, artists in all disciplines can find nearby working opportunities that will help to strengthen and further their careers. Below is a sampling of some upcoming opportunities. To get these opportunities sent directly to your mailbox, [sign up here](#).

Call for Photographers: Fourth Annual Larry Salley Photography Award

ArtsWestchester, in partnership with the African American Men of Westchester, seeks nominations for Hudson Valley-based photographers to receive the fourth annual Larry Salley Photography Award. The award recipient will be furnished with a \$1,000 cash prize. The winner, along with the finalists, will also have the opportunity to be featured in an online exhibition presented by ArtsWestchester.

Deadline: February 5, 2021.

Virtual Rockland Arts Festival Open to Applicants

Artists and arts organizations interested in participating in the month-long virtual Rockland Arts Festival can apply through March 1. The festival will take place throughout the month of April. If approved to participate, the artist will have one artwork or image posted on the Festival's website with a direct link to the artist's website or social media. All artists who are over the age of 18 and working in any artistic medium can apply, as well as arts organizations in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. **Deadline: March 1.** [Click for guidelines.](#)

Call for "Quarantine Art" for Spring Exhibition

ArtsWestchester seeks submissions of creative works made during the pandemic for its curated spring 2021 exhibition. During this current pandemic, many people have turned to creative outlets like painting, photography, sewing, crafting, singing, writing and other creative activities. ArtsWestchester plans to reopen its gallery after an extended COVID-19 closure with an exhibition of these artistic projects. The organization invites those who live and work in the Hudson Valley to share their creativity and tell their pandemic story. All creative ideas are welcome. **Deadline: March 3, 2021.**



Education, by an anonymous artist on view in Bethany Arts Community's sculpture park (photo source: bethanyarts.org)

Call for Artists: March Online Exhibition

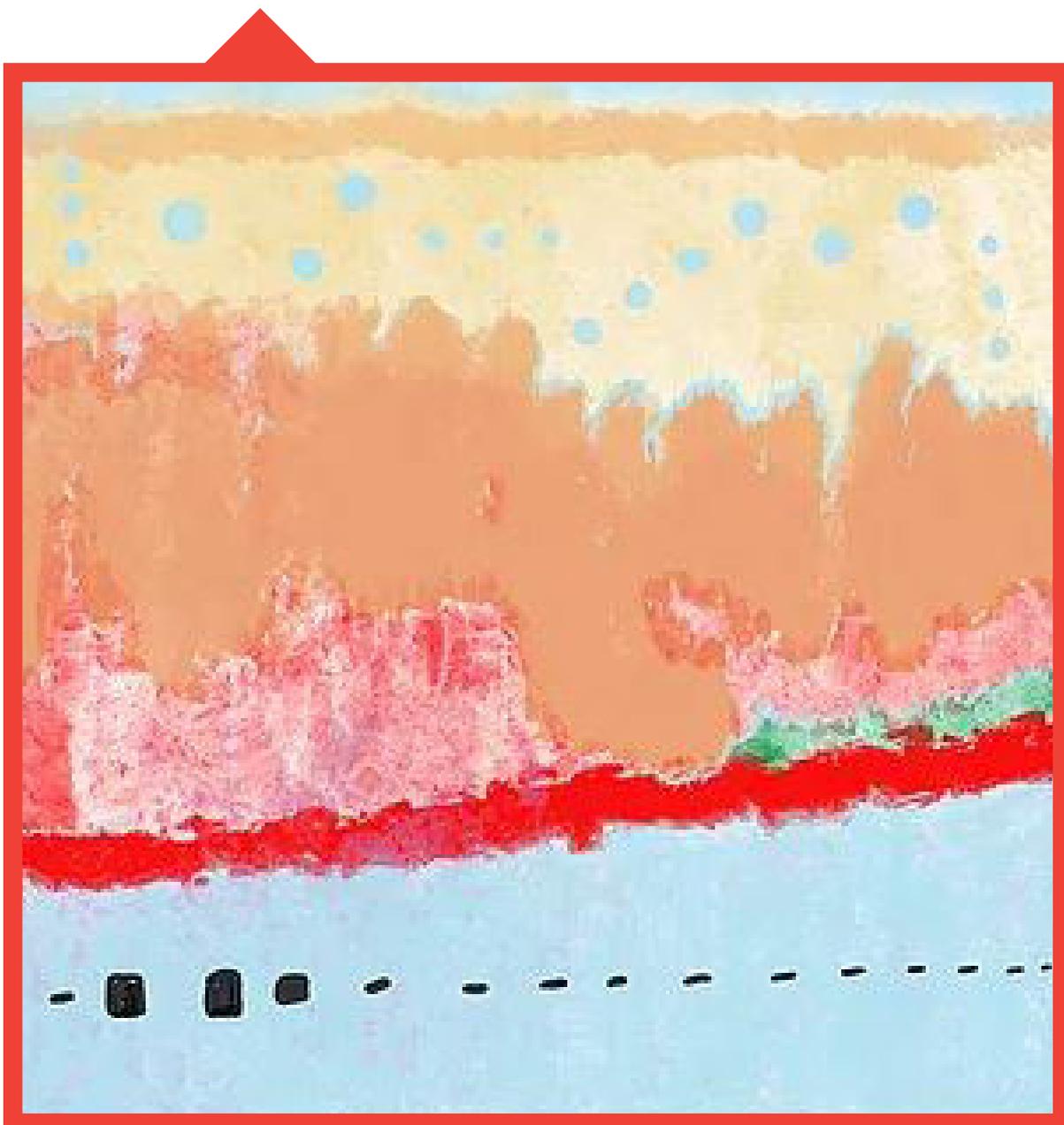
Each month, the Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden presents an online exhibition that features work by its artist members. The shows, curated by Bibiana Huang Matheis, are exhibited on the Museum's website and remain on view for a year. Artists are to use each month's designated painting as a muse or inspiration for their submissions. All artistic media and styles are accepted, including 2D, 3D, video works, installation, literary forms, music and dance. To submit, Hammond members can email HammondMuseumArtists@gmail.com. **Deadline for the March exhibition: February 15, 2021.**

Photo by the third annual Larry Salley Photography Award winner Arnold Kastenbaum

Call for Sculpture Park Artists

Bethany Arts Community seeks project ideas for the sculpture park currently being developed on the organization's property. The work may be site-specific, or the artist may submit an already existing piece. Proposals may be shown as photographs, hand-drawn sketches, digital renderings, or models/maquettes. Artists should submit an initial artistic concept for this site, and the processes that might be used for the project.

Deadline: February 28, 2021.



Artworks submitted for Hammond Museum's March online exhibition must use this artwork as inspiration (artwork courtesy of Hammond Museum)

spotlight

6 Ways for Your Kids to Enjoy the Arts During Midwinter Break

Schools are out of session in mid-February; however, between the cold weather and venues and businesses that are closed due to the pandemic, it can be difficult to keep kids occupied during this time. Luckily, the arts are available no matter the time of year. Here are six organizations providing in-person and/or virtual arts activities to keep little ones busy and creative during their vacation week.

1 Pelham Art Center (in person)

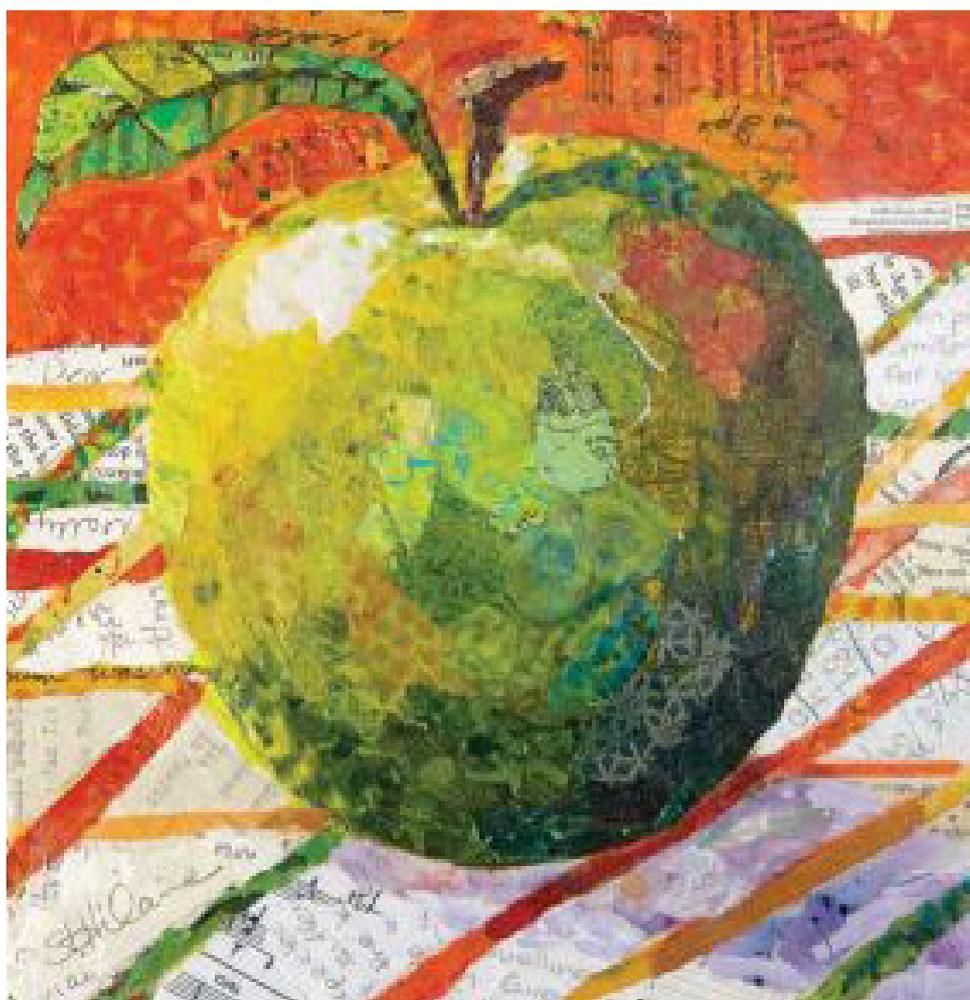
Pelham Art Center offers [two winter youth camps](#) for students, both led by artist Donna Ross, on February 16-19. In "Eric Carle Creations," kids will explore colors, shapes and textures to create colorful paper sculptures inspired by artist and author Eric Carle (*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*). In "Acrylic Painting," students will learn about basic color theory through "observational still life exercises and abstract mark-making."

2 Westchester Children's Museum (in person)

Westchester Children's Museum's [Saturday workshops](#) will focus on all-ages activities that are best suited for ages 4-6. On February 13, "Cupid's Color Lab" is a half-chemistry/half-art workshop that introduces the technique of paper marbling to create Valentine's Day cards. On February 20, students will discover the 1970s by creating their own lava lamp sensory bottle before a themed dance party.

3 Rye Arts Center (virtual and in person)

Rye Arts Center has [three week-long workshops](#) planned for February break, from February 15-19. In-person workshops include "Drawing, Painting and More," during which kids will discover a new artistic medium each day, and "Ceramics Week," for students who want to learn to work with clay. A virtual workshop, "Miniature Fun Model-Making 101," teaches the art of miniatures, from conceptualizing to creating their models.



Acrylic painting youth camp at Pelham Art Center (image source: Pelham Art Center)





Yonkers Community Quilt project, Nowodworski Foundation (image source Nowodworski Foundation)

4 Blue Door Art Center (virtual)

Blue Door Art Center will present a special Zoom series for midwinter break: [“Travel Around the World in 3 Days”](#) on February 15, 17 and 19. Artist Zafiro Acevedo will lead children to create art forms from around the world: Native American dream-catchers, Brazilian carnival masks and Chinese lanterns for the new Lunar Year. [Additional Zoom activities](#) include a love-themed workshop on February 13 and an activity that demonstrates sponge-painting Cherry Blossom trees on February 20.

5 Nowodworski Foundation (virtual)

Nowodworski Foundation’s [“Yonkers Community Quilt”](#) is a community project that showcases the diversity of the city of Yonkers. All are welcome to participate in these collaborative art-making workshops, including children. Participants will use basic art supplies like crayons, markers and paints to create their own portion of the quilt. Zoom sessions take place throughout February; sessions during winter break are Feb 17, 20 and 21.

6 ArtsWestchester (virtual)

Two of ArtsWestchester’s programs went virtual to help keep creativity alive during the pandemic: [ArtsMobile](#), for children; and [Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays](#), for teens. The result is an expansive digital library of arts activities that is updated weekly. During February break, kids and teens can create works of art for their Valentines, including a heart collage and an upcycled flower and vase.

news briefs

NEWS BRIEFS

Pop-Up Library Pops Up in New Rochelle

[New Rochelle Council on the Arts](#) unveiled a new “Pop-Up Library” at the New Rochelle Metro-North train station last month. The whimsical kiosk, designed by artist Charles Fazzino, was the last in a series that were otherwise installed throughout the City in 2019. The [six pop-up libraries](#), each designed by different artists, are intended to promote literacy and encourage the free exchange of books. The message is simple: “take a book or leave a book.” Fazzino’s design is seven feet long and features built-in seating in the shape of red lips so that browsers can sit to read for a few minutes. Other kiosks are located at Glenwood Lakes, Hudson Park, Huguenot Park, Lincoln Park, outside of Columbus School and at Paws Place Dog Park at Ward Acres Park.



Artist Charles Fazzino with his pop-up library
(photo courtesy of New Rochelle Council on the Arts)



Karen Marie Marmer

In Memoriam: Karen Marie Marmer

Violinist Karen Marie Marmer recently passed away. Marmer performed with a number of European and American groups throughout her career, but of note was her involvement with the [REBEL Baroque Ensemble](#), which she co-founded and co-directed with her husband and fellow musician, Jorg-Michael Schwarz. The well-known ensemble specialized in 17th- & 18th-century repertoires performed on period-appropriate instruments. She and Schwarz also formed Black Marble Violin, a group that explored rarely performed works written for two violins, as well as the Bedford chamber series Musica Antiqua Nova. Marmer studied at the Aaron Copland School of Music in New York City and Yale School of Music.

Historic Hudson Valley Receives Conservation Grant

[Historic Hudson Valley](#) has been awarded a Conservation Treatment Grant of \$3,850 from The Greater Hudson Heritage Network (GHHN), in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts. In all, \$115,739 in grants was awarded to 22 organizations throughout the State. The grants are meant to provide “support for treatment procedures by professional conservators to aid in stabilizing, preserving and making accessible an array of unique objects” at museums, and historical and cultural organizations. Priority was given to objects that, once treated, will “impact public interpretive programs, exhibitions and education.” In the case of Historic Hudson Valley, the funds will aid the conservation of large bandboxes, c.1830, by Greenwich Studios, Inc.

Neuberger Museum of Art Reopens to the Public

Neuberger Museum of Art has announced the first part of its phased reopening. Beginning in mid-February, it will begin welcoming students and faculty back for academic programming. Aside from delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum recently underwent a series of internal renovations that prevented the reopening of its doors until now. The next stage in the reopening plan will be to welcome the public back into its space. At that time, three exhibitions will be on view, each of which will feature work from the Museum's permanent collections: *Modern and Contemporary Selections from the Permanent Collection*, *African Art and Culture: Selections from the Collection*, and *Color and Motion, Ideas and Dreams: Modern and Contemporary Caribbean and South American Art from the Collection*.

In Memoriam: Sister Beth Dowd

Sister Beth Dowd, Founder of the New Rochelle nonprofit Songcatchers, recently passed away. Dowd graduated from the College of New Rochelle and received a Master of Arts degree and a Master of Music degree from The Catholic University of America. During her accomplished career as a music educator, she was also active in campus ministry at the College of New Rochelle and music ministry at Blessed Sacrament Parish in New Rochelle. Songcatchers, which received a 2017 Arts Award by ArtsWestchester in the "Education" category, is dedicated to providing affordable and accessible music programs to multicultural communities in Westchester. The organization's services consist of choral arts, after-school music and early childhood music programs. The organization's mission is "reaching peace through music."



Sister Beth Dowd (photo courtesy of Songcatchers)



Christy Havard (photo courtesy of Performing Arts Center at Purchase College)

New Interim Managing Director Named at Performing Arts Center at Purchase College

Purchase College recently announced the appointment of Christy Havard as Interim Managing Director of the College's *Performing Arts Center* (The PAC). Leading up to her appointment, Havard served as Director of Production for The PAC, a role that she has held since 2005. Previously, she served as Production Manager at the New 42 Street Inc., which includes the Duke Theatre on 42nd St and The New Victory Theater. Seth Soloway, who is departing the Managing Director role to accept the position of Associate Dean for Presenting and External Relations at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University, says of Havard: "Her extensive production background and natural leadership skills will be a great asset...[to] ably steer The PAC through [its] current challenges and beyond."

spotlight



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.



Promo still from Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (photo source: Netflix)

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (Netflix)

This "Netflix Original" movie felt more like theater than film. In fact, it is based on a play of the same name, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer August Wilson, who also wrote *Fences*. *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* features truly moving performances by Chadwick Boseman and Viola Davis that I believe are award-worthy. Of course, this makes the loss of Boseman even more painful. The film includes an important education about the birth of the Blues – the inequities imposed upon Black artists who developed this genre (one that gave birth to so much more) but were not compensated for their talent. I loved seeing the strength of the character Ma, who stood up for as much as she could, and wasn't taking any of the abuse thrown her way. Also great was viewing the interactions between the "men in the band," each with their own stories and challenges, and seeing how they coped...some with faith, some with acceptance, and some with violence. This is a great movie/ theatre experience and should not be missed for the acting, history and music.

New Initiatives for Paycheck Protection and Shuttered Venues Passed by Congress

Two federal initiatives, to be administered by the Small Business Administration, were recently passed by Congress:

- **[The Paycheck Protection Program](#)** (PPP) now allows certain eligible borrowers that previously received a PPP loan to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan. Second Draw PPP Loans can be used to help fund payroll costs, including benefits. Funds can also be used to pay for mortgage interest, rent, utilities, worker protection costs related to COVID-19, uninsured property damage costs caused by looting or vandalism during 2020, and certain supplier costs and expenses for operations.
- **[The Shuttered Venue Operators Grant](#)** program (SVO) includes \$15 billion in grants to shuttered venues, including: theaters, live performing arts organizations and relevant museums. Eligible applicants may qualify for SVO Grants equal to 45% of their gross earned revenue, with the maximum amount available for a single grant award of \$10 million. \$2 billion is reserved for eligible applications with up to 50 full-time employees.



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SAVE OUR STAGES ACT

to Provide Relief for Local Arts Venues

by Rocio De La Roca

Since early 2020, arts venues throughout Westchester and the country have remained closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most performing arts venues were forced to cancel shows, refund tickets and turn to new virtual platforms in order to survive. Yet, there is hope for struggling arts institutions: Congress recently passed the Save Our Stages Act as part of its COVID-19 Relief Bill.

The Act will allocate an estimated \$15 billion toward grant programs for live venues, independent movie theaters and other cultural institutions, according to a recent joint statement by Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer.

Though the grant details have not been finalized, Westchester venues, including the Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC), The Picture House and Bedford Playhouse, have expressed gratitude on social media to state legislators for their efforts in supporting theaters in New York. JBFC stated in a Facebook post: "Thanks to Schumer's efforts on our behalf, this pandemic is only an intermission—not the end—for independent exhibitors."

Tarrytown Music Hall (TMH)'s Executive Director, Bjorn Olsson, believes the funding will be a "...godsend for independent venues, making it possible for many to reopen that would otherwise have

gone under." TMH, like many theaters, has been closed for more than ten months and remains without the ticket income it relies on for its theater and programming. A grant would allow the TMH to focus on creating a "safe, welcoming space" for audiences, artists, staff and volunteers to return to when venues are allowed to reopen.

According to Olsson, this relief package will also provide support to the infrastructure for the performing arts. For instance, the funding could prevent musicians from losing concert venues and theater groups from losing their homes. Beyond providing relief to the arts community, the Act would also stimulate local economies, especially for industries that depend on arts venues to attract customers, explains Olsson.

He adds, "If there is a silver lining to be found in this terrible ordeal for the arts community, I think it has shown so clearly that no livestream in the world can hold a candle to the magic of real people performing for real people in real-time. The magic of the performing arts."

Performing arts venues looking for grant and loan information can visit the U.S. Small Business Administration's "[Shuttered Venues](#)" page for up-to-date information.

upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities



Time Stretching Out On Waves Of Patience by Austin Eddy, on view in Madelyn Jordan Fine Art's Look Forward | Look Back exhibition, through 3/13

February 2021 Arts Offerings

Arc Stages presents a **Virtual Pop-Up Session** program designed to inspire and challenge students of all ages with fun, unique online options of the theatre craft. The program will run through February 12.

ArtsWestchester is providing an "Art of the Week" assignment every Monday on Instagram, **ArtsMobile activities**, **Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays program** and more.

Axial Theatre will present a line-up of 14 short plays and monologues that celebrate love for its annual *Twisted Valentines* festival on February 12-20. The original pieces have been curated into two virtual programs available for streaming on the theatre's website.

Bedford Playhouse's Virtual Playhouse brings a selection of interactive programs, from comedies to environmental documentaries, author talks, weekly trivia for kids and more.

Bethany Arts Community will present **Ossining Black History & Culture**, on view from February 6 through March 5 (**IN PERSON**). To commemorate Black History Month, the exhibition will honor more than 190 years of economic, social, spiritual, political and education contributions made by the African American community of the Village of Ossining. Reservations are encouraged but not required. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri: 10am-12pm and 1-3pm.

for more arts events, visit artsw.org



Blue Door Art Center is open to the public and presents the **13th Annual Juried Member Exhibition and Contest**, featuring the works of the Center's artist-members (**IN PERSON**). The center will also host a series of free art workshops for kids on Saturdays via Zoom. Hours: Sat: 1-5pm.

- Love-themed Zoom Workshop: February 13
- "Travel Around the World in 3 Days" - Zoom Workshop Series: February 15, 17 & 19
- Painting Cherry Blossom Trees Workshop: February 20 via Zoom

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.

Center for the Digital Arts at Westchester Community College will host 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.

- Animation 1: Sundays, February 21-March 28, 9am-1pm
- Creating Simple Video Content for Social Media: Thursdays, February 18-25, 6pm
- Painting and Drawing for Adults: Saturdays, February 6 through May 1, 10am.
- Teens Game Design for ages 12-17: Saturdays from February 6 through April 17, 10am

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 Talk with Vinnie Bagwell:** February 3 at 7pm
- **Virtual Artist Talk with Rich Brown:** February 23 at 7pm
- **Maker Date Special - Valentine's Day:** February 12 & 13 at 7pm (**IN PERSON**)
- Family Wheel Night (Ages 9-99): February 13 & 27 at 6pm (**IN PERSON**)
- Saturday Clay (Ages 6-99): February 13 & 27 at 2-4pm (**IN PERSON**)
- **Home Studio Basics:** February 21 at 1pm



Performance by Amy Helm recorded live for the Emelin Theater, 2/26 (photo credit: Ebru Yildiz)

upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities

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

- Saman Majd and "A Rookies Journey": February 1 at 7:30pm
- A Photographic Visit to Morocco with Joe Carline: February 8 at 8pm

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.

- **Virtual Premiere of John Musto's Sonata for Cello and Piano:** February 22 at 1pm

Downtown Music at Grace is broadcasting its noon concerts of chamber music and a variety of genres on its [YouTube page](#).

Emelin Theatre is presenting a diverse roster of virtual events, including musical concerts and film screenings as part of its Film Club.

- **Livestream Concert: Livingston Taylor:** February 12 at 8pm
- **Livestream Concert: Amy Helm:** February 26 at 8pm
- **Virtual Film Club:** February 10 & 24 at 7:30pm

Friends of Music Concerts will offer a recording by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for a period of five days. On February 13-19, a recording by pianist Gloria Chien will feature the works of John Field, Franz Liszt and Felix Mendelssohn.

The Ground Glass presents a couple of online group photography exhibitions, *The Decisive Moment Revisited* and *Abstractions*. thegroundglass.org

Hammond Museum presents an **Artist Members Virtual Gallery**, featuring the works of the museum's members through June 5, 2021. 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.

- **Digital Art and Transformation**, a virtual art exhibit by Gregory Bart: February 28-March 1

Hudson River Museum presents **Librado Romero: From the Desert to the River (IN PERSON)**. Also on view: **Landscape Art & Virtual Travel: Highlights from the Collections of the HRM and Art Bridges (IN PERSON)**. Museum Hours: Thurs-Sun: 12-5pm.

Hudson Stage Company presents **A Remedy for the Pandemic Blues**, a virtual series of four commissioned one-act plays by the Company's favorite playwrights and directors. On February 21 at 3pm, the series will kick off with a family reading for all ages.

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 project in collaboration with Studio Theater in Exile: On view now
- **Writing the Walls** - A virtual poetry project in collaboration with Studio Theater in Exile that features poetic works that were inspired by artworks in the *How We Live* exhibition: Ongoing

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 on Zoom, are open for registration. For a complete list, visit writerscenter.org.

- **Order and Disorder, Pattern and Variation, Centripetal and Centrifugal with Patrick Donnelly:** February 6 at 12:30pm

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- **Virtual Reading: Carolyn Forché & Lori Soderlind:** February 7 at 4pm
- **Poetry Reading with JP Howard & Marilyn Nelson:** February 10 at 7pm
- **Intentional writing with Karen Finley:** February 13 at 12:30pm
- **The Joy of Editing:** February 14 at 12:30p
- **Editing & Revising Your "Finished Poems":** February 16 at 5pm
- **Midrash Workshop with Alicia Ostriker:** February 20 at 12:30pm
- **Poetry Reading- Alicia Ostriker, Roger Reeves, Jeffrey Yang:** February 24 at 7pm
- **Write an Electric Ten-Minute Play:** February 27 at 12:30pm
- **Coming of Age-Writing Workshop:** February 28 at 12:30pm

Irvington Theater presents "**The Music of Linda Ronstadt**," a concert film of **Common GroundConcerts'** 2016 tribute performance to Ronstadt livestreaming February 26-28. The film features Ronstadt's hit songs, alongside lesser-known works from her expansive catalogue. All proceeds from this virtual concert will be donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Jacob Burns Film Center screens new releases and repertory films in its **Virtual Screening Room**, and provides short films with **related activities for kids**.

Jazz Forum Arts has launched **Jazz Forum @ Home**, a series of concerts that are live-streamed on Facebook Live every Saturday at 7pm, and **Jitterbugs @ Home**, which provides online jazz classes for kids aged 2-5.

John Jay Homestead's site offers interactive activities, such as children's projects, a virtual tour and downloadable worksheets on its website. johnjayhomestead.org



Wamkelekile (Welcome in Xhosa: Cape Town South Africa) by David Dixon, on view in Blue Door Art Center's 13th Annual Juried Member Exhibition, through 2/6 (image courtesy of Blue Door Art Center)

upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities

Katonah Museum of Art has reopened its Museum and Learning Center. Visitors can purchase tickets to see the **Young Artists 2021 exhibition**, featuring the work of high school senior artists through February 28 (**IN PERSON**). Admission is by advance reservation. Hours: Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm, and Sun: 12-5pm.

- **Young Artists 2021- Opening Weekend:** February 6-7 at 10am-6pm (**IN PERSON**)

Lyndhurst Mansion offers winter grounds passes to the property between the hours of 10am and 3pm as the property closes at 4pm (**IN PERSON**). **Purchase passes here.** Its online **Voices of the Landscape** exhibition is also available on its website.

Mamaroneck Artists Guild (MAG) will present *Seeing RED*, a group art show featuring the MAG artists through February 28.

- *Seeing Red* - Virtual Reception: February 6 at 12pm
- **MAG Workshop Series:** Art Critique Sessions: February 9 & 23 at 11am, February 10 & 24 at 5.30pm

Neuberger Museum of Art will present new exhibitions featuring works from the museum's collections -- *African Art and Culture* (on view starting February 19), *Then and Now: Modern and Contemporary Selections* (on view starting February 19) and *Color and Motion, Ideas and Dreams: Modern and Contemporary Caribbean and South*

American Art (on view starting February 28). Pre-recorded 20-minute guided meditations are available on its **website**, as well as weekly art-related projects and activities for kids.

- **In Conversation - Allison Miller & Daniel Gerwin:** February 18 at 1pm

New Castle Historical Society will host an online lecture on African American heritage foodways in New York with culinary historian Lavada Nahon (February 10 at 7pm).

New Choral Society is streaming an evening of chamber music, previously recorded at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church.

New Rochelle Council on the Arts has installed "Pop-Up Library" kiosks in New Rochelle to promote literacy and encourage the free exchange of books. Kiosks are located at New Rochelle Metro-North train station, Glenwood Lakes, Hudson Park, Huguenot Park, Lincoln Park, outside of Columbus School and at Paws Place Dog Park at Ward Acres Park.

Nowodvorski Foundation presents Yonkers Community Quilt, a free virtual workshop series for those who are interested in art or want to participate in a community project that showcases the diversity of the city. Workshops will be held on select dates from February 3 through 28. To confirm/sign in, email office@sitenf.org.

The Peekskill Business Improvement District is displaying a 2,400-pound bronze statue of noted abolitionist Harriet Tubman until the end of February. The nationally touring sculpture is located on the corner of Central Avenue and Division Street.

- Online event with Photographer Ocean Morisset: February 6
- Panel Discussion- Descendants of Harriet Tubman: February 20

Pelham Art Center presents **With Every Fiber**, an exhibition of fiber works that communicate emotions and meanings beyond the literal context of the material through April 3 (**IN PERSON**). The Center also offers a series of virtual studio visits and workshops.

- *With Every Fiber* - **In-person** & **virtual opening reception:** Feb. 6, 1pm & Feb. 11, 5pm
- **Portrait Intensive for Adults & Teens 14+:** February 16-19 at 4pm (**IN PERSON**)
- **Youth Camp - Eric Carle Creations:** February 16-19 at 10am (**IN PERSON**)
- **Youth Camp - Acrylic Painting:** February 16-19 at (**IN PERSON**)
- **Art Journaling:** Sundays, February 28-March 14 at 1pm (**IN PERSON**)
- Virtual Studio Visits: **Mary Ann Lomonaco** (February 18), **Joy Curtis** (February 25)

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for more arts events, visit artsw.org



When I go to school I mostly play two instruments – guitar and drums. When I see other kids, they say it's boring, but that's not what I see. In fact, that is the opposite of what I see. I don't just see a bunch of notes on a paper, I see a feeling – a beat that just makes you want to be yourself, makes you want to be calm and happy. And that's what everyone should feel! And that's the thing that keeps me going.

Songcatchers, Inc.
After-School Music Program Student
Alejandro Lopez, 11 years old

Pelham's The Picture House offers film screenings via its *virtual cinema* and continues its *Education at Home* program, which presents short films with discussion questions and activities for students of any grade level.

- **Adult Film Study - August Wilson:** February 6 at 7pm & February 13, 20, 27 at 5pm via Zoom

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.

RiverArts will host a *virtual open mic night* with folk singer-songwriter Adam Hart on February 18 at 8pm. Comedians, poets, spoken word artists and singers are all welcome.

The Rye Arts Center will present *Nature's Art II: Geodes from the Collection of Robert R. Wiener*, on view from February 11 through April 30 (**IN PERSON**). A collection of rare gems, minerals and geodes, as well as complementary works from artists will be featured. The Center also offers in-person and virtual classes in drawing, painting, ceramics and more.

- **Make A Polar Bear with Polymer Clay Workshop:** February 6, 2 & 3pm (**IN PERSON**)
- **Valentine's Day Workshop - Laser Cutting with Glowforge:** February 11, 4:30pm (**IN PERSON**)
- **Valentine's Day Pop Up Cards Workshop:** February 13 at 10am (**IN PERSON**)
- **February Break Week-Long Art Workshops:** February 15-19, 10am & 12:30pm (**IN PERSON**)

The Schoolhouse Theater's Pandemic Players will continue to present free Zoom readings of an assortment of plays.

- Virtual reading - *A View from the Bridge:* February 6 at 3pm
- Virtual reading - *Shooting Star:* February 13 at 3pm
- Virtual reading - *An Inspector Calls:* February 20 at 3pm
- Peter Calo in Concert: February 28 at 7pm

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upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities



Music of Linda Ronstadt benefit concert, livestreamed by Irvington Theater from February 26-28 (photo copyright: Jim Metzger Photographer)

Steffi Nossen School of Dance is offering virtual dance classes this winter. Classes include modern, ballet, jazz tap, hip-hop, pre-professional programs and more. Through March, the School also offers virtual Moving Wheels and Heels Adaptive Dance Classes for people of all abilities.

Tarrytown Music Hall's "Night In With the Music Hall" series continues with weekly livestream concerts via its **Facebook** and **YouTube** pages.

- Livestream Concert - Matt Sucich: February 3 at 7pm
- Livestream Concert - Alex Cano: February 6 at 6pm

Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse will present "Deeper Than the Skin," a livestream performance featuring Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway. On February 13 at 7:30pm, this musical journey will incorporate narrative, poetry and reflection on the complex topic of racism and its legacy in America.

Westchester Children's Museum continues its **virtual learning programs and resources**, with STEAM activities for the whole family, an early literacy interactive program and more.

- **Density Disco Dance Workshop for ages 4-8:** February 20 at 11am **(IN PERSON)**

The Westchester Chordsmen Chorus is offering **virtual Singing Valentines** on February 14. Westchester County residents can surprise

loved ones with a virtual performance of love songs performed by the Chorus' award-winning quartets. For more info, visit chordsmen.org/singing-valentines.

The Westchester Symphonic Winds will host a webcast in place of its annual Winter Concert on February 28 at 3pm. This program will feature current performance projects produced by members, plans for upcoming performances and appearances by special guests. The webcast link will be published online at westchestersymphonicwinds.org.

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 web page also provides online resources for families. Library hours: Mon-Thurs: 10am-7pm and Fri-Sat: 1-5pm.

Interested in Writing for ArtsNews? We want to hear from you!

To be considered, tell us about your interest/experience in the arts, and include a writing resume and three writing clips. When we have an article to assign, we may get in touch with you!

Contact artswnews@artswestchester.org.
No phone calls, please.

Gotta the arts in Westchester!

It's good for business.

ArtsWestchester, with support from Westchester County Government and the business community, has provided the following 110 arts organizations with grants.

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|---|--|--|
| A Palo Seco Flamenco Company | Harrigan Educational & Cultural Center | Pleasantville Music Theatre |
| Accent Dance NYC | Haverstraw African American Connection | Rehabilitation Through The Arts |
| Actors Conservatory Theatre | Historic Hudson Valley | The Revelators |
| Afrikan Healing Circle Inc. | Hoff-Barthelson Music School | River River Writers Circle |
| Antonia Arts | Hudson Chorale | Rivertowns Art Council |
| Arc Stages | Hudson Stage Company | Rivertowns Village Green |
| ArchForKids | Hudson Valley MOCA | Rockland Arts Festival Committee |
| Arts and Culture Committee | Hudson Valley Writers Center | Rockland County Choral Society |
| Arts10566 | India Center of Westchester | Rockland Independent Living Center
dba BRIDGES |
| Asbury-Crestwood United
Methodist Church | Jacob Burns Film Center | Rockso Ekkquinox Steelband |
| Axial Theatre | Jazz Forum Arts | Ruth Keeler Memorial Library |
| Ballet des Amériques School & Company | Katonah Museum of Art | Rye Arts Center |
| Bedford Playhouse | Lagond Music School | Scarsdale Arts Council |
| Bethany Arts Community | Lyndhurst, A National Trust for
Historic Preservation | Schoolhouse Theater & Arts Center |
| Blue Door Art Center | Mamaroneck Artists Guild | Songcatchers |
| Bridgemusik | Manhattan Tap | Sound Shore Chorale of New Rochelle |
| Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts | Mount Vernon Friends of
Parks and Recreation | Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation |
| Chappaqua Orchestra | Mount Vernon Public Library | Symphony of Westchester |
| Chiku Awali African Dance, Arts & Culture | Music Conservatory of Westchester | Taconic Opera |
| Clay Art Center | Neuberger Museum of Art | Tarrytown Music Hall |
| CLC Foundation | New Era Creative Space | The Westchester Chordsmen |
| Clocktower Players | New Rochelle Council on the Arts | Tutti Bravi Productions |
| Concordia Conservatory | New Rochelle Opera | Untermeyer Performing Arts Council |
| Copland House | New Westchester Symphony Orchestra | Urban Studio Unbound |
| Cross Cultural Connection | Northern Star Quilters' Guild | Wartburg |
| Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library | Nowodworski Foundation | Westchester Children's Chorus |
| Downtown Music at Grace | Nyack Library | Westchester Children's Museum |
| The Emelin Theatre for
the Performing Arts | Ossining Documentary &
Discussion Series | Westchester Collaborative Theater |
| Emotions Physical Theatre | Ossining Public Library | Westchester Dance Artists |
| Fine Arts Orchestral Society of Yonkers | Paramount Hudson Valley Arts | Westchester Italian Cultural Center |
| Friends of Music Concerts | Performing Arts Center at
Purchase College | Westchester Philharmonic |
| The Friends of the North Castle
Public Library | Pelham Art Center | Westchester Public Private
Partnership for Aging Services |
| GoJo Clan Productions | The Picture House Regional Film Center | White Plains Performing Arts Center |
| Greenburgh Public Library | PJS Jazz Society | YoFi Fest |
| Hamm & Clov Stage Company | Play Group Theater | Yonkers Riverfront Library |
| Hammond Museum | | Youth Theatre Interactions |

ArtsWestchester's grants programs reach every community in Westchester County, providing support to artists and arts and cultural groups both large and small.

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