

# Every Artist Loves A Wall



Arts Award honoree The Village of Sleepy Hollow Wishing Wall mural (photo credit: Tim Grajek)

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## Westchester gov.com From the County Executive

Dear Readers,  
Thank you for taking a few moments to read this March edition of *ArtsNews*. As we patiently await our return to "normal," and life on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to encourage all of you to continue to take advantage of the opportunities that we do have before us.

Our friends at ArtsWestchester have continued to grow and change with these uncertain times, allowing us the chance to explore the Arts from the comfort of our own homes. ArtsWestchester has continued to provide a robust schedule of strong programming offered by arts groups throughout the County, including:

- an exhibition that focuses on fiber art (see page A12)
- an upcoming work of monumental public art in downtown White Plains (see page A14)
- new original theater works (see pages A18-19)

Everyone needs a bit of an escape from time to time, and there are so many wonderful programs to explore right here in our own County. ArtsWestchester and the fantastic programming they provide should serve as a reminder that we still have much to be thankful for, and that we will emerge from this pandemic with a greater appreciation for all that we have.

Sincerely,  
George Latimer  
Westchester County Executive

.....

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

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County Executive

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# ARTSW

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31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains | 914.428.4220

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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)

## A Hero in Her Own Time

Vinnie Bagwell is finally coming into her own, and all her admirers (I am one of them) couldn't be happier. I might even be bold enough to say that this may be her year. On April 7, ArtsWestchester will bestow upon her its Artist Award, given annually to an extraordinary artist who has created a significant body of work (see page A6). But that's not all. She has been awarded the inaugural Jorge and Darlene Perez Prize of \$30,000 from Americans for

the Arts and a commission for a \$1 Million sculpture, *Victory Beyond Sims*, an 18' angel in New York City's Central Park. And finally, after a 12-year slog, her tour de force – her *Enslaved Africans' Rain Garden* sculptures are finally finished and will be previewed at the Yonkers Public Library beginning in March.

“She wanted to tell the stories of her people. She wanted to elevate them with her art.”

So here's the thing about [Vinnie Bagwell](#)...She has a will of iron. She has a gift of talent. And like most successful New Yorkers,



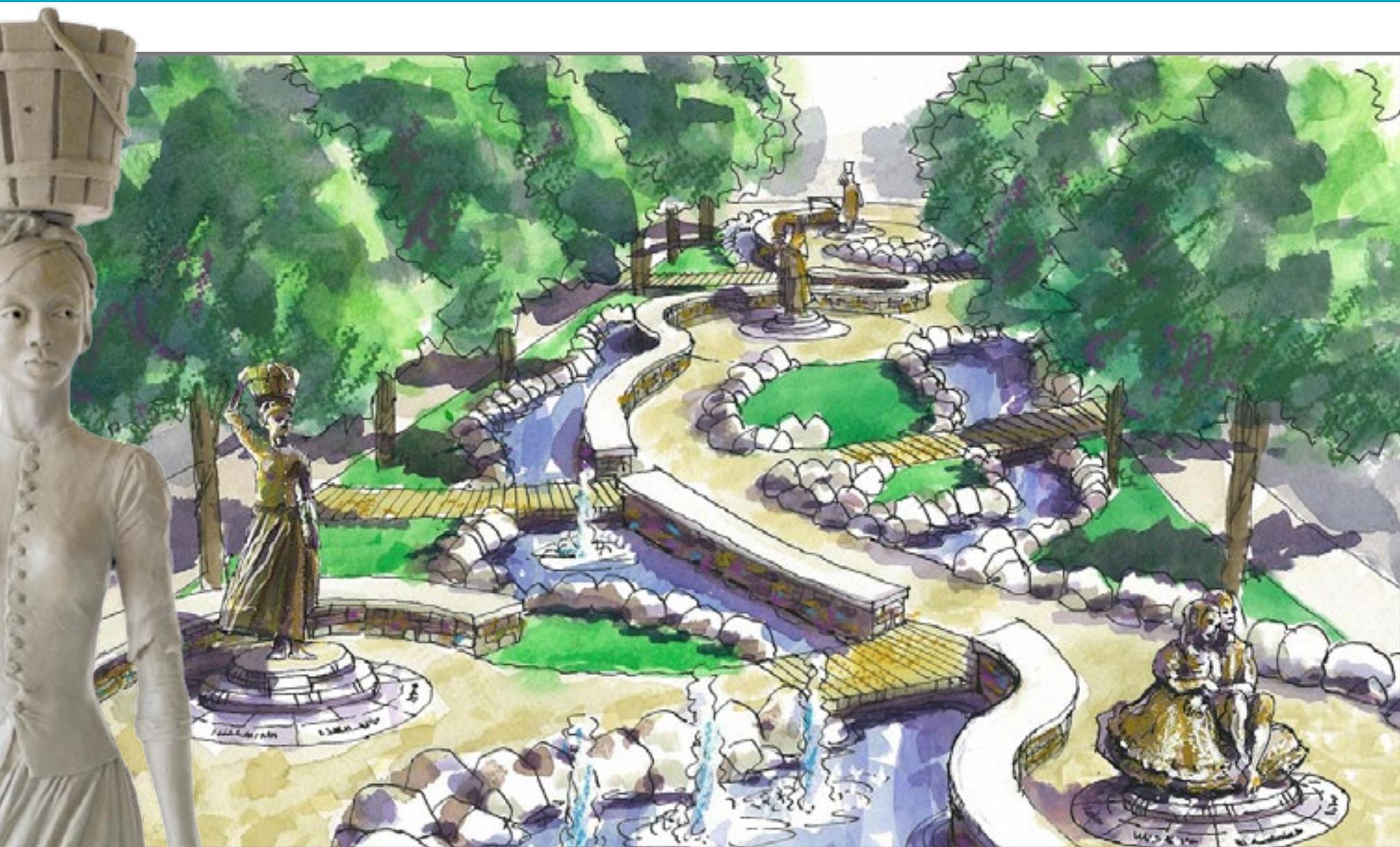
Artwork by Vinnie Bagwell (photo courtesy of the artist)

➔ Don't miss Janet's weekly blog posts at: [thisandthatbyjl.com](https://thisandthatbyjl.com)

*“She managed to build a place of honor for African Americans that went missing for **400 years.**”*



*Above: Vinnie Bagwell works on one of her Enslaved Africans' Rain Garden sculptures (photo by Jonathan Lewis)  
Right: Artwork by Vinnie Bagwell (courtesy of the artist)*



*Rendering of the Enslaved Africans' Rain Garden (courtesy of the artist)*

she's gonna do it her way. As a child, she was visually impaired. She grew up in Yonkers until age 10, when her parents, both artistic, moved to Greenburgh. She always loved to write and draw, and after graduating from Woodlands High School and Morgan State University, she found her niche as a writer. That was until she met Barbara Segal, a Yonkers sculptor, and found her calling. Discovering sculpture, and learning how to make it, became her driving passion. She traveled her own path, finding mentors along the way. But deep down, there was another mission in her mind. She wanted to tell the stories of her people. She wanted to elevate them with her art. When Vinnie first approached me about her project I was, let's say,

cautiously optimistic and frankly hopeful. Hers was a vision that we at ArtsWestchester shared. There is no memorial or place of tribute in Westchester for the slaves who contributed so much to the growth of this county as there should be.

I think she may have recognized in me a soul sister, that is to say, someone like herself who tends to get into "good trouble." She wasn't asking ArtsWestchester for money. (That would come later.) She had secured a seed grant that she wanted to entrust to us to administer for her. I suppose to sum it all up, Vinnie is a hero. She managed to build a place of honor for African Americans that went missing for 400 years. A kid from Yonkers, a black woman, brings a symbol of social justice to her place of birth in America. That's a wow.

# A Round of Applause for 2021 ARTS AWARDS

## Benjamin Boykin

### *President's Award*

As an esteemed government leader and Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, Benjamin Boykin has sponsored legislation and numerous bills to protect the safety, security and quality of life for the residents of Westchester County. Chairman Boykin is very active in Westchester's community and is a steadfast supporter of the non-profit sector. He served as a member of the White Plains Common Council for fourteen years and as a member of the White Plains School Board. Education, youth services, childcare, hunger, affordable housing and the arts are all causes about which he is passionate. In fact, when it comes to the arts, he thinks outside the box. Even during a time when the arts and culture sector was struggling to survive during COVID-19, Boykin championed an increase of \$250,000 for ArtsWestchester's already successful Art\$WChallenge grant program, for both the 2020 and 2021 budget years. Last year alone, the matching grant

program leveraged more than \$757,000 in funds from private donors for 84 Westchester organizations, which was matched by \$353,753 in County funding. Chairman Boykin's longtime support of the arts runs deep. From JazzFest White Plains to the White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival, he knows how music and art enlivens cities and counties and heals hearts and minds. His 40-plus years as a business executive gives Boykin a unique perspective on government operations, and today he is serving his fourth term on the County Board of Legislators, as Chairman since 2020. During his career, Legislator Boykin has worked extensively with educational and not-for-profit organizations, recognizing early on that public-private partnerships work the best, providing valuable benefits for the economy.

Boykin has been a White Plains resident for more than 30 years and believes in giving back to his community. He is a member of the White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival, Meals-on-Wheels of White Plains, a member and District Leader of the City of White Plains Democratic Committee, the Black Democrats of Westchester County and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Boykin has been a CPA for 47 years. He is married to Carsandra Spearman Boykin and has two daughters.



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# r the EES

Every year, leaders from Westchester's arts and business community gather to celebrate the stellar accomplishments of ArtsWestchester's Arts Award Honorees in an event that recognizes artists, cultural organizations, educators and civic leaders who enrich the cultural life of the County, its communities and its citizens. This year's virtual celebration takes place on April 7 at 6pm, and can be viewed at [artsw.org/artsaward](https://artsw.org/artsaward).

## Dr. Judith Schwartz Emily & Eugene Grant Arts Patron Award

A professor, curator, critic, author, lecturer, artist and collector, Dr. Judith S. Schwartz lives and breathes the arts – the ceramic arts that is. Her love of ceramic sculpture and studio pottery began as a ceramics student at Ohio State University, where she first started collecting ceramic artwork from artist colleagues. Her support of ceramic artists, and artists

in general, has never wavered. With thousands of pieces in her collection, including works by Howard Kottler, Viola Frey, Peter Voukos and Robert Arneson, Dr. Schwartz has always had a collector's eye and a soft spot in her heart for artists. As an educator, Dr. Schwartz served as Professor in the Department of Art and Art Professions at New York University, where she taught studio classes and mentored doctoral students. She pioneered research on the use of satire in ceramic work and turned it into a book, *Confrontational Ceramics*, a study of the history of the use of clay as a tool for social commentary. The book so inspired ArtsWestchester, where Dr. Schwartz is a board member, that the organization mounted an exhibition of the same name curated by Dr. Schwartz. Her leadership in the arts has enriched the many boards on which she has served, from the Clay Art Center in Port Chester to the International Academy of Ceramics in Geneva. Dr. Schwartz initiated a project for the International Academy of Ceramics, called "Ceramic World Destinations," a searchable online resource for ceramic lovers around the world. When not travelling to China, Japan, Korea and places near and far, she and her husband Marty open their Armonk home to arts groups who enjoy their hospitality and stellar art collection.



**Turn the page for more 2021 Arts Award honorees!**

## 2021 Arts Award Honorees, con't.



### The Westchester Chordsmen

#### Arts Organization Award

Since 1953, The Westchester Chordsmen Chorus has served Westchester through song. The Chordsmen is a renowned male chorus dedicated to the singing of the finest a cappella music. Their repertoire extends to Broadway, doo wop, contemporary and more, all in the Barbershop style. Their commitment to musical excellence as well as to having a good time makes them the perfect outlet for creating a unique sound loved by audiences of all ages.

The Westchester Chordsmen is made up of more than 60 men, aged 16-91, from Westchester County and beyond who foster the well-established Barbershop tradition of quartet and chorus singing. The Westchester Chordsmen welcome all voices to its group, from veteran vocalists to those who are just getting started. They perform at countywide concerts, free community events, senior and rehab centers, and also perform for anniversaries and special events. They even perform private Singing Valentines. The group also competes at the regional and international levels. The Westchester Chordsmen present an annual Youth A Cappella Festival, free singing lessons programs, scholarships and more, including its annual *OVERTONES Magazine*. The Chordsmen are the only Westchester Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.



### Vinnie Bagwell

#### Artist Award

Vinnie Bagwell is an American sculptor. Bagwell, a representational-figurative artist who casts in bronze and bronze resin, uses traditional bas-relief techniques as visual narratives to expand her storytelling.

Bagwell was born in Yonkers, and raised in the Town of Greenburgh. An alumna of Morgan State University, she began sculpting in 1993. She has since won 20 public art commissions around the United States and is credited with reframing public art to include historic Black images. Presently, *The Enslaved Africans' Rain Garden*—an urban-heritage, public art project for Yonkers—is slated to be installed in spring 2021. Bagwell is also developing the conceptual design for *The Sacred Place of My Ancestors*, an African burial ground located in Montgomery, NY. In addition, the City of New York has released \$1M in funding to enable her to commence *Victory Beyond Sims* to replace the J. Marion Sims sculpture on Fifth Avenue in Central Park. Vinnie Bagwell has won numerous awards during her career. Civic engagement is the keystone to her practice. In 2020, she won the Americans for the Arts inaugural Jorge and Darlene Perez Prize (\$30K) for her civic-engagement practices. She is passionate about her work, and continues to pursue public art commissions.





## The Village of Sleepy Hollow *Wishing Wall* Community Award

In early fall of 2020, in the midst of the pandemic and when the Village of Sleepy Hollow was unable to hold its second annual multicultural festival, it undertook an ambitious and complex community mural project entitled *The Wishing Wall*. People from all throughout the community came together to transform a 520' long, 10' high, old, curvy concrete wall, (a relic of the GM assembly plant) into an inspiring expression of hope and unity alongside the Hudson River. For four weeks, more than 250 local residents, from children to seniors, contributed to the design and painting of the mural — including planners, artists, writers, arts educators and volunteer painters of all ages. Paint was donated, artists of all kinds were welcomed and peoples' ideas and wishes painted upon the wall. Now many new volunteers want to be involved in future projects and *The Wishing Wall* has become a catalyst to expand community arts programming and a signal of the value placed on public space by the Village.

## Jazz Forum Arts: Jitterbugs Program Sophia Abeles Arts Education Award

In February 2020, the Jazz Forum Arts team was exploring how to outreach to younger audiences. Within their mission to enhance the appreciation of Jazz, America's preeminent indigenous musical art form, the jazz-focused family music program Jitterbugs was born.

Jazz Forum Arts planned for in-person classes; then COVID hit. Instead, the organization launched Jitterbugs online in May 2020 as monthly 30-minute sessions for families with 2-5 year-olds. The lead teacher was Jody Redhage Ferber, a musician and educator whose young children were avid participants. Jitterbugs sold out its first class and held nine more for 150+ families. Each session had a special theme, including improvisation, percussion, Brazilian Jazz and rhythm. Redhage Ferber complemented her approach with guest artists: saxophonist Tia Fuller, percussionist Valtinho Anastacio, trumpeter Ingrid Jensen, pianist Pablo Mayor and others.

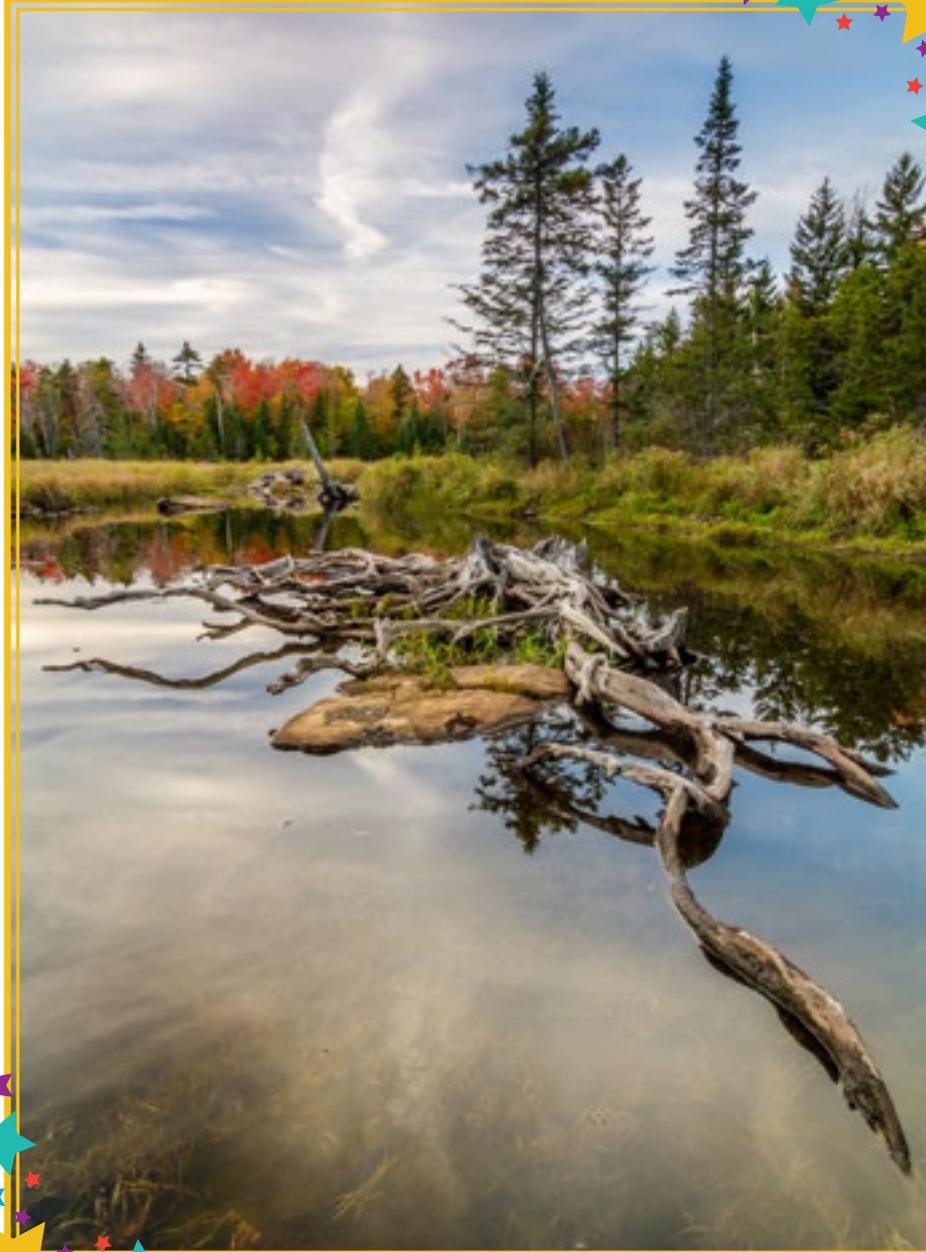
In 2021, Jazz Forum Arts paused the early childhood program and launched a six-week winter series (through March 27) with a New Orleans Jazz theme, aimed at children aged 4-9 and their families. These workshops are led by guitarist and educator Matt Butterman. The plan is to continue this program seasonally and refresh the early childhood program. When the Jazz Forum is able to reopen, Jitterbugs: Jazz for Kids will hold in-person sessions at the club.



**Turn the page for more 2021 Arts Award honorees!**

*Photos: Ben Boykin; photo by Leslye Smith; Wishing Wall: photo by Tim Grajek. All other photos are courtesy of the honoree.*

## 2021 Arts Award Honorees, con't.



### Elijah Goodwin

#### *Larry Salley Photography Award*

Photographer Elijah Goodwin has a passion for nature, science, water, flowers, animals, the wilderness, biology and the beauty in our environment that is often overlooked. His goal is to help others to appreciate this beauty through his photography. Goodwin is also a lover of fantasy and science-fiction, an influence that is evident in some of his dreamy landscapes. Goodwin strives to create images that have high aesthetic quality, but also that move beyond the aesthetic. In his nature photography, he creates images that go beyond illustrating the beauty of the natural world, creating images that also illustrate a scientific concept, interesting behavior or a conservation concern. In his fine art digital images, he creates multi-layered photographs steeped in symbolism that attempt to express a scientific concept or human truth. Goodwin has exhibited his photographs at the Blue Door Art Center, Ossining Arts Council Firehouse Gallery, the Art Gallery at the Rockefeller Park Preserve, A. I. Friedman Gallery, Greenburgh Public Library and more.



*(Photographs by Elijah Goodwin)*



## 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](http://artsw.org/artsblog).

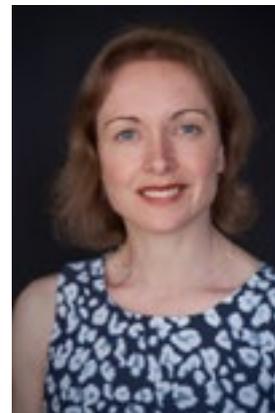
### Marsha on the Move: Audubon (Amazon Prime)

*Audubon* is a gorgeous documentary about the life and paintings of John James Audubon. This amazing artist and cataloguer of American birds was devoted to capturing these creatures in their most natural habitat. The film shows fantastic birds, as well as Audubon's paintings ...but most of all, it showcases the extraordinary life of a man who was devoted to his passion. It also looks at the resulting challenges for his family life, and ultimately a triumph – the completion of work, and the opportunity to leave a legacy for America. I will be sure to visit the New York Historical Society as soon as I can so I can view his work with new appreciation. To my bird-loving friends, enjoy. Two birds up for this film!



*Audubon Havell Edition Pl. 12, Baltimore Oriole by John James Audubon/W. H. Lizars (photo source: facebook.com/AudubontheFilm)*

## Kate Ashby Appointed as Artistic Director of RiverArts



**RiverArts** recently announced the appointment of its new Artistic Director, Kate Ashby. She will join Managing Director Josh Suniewick in the company's dual leadership structure. In her new role, she will oversee all the company's artistic activities, including its multi-village Studio and Music Tours, Artist Conversations, Music Program, Chamber Music Series, Summer Camps and Annual Dance

Concerts. As a professional dancer and choreographer, Ashby danced with Pilobolus, Robert Battle and Merce Cunningham Repertory Group before the start of a substantial arts management career with companies such as Paul Taylor Dance Company, Merce Cunningham Dance Company and Bernstein Artists Management. Most recently, she worked with Primo Artists Management, coordinating engagements for classical conductors and soloists who perform with national and international orchestras. She returns to RiverArts after serving as the company's Music Program Director from 2014-2018.



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#### REGISTER NOW!

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[peekskill@sunnywcc.edu](mailto:peekskill@sunnywcc.edu)



## feature

# With Every Fiber

by Frank Matheis

The new group exhibition at the Pelham Art Center, [With Every Fiber](#), is testimony to the infinity of creativity. Fiber art uses textiles such as fabric, yarn and natural and synthetic fibers with a focus on both the materials and the hand labor involved. Like all art forms, fiber art communicates some form of message, emotion or meaning beyond the literal use of the materials.

The Norwegian-born, Brooklyn-based curator and artist Anki King assembled the fiber art of seven women of diverse heritage and artistic styles. They are united in one thing: the materials used. The exhibition presents the works of artists Victoria Idongesit Udondian, Mary Ann Lomonaco, Joy Curtis, Ruby Chishti, Mary Tooley Parker, Jessica Lagunas and Liz Whitney Quisgard.

The juxtaposition of their rich collective work is at once stylistically divergent, yet harmonious as King managed to bring balance to this exhibition. Each piece emanates singularly while connecting to the polyphonic collective. King explained the thematic: "Like with my own work, this is a sorely emotional or loved-based collection. There is something so tactile and familiar [about fiber art]. In the new ways it is used, it brings you to an almost confused state. You recognize the fabrics, and how they are used in these new surprising ways." She added: "With every fiber, there is passion. The artists give everything they have to say."

The result of what they had to say is a show in which fiber exudes power with sharp perspective.

Visitors are greeted by a massive installation by Victoria Idongesit Udondian, a Nigerian born artist and Guggenheim fellow. Her dramatic sculpture, *Onile-Gogoro*, consists of dark, twisting, meandering tentacles that reach from floor to ceiling. She used repurposed clothes, fabric, wire, metal, rod, resin and bicycle tubes to create a commanding sculpture with distinct similarities to African dreadlocks.

A series of five elaborate headdresses by Mary Ann Lomonaco display distinct tribal allusions. She starts with cotton kitchen mops, which she dyes and decorates colorfully with intricate glass bead work, feathers and other objects like grommets and soda can tabs. The headdresses, bold in both detail and design, each are reminiscent of a prancing Amazon rainforest bird.

Two hanging fabric sculptures by Brooklyn-based artist Joy Curtis are earthy and organic, even skeletal, both in essence and tone. Her freeform and flowing pieces are generously saturated in vivid dyes of indigo, Osage orange, cochineal, walnut, madder and procion. She twists cotton, intermingled with wax, metal, spandex, sea sponges and raffia to create a striking effect.

Ruby Chishti, a Pakistani-American artist, created a series of sculptures with recycled fabric, thread, wire mesh and other materials. She plays with elements of disorder with purposely raggedy fabric and subdued colors, yet manages to exude warmth and harmony in the seeming disorganization. There is visual conflict between apparent chaos and the essence of domiciles and dwellings, in some way reminiscent of



Mop with Fancy Plumage by Mary Ann Lomonaco  
(photo credit: Frank Matheis)

dollhouses or hives.

Mary Tooley Parker pays homage to the African-American women quilters of Gee's Bend—a small, remote, Black community in Alabama, where women have created hundreds of unique quilt masterpieces that are now famous. Yet, these individual quilter artists are virtually unknown. Parker now honors them by stitching their portraits in handsome hooked tapestries.

Jessica Lagunas, originally from Guatemala, is showing a series of small *Pin Loom Hair Weave* tapestries, made of the artist's own hair, silk thread and brass rods. The finely weaved, small rectangular pieces have a Zen-like, ethereal quality, with diverse patterns.

The exhibition also displays a wall full of 91-year-old Liz Whitney Quisgard's project titled *Hundreds of Circles*. The work consists of what she calls "yarn with bling." Quisgard's colorful, whimsical pieces, made mostly of acrylic yarn, accentuate the power of the *With Every Fiber* show at the Pelham Art Center. Her work lightens the load and brings joy, happiness and fun to this exhibition, which is a welcomed reprieve during these hard pandemic times.

[With Every Fiber](#) is on view in-person and online through April 3. Upcoming virtual studio tours by exhibiting artists include [Ruby Chishti](#) (March 11), [Mary Tooley Parker](#) (March 25) and [Jessica Lagunas](#) (April 8).



Plants and Animals by Joy Curtis (photo courtesy of Pelham Art Center)

## spotlight

# A Reflective Gateway to Downtown White Plains

by Kathleen Reckling

Soon, commuters and residents in White Plains will enjoy a new work of public sculpture at 50 Main Street, a Ginsburg Development Company (GDC) property. Artist Georgi Minchev was awarded a commission for the site through an international competitive selection process that was sponsored by GDC and managed by ArtsWestchester. Minchev's large-scale sculpture, *A Fragment of Something Bigger*, is a site-responsive work with a reflective surface that explores dynamic play between positive and negative space. Positioned at a highly trafficked corner across from the White Plains MTA Metro North Station, the playful yet elegant work of art is destined to become the City's answer to



Chicago's *Cloud Gate* (affectionately referred to as "the bean") by Anish Kapoor, CBE, RA.

*A Fragment of Something Bigger* takes the form of a water droplet,

interrupted with square voids. The piece is intended to inspire a quiet moment of reflection.

The artist observes: "We perceive more images in today's contemporary world compared to past periods. This is challenging to us. I decided to use combinations of the basic geometric figures, which are easy forms for the human brain to comprehend." While the form is simple, the polished stainless steel literally reflects the changing landscape around it, mirroring the sky, buildings and the shifting times of days and seasons.

Minchev, who maintains a practice as an

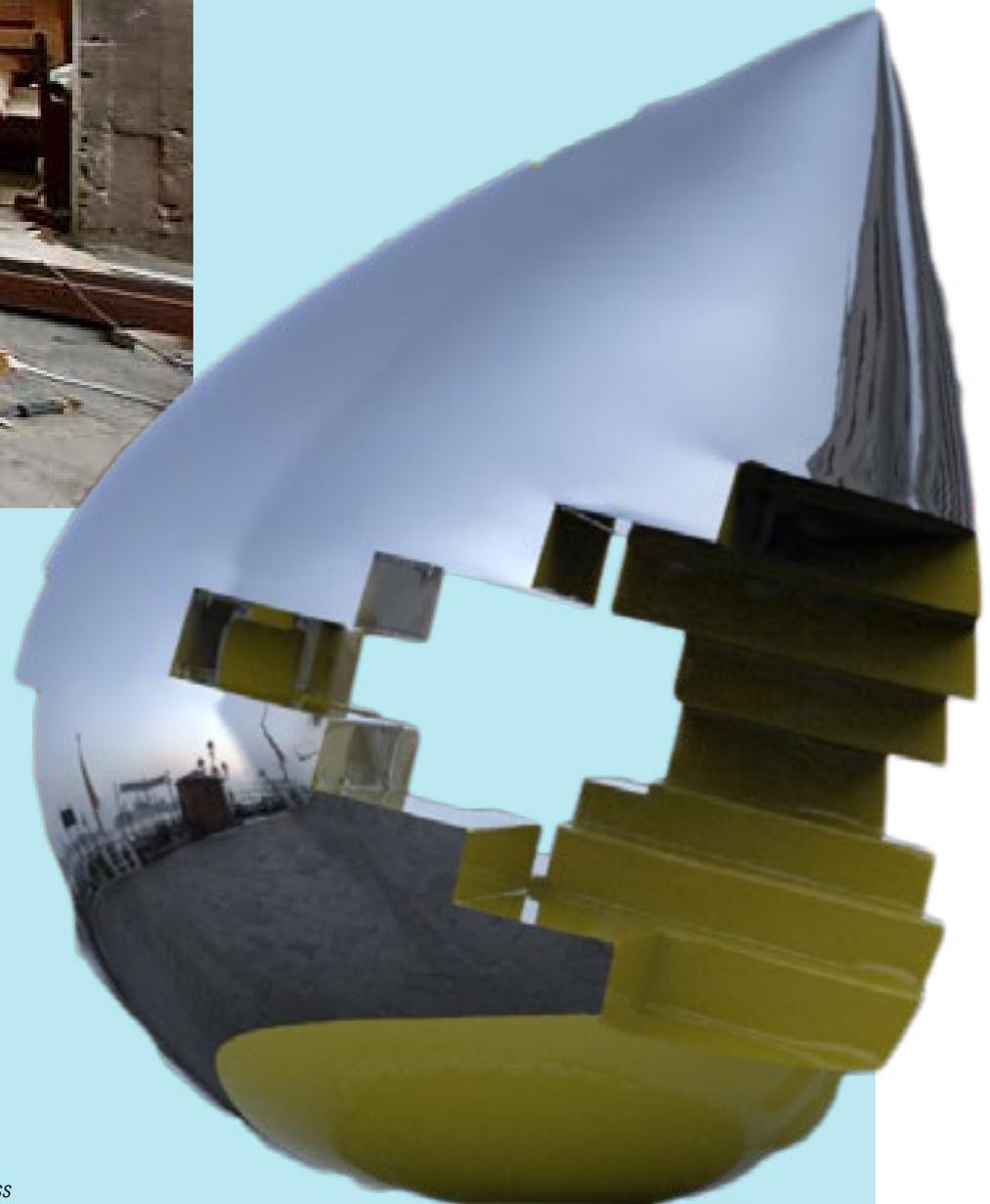
***We perceive more images in today's contemporary world compared to past periods. This is challenging to us. I decided to use combinations of the basic geometric figures, which are easy forms for the human brain to comprehend."***



exhibiting sculptor, working primarily in large-scale outdoor works, is also a Professor of Sculpture and Theoretical Disciplines at St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.

GDC and ArtsWestchester received submissions from 36 highly qualified sculptors. Three finalists were identified from the pool and invited to create scale models. In addition to Minchev, the finalists were Piero Manrique of Mamaroneck and David Provan of Cold Spring.

The sculpture is currently in production at the artist's studio in Bulgaria, and will be installed in spring 2021.



*Above: A Fragment of Something Bigger in progress  
(photo courtesy of the artist)*

*Right: Rendering courtesy of the artist*

## spotlight

# ArtsWestchester's Artist Relief Fund Nearing Its **\$25,000** Goal

The consequences of COVID-19 on America's arts sector are undeniable: a devastating \$15.2 billion economic impact. This includes a 63 percent unemployment rate among artists and gig workers. Still, artists persist and continue their work. Knowing these creatives are at the heart of Westchester's cultural community, ArtsWestchester began a relief fund to assist Westchester-based artists who have been negatively affected by the pandemic. Every \$500 raised through its [GoFundMe fundraising tool](#) will become a grant for a local artist.

With 96 percent of arts organizations having to cancel events this past year, the fund will nurture the growth of new work and help to sustain the artists who create them. To date, 25 artists have received grants since the Artist Relief Fund's creation.

Most recently, since the start of 2021, four artists were awarded grants: ceramic designer Adam Chau (Port Chester), visual artist

Maria B. Gallo (Eastchester), stage actor Jonathan Fielding (Irvington) and actor/playwright Brenda Withers (Irvington).

The [GoFundMe campaign](#) for Artist Relief is nearing its \$25K goal, in part thanks to internationally renowned 3D pop artist Charles Fazzino, who recently made a \$5,000 donation to the Fund. In addition, Fazzino is donating the proceeds of his three-dimensional fine art print "[This Soon Shall Pass](#)," created in June of last year, to a variety of charitable organizations. Anyone who purchases a mini-print of the "This Soon Shall Pass" artwork can earmark their donation for ArtsWestchester using the code: "ArtsWestchester" when ordering directly through the [gift shop page](#) of the artist's website or by emailing his gallery representative at [dddgallery@aol.com](mailto:dddgallery@aol.com).

Artists can [apply for grants online](#). The number of artists supported is a direct result of the [funds raised](#).

## Thanks to you... our Artist Relief Fund

has raised more than **\$23,143** for emergency grants to artists adversely affected by COVID-19!

### Help an Artist Today.

*The number of artists we can support is directly dependent on how much funding is raised. So, please consider a gift today.*

[Donate Today](#)

**ARTSW**  
ARTSWESTCHESTER

## Meet the first four Artist Relief Fund grantees of 2021:



### Jonathan Fielding

Jonathan Fielding is a theater artist who has performed on Broadway (*The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Noises Off*, *The Seagull*) as well as regionally (The Old Globe, Penguin Rep, The Public Theatre of Maine). He also has a long history of performing and directing many shows with Amphibian Stage in Fort Worth, TX, his hometown. Fielding has been on television (*Law and Order: SVU*, *Gotham*, *Castle Rock*),

and recently filmed a small role in Netflix's upcoming *Don't Look Up* directed by Adam McKay. He holds a BFA from Texas Christian University and an MFA from Rutgers, Mason Gross School of the Arts.



### Borinquen Gallo

Borinquen Gallo is an Italian-Puerto Rican artist whose work delves into themes of beauty, transformation, community, socio-cultural systems and structures through sculpture and installations made using a range of repurposed materials. Gallo received her BFA in Painting and Sculpture from the Cooper Union for

The Advancement of Science and Art, and her MFA in Painting from Hunter College. She has exhibited in many galleries and museums, has received numerous awards, and has worked on curatorial projects with BAM Fischer and Pratt Institute. She is currently Visiting Associate Professor of Art and Design Education at Pratt Institute in New York.



### Brenda Withers

Brenda Withers is an actor and writer based in Irvington. Recent onstage credits include the McCarter, ART, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Hartford Stage. Her plays include *The Kritik*, *JORDAN*, *The Ding Dongs*, and *String Around My Finger* and have been produced at places like Northern Stage, Hudson Valley Shakespeare

Festival, Portland Stage (Clauder Prize), and Urbanite Theatre. She is a Huntington Playwriting Fellow, a co-founder of the Harbor Stage Company, and a grateful recipient of ArtsWestchester's generous support.



### Adam Chau

Adam Chau is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute's Designed Objects program. His current body of work integrates digital manufacturing with traditional studio ceramics. His research has been published in numerous arts publications. In 2018, he was awarded the NCECA Emerging Artist Award; In 2019 he was accepted into the International Academy of

Ceramics. Chau has had solo exhibitions in the United States and China, and has participated in international projects and residencies in Italy, The Netherlands, Taiwan, and China. In 2017 Adam curated Reinvented, an exhibit featuring 13 international artists that create ceramics digitally, which travelled the U.S. to five locations for two years.

## feature

# Even in the Pandemic, New Theater Works Endure

by Michelle Falkenstein

Last March, when Governor Mario Cuomo ordered the closing of all theatrical venues in New York as part of a plan to contain the spread of COVID-19, no one could have guessed that stages would remain dark for a year.

Yet all along, many theaters have continued to produce new plays, keeping the creative fires burning for both playwrights and their own companies. This month alone, four Westchester-based theater companies are among those that are presenting new original works. While there are plans currently afoot to open live theaters with restrictions, and Congress recently passed a COVID-19 relief bill that included \$15 billion for ["Save Our Stages,"](#) these, for the time being, can be enjoyed from the comfort and safety of home.

Irvington Theater will stream four new plays as part of an [Arts Incubator Short Play Fest](#) from March 26-28.

"A short play festival was a way for us to address the desire that patrons have for new works as well as a wonderful way to celebrate emerging playwrights," says Greg Allen, Irvington's theater manager. The theater received more than two-dozen submissions for the festival.

Offerings will include *Guilt is A Mother* by Rachel Yong, *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Sam Norman and Eliza Randall, *Black and Blue* by Samuel Harps and *The Waiting Room* by Alli Hartley-Kong.

For several years, Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT) in Ossining has invited its members to tour Ossining Arts Council's June exhibition to see if any of the artworks inspired an idea for a short play. The following Spring, after reviewing submissions, WCT performs six or seven of the resulting plays as part of what it calls a ["Living Art" event.](#)



Last year's show was postponed, but on March 3, the seven new short plays selected in 2020 will be performed live, followed by rebroadcasts on March 13, 20 and 27.

"Sometimes the play has very little to do with the artwork, which is part of the fascination of it, seeing which direction the writers go off on," says Alan Lutwin, president of WCT.

This year's plays include *The Bronze Lining* by Tara Meddaugh, *Glad Rags* by Peter Andrews and *A Pair of Pears* by Schuyler Bishop. The 90-minute production features a docent-led tour of the art exhibition, which switches to a play when the docent comes to the artwork that inspired it.

"Theaters are doing interesting things and being creative however we can," says Adam David Cohen, artistic director of Arc Stages in Pleasantville. Arc will present a taped performance of [Oh, Manhattan!](#) on March 5 and 6 with a live introduction by Cohen.

The play had its original run in 1998 at Upstairs at Rose's Turn, a cabaret venue in the West Village. Cohen wrote the music for the show, with book by Kevin Laub, about two people who meet in a dog park and struggle to make a connection, unlike their dogs.

"Dogs don't have the same problems that we do with connectivity," Cohen says.

Cohen adjusted the play to accommodate the realities of the pandemic, adapting it for new audiences. *Oh, Manhattan!* was originally written for a male and female couple, but Cohen modified it to accommodate two female actors who live together. "I realized they could do a show without masks on," he says.

Hudson Stage Company in Armonk will stage a virtual reading of a new hour-long play, *The Parrot Trap* by Brenda Withers, on March 20. It's one in a [series of short one-act play readings](#).

"Our directors and actors are all getting happy because they can collaborate again," says Producer Denise Bessette. "People who are stuck at home, binge-watching TV—this would be a nice healthy appetizer for you."

So despite the pandemic, theater companies are still presenting original works, giving playwrights an outlet for their creative energies and providing audiences with fresh stories to view.

"We're all in this together," says Bessette.



## spotlight

# Artists: 8 Tips for Photographing Artwork

In preparation for ArtsWestchester's [Call for Artworks](#) for a spring 2021 exhibition, [photographer John Rizzo](#) provided a Zoom workshop dedicated to photographing artwork for the digital experience. Viewers found this information so helpful that ArtsNews decided to provide a round-up of Rizzo's best tips. While ArtsWestchester's Call closes on March 3, this information can be applied to photographing artwork at any time.

## 1 Shoot Photos in JPEG Format

While recent iPhones save files in the "high efficiency" .HEIC format, .JPEG is still the most compatible format, a standard that has been around for years. The format default can be changed by going to Settings>Camera>Formats>Most Compatible.

## 2 Consider the Background

You should avoid putting your work in front of anything that is particularly busy or bright. This will attract the viewer's eye, pulling them away from the work. Instead, it is best to go for a neutral setting that really showcases the artwork.

To make a subject stand out, you can blur the photo's background. This is possible when using Portrait Mode on iPhones 11, 11Pr, 11Pro Max, XS, XSMax, XR, X, 8Plus and 7Plus. For this to work properly, the subject should either be very far from the background or between two-to-eight feet from the camera with plenty of light.

## 3 Find the Good Light

When possible, use light from a window when there is good cloud coverage in the sky. This natural light is the best light you can have when photographing your artwork. If possible, find that good light and bring your artwork there to photograph.

## 4 If There's No Good Light, Create It

If you cannot find quality natural light, use a light source instead. A worklamp is inexpensive and can provide a great environment for you to photograph your work.. Place your light about two feet above the artwork, and at a 45-degree angle. You may even choose to use two lights so that you have broader, more even coverage.

Using a sheet of diffusion material in front of your work lamp will soften the harshness of the light. Hold a white surface, such as a piece of foam core, opposite your light source. This will reflect the light into the shadows and balance out the light.

## 5 Focus the Phone

When the iPhone's camera is facing the subject, touch the portion of the screen where the subject appears. This will tell the phone where it should focus. By holding a finger on the screen, the item will come into focus and the yellow square, indicating the area of focus, will blink.

# Shooting Artwork With an iPhone

## 6 Adjust the Brightness

Just next to the yellow square is a sundial. Sliding a finger along the sundial's scale will adjust the photograph's brightness. On Android, use the plus/minus icon.

## 7 Hold Your Cell Phone as Steady as Possible

Unlike heavier cameras that allow you to counterbalance their weight, a cell phone is very light. For that reason, it is important to be mindful of holding your phone steady. A Gimbal is a tool that allows you to stabilize your phone, which is particularly useful when shooting videos.

## 8 Play With Editing Software

Computer software like Adobe Photoshop allow for significant editing of your photographs. However, there are also plenty of iPhone apps that allow you to adjust your photograph's contrast, exposure, coloring and more. VSCO is a popular option. Play around with your editing and have fun!





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*ArtsWestchester, with New York State Thruway Authority, commissioned the large-scale public artwork Approach by Fitzhugh Karol for the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge shared path (photo credit: Margaret Fox)*

# 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](#).*

## Armonk Outdoor Art Show Artist Application

Armonk Outdoor Art Show welcomes artists to apply for a booth during its annual juried fine art and fine crafts show taking place on September 25-26. Of the applicants, 185 artists from across the country will be chosen to participate. Past exhibiting artists have had a wide array of specialties, including painting, mixed media, printmaking, photography, wearable art, sculpture and more. [Deadline: March 15](#)

## ArtsWestchester Seeks Quarantine Art for 2021 Spring Exhibition

ArtsWestchester is calling on artists and the public to submit creative works that were made during the COVID-19 pandemic for consideration in its spring 2021 exhibition. All creative projects, including works in all disciplines, are encouraged. This can include, but should not be limited to music, dance, photography, film, writing, painting and more. The exhibition will open in late April 2021 in ArtsWestchester's gallery, with a parallel virtual presentation. [Deadline: March 3](#)

## A Call for 3D Works

Blue Door Art Center is seeking 3D artwork for its upcoming *Off the Wall* exhibition. The hybrid virtual and in-person exhibition will be on view from March 27 to April 24. Submitted works can be sculpture, glass works, ceramics, mobiles, fiber art, 3D assemblages of 2D work, and more. Artists may submit up to six works. [Deadline: March 14](#)



*Armonk Outdoor Art Show (photo courtesy of Armonk Outdoor Art Show)*

## Open Grant Opportunity: Voices For Change

ArtsWestchester recently announced the launch of a major new competitive artist grant program, [Voices for Change](#), in which three artists will each be awarded grants of \$10,000 to propose and actualize new works. Mid-Hudson Valley artists working in all disciplines are invited to submit proposals for work that encourages deep thinking about complex issues such as social justice, civic equity and the public good. Proposals should also include a collaboration with a service or cultural community-based organization. [Deadline: April 5](#)

# WESTCHESTER ARTS GROUPS WIN PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL GRANTS

## Hudson River Museum Receives Mellon Foundation Grant

Hudson River Museum (HRM) **recently announced** that it is being awarded a \$200,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. HRM is one of only 14 organizations nationwide to receive the Art Museum Futures Fund, a relief initiative created to help sustain arts and cultural institutions with immediate funding during the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the fund is to recognize "visionary leadership, distinctive collections and commitment to community, as well as historically overlooked artists and histories."



Top of page: Omnipresent Future, a proposal for ArtsWestchester by artist Natalya Khorover Bottom of page: Hudson River Museum (photo courtesy of Hudson River Museum)

## Sing Sing Museum Awarded With Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant

The Sing Sing Prison Museum **has been awarded** a \$364,746 grant for infrastructure and capacity building from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The funds will be used to restore the historic 1936 Powerhouse into a multi-purpose program and exhibition space to be used for lectures, films, performances, seminars, displays and conferences related to criminal justice and the American penal system. This matching grant encourages private philanthropy to match federal funds and leverage private investment in the nation's cultural institutions. The Museum is required to raise \$1.1 million dollars to match NEH funding.



## ArtsWestchester Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant for Textile Exhibition

ArtsWestchester **has been awarded** a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support an upcoming exhibition, *The Social Fabric: Common Threads and Uncommon Visions*. The exhibition will feature new work and site-responsive commissions, featuring Hudson Valley-area artists who use textiles to explore issues of broad social consequence. According to ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam, "textiles are approachable artifacts of daily life. Beyond the clothes we wear, textiles and their associations, tactile qualities and the labor-intensive ways in which they are made can trigger moments of nostalgia, or an increased social consciousness."

## Hudson Valley MOCA Awarded Grant for "Enlighten Peekskill" Project

The National Endowment for the Arts **has awarded** Hudson Valley MOCA with a grant of \$20,000 to support its 'Enlighten Peekskill' project. The Museum's president, Dr. Livia Straus, explains: "'Enlighten Peekskill' is part of a NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), whereby Peekskill Waterfront Green and the Peekskill MTA Station will be linked to Downtown Peekskill through illuminated sculptures. These light works will offer a safe walking route that simultaneously highlights the importance of the arts in culture and commerce."

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**Stephen Machinski**  
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646.449.6336  
smachinski@pkfod.com

**Matthew G. McCrosson**, Partner  
914.421.5698  
mmccrosson@pkfod.com

**Michelle S. O'Reilly**, Partner  
845.565.5400  
moreilly@pkfod.com

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# Baroque and Beyond Festival Goes Hybrid

by Rocio De La Roca

From March 5-14, Hoff-Barthelson Music School (HBMS) will celebrate the music of the Baroque period. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school's *Baroque and Beyond festival* will offer a series of student recitals online this year via Zoom, as well as in person at the school's location in Scarsdale. The festival has been part of the School's "Festivals in Style" program for about 40 years and introduces students to specific periods of music. The hybrid presentation aims to accommodate all audiences.

Participating students were asked to audition for a panel of the School's faculty in order to perform during the festival. According to Kathryn Jones, Associate Dean at HBMS, the festival is a valuable learning opportunity that inspires stronger performances.

Jones explains: "Our Baroque and Beyond festival provides students with the opportunity to become acquainted with the audition process. It's a true character-building experience."

Student soloists and ensembles will perform works by a wide range of composers. Most will be Germanic composers, including Bach, Telemann and Handel.

The festival will kick off with an online flute performance of Bach's energetic *Sonata in E minor* (March 5). Other festival highlights include *Tambourin* by French composer Francois Joseph Gossec (March 6) and the *First movement (Vivace) of 'Sonata in A major'* by Bach (March 13).

Baroque and Beyond will culminate on March 14 with a concert that showcases viola and violin instruments in Handel's *Concerto in B minor*, as well as Bach's solo violin composition *Sonata 1 in G minor, Adagio* and *Partita No 1 in B minor, Sarabande and Double*.

In-person recitals will be reserved for the students' parents to ensure safety measures, however, all performances will be live-streamed via Zoom for anyone to view.



***Our Baroque and Beyond festival provides students with the opportunity to become acquainted with the audition process. It's a true character-building experience."***

— Kathryn Jones, Associate Dean at Hoff-Barthelson Music School

## feature

# Join the Campaign to “ReStart the Arts” in Westchester

“ReStart the Arts in Westchester and Rockland Counties” is an effort being led by the Affiliate Committee of ArtsWestchester, whose members are leaders of arts organizations that serve as board members of the umbrella organization. Together with ArtsWestchester, they are asking state legislators for an allocation of \$1 million. Laura deBuys, a committee member and The Picture House Regional Film Center CEO, stated that this funding would come at a critical time for the arts and culture business sector: “Our arts programs, which are vital economic stimulators, have been dormant for more than a year, operating virtually, and now require an enormous effort to restore, revive and reopen.” If successful, funds would be distributed by ArtsWestchester to organizations through a call for proposals that focuses on each organization’s needs to restart the arts in their own communities and throughout Westchester and Rockland Counties.

“The arts in Westchester pre-COVID produced a \$172 million economic impact, in which 5,200 jobs were actualized,” according to ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam. “In fact, over the past 25 years, the economic impact of the arts in Westchester has grown by 189%, supporting tourism but also supporting many of the restaurants and hospitality entities in the County. An investment in the arts is an investment well made. Far from being a handout, the arts in Westchester return \$25 million in taxes to state and local governments.”

New York State Assemblymember Thomas J. Abinanti explains:

“The arts are the heart of our Westchester community. The pandemic has put Westchester arts on life support. We need to pump State money into Westchester arts so they continue to inspire and drive the economy of our community.”

It has also been widely reported that due to COVID, arts organizations are experiencing an estimated \$15.2 billion negative economic impact nationally, and many have closed permanently. In Westchester alone, based on a recent survey completed by ArtsWestchester, 87% of arts groups surveyed reported that they were not faring well through the pandemic and two-thirds of local artists are unemployed. With the national creative worker unemployment rate estimated at 63%, cancelled fundraisers and cultural events, and shuttered theaters, the need has never been greater for targeted investment in the arts and culture sector.

Waddell Stillman, President and CEO of Historic Hudson Valley says: “In addition to the economic impact, the arts also have the power to educate and to heal. The pandemic has taken a toll on our residents’ mental health, particularly our children, seniors, and those living in isolated circumstances. Through the wealth of virtual programming created in the past year, cultural groups and teaching artists have kept populations engaged and provided an outlet during challenging times.”

Dave Steck, an affiliate representative and CEO of Yonkers-based YoFi Arts explains: “Right now, there is a critical need for assistance, specifically for the arts communities in Westchester and





Rockland Counties, which represent one of the State's most artistically vibrant areas outside of New York City. Westchester and Rockland's economy cannot recover unless we restart the arts." The committee acknowledges that federal PPP and Shuttered Venue funding will help address payroll, leases and utility costs but won't revitalize the cultural sector programmatically. Says Genia Flammia, Board President of Youth Theater Interactions in Yonkers: "Organizations need to reconfigure and rebuild spaces, rewrite curricula, re-connect with audiences and artists, and develop new content and presentation models that respond both to social distancing and social justice."

The ReStart the Arts grant program will help artists and art organizations get back on their feet and move forward. As they restart, their audiences will be revitalized as well, staff will be rehired, artists will get back to work and the quality of life in Westchester and Rockland will be on the road to recovery. As the arts return, so will the audiences, directing much-needed dollars to other local businesses and restaurants, thus reviving all aspects of our neighborhood economies.

New York State Senator Peter Harckham says: "I strongly support ArtsWestchester's ReStart the Arts initiative and

am fighting to see that it is funded. Investments in the arts have an enormous economic multiplying effect, creating jobs and lifting communities. This funding is vital to assisting in our pandemic recovery."

Eligibility for ReStart the Arts would include more than 150 arts organizations and artists who are based in Westchester or Rockland County, were in operation prior to March 1, 2020, and who have received ArtsWestchester funding over the past five years. Applications will assess need, viability, sustainability and previous disaster funding received.

**"I strongly support ArtsWestchester's 'ReStart the Arts' initiative and am fighting to see that it is funded. Investments in the arts have an enormous economic multiplying effect, creating jobs and lifting communities. This funding is vital to assisting in our pandemic recovery."**

**– New York State Senator Peter Harckham**

support the new needs of the cultural industry in Westchester and Rockland, positioning us for a better future. This opportunity could be a model for other regions. Right now, no other funder or agency has an opportunity that specifically targets this unique and important facet of recovery."

ArtsWestchester President Michael Minihan says, "The time is now to invest in a sector that pays dividends back to the economy. This critical investment will build local equity and economic strength in the Hudson Valley Region and enable us to better

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## upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities



*Livestream performance by David Fung and Dashon Burton presented by Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 3/21 (photo credit: Elizabeth Schumann)*

**Arc Stages** presents a *Oh Manhattan!*, an original musical streamed live on March 5 and 6 at 8pm. The musical tells the story of two New Yorkers who find love at the dog-run, and learn several semi-valuable lessons along the way. Spring Acting Classes and Performance Workshops for all ages are also available.

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

- **Seniors! Get Fit With Broadway Dancer Miss Mamie:** March 1 at 10am
- **Free Cartooning Workshop Part 2:** March 3 at 4pm via Zoom

- **Sheltering In Stanzas - An Evening of Poetry and the Arts:** March 4 at 7pm

**Axial Theatre** will debut "March Madness," an all-virtual seasonal tribute to love and lovers on March 19 & 20 at 8pm. Both programs will be available for streaming through March 28, 2021 with tickets available for purchase.

**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 &**

## upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities

**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.

- **Online Course - Reincarnations: Finding the Past in the Present:** March 20 at 10am
- **Virtual Family Project- Photography Wheatpasting:** March 20 at 4pm

**Blue Door Art Center** presents a **Black and White Photography Retrospective**, featuring the work of 93-year-old Yonkers resident Omar Kharem through March 20 (**IN PERSON**). The center will also host a series of free art workshops for kids 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).

- **Livestream- Dashon Burton, bass-baritone & David Fung, piano:** March 21 at 3pm



**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. Interested students should contact Dr. Sherry Mayo at [sherry.mayo@sunywcc.edu](mailto:sherry.mayo@sunywcc.edu) or 914-606-7385.

- Coding for Kids: March 13-May 8 at 10am-12pm
- Design Your Brand: March 2-23 at 6pm
- Social Media Marketing: March 4-18 at 6pm
- Quick Start to Adobe InDesign CC in 24 Hrs: March 6-27 at 9pm
- Quick Start to Adobe Photoshop CC in 24 Hrs: March 20-April 17 at 9am-3pm
- Social Media Measurement and ROI: March 25-April 8 at 6pm

**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.

- Learn To Use the Potter's Wheel Class: March 5 & 19 at 7pm
- Family Wheel Night (Ages 9+): March 13 & 27 at 6pm
- **Clay Class: Handbuilding in a Pinch:** March 6 at 1pm
- **Clay Class: Building with Supports & Armatures:** March 7 at 1pm
- *Balanced Beauty Porcelain Works* Exhibition: March 8-April 12
- Virtual Artist Talks: **Syd Carpenter** (March 8 at 7pm), **Dustin Yager** (March 23 at 7pm)

**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)

- Awe + Artistic Voice. What's the big deal? With Karen Hutton: March 8 at 7:30pm
- Drone Aerial Photography at its best: March 1 at 7:30pm

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for more arts events, visit [artsw.org](http://artsw.org)

**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.

- **Underscored - November 19, 1828 by John Harbison:**  
March 22 at 1pm

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

- "Wherever The Road May Lead" A Walking Recital:  
March 3 at 12:15pm
- Virtual Concerts: Abigail Fischer and Ruth Cunningham (March 17), Ivor Klayman (March 31), Svetlana Ghorokovich and Irena Portenko (March 24) at 12:15pm

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

- **Livestream Concert: The Gibson Brothers:** March 12 at 8pm
- Mozart Concerto featuring Anne-Marie McDermott

**Friends of Music Concerts** will offer a recording by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for a period of five days. On March 20-26, pianist Anne-Marie McDermott will perform a Mozart Concerto.

**Greenburgh Arts and Culture Committee** will host its Kids Short Story Connection series of Zoom writing workshops, beginning on March 13. Young writers aged 10-17 will work in a virtual, roundtable setting to develop their creativity, improve old stories and write new ones. For more information, contact Sarah Bracey White, (914) 682-1574 or via email at [bracey0114@aol.com](mailto:bracey0114@aol.com).

**The Ground Glass** presents *The Written Word*, an online exhibition featuring photographs that expresses and interprets the written media in daily lives. The group's online photography exhibition, *Abstractions*, is also still on view. [thegroundglass.org](http://thegroundglass.org)

**Hammond Museum** is offering suggestions on its website for what to read, watch,

## Funding Opportunities for Yonkers and Mount Vernon Artists and Arts Groups

ArtsWestchester is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 Mount Vernon & Yonkers Arts Initiative grant opportunities. These Initiatives are designed to help local artists and nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Yonkers and Mount Vernon create new work, build capacity and contribute to their city's community-building and economic development efforts. Application assistance is available by contacting [grants@artswestchester.org](mailto:grants@artswestchester.org).

**Application Deadline: April 6.**



Performance with Gibson Brothers recorded live for the Emelin Theatre, 3/12 (photo courtesy of band)

## upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities

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 [hammondmuseum.org](http://hammondmuseum.org).

**Hoff-Barthelson Music School** will present an in-person and virtual Baroque and Beyond Music Festival on March 5-14. The festival will feature music of Germanic composers Bach, Telemann and Handel performed by the school's students.

**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](http://writerscenter.org).

- A craft talk/workshop with Suzanne Parker: March 7 at 12:30pm via Zoom
- Poetry Reading by Kazim Ali, Jill Bialosky, and Mark Wunderlich: March 10 at 7pm via Zoom
- Generative Workshop with Mark Wunderlich: March 13 at 12:30pm via Zoom
- Open Write via Zoom (Writers Group): March 13 at 7:30pm
- Sanger Stuart Reading with Aaron Caycedo-Kimura & Matthew Thorburn (via Zoom): March 14 at 12:30pm
- The Art of Paying Attention with Anna Potter on Zoom: March 14 at 12:30pm
- How to Use Enjambment and Line Endings with Sean Singer via Zoom: March 20 at 12:30pm
- Revision with Marie Fuhrman via Zoom: March 21 at 12:30pm
- Editing & Revising Your Finished Poems for Publication on Zoom: March 23 at 5pm
- Writing Lyrical Prose via Zoom: March 27 at 12:30pm
- An Evening with Tommye Blount, Brian Komei Dempster, and Allison Hutchcraft (via Zoom): March 31 at 7pm

**Irvington Theater presents Arts Incubator Short Play Fest**, a free series of new work and works-in-progress by local playwrights on March 26-28.

**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.

- Livestream Concert - **Kenny Barron Trio**: March 20 at 8pm

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

**Katonah Museum of Art** will present three new exhibitions this March: **Still/Live**, an exhibition that explores how contemporary artists working in photography, video, and new media are reimagining the genre of still life (**IN PERSON**). Admission is by advance reservation. Hours: Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm, and Sun: 12-5pm.

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- **Director's Series: The Future of the Museum:** March 25 at 7pm
  - **Still/Live Public Opening:** March 16 at 10am-5pm

**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 Visions - Creative Possibilities, an online group show of 2-D, 3-D and fine crafts, created by the MAG artists through March 31.

- **MAG Workshop Series - Art Critique Sessions:** March 9 & 23 at 11am, March 10 & 24 at 5.30pm
- **MAG Workshop Series - How to Prepare Your Portfolio for Exhibition:** March 21 at 2pm via Zoom

**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.

- Wellness Wednesday: Connections + Guided Meditation: March 3 and 11 at 1pm
- Artist Talk Hank Willis Thomas: March 11 at 6:30pm

**Northern Star Quilters** presents "Navigating Creative Wonderland," a Zoom lecture by Katie Fowler, an improvisational art quilter who will share her creative process (March 16 at 7pm).



Virtual Chinese Brush Painting Workshop presented by Hammond Museum, 3/16 (photo source: [hammondmuseum.org](http://hammondmuseum.org))

for more arts events, visit [artsw.org](http://artsw.org)

**The Ossining Arts Council** (OAC) and **Westchester Collaborative Theater** (WCT) will present the 2021 **Virtual Living Art Event** (LAE), a showcase of seven original WCT one-act plays inspired by selected OAC artworks. The performances will be live-streamed every Saturday in March.

**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.

- **Art Journaling:** March 14 at 1-3pm
- Virtual Studio Visit: **Ruby Chishti** (March 11 at 5pm), **Mary Tooley Parker** (March 25 at 5pm)

**Pelham's The Picture House (TPH)** will kick off a year of centennial celebrations with a Marquee Night on March 20. The virtual celebration will honor TPH's critic-in residence Marshall Fine, award-winning actress and singer-songwriter Cynthia Erivo, the director of Sundance Institute's Native American and Indigenous Programs N. Bird Runningwater, and community heroes Missy and James Palmisciano.

**The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College's** online offerings include a range of live, recorded and curated events, education and entertainment.

**The Play Group Theatre's programs** have been adapted for in-person social distance, and online participation for Spring 2021. Registration is now open for programs in Community Connection, Young Actor Co, Little Theatre, PGT Kids, Teen Co, On Camera, Musical Theatre Boot Camp, Design/Tech and Virtual Stage.

**RiverArts' Composition Lab** is a weekly virtual creative experience in which musicians ages 11 and older will explore elements of music composition and each write their own piece. The program will be held from March 9-April 13 at 6:30-7:45pm.

**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.

- **Tealight Candleholders Workshop:** March 27 at 10am (**IN PERSON**)
- **Make a Sloth with Polymer Clay Workshop:** March 20 at 1, 2 & 3pm (**IN PERSON**)

**Vinnie Bagwell's Enslaved Africans' Rain Garden**, a public-art project that honors the legacy of enslaved Africans who lived at the Philipse



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## upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities



Make a Sloth with Polymer Clay Workshop at Rye Arts Center, 3/20 (photo source: ryeartscenter.org)

Manor Hall in Yonkers, New York, will be on view this March at the [Yonkers Public Library](#).

[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.

- [The Dance Film Series](#): March 7, 14 & 21

[Tarrytown Music Hall's "Night In With the Music Hall" series](#) continues with weekly livestream concerts via its [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

[The Village Squares Quilters](#) will host a Zoom lecture with Deborah Wendt on the topic of Egyptian tentmaker applique and the crafts and textiles of Egypt on March 9 at 11am. For information or to request the Zoom link, please email: [vsq@villagesquaresquilters.com](mailto:vsq@villagesquaresquilters.com).

[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.

[White Plains Public Library](#) is open to the public and allows a limited

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