

# ARTS NEWS

FEBRUARY 2022



*Painting by Alvin Clayton on view at Rye Arts Center in Alvin and Friends, on view through 1/26 (image courtesy of Rye Arts Center)*

## Celebrating Black History Month







Westchester gov.com From the County Executive

Dear Readers,

Hello, and warmest wishes for the New Year. Thank you for taking a few moments to read this February edition of ArtsNews. As the colder temperatures settle in, I want

to encourage all of you to take advantage of the many events ArtsWestchester and other Westchester arts groups have to offer from the comfort of your own home. And – if you are looking to get out for some family fun or an activity to explore, there are plenty of in-person arts happenings throughout the County. ArtsWestchester continues to provide a robust schedule of programming, including:

- the revitalization of our downtowns with art (see page A6)
- the expansion of The Picture House (see page A10)
- Black History Month and Lunar New Year celebrations (see pages A14 and A24)

In 2022, let us re-set, reflect and refresh for the days ahead. We should all find a few moments of respite, and participate in the wonderful opportunities that are right at our fingertips. As Westchester County continues on its path forward, remember that the arts will always be here for us to enjoy.

Sincerely,  
George Latimer  
Westchester County Executive

.....

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# ARTSW

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*Governor Hochul recently visited Ginsburg Development Company's property at 1 Martine Avenue in White Plains during a campaign visit. She toured the property's artwork, including a mural of Raymond Saa. (photo courtesy of Thompson & Bender)*

## Thoughts of a Cockeyed Optimist

The New York State Proposed Executive Budget for Fiscal '23 has been announced, and in it is level funding for the Arts. The budget contains the same \$100 million that was allocated last year, which included an additional \$40 million of recovery funding to New York State Council for the Arts (NYSCA) and an additional \$20 million for capital projects added to the agency's \$40 million base funding. The level funding allocation took many arts advocates like myself by surprise. While level funding is nothing to sneeze at, it was a bit of a disappointment considering the optimistic approach in Governor Hochul's 'State of the State' address, in which she acknowledged that the arts in New York State (NYS) are in peril.

In her 'State of the State' message, Gov. Hochul said: "Expansive

funding is essential to revitalize the Arts and Culture industry and reestablish NYS's commitment to being the arts and cultural capital of the world."

"We couldn't agree more," says ArtsNYS President Elizabeth Reiss, who is also president of the Capital Region Arts Council. "The Arts community, including ArtsNYS, is gearing up for the legislative engagement on the executive budget with the hope that additional funding will make it into the final document."

I still believe that we can get to a more comprehensive allocation for the arts through the legislative process. That is because Gov. Hochul is no newcomer to the administration. She is keenly aware of the deep toll COVID-19 has taken on the state's \$114 billion creative industry. It is



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



## from the CEO

believed that the number of artists and musicians affected in NYS has been estimated to be at 460,000.

In her presentation, the governor proposed to “Provide critical state funding for Arts and Culture.” We all believe in her sincerity, because she also points out that the “COVID-19 pandemic has levied immense challenges on the sector, which is contending with 21 months of revenue loss and significant workforce reduction.”

There is hope, when reading between the lines of the governor’s ‘State of the State’. In her speech, she said: “Beyond economic impact, a thriving Arts and Culture sector has overwhelmingly positive health and social benefits for a diverse population, including children, the elderly, veterans and justice-involved individuals.”

On this, there is widespread agreement; however, the budget of NYSCA over the past 10 years of the Andrew Cuomo administration did not reflect that view. During the years between 2011 and 2021 the NYSCA budget hovered around \$41 million, never even reaching the \$54 million high of 1988. By 1990, that number had dropped to \$46M. Then, in February of 1991, former Governor Mario Cuomo suggested a 56% cut.

Last year, with the recognition that NYS’s Arts and Culture sector

was in peril, a one-time infusion of \$100 million was added to NYSCA’s bottom line. The allocation was a recovery item that would not necessarily continue as part of NYSCA’s base going forward, which is what arts advocates had hoped for.

Gov. Hochul says she will provide additional funds for arts recovery and capital improvements related to COVID-19 impacts on top of the agency’s annual base funding of NYSCA. “NYSCA funding drives local economies, and the development of main street businesses across all 62 counties,” she said.

“ArtsNYS is pleased that Gov. Hochul views all 62 counties as important art centers,” says Reiss.

This investment reflects the pivotal role of New York’s creative sector and its capacity to propel the economic growth and health of all New Yorkers.

In her address, Gov. Hochul quickly put aside “the woman thing”: “I am not here to make history,” she said. “I’m here to make a difference.” In the end, arts advocates around the state are indeed hoping that she will make that difference.

***Expansive funding is essential to revitalize the Arts and Culture industry and reestablish NYS’s commitment to being the arts and cultural capital of the world.”***

*- New York State Governor, Kathy Hochul*



(photo courtesy of Thompson & Bender)





# ARTS AWARD CELEBRATION

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feature

# Revitalizing Our Downtowns

## with Art

by Janie Rosman



William Logan's ARC is installed on the Peekskill waterfront (photo co



Two mid-Hudson villages are \$10 million closer to rejuvenating their waterfronts and downtown areas after winning Round 5 of New York State's [Downtown Revitalization Initiative \(DRI\)](#) to boost post-COVID-19 economies. A third community is implementing DRI-funded projects.

Governor Kathy Hochul assures: "We will continue to give communities across the state, like Ossining and Haverstraw, the extra boost they need to recover from the pandemic and create more viable, livable, walkable downtowns."

***“Not only do the arts improve quality of life and attract tourists, they create jobs and boost the economy.”***

[Round 5 winners Haverstraw and Ossining](#) are formulating Strategic Investment Plans to identify signature projects, which must be shovel-ready within two years — creating open spaces, adding public art and wayfinding signage, redeveloping vacant spaces, and encouraging museums to embrace their respective diverse histories. Peekskill, a Round 4 DRI winner is putting plans into place.

ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam adds: "Over the past 10 years, these three communities have really invested time and resources in bringing the arts to their neighborhoods. Therefore, there's a bright future for their downtowns to be teeming with creative energy."

Not only do the arts improve quality of life and attract tourists, they create jobs and boost the economy. Westchester County generated \$172.3 million in economic activity, according to [a study by Americans for the Arts](#).

According to Ossining Mayor Rika Levin, "The Village of Ossining has an extremely talented and



Haverstraw Brick Museum (photo courtesy of Haverstraw Brick Museum)



diverse arts community with artists of all ages. DRI funding will catalyze myriad opportunities for the arts to continue to grow and thrive. This will further establish Ossining as a destination showcase for art, history, theater and music, ideally situated on the majestic Hudson River.”

“It’s the first time two villages won DRI funding,” Ossining Village Manager Karen D’Attore says, enthusiastic that connectivity with Rockland County will benefit their downtown areas. “We are excited to explore ways to optimize waterfront activity and enhance river access with our sister village, Haverstraw.”

D’Attore says that projects like the Sing Sing Prison Museum and other historic preservation and revitalization initiatives that create an arts presence will transform downtowns into destinations.

Two key items on Haverstraw Mayor Michael F. Kohut’s list are adding off-peak and weekend ferry service, and developing the chair factory site.

“This [ferry] would be a game-changer for the village,” Kohut says. “It’s very important to the village, and we would like to spend money on this.” He foresees an e-bike station near the ferry pier “for people who want to come downtown and then visit West Point or Harriman [State Park].”

The nine-acre chair factory project includes relocating an original chimney from one of Haverstraw’s brick factories — a nod to its 19th-century robust spirit — in addition to extending the Henry Hudson Quadricentennial Promenade along the waterfront, public amenities, and a potential canoe/kayak launch.

amenities, and a potential canoe/kayak launch.

“Haverstraw is ethnically and culturally diverse, and projects should benefit the entire community,” Village Planner Max Stach emphasizes. “This [chair factory] project is transformational, and we’re aiming for whatever we can do to make it successful.”

Stach agrees that cross-river connections and last-mile connections at the ferry landing for bike shares or car shares encourage visitors. “Once in Haverstraw it’s a short ride to Bear Mountain, Hi Tor and Harriman State Parks. Crossing the ferry to Ossining is then a train ride to Yankee Stadium for a baseball game.”

DRI Round 4 winner Peekskill received grants last

spring for 12 projects, among them relocating the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, implementing public Wi-Fi and low-cost internet service, as well as wayfinding signage to mark and brand its history and culture, and the reconstruction of Fleischman Pier for



**“The Village of Ossining has an extremely talented and diverse arts community with artists of all ages...”**

*- Mayor Rika Levin*

*Dancers from the Ossining-based Westchester Dance Artists (photo courtesy of Westchester Dance Artists)*





*Ossining musician KJ Denhart (photo credit: Kyra Kverno Photography, courtesy of the artist)*

improvements to Charles Point Park.

"Arts are a big part of Peekskill," City Manager Andy Stewart, PhD emphasizes. He adds that "both arts projects — renovating the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater and public art linking downtown to the riverfront — involved private, not city, applications."

The city awaits funding contracts for most of its DRI projects with the exception of the Downtown Revitalization Fund, a grant program for business capital projects. "[We have] been working with the NYS Homes and Community Renewal, the agency to which this contract has been assigned, to develop the administrative plan for this new grant program and are searching for a consultant to manage the grant

program."

Recent support through the NYS Consolidated Funding Application complements DRI-approved funding for a new pier that would enable large boats to dock there. Pier construction will begin this year.

Strategic Investment Plans for Ossining and Haverstraw are due by summer; the state will select projects to be funded this fall.



feature



The Picture House in Pelham, NY (photo credit: Len Elmer)



# THE PICTURE HOUSE EXPANDS TO BRONXVILLE

by Mary Alice Franklin, ArtsNews Editor

*The Picture House Regional Film Center* (TPH) was formed in 2003 when it saved a 1920s theater in Pelham from being demolished. Now the organization will save another '20s-era theater, this time in Bronxville. The film center recently announced its plans to expand programming to a Kraft Avenue theater that is owned by, and was previously operated by, Bow Tie Cinemas.

According to President and Executive Director Laura deBuys, the board has been looking for ways to expand since the organization's inception: "The idea was always to have another large capacity theater... In 2019, we even did exploration for a capital campaign for expansion."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, those plans were put on pause – until Bow Tie announced that it would not be reopening its Bronxville location. It was then that the pieces fell into place for The Picture House.

In March of 2021, Bronxville Mayor Mary Marvin put out a letter to the community in hopes that someone would take over the facility's operations.

DeBuys says that by June, her team was convinced that it was the perfect fit: "It was really a way for us to do the expansion that we always wanted and needed to do, but without a huge capital investment. It's completely aligned with our mission as a regional film center and is going to help us extend our reach and impact."

The overall programming in Bronxville will be similar to Pelham's, "We're just bigger and better now, with two locations." The expansion will allow TPH three additional screens on which to present films. DeBuys noted that they will be up and running by February 11. Beyond that, they will make improvements depending upon the needs of the community and how much money they raise.

This is viable, she says. While the margins on for-profit movie theaters are slim, deBuys explains that the non-profit community-based, mission-driven model has seen theaters bounce back or open anew, even since COVID. "It just became so obvious during the pandemic] that this kind of community experience – seeing a film together, talking about

ideas – is just essential."

She adds: "This is an exceptional time for storytelling, and films are brilliant at telling stories. I think everybody recognized during the pandemic that stories help us get away, explore things, express things... They're critical."

Along with its expanded screenings, The Picture House plans to increase its educational offerings with the new location, "first thing," though a launch date hasn't yet been determined.

Bronxville Mayor Mary Marvin said: "The Picture House brings communities together around film and cultural discourse," and noted that the organization's presence "will not only strengthen [Bronxville's] community culturally, it will also help to attract more people to eat, shop and visit [its] downtown."

The timing of this new development comes at the tail end of the centennial celebration of the Center's iconic Pelham theater. Recent centennial initiatives include a new ambassador program to further widen the organization's impact. A gala event on March 11 will honor ArtsWestchester CEO

Janet Langsam and New York State Senator Charles Schumer.

"[Our honorees] have both done so much to help us survive and grow. Janet Langsam has really mentored The Picture House and has made huge gains for the arts in Westchester County – and without Senator Schumer's Save Our Stages legislation, we would not be here to celebrate our moving into our second century."

The Pelham building has deep roots in the community. DeBuys says she gets emails from people telling her about their memories: "There are just decades of experiences that these buildings hold on to. That's really what everything we do is about."

Her hope is that the buildings, now plural, will continue to nurture new memories for years to come. "[Despite the pandemic], we know that people will continue to want to get together. And we'll provide the content."

***"I think everybody recognized during the pandemic that stories help us get away, explore things, express things... They're critical."***

– President and Executive Director,  
Laura deBuys



## feature



# The Arts are Set to Fuel Recovery Efforts in White Plains This Summer

The arts are poised to take over downtown White Plains this summer. ArtsWestchester was awarded a \$500,000 Market New York grant to use the arts as a way to promote economic development and tourism in the City of White Plains. The funds were awarded by I LOVE NY/New York State's Division of Tourism through the State's Regional Economic Development Council initiative.

The state grant will help ArtsWestchester to mount the *Serious Fun Arts Festival* in July of this year, a four-day celebration of the cultural community where art and music will be present all over White Plains.

"The Market New York Tourism Grant funding is a momentous opportunity for us to continue working with White Plains to help brand the City as an arts-centric destination. Artists are key to the City's creative spirit as we plan for a post-pandemic recovery," says ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam.

Westchester muralist Daniel Carello says: "This will certainly help the arts community, which has been greatly affected by the pandemic. The financial support and aid will restore enthusiasm and an esprit de corps among artists during this challenging period."

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach and Langsam were recently on a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) panel to select a major new work of art for the Metro-North Train Station, which just completed a \$94 Million renovation. Visitors coming to White Plains

by train are now welcomed to the city by [two major art installations by Barbara Takanaga](#), commissioned by MTA Arts & Design.

Langsam says, "The *Serious Fun Arts Festival* is the capstone project of more than five years of work and planning in public art. We know this investment in public art and placemaking will enliven the city for years to come."

The *Serious Fun Arts Festival* will brighten the city with arts activities ranging from concerts and live mural painting to a public art walking tour and dancing in the streets. There will be sculpture, performance art, massive public art unveilings by renowned artists, family art-making activities and more throughout the downtown.

In addition to Takanaga's luminescent mosaics at the train station, the 2022 summer arts festival will spotlight new, landmark artworks, including a reflective two-story stainless-steel sculpture by Bulgarian artist Georgi Minchev; a colorful nine-story fabric installation by internationally renowned artist Amanda Browder; a skyscraper-high landmark mural by a celebrity of the street art scene; three sculpture installations by Hudson Valley artists; and more.

The timing of the festival capitalizes on the summer getaway period, during which consumers seek accessible, exciting destinations for long weekends. The event will welcome locals as well as visitors coming to White Plains by bus, train or car.

The festival is ArtsWestchester's latest investment in a public art program that, since 2020, has provided artists with more than \$700K in grants and commissions and delivered two-dozen new works throughout Westchester County.



**“We know this investment in public art and placemaking will enliven the city for years to come.”**

*-ArtsWestchester CEO, Janet Langsam*



*Sculpture by Georgi Minchev at 50 Main Street in White Plains (photo credit: Thompson & Bender)*



## feature



*Photo from Bethany Arts Community's Ossining Black History & Culture exhibition (courtesy of Bethany Arts Community)*

# Westchester Arts Groups Celebrate **Black** History Month

Negro History Week was conceived in 1925; more than half a century later, it was expanded into Black History Month. At the time, President Ford encouraged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often-neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." It is with this commitment that several arts organizations in Westchester celebrate Black History Month this February. Each explores varying aspects of history as a reflection of current Black life and experiences.

Through March 1, [Studio Theater in Exile](#) virtually presents

four previously shown works that address the Black experience. Art historian Jonette O'Kelley Miller shines a light on stereotypical and racist depictions of African Americans in artworks throughout time, which often perpetuate the defense of slavery, show Black people as inferior or display ignorance and bias. Poet Lorraine Currelley's work, curated for Juneteenth, displays a collection of historical documents, quotes and images, as well as a series of Currelley's poems. Photographer Ocean Morisset presents part of an ongoing photo documentary about New York City during the COVID-19 pandemic. As many images show Black



Lives Matter protesters donning masks, Morisset points out that society is “fighting two pandemics simultaneously: Coronavirus and Racism.” A spoken word piece written and performed by Tyler Damon Rice asserts that ideal beauty standards are manufactured by retail conglomerates and advertisers. Through his words, Rice “reminds Black women that they are beautiful.”

Through February 26, [Rye Arts Center](#) presents *Alvin and Friends*, an exhibition that features artworks by artist Alvin Clayton, whose colorful and bold paintings reflect his life as a Caribbean/African American man. The show also includes a selection of works of a dozen emerging Black artists from the region, who represent a variety of media. A reception will take place on February 3 and an artist talk will be presented on February 19.

On February 15, ArtsWestchester’s [Teen Tuesdays](#) program presents a Black History Month workshop led by teaching artist Aisha Nailah. The workshop, designed for teens aged 12-16, shines a light on important Black leaders by guiding participants in a multimedia arts project. Students will learn an image-transfer technique that mimics the artists’ own style of painting, which is inspired by graffiti. The images chosen will be of iconic African American thought leaders, teachers and activists.

With an exhibition and programming series that aims to facilitate dialog, [Bethany Arts Community](#) (BAC) will present a look at Black history and culture in its town of Ossining. Beginning February 4, the *Ossining Black History & Culture* exhibition will display a selection of art and artifacts to “uncover and display history as it was experienced by Black Americans,” particularly in Ossining.

The BAC will supplement the show with a series of programs, including a guided talk with the curator (Feb. 16); an R&B concert (Feb. 19); “paint and poetry jam,” during which spoken word artists read their work while a painter creates a piece inspired it (Feb. 25); a DJ battle for which the audience decides the winner (Mar. 5); and a talent showcase and fashion show organized by the Ossining Branch of the NAACP to close out the exhibition on March 12.

The exhibition’s curator, Ossining Village Historian Joyce Sharrock Cole, says: “My hope is that what is learned here is passed on until we have all learned the history that has been omitted, suppressed and overlooked.”

**Stay Tuned!** Artist Wesley Wofford’s *Harriet Tubman: The Journey to Freedom* statue, which was [on display in Peekskill last winter](#), will soon return to Westchester. The nationally touring statue will be on display in White Plains for three months beginning in April.



Harriet Tubman: The Journey to Freedom statue by Wesley Wofford (photo courtesy of Peekskill BID)



## feature



*Squash by Judy Pfaff (image courtesy of Neuberger Museum of Art)*

# A History in Printmaking

by Barbara Shapiro

“It’s time to turn off your brain and use your eyes,” says Dr. Tracy Fitzpatrick, the [Neuberger Museum of Art](#) Director, who also curated the Museum’s [Impressions: The Inventions of Printmaking](#) exhibition.

This tour of works-on-paper from the Museum’s permanent collection covers major printmaking methods – relief, intaglio, lithography and silkscreen. It also answers the questions of both visitors who are new to the printmaking process and those who are seasoned in the topic: What is a print? How are they done? How can I tell one kind of print from another? What artists are making prints?

Fitzpatrick explains: “The purpose of this exhibition is to explain and show how prints are made in hopes that it will be used as a teaching moment for museum-goers, as well as for the students, teachers and staff of SUNY



Purchase [where the museum is located].”

Printmaking has come a long way since 220 A.D., when wood block prints were first used to replicate images on fabric. This earliest method was relief printing, which used a wood matrix to allow for multiple copies to be made. This expelled the process of having to make copies of text, illustrations or artwork by hand.

That said, the first print on paper wasn't made until the 7th century. Since then, many different techniques and print types have been developed and honed.

Walking around the gallery, visitors may be surprised to see how many of the printmakers they are familiar with as painters. Pablo Picasso and Helen Frankenthaler both used the relief method. Picasso used reduction linocut in *Femme endorme* (1962) and Frankenthaler's *Savage Breeze* (1974) is a woodcut.

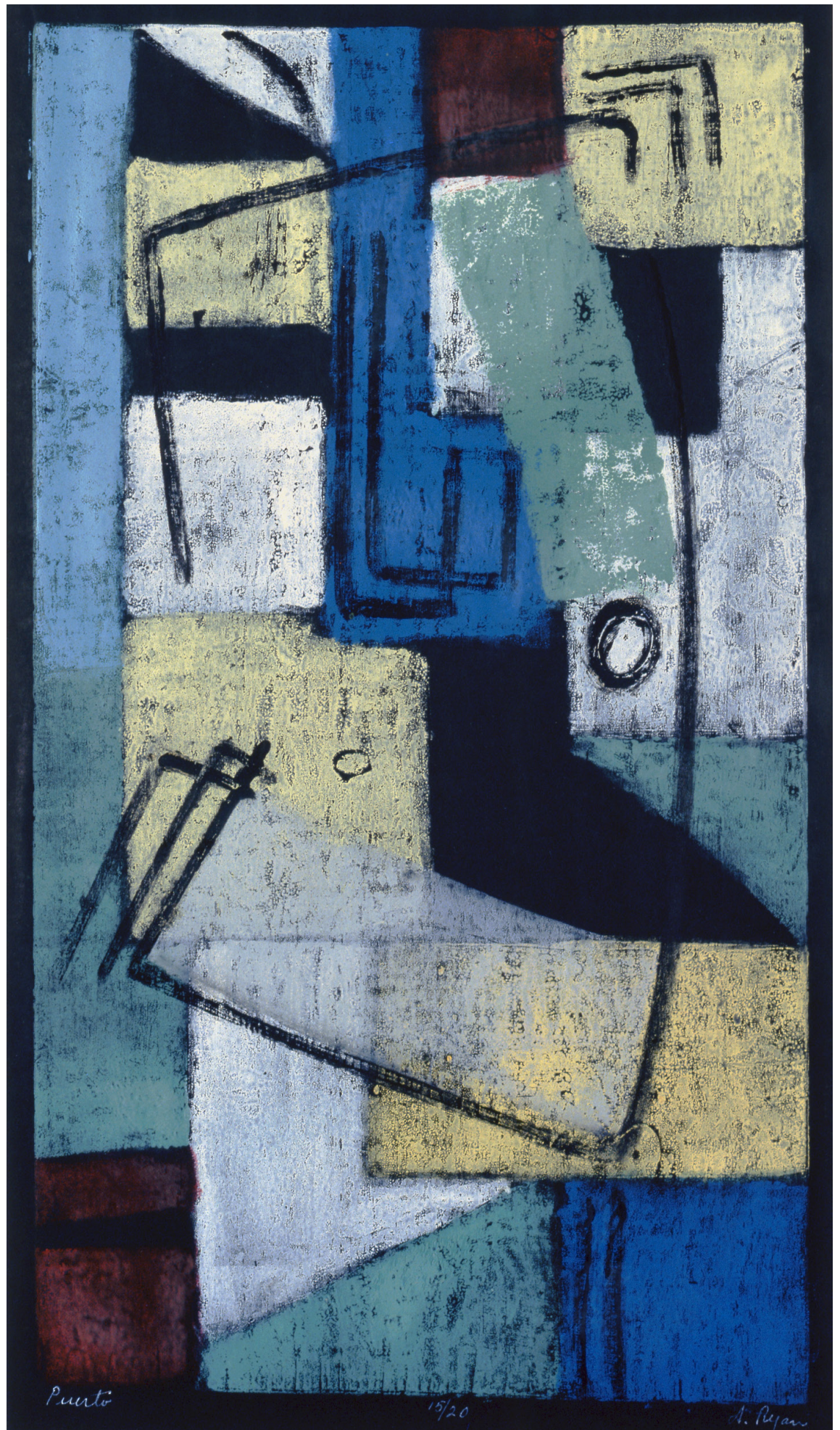
Meanwhile, works by Francisco de Goya and Alex Katz both demonstrate the intaglio technique. In relief prints, the raised portion of the matrix produces the print; however, intaglio is the opposite. With this technique, the hollow portions of the engraved material hold the ink.

De Goya's *Disparate feminino (Feminine Folly)* (circa 1815-1823) uses etching and aquatint, while Katz's *The Striped Shirt* (1980) on display is the second print from an edition of eight.

Lithographs mimic drawings. Screenprints are a common stenciling method. Both use a flat matrix that has no incised or raised lines or shapes. Two contrasting lithographs on view in the *Impressions* exhibition are Robert Rauschenberg's *Water Stop* (1968) and Marisol's *Family Portrait* (1961).

Lee Bontecou's *Untitled, 1967* screenprint is printed on muslin mounted on board; but, perhaps the most famous name in screenprinting is Andy Warhol, who added diamond dust to his *Shoes* (1980) print.

After the Museum reopens to the public on February 2, the *Impressions* exhibition will remain on view through February 27.



Puerto by Anne Ryan (image courtesy of Neuberger Museum of Art)



## feature

## YONKERS ARTS:

## “A Conduit for Local Artists”

by Michelle Falkenstein



Yonkers Arts Executive Director Ray Wilcox in front of the Yonkers Arts mural painted by Tats Cru (photo courtesy of Yonkers Arts)

The transformation of Yonkers into a haven for artists was validated in 2015 when 1.5 million square feet of the former Alexander Smith Carpet Mills, once one of the largest carpet manufacturers in the country, was designated by the city as the [Carpet Mills Arts District](#).

Among those celebrating this event alongside the city's burgeoning artist community was the non-profit organization [Yonkers Arts](#), which was founded in 2007 to develop a strong, effective and cooperative network of artists, cultural organizations and community members in Yonkers with a goal of promoting and encouraging the arts.

The group's original home was the studio of artist Adam Shultz, who also served as a founding member of its board. In 2018, Yonkers Arts got the keys to its current 4,000-square-foot space in the Arts District and spent a year renovating what Executive Director Ray Wilcox calls "all types of weird" into a performance stage and art gallery.

The backdrop to the stage was created by Tats Cru, a group of Bronx-based graffiti artists turned professional muralists. "We wanted that old-school graffiti look," Wilcox says.

**“YOHO STUDIOS IS A CONVERTED WAREHOUSE BRIMMING WITH CREATORS AND PURVEYORS OF ALL TYPES...”**

Yonkers Arts has hosted both in-person and virtual events in its new home, including concerts, poetry slams and art exhibitions. Most of the recent in-person events have been small or streamed due to COVID-19, but Wilcox hopes to populate the calendar again once the pandemic has slowed down.

Another issue remained—the cost of renting a studio in the Arts District is financially out of reach for many local artists. But now, thanks to an artists-in-residence program, a partnership between



Yonkers Arts and the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY), one local artist has access to a free studio in the YOHO Studios building, the beating heart of the Capital Mills Arts District, for one year.

**YOHO Studios** is a converted warehouse brimming with creators and purveyors of all types—artists, musical instrument makers and restorers, antique dealers, set designers, movie studios, staging companies, furniture refinishers and more. (YOHO stands for “Yonkers Over Houston,” a wink to the artsy Manhattan neighborhoods of SoHo and NoHo.)

“We are trying to be a conduit for the local artists,” Wilcox says. “I love working with our neighbors in the community.”

Artist Shanequa Benitez is the program’s first beneficiary of the residency program, and Wilcox hopes that three to five YOHO studios will be made available to other local artists in the future.

Benitez, who divides her time between Yonkers and Harlem, was born and raised in the Locust Hill section of Yonkers. “I wear that with pride,” she says.

She has been using her new studio to continue a series of paintings about redlining—an illegal practice in which certain neighborhoods are denied mortgage loans or insurance services because of the racial makeup of the population. It’s a topic she’s been exploring for several years.

It was Benitez’s redlining project that initially caught the attention of Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of MHACY. Benitez explains: “Wilson Kimball had an idea that I could create work for the Housing Authority.” When Benitez told her she didn’t have a place to work, Kimball and Wilcox got together and the artists-in-residence program was born.

Wilcox’s hopes for the future include expanding Yonkers Arts’ footprint, both literally and figuratively. “I want to be in a position to have more than one gallery space, and I want to offer more opportunities for local artists,” he says. “We’re also big on the beautification of Yonkers, so anything we can do to foster that is great.”

Benitez calls it “amazing” to be the first artist in residence. She hopes to have a show of her redlining project at Yonkers Arts later this year.

“There’s a little pressure,” she says, “but I’m ready to work.”



*A young visitor observes artwork at the Yonkers Arts gallery space (photo courtesy of Yonkers Arts)*



## spotlight

# Congrats to the New Artist Fellows!

Four Westchester-based artists have received an Artist Fellowship from [New York State Council of the Arts / New York Foundation for the Arts](#), an unrestricted cash grant available to artists chosen from fifteen different disciplines over a three-year period. The Fellowship is not a project grant, but is intended to fund an artist's vision or voice at all levels of their artistic development. Here are Westchester's four fellows:

## Lauren Acampora (Fiction)

[Lauren Acampora](#) writes fiction novels and short stories that follow characters with an obsession, all-encompassing purpose or vision, or a flawed view of the world, which often drives them to self-sabotaging behavior and turmoil. Her most recent work, supported by this NYSCA/NYFA fellowship award, is a collection of linked stories that explore how the above issues present themselves in human-animal relationships. Acampora reflects on receiving the award: "The fellowship is helping me to bridge the gap creatively and financially. I'm grateful to NYFA for its steadfast support of New York artists and for celebrating the artistic vibrancy of our incredible state." Acampora is the author of *The Wonder Garden* (winner of the GLCA New Writers Award and a finalist for the New England Book Award), and *The Paper Wasp*, which was long-listed for the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize. Her new novel, *The Hundred Waters*, will be published by Grove Atlantic in August.



## Sahar al-Sawaf (Video/Film)

[Sahar al-Sawaf](#) is an Iraqi filmmaker and visual teaching artist who primarily works in documentary and animation. Al-Sawaf, who was born in Saudi Arabia, grew up in Lebanon and Iraq, and arrived in America days before the start of the Persian Gulf War, shares her experiences as an Iraqi refugee through her diverse works. According to the artist, her work also allows her to depict areas in the world that are often misperceived, like the Middle East, in a more positive light. Al-Sawaf, says: "Rarely do filmmakers get recognized, paid, supported... For ones like myself, an Iraqi immigrant, it is close to none. This award will continue to support my commitment to myself as a filmmaker and help me to push the bounds of my voice as a storyteller." The filmmaker is currently working on an animated feature film, *Tigris*, which is set in the desolate, ruined landscape of a future Iraq and explores the trauma of a family lost in wartime.







### **Athena LaTocha (Painting)**

Artist [Athena LaTocha's](#) site-responsive mixed-media works investigate the human impact on the natural world. LaTocha, who is an Alaskan native and part of the Lakota and Ojibwe Indian tribe nations, is influenced by the indigenous philosophies of these areas. Her large-scale paper works aim to evoke admiration for nature's invaluable qualities. The abstract works also comment on environmental degradation, historic and cultural narratives, and the traumatic experiences of indigenous people in the Americas. "The NYSCA/NYFA Fellowship award could not have come at a better time," says LaTocha. With support from the award, the artist was able to hire assistants to complete work for three major exhibitions, on view at the BRIC House in Brooklyn, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey and MoMA PS1 in New York.



### **Hee Jung Han (Folk & Traditional Arts)**

Hee Jung Han of Eastchester is one of very few professional haegeum (traditional Korean two-string fiddle) performers in the United States. As a Korean tradition bearer, performer and educator, Han uses music to build bridges between Korean and non-Korean communities in New York, New Jersey and beyond. In her own words, her performance philosophy is to "stay rooted in Korean cultural heritage, while also bringing the old into contact with the new...to situate the centuries-old haegeum within today's contemporary social and artistic environment." With her NYSCA/NYFA fellowship, Han will record an EP of traditional Korean music, which will be distributed on a variety of digital platforms. Along with the recording release, she hopes to organize a public performance of Korean traditional music in Westchester, which will feature leading traditional Korean musicians in the area.

(photo credit: Margaret Fox)



## spotlight

# 106 Arts Groups

Despite a number of ups and downs in the cultural industry these past two years, more than 100 Westchester arts organizations together raised nearly \$1.1 million in private and matched support. These funds will directly support the arts and culture community at a time when many organizations are still working on pandemic recovery.

The groups of all sizes and artistic disciplines participated in the [Art\\$WChallenge](#) matching grant program, a fundraising opportunity supported with funds from County Executive George Latimer and the Board of Legislators.

With this support, ArtsWestchester had over \$400,000 available to award. From mid-August through mid-December, eligible groups were challenged to use County funding as leverage to raise new monies that will support their operations and ongoing programming.

For instance, New Rochelle Opera Co-Founder and Artistic Director Camille Coppola says that her organization will use its grant to present its upcoming production of *Tosca* in June.

According to David Lyons, Bethany Arts Community's Founder and Board President, the Challenge funds will enable his organization to increase the stipend that they are able to pay the artists who participate in its residencies.

ArchForKids Director Kathryn Slocum explains that the Challenge inspired them to implement its first-ever fundraising campaign since its 2013 launch: "As a small organization, these funds will make a huge impact, particularly as ArchForKids emerges from the pandemic."

At final tally, 106 organizations participated in the program – the most ever since the inception of the Art\$WChallenge in 2007. The list includes 20 first-time participants. In all, they raised \$652,631 in private donations, of which \$429,064 will be matched by Westchester County funding. This totals more than one million dollars in support that will help to uphold the County's arts and culture community for the coming year.





# Groups Joined the Challenge!

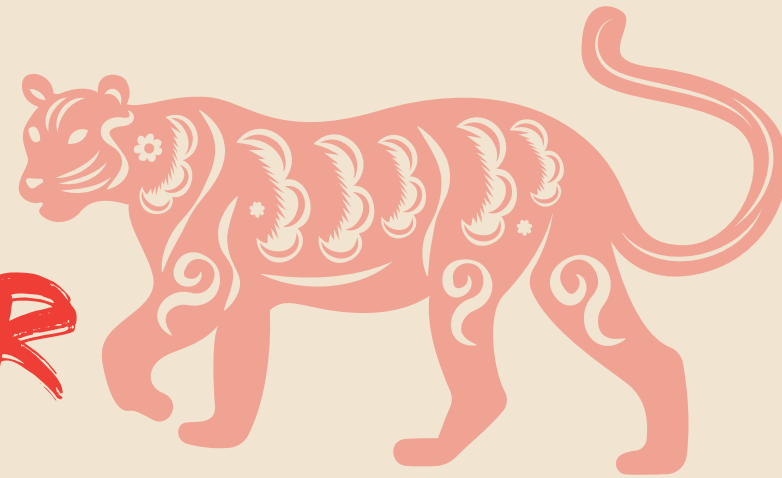
## Here are the 106 grantees that participated in the Art\$WChallenge:

Actors Conservatory Theatre (Yonkers)	Hamm & Clov Stage Company (Yonkers)	Music Conservatory of Westchester (White Plains)	Tarrytown Music Hall (Tarrytown)
Antonia Arts (Peekskill)	Hammond Museum (North Salem)	Neuberger Museum of Art (Purchase)	The Coleman School of Dance (New Rochelle)
Arc Stages (Pleasantville)	Harrigan Educational & Cultural Center (Mount Vernon)	New Choral Society (Scarsdale)	The Play Group Theatre (White Plains)
Arch For Kids (Dobbs Ferry)	Harrison Public Library Foundation (Harrison)	New Rochelle Council on the Arts (New Rochelle)	The Revelators (Mount Vernon)
Arts and Culture Committee (Greenburgh)	Historic Hudson Valley (Tarrytown)	New Rochelle Opera (New Rochelle)	The Rye Arts Center (Rye)
Arts10566 (Peekskill)	Hoff-Barthelson Music School (Scarsdale)	Nowodworski Foundation (Yonkers)	The Symphony of Westchester (New Rochelle)
Asbury-Crestwood United Methodist Church (Tuckahoe)	Hudson Ballet Theatre (White Plains)	Orchestra 914 (Pleasantville)	The Westchester Chordsmen (White Plains)
Ballet des Ameriques School and Company (White Plains)	Hudson Chorale (Pleasantville)	Ossining Arts Council (Ossining)	Tutti Bravi Productions (New Rochelle)
Bedford Playhouse (Bedford)	Hudson Stage Company (Armonk)	Peekskill Arts Alliance (Peekskill)	Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy (Yonkers)
Bethany Arts Community (Ossining)	Hudson Valley MOCA (Peekskill)	Pelham Art Center (Pelham)	Untermeyer Performing Arts Council (Yonkers)
Blue Door Art Center (Yonkers)	Hudson Valley Writers Center (Sleepy Hollow)	Performing Arts Center at Purchase College (Purchase)	Urban Studio Unbound (Yonkers)
Caramoor Center for Music & Arts (Katonah)	India Center of Westchester (Hawthorne)	Picture House Regional Film Center (Pelham)	Wakanda Celebration (Mount Vernon)
Clay Art Center (Port Chester)	Irvington Shakespeare Company (Irvington)	PJS Jazz Society (Mount Vernon)	Westchester Children's Chorus (Larchmont)
CLC Foundation (Mount Kisco)	Jacob Burns Film Center (Pleasantville)	A Palo Seco Flamenco Company (Tarrytown)	Westchester Children's Museum (Rye)
Clocktower Players (Irvington)	Jazz Forum Arts (Tarrytown)	Rehabilitation Through the Arts (Purchase)	Westchester Chorale (White Plains)
Copland House (Cortlandt)	Just The Place (Peekskill)	River's Edge Theatre Company (Irvington)	Westchester Collaborative Theater (Ossining)
Cross Cultural Connection (Peekskill)	Katonah Classic Stage (Katonah)	Rivertown Dance Academy (Tarrytown)	Westchester Philharmonic (White Plains)
Daisy Jopling Music Foundation (Peekskill)	Katonah Museum of Art (Katonah)	River Arts (Hastings On Hudson)	White Plains Downtown District Management Association (White Plains)
Downtown Music at Grace (White Plains)	KinoSaito (Verplank)	Ruth Keeler Memorial Library (North Salem)	White Plains Performing Arts Center (White Plains)
Emelin Theatre for Performing Arts (Mamaroneck)	Lagond Music School (Elmsford)	Schoolhouse Theater (North Salem)	YoFiFest (Yonkers)
Enslaved Africans Rain Garden (White Plains)	Limelight Theatre Company (Somers)	Sidra Bell Dance New York (White Plains)	Yonkers Arts (Yonkers)
Fine Arts Orchestral Society of Yonkers (Yonkers)	LMC Media (Mamaroneck)	Sing Sing Prison Museum (Ossining)	Yonkers Riverfront Library (Yonkers)
Folklore Urbano NYC (Tarrytown)	Lyndhurst, A National Trust Historic Site (Tarrytown)	Sleepy Hollow Performing Artists (Sleepy Hollow)	Young at Arts (Scarsdale)
Friends of Mount Vernon Recreation (Mount Vernon)	M&M Performing Arts Company (Tarrytown)	Songcatchers (New Rochelle)	Youth Theatre Interactions (Yonkers)
Friends of Music Concerts (Millwood)	Mamaroneck Artists Guild (Mamaroneck)	Sound Shore Chorale of New Rochelle (New Rochelle)	
GoJo Clan Productions (Hastings on Hudson)	Mamaroneck Historical Society (Mamaroneck)	Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation (White Plains)	
Gooseberry-Studio / Night Multimedia Art (Yonkers)	Mount Kisco Arts Council (Mount Kisco)	Taconic Opera (Yorktown Heights)	



## spotlight

# Bringing in the Year of the **TIGER**



Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year, is a 16-day celebration that symbolizes the end of winter and coming of spring. The date range is determined by the cycles of the moon, beginning on the second new moon after the winter solstice. On February 1, 2022, Chinese New Year marks the transition from the "Year of the Ox" into the "Year of the Tiger," referring to animals of the Chinese zodiac. In Westchester, several organizations will take part in the festivities:

## Ongoing: Grab & Go Holiday Kit

### [White Plains Public Library](#)

The Library's Youth Services Department will offer a Chinese New Year-themed Grab & Go Holiday Kit for children in preschool through third grade. Each kit will include activity sheets, songs, craft supplies to make tiger masks, and a book list. Kits are available in the Library's lobby while supplies last.

## Feb. 2 & 8: Introduction to Chinese Brush Painting

### [Pelham Art Center](#)

Pelham Art Center will bring in the new year with instructor Jane Chang with a two-session introduction to Chinese brush painting workshop. Beginners will learn to paint "the four gentlemen," a pairing of plants that represent the four seasons. The class will include demonstrations and also discusses color preparation, composition, movement and more.

## Feb. 5: Chinese New Year Celebration Event

### [Westchester Association of Chinese Americans](#)

Each year, Westchester Association of Chinese Americans (WACA) presents a celebratory event to welcome in the spring. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will take place online on WACA's website for the second year. The festive video program will include traditional Chinese dance and music, introduce the organization's Student Leadership and Community Outreach award winners, and more.

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# NEWS BRIEFS



(photo courtesy of Matilde Steck)

## Local Yonkers Teen Matilde Steck Publishes First Novel

"I wrote this book to find my voice and confront my social and environmental anxieties through fictional storytelling..." says Matilde Steck about her recently published book. The senior at Yonkers Middle High School recently self-published *The Call: A Brief History of the Chirosapienciae Revolution* on [Amazon](#). Steck, also a second-year member of ArtsWestchester's [Young Adult Leadership Council](#), describes the book as a YA science fiction novel. *The Call* explores environmental activism through Janus, a fictional colony of the first alien species with human level intelligence. Steck adds: "I want readers to be inspired towards change in the real world and maybe come to the realization that they aren't alone in their fears or experiences."

## Call All Photographers! The Larry Salley Photography Award

ArtsWestchester, in partnership with the African American Men of Westchester, seeks nominations for Hudson Valley-based photographers who have a significant body of work with outstanding artistic merit. Nominees for the fourth annual Larry Salley Photography Award will be reviewed and chosen by a guest judge, with approval from both organizations as well as the family of Larry Salley. The winner and award finalists will have the opportunity to be included in an online exhibition, hosted on ArtsWestchester's website and on its Google Arts & Culture partner site. [Deadline: February 28.](#)



Bald by 2021 Larry Salley Award winner Elijah Goodwin (photo courtesy of the artist)



## news briefs

### Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson Appointed New Chair of National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) recently announced that Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson was appointed its new Chair. A vote by the U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment, making Jackson the 13th Chair of the organization. According to her official statement, Jackson says that she will lead the NEA “with dedication to inclusivity, collaboration and with the recognition that art, culture and creativity are core to us reaching our full potential as a nation.” Jackson is a longtime member of the National Council on the Arts and a professor at the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State University. In her statement, Jackson adds: “In addition to serving as an economic engine, arts and creativity are core to what it takes to heal our nation, our communities and ourselves.”



Maria Rosario Jackson (photo by David K. Rid)



Governor Kathy Hochul delivering her 'State of State' address (photo courtesy of the Governor's office)

### Gov. Hochul Includes the Arts in State of the State Address

*In August, New York welcomed to the helm a new governor, Kathy Hochul. The Constitution of New York State requires the Governor to deliver an annual message to Legislature. The proposals included in her "State of the State" last month are the first in defining the Governor's agenda in 2022. In her message, Governor Hochul included following message about the arts:*

*"In 2018, New York's arts and culture economy generated more than \$114 billion, providing jobs for over 460,000 workers.<sup>93</sup> But the COVID-19 pandemic has levied immense challenges on the sector, which is contending with 21 months of revenue loss and significant workforce reduction. Beyond economic impact, a thriving arts and culture sector has overwhelmingly positive health and social benefits for a diverse population including children, the elderly, veterans, and justice-involved individuals.*

*Expansive funding is essential to revitalize the arts and culture industry and reestablish New York State's commitment to being the arts and cultural capital of the world. Governor Hochul will provide additional funds for arts recovery and capital improvements related to COVID-19 impacts on top of the agency's annual base funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). NYSCA funding drives local economies, and the development of main street businesses across all 62 counties. This investment reflects the pivotal role of New York's creative sector and its capacity to propel the economic growth and health of all New Yorkers."*



## Concordia Conservatory's Executive Director Receives Milestone Award

**Concordia Conservatory's** executive director, Kathleen Suss, was the recipient of the National Guild of Community Arts Educators' prestigious Milestone Award. The annual award is presented to "individuals who have provided long-standing, exceptional service to the community arts education field." Entering her 25th year as the Conservatory's director, Suss has been at the helm as it created programs and need-based scholarships to ensure arts accessibility for all, including the establishment of a campus in Stamford, CT in 2018. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Suss led her team through a digital pivot that included recording, broadcast performance, livestream and remote delivery of educational music and art services in lieu of the group's usual outreach. In the fall of 2021, she launched the Conservatory as an independent community music school when Concordia College New York closed.



Kathleen Suss (photo courtesy of Concordia Conservatory)



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



(photo: Macall Polay/NETFLIX)

### **tick, tick...BOOM! (Netflix)**

I have seen *Rent* many times, but I never really knew about the life story of its creator, Jonathan Larson. For starters, he was a graduate of White Plains High School (Yay!).

This film is not about *Rent*, but instead tells the journey that so many take before they (if they ever) achieve such success. The film focused on an early failure – Larson's first musical, *tick, tick, BOOM!* – and the difficulty of getting the production made. We see it all: the anguish of rejection, the artistic mind and the lifestyle of the time. With all of this, he still had the determination to move on to the next thing, as difficult as that was. Of special interest was the support Larson received from Stephen Sondheim.

While all of this is happening, we also see the beginning of the AIDS crisis, the loss of so many both within the theater industry and outside of it, and the ups and downs of Larson's own relationship. Actor Andrew Garfield was fantastic as Larson and it was nice to be treated to the talent of Lin-Manuel Miranda, this time as Director.



## grant news

## GRANT NEWS



Percy Grainger's "Cross-Grainger Experiments— February 1950" machine  
(photo courtesy of the International Percy Grainger Society)

## Percy Grainger Society Receives Conservation Grant

[The International Percy Grainger Society](#) is one of 25 organizations to receive a [Conservation Treatment Grant](#) from Greater Hudson Heritage Network and the New York State Council on the Arts. These grants support treatment procedures by professional conservators. The object to be conserved, "Cross-Grainger Experiments— February 1950," is an early example of musician Percy Grainger's "Free Music" machines, and provides insight into his contribution to the development of electronic music. Conservator [Kerith Koss Schrage](#) of [The Found Object Art Conservation](#) will address aesthetic and stability issues so the object can be safely displayed close to its original appearance. The object will allow for enhanced educational programming and a focus during interpretive tour at his former home, a historic landmark in White Plains.



The United States and the Dominican Republic by Pepe Coronado was on view in ArtsWestchester's 2015 Crossing Borders exhibition.

## ArtsWestchester Gains Support From National Endowment for the Arts to Display Works by New and First-Generation Artists

ArtsWestchester recently announced that it was approved for a \$40,000 Grant for the Arts (NEA) to support its [Crossing Borders: The Art of Memory and Heritage](#) exhibition in spring 2023, which will feature lower New York State artists who identify as new or first-generation immigrants. The exhibition will engage with, and reflect on, the contemporary immigrant experience. The exhibition show, which was also made possible with an NEA grant. The new funds will support the exhibition and related programming. The exhibition is part of ArtsWestchester's five-year equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility plan, which focuses on the representation of Westchester's diverse communities and encourages cross-cultural



(image from Kofi's Trial, courtesy of Historic Hudson Valley)

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Crossing Borders exhibition (image courtesy of the artist)

## Endowment for the Arts Americans

Endowment for the Arts Projects award from National Endowment for the Arts [stage exhibition](#). This show, which will be on view through the end of the year, features the work of first-generation Americans. These artists' works will revisit the themes of the organization's 2015 exhibition *Voices of the Past*. The exhibition will support the creation and presentation of new works. The exhibition is part of the organization's 2015-2020 strategic and accessibility master plan that includes increased cultural dialogue.

## Historic Hudson Valley Receives Grant for Graphic Novel About Slavery

[Historic Hudson Valley](#) (HHV) has been awarded a \$399K grant from National Endowment for the Humanities to produce a new interactive graphic novel titled *Kofi's Trial*. The novel will tell the true story of Kofi, a man who was enslaved by the Philips family of Sleepy Hollow. Kofi was tried, convicted and sentenced to death during what became known as the "New York Conspiracy" in 1741, during which dozens of people were charged with plotting to burn Manhattan. The digital novel will function as a tool to help HHV tell the story of slavery in the colonial north and provide a historical resource for visitors to better understand the national conversation about racial inequality.



Sing for Hope piano designed by artist Imani Shanklin Roberts (photo courtesy of Young at Arts)

## NYC's Sing For Hope Partners with Local School to Pilot New Music Curriculum

A partnership between [Young at Arts](#) in Bronxville, the [Amani Public Charter School](#) in Mount Vernon and New York City-based [Sing for Hope](#) has resulted in the School's "Sing for Hope-Young at Arts Lab." After the program was piloted at the end of 2021, Sing for Hope committed funding to provide an in-school music curriculum, as well as a daily after-school performing arts program for the 2021-22 school year. The School also received one of Sing for Hope's famous artist-designed pianos, which will be available for the students to use. This one, titled *Vibrantly Colored*, was designed and painted by artist Imani Shanklin Roberts.

## New Grant Allows Yonkers Library and Hudson River Museum to Strengthen Partnership

[Yonkers Public Library](#) (YPL), in partnership with the [Hudson River Museum](#) (HRM), received an \$89,300 grant from the Metropolitan New York Library Council. The grant will support the organizations' joint *The Estuary Project: Learning that Flows Two Ways* program, which "synchronizes the library's programs and resources with the museum's exhibitions, planetarium and workshops." Together, YPL and HRM will build a library collection about Yonkers, the tribal history of the Lenape, history of the Hudson River, and the Hudson River School art movement, which can be used by the community. They will also work closely on developing programs and curriculum that complement the museum's permanent collection and upcoming exhibitions.



upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities

# February 2022 Arts Offerings



Pianist Ryan MacEvoy McCullough, Downtown Music at Grace, 2/9 (photo source: ryanmmccullough.com)

## 2/2 WEDNESDAY

**Music:** Downtown Music at Grace presents *Bethany Pietroniro and vocalist*. This program pairs pianist Bethany Pietroniro with a vocalist to be announced. 12-1pm. dtmusic.org

**Class:** The Rye Arts Center presents *BYOB Adult Workshop: Paint The Masters: Monet*. Participants will learn about Monet's timeless style and

replicate one of his famous paintings. 6:30-9pm. ryeartscenter.org

## 2/3 THURSDAY

**Reception:** The Rye Arts Center presents *Alvin and Friends Opening*. There will be an opening reception for the works of artist Alvin Clayton and other emerging Black artists from the region. 5:30-7:30pm. ryeartscenter.org

## 2/4 FRIDAY

**Class:** Hoff-Barthelsson Music School presents *Master Class Series: Ole Akahoshi*. Cellist Ole Akahoshi will give kick off this series, which will feature world-class musicians and educators. 7:30-9:30pm. hbms.org

## 2/5 SATURDAY

**Dance:** Ballet des Amériques presents *Auditions in White Plains*. Every Saturday,

children of all ages and levels can audition for the school's ballet program. Through 2/26. Times vary at ArtsWestchester. balletdesameriques.company

**Music:** Emelin Theatre presents *Nefesh Mountain*. The group has been hailed as one of "today's formative boundary-pushing Bluegrass and Americana bands." 8-10pm. emelin.org

**Class:** Hudson Valley Writers Center



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

presents *Current Controversies in Journalism with Michael Balter via Zoom*. Participants will discuss current issues in the journalism industry in a roundtable format. 12:30-4:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

**Reception:** Westchester Association of Chinese Americans presents *a Virtual Chinese New Year Celebration Event*. The festive video will include traditional Chinese dance and music, and introduce the organization's Student Leadership and Community Outreach award winners.

**Reception:** *Young Artists On the Rise 2022*. There will be an opening reception for a selection of artwork in all media by local high school students. 1pm. [mamaroneckartistguild.org](http://mamaroneckartistguild.org)

## 2/6 SUNDAY

**Class:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Using found materials to write poems with Leah Umansky via Zoom*. Participants will write poems that use the newspaper, literature or magazines as resources in which to help generate material. 12:30-2:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

**Class:** Pelham Art Center presents *Bookmaking Workshop: French Link Stitch*. Participants will learn the French link stitch to create a small sketchbook or journal with a wrap around paper cover. 1-3pm. [pelhamartcenter.org](http://pelhamartcenter.org)

## 2/7 MONDAY

**Film:** Bedford Playhouse presents *"Dazed and Confused" with Rob Cavenagh*. This is a screening of the comedy starring Ben Affleck, Matthew McConaughey, Adam Goldberg and Milla Jovovich, among others. 7-9pm. [bedfordplayhouse.org](http://bedfordplayhouse.org)

## 2/8 TUESDAY

**Class:** The Rye Arts Center presents *Valentine's Day Workshop: Laser Cutting with Glowforge*. Students aged 9 - 12 will create a Valentine's-themed pendant or pin that will then be laser cut and engraved on the center's 3D laser printer. 5-6:30pm. [ryeartscenter.org](http://ryeartscenter.org)

## 2/9 WEDNESDAY

**Music:** Downtown Music at Grace presents *Mezzo Soprano Hailey McAvoy and Pianist Ryan MacEvoy McCullough*. These artists will perform the song cycle

*Les nuits d'été* by French composer Hector Berlioz. 12-1pm. [dtmusic.org](http://dtmusic.org)

**Spoken Word:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *An Evening with Richie Hofmann, Ananda Lima, and Cindy Veach*. During this hybrid reading, authors will share excerpts from their latest poetry collections. 7-8:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

**Film:** Jacob Burns Film Center presents *NT Live: A View from the Bridge*. Arthur Miller's play, which was filmed live onstage from London's West End, returns exclusively to cinema screens. 2-4:45pm. [burnsfilmcenter.org](http://burnsfilmcenter.org)

## 2/10 THURSDAY

**Comedy:** Bedford Playhouse presents *Skirmish of the Sexes Comedy Night*. Two male comics, two female comics, one each married and single, talking about relationships and other wonders. 8-10pm. [bedfordplayhouse.org](http://bedfordplayhouse.org)

## 2/11 FRIDAY

**Music:** Emelin Theatre presents *The Sixties Show*. The show will include 60's hits, special effects, mod costumes, narration, archival audio and newsreel footage. 8pm. [emelin.org](http://emelin.org)

## 2/12 SATURDAY

**Music:** Emelin Theatre presents *Be My Valentine*. This is an evening of love songs performed by singer and songwriter Lisa Fischer. 8pm. [emelin.org](http://emelin.org)

**Class:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Writing Your Pop Culture Memoir with Lynn Melnick via Zoom*. This 4-hour workshop will introduce students to the braided essay and discuss how to combine personal and pop culture moments into a larger memoir. 12:30-4:30pm. [hbms.org](http://hbms.org)

**Class:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Writing the Ghazal Workshop with Usha Akella (via Zoom)*. Participants will learn about the history, tropes, themes and stylistic intricacies of the Ghazal poem while learning how to write one. 12:30-2:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

**Spoken Word:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Open Write (in person & via Zoom)*. This is an evening of generative writing, story

# JOURNALISM: BECAUSE REGIONAL NEWS MATTERS.

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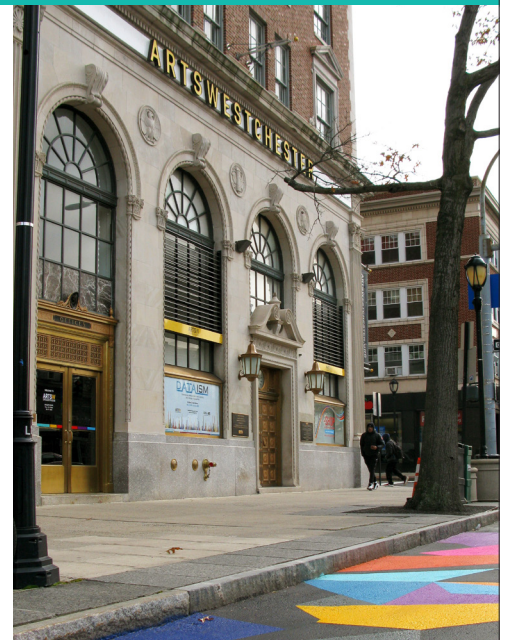
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# upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities



## CENTER FOR DIGITAL ARTS

### OFFERING CREDIT AND WORKFORCE TRAINING COURSES

Fulfill your dream, whether on campus or online, at the Westchester Community College Center for the Digital Arts Peekskill Extension and take courses in Digital Design, Digital Filmmaking, Drawing, Digital Imaging, Digital Photography, and more. Get a workforce training certificate in 3D Animation, UX Design, Social Media Specialist, Digital Photography, and Mixed Reality (XR), visit our Maker Space, and create a 3D print. At the Center for Digital Arts you'll get started on your portfolio, meet other artists, and develop a network within the rich artist district of downtown Peekskill.

### REGISTER NOW!

914-606-7300 ■ [sunywc.edu/peekskill](http://sunywc.edu/peekskill)  
[peekskill@sunywc.edu](mailto:peekskill@sunywc.edu)



swapping and community building. 7:30-9:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

**Class:** The Rye Arts Center presents *Valentine's Day Pop Up Cards Workshops*. Children aged 8-12 will learn how to make their own cards pop with simple techniques. 2-4pm. [ryeartscenter.org](http://ryeartscenter.org)

### 2/13 SUNDAY

**Class:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Love Paradox Supreme with Karen Finley (via Zoom)*. This workshop will have a series of prompts that will encourage students on their own writing journey. 12:30-2:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

**Family & Kids:** Pelham Art Center presents *Family Valentine's Day Workshop*. Students and their families will create a one-of-a-kind heart-shaped paper plush. 1-2:15pm. [pelhamartcenter.org](http://pelhamartcenter.org)

### 2/16 WEDNESDAY

**Music:** Bethany Arts Community presents *Base Camp Black History Month Concert*. The R&B band will give a concert in celebration of Black History Month. 7pm. [bethanyarts.org](http://bethanyarts.org)

**Music:** Downtown Music at Grace presents *Loren Greer and Bethany Pietroniro*. This program explores the poetic potency of art song literature through the song cycle, *Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo*, by Benjamin Britten. 12-1pm. [dtmusic.org](http://dtmusic.org)

**Film:** Jacob Burn Film Center presents *Stavisky*. This 1974 French film is based on the life of the financier and embezzler Alexandre Stavisky and the circumstances leading to his mysterious death in 1934. Part of Afternoon Senior Cinema series. 2-4pm. [burnsfilmcenter.org](http://burnsfilmcenter.org)

**Reception:** Bethany Arts Community presents *a guided talk with the curator Joyce Sharrock Cole*. The tour and talk will focus on the organization's *Ossining Black History & Culture* exhibition. 6pm. [bethanyarts.org](http://bethanyarts.org)

### 2/18 FRIDAY

**Music:** Hoff-Barthelson Music School presents *Faculty in Performance*. The program will feature

Manuel Infante's *Dances Andalouses*, Moises Simons' *El Manisero* for two pianos and more. 7:30-9pm. [hbms.org](http://hbms.org)

**Spoken Word:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Open Mic (in person & via Zoom)*. This is an opportunity to share your talents in a comfortable space. 7:30-9pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

### 2/19 SATURDAY

**Music:** Emelin Theatre presents *The James Hunter Six*. The ensemble is known for its signature up-tempo, swinging rhythm & blues. 8pm. [emelin.org](http://emelin.org)

**Reception:** The Rye Arts Center presents *Alvin and Friends*. This is an artist talk with artist local emerging Black artists who are exhibiting their works at the Center. 1-2:30pm. [ryeartscenter.org](http://ryeartscenter.org)

### 2/20 SUNDAY

**Class:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *A Prose Intensive with Melanie S. Hatter via Zoom*. Participants will have an opportunity to practice writing their own descriptions. 12:30-4:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

**Music:** The Sanctuary Series presents *"Keyboard Poetry" with pianist Evren Ozel*. The concert will include works by Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Scriabin and more. 4-5:30pm at South Salem Presbyterian Church. [thesanctuaryseries.org](http://thesanctuaryseries.org)

### 2/22 TUESDAY

**Film:** Bedford Playhouse presents *In the Heat of the Night*. The film follows an African American police detective who investigates a murder in a racially hostile southern town. 7pm. [bedfordplayhouse.org](http://bedfordplayhouse.org)

### 2/23 WEDNESDAY

**Music:** Downtown Music at Grace presents *"An English Pastoral" with Maximillian Jansen, Helena Baillie and Timothy Lewis*. The program will feature the *Four Hymns for Tenor and Viola* of Ralph Vaughan Williams, as well as the composer's evocative *Lark Ascending*. 12-1pm. [dtmusic.org](http://dtmusic.org)

**Spoken Word:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *An Evening with Douglas Kearney, Omotara James, and Cindy*

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*Veach via Zoom.* These authors will share excerpts from their latest poetry collections. 7-8:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

## 2/25 FRIDAY

**Reception:** Bethany Arts Community presents a “*paint and poetry jam.*” Two spoken word artists share their work while a painter creates a piece inspired by it. 7pm. [bethanyarts.org](http://bethanyarts.org)

## 2/26 SATURDAY

**Class:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *A Prose Workshop with Kofi Antwi (via Zoom).* The workshop will serve as a space for writers to develop their prose writing. 12:30-4:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

**Class:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Turning Your Life Into Children’s Fiction (via Zoom).* In this generative workshop, participants will begin with

a prompt to spark a short memoir piece, which will transform into fiction for young readers. 12:30-4:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)

## 2/27 SUNDAY

**Class:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Craft Class on Allusion with Rachel Hadas via Zoom.* This one-day class will explore how allusion is used in poetry. 12:30-2:30pm. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)



Nefesh Mountain, Emelin Theatre, 2/5 (photo source: [nefeshmountain.com](http://nefeshmountain.com))



## upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities



Frida: With Wings to Fly by Denise Cortes, Hudson River Museum's *The World of Frida*, on view through 5/22 (image courtesy of Hudson River Museum)



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## EXHIBITIONS AND CLASSES

### ArtsWestchester | [artsw.org](http://artsw.org)

- Workshops: *Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays*. Youth aged 12-16 will create art projects in celebration of Black History Month Celebration and Valentine's Day, and participate in an acting workshop. 2/8, 2/15, 2/24 at 4:30-6pm at White Plains City Center.

### Bethany Arts Community | [bethanyarts.org](http://bethanyarts.org)

- Exhibition: *"Ossining Black History & Culture."* The show will pay tribute to the African American community and its contributions. 2/14-3/12. Times vary.

### Blue Door Art Center | [bluedoorartcenter.org](http://bluedoorartcenter.org)

- Workshops: *Children's Saturday Art Workshops*. This is a series of Zoom workshops taught by a Blue Door Art Center teaching artist. Saturdays from 10-11am.

### Broadway Training Center of Westchester | [broadwaytraining.com](http://broadwaytraining.com)

- Workshops: *2021-2022 School Year Programs*. The Center offers acting, voice, dance and musical theatre performance programs for K-12th grade, plus an Adult Enrichment program. Through 5/22.

### Harrison Public Library | [harrisonpl.org](http://harrisonpl.org)

- Exhibition: *Lightbox Ecology by Elijah Goodwin*. The exhibiting photographs explore themes in ecology while emphasizing the beauty and detail inherent in the plant material. 2/6-3/4, 9:30am-5:30pm.
- Exhibition: *Botanical Anatomy by Monique Ford*. This series of paintings and works on paper are about relationships, the tension between them and how people connect. Through 2/4, 9:30am-5:30pm.

### Hudson River Museum | [hrm.org](http://hrm.org)

- Exhibition: *The World of Frida*. The show features works of art that include Frida Kahlo as subject, as well as pieces inspired by her life, Mexican culture, art and more. 2/4-5/22, 12-5pm.

### Katonah Museum of Art | [katonahmuseum.org](http://katonahmuseum.org)

- Exhibition: *Young Artists 2022*. The exhibition will feature the work of local high school artists who take part in all aspects of its curation, installation and marketing efforts. 2/6-2/27.

### Mamaroneck Artists Guild | [mamaroneckartistsguild.org](http://mamaroneckartistsguild.org)

- Exhibition: *Artwork on Canvas (or Board) and 3D*. The show will feature the recent works by the Guild's members. 2/15-3/5 at 12-5pm.
- Exhibition: *Young Artists On the Rise 2022*. This is a selection of exceptional artwork in all media from local high school students. 2/2-12 at 12-5pm.

### Neuberger Museum of Art | [neuberger.org](http://neuberger.org)

- Exhibition: *Impressions: The Inventions of Printmaking*. The exhibiting works on paper and fabric navigate a rich history of printmaking and its processes. Through 2/27, 12-5pm.
- Exhibition: *David Smith: Billiard Players*. The exhibition includes a selection of works executed from 1935 through 1945, a crucial period in the artist's artistic evolution. Through 2/19, 12-5pm.

### Nowodworski Foundation | [sitenf.org](http://sitenf.org)

- Workshops: *Around the Globe*. This is a Zoom live art workshop series for children, tweens, teens, families and Adults. 2/23, 5:30-6:30pm. [sitenf.org](http://sitenf.org)

- Workshops: *Dancing Yonkers*. Joseph's Dance Studio will teach the steps needed to be a ballroom dancer. Through 6/11, 1-2pm at Lower Level Gym.

### Pelham Art Center | [pelhamartcenter.org](http://pelhamartcenter.org)

- Workshops: *Intro to Chinese Brush Painting Workshop*. This workshop will focus on quality of strokes, color preparation, rhythm, movement, energy, composition and more. 2/1-2/8, 1-4pm.

### Rye Arts Center | [ryeartscenter.org](http://ryeartscenter.org)

- Workshops: *February Break Week-Long Workshops*. Children will participate in art classes in drawing, painting and sculpture. 2/21-2/25.
- Exhibition: *Alvin and Friends*. This show will feature the paintings of artist Alvin Clayton and other works by emerging Black artists in Westchester. Through 2/26.

### Studio Theater in Exile at Hudson Valley MOCA | [studiotheaterinexile.com](http://studiotheaterinexile.com)

- Exhibition: *Writing the Walls*. The virtual program features poems and monologues inspired by the art in HV MOCA's *How We Live I* and *II* exhibitions, which will be read and recorded by the creators. Available from 2/1-3/31 on the organization's website.
- Exhibition: *Virtual presentation for Black History Month*. The online presentation features previous works created by Jonette O'Kelley Miller, Ocean Morisset, Lorraine Currelley and Tyler Damon Rice. 2/1-3/1.



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*(photo credit: Sage performs at JazzFest White Plains)*