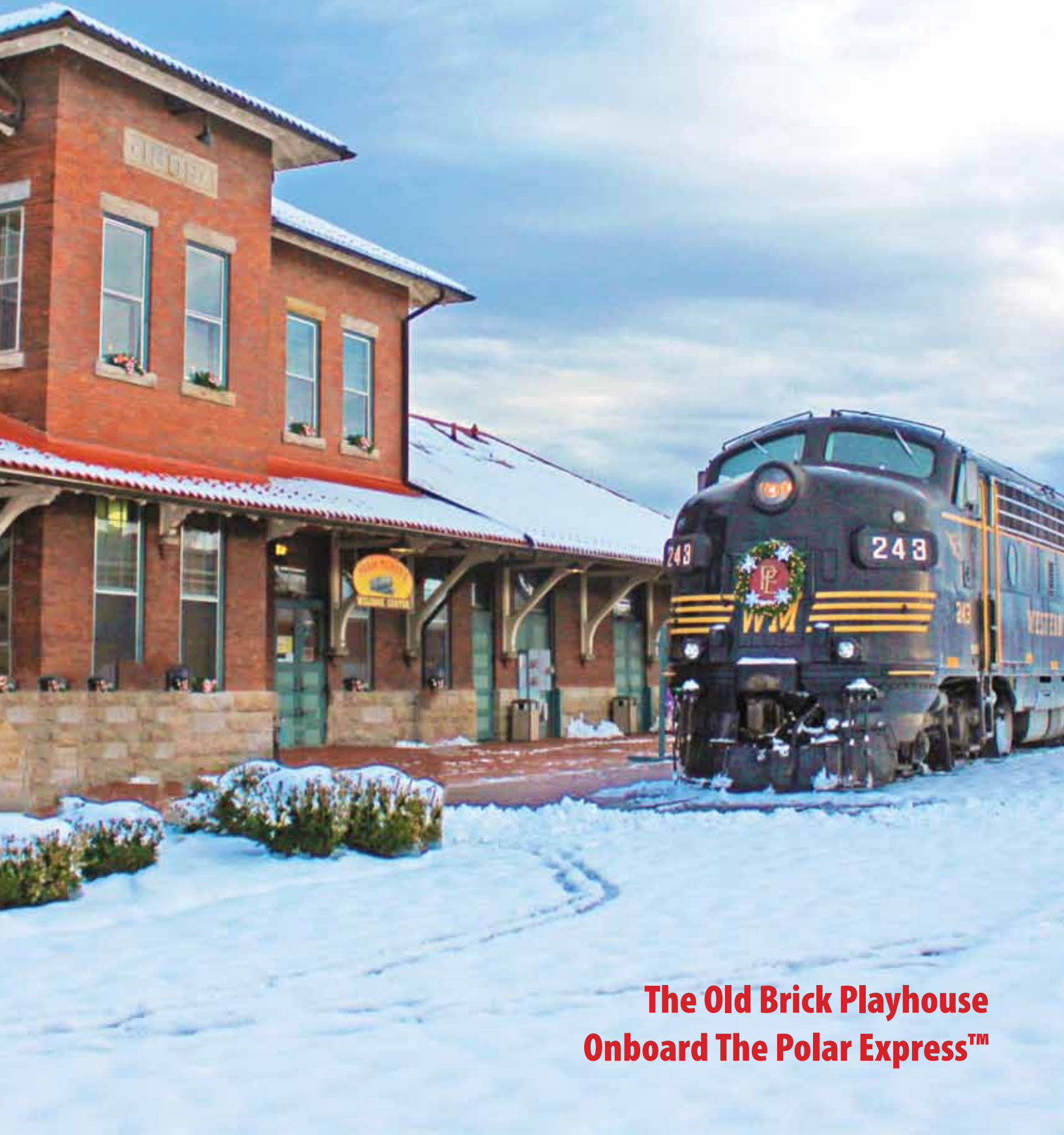


FALL 2015

# WEST VIRGINIA ArtWorks



**The Old Brick Playhouse  
Onboard The Polar Express™**

# ArtWorks WEST VIRGINIA

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The Polar Express™ pulls into the depot in Elkins. Photo courtesy of The Old Brick Playhouse (see story on page 10).

## FALL 2015



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Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor



**West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts**  
Kay H. Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary



**West Virginia Division of Culture and History**  
Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner

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Fall: August 15 ... Winter: November 15

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All publications and application forms are available in alternate formats.

# A Message from the Director



As the leaves change from lush green to the muted colors of fall, I find myself reflecting on the transformations in West Virginia's cultural landscape in the past year.

Major arts institutions welcomed new leadership, such as the Clay Center's new president, Al Najjar, President Danielle McCracken of Oglebay Institute, President Joe Tackett of the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and Executive Director Geoffrey Fleming of the Huntington Museum of Art. Growth is also reflected in our higher education institutions and we applaud the completion of the Marshall University Visual Arts Center and the impressive new Art Museum of West Virginia University.

These welcome changes affirm the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's mission of supporting the arts in West Virginia. With funding provided by the West Virginia

Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, the division's Arts Section oversees competitive arts grants that assist in sustaining large and small arts organizations across the state, helping to keep our cultural heritage alive.

Art immortalizes people, places, and events. Artists create a visual record of life experiences commemorating the memorable and the mundane. A good artist advances culture and civilization by provoking thought, introspection and discussion.

Arts education fosters bright, creative and socially engaged students who will grow up to be our next generation of leaders, parents, teachers, artists and engineers. Their creative thinking will find out-of-the-box solutions for a global society and provide a road map for understanding themselves while fostering a sense of belonging and community.

Art is worth supporting with our

voices and our pocketbooks. Every discretionary dollar we spend says something about who we are, what we value, and how we want to impact the world.

Our money, like our time, gives us a chance to make a difference and to change who we are. That power and capacity is a gift we are all given. I hope you'll look around your towns and cities and figure out how you can give back to the institutions that support and build community. They need your money and your volunteer commitment to keep fighting the good fight. I encourage you to share your thoughts regarding the arts with your government officials at the local and state level. As we look for continued support for the arts, it is especially important to voice your endorsement to our lawmakers who welcome your input. Together we have the ability to craft West Virginia's future and to ensure the arts are a strong part of our collective legacy.

Renée Margocee, Arts Director

## Happy Birthday, Gallery Eleven

West Virginia's oldest artist cooperative is celebrating its 40th birthday.

Gallery Eleven in downtown Charleston has been providing artists with a permanent location to exhibit and sell their work since June 1975. In exchange for having an area in which to exhibit, each artist agrees to staff the gallery and help with bookkeeping, cleaning and decorating. Quarterly dues help pay the rent and utilities. Every other month, a member's work is featured in prime space. The gallery also sells other artists' work on consignment that members vote to accept.

Gallery 11 features paintings, glass paperweights, wooden bookmarks,



**Members of Gallery 11, West Virginia's oldest co-op, gather outside their gallery in downtown Charleston. Photo by P.J. Dickerscheid.**

sculpture, pottery, and greeting cards. Items range from a few dollars to several hundred dollars.

It began in June 1975, when 11 Charleston area artists pooled their talents and resources to open a co-op in the basement of the Noyes Building

at the corner of Leon Sullivan Way and Quarrier Street. Today's gallery is at 1025 Quarrier St. And though its name reflects the number of original artists, the co-op's membership has grown to 16. All are selected by unanimous approval from the members.

# ***A Holiday Tradition at Parkersburg Arts Center*** **Tree Decorations Inspired by Iconic Art**

By P.J. Dickerscheid

**This year's tree exhibit  
November 28 to December 24  
Parkersburg Arts Center  
725 Market Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
304.485.3859**

**Below, left: Francesca DiMattio's "The Ladder," inspired this tree, trimmed by Carol Bidstrup and Abby Hayhurst.**

**Below, right: PAC docents based their tree on George Catlin's "Ambush for Flamingos."**

The Parkersburg Arts Center (PAC) in Wood County has a special holiday tradition that taps the community's creative juices and helps educate the public about famous works of art.

Each year, aspiring and established artists are invited to create holiday trees inspired by famous works of art that are then displayed at the PAC during November and December.

PAC Director Abby Hayhurst said the trees are a learning experience, and each year more area schools embrace the tradition as class projects. In a minor way, it is also a PAC fundraiser as people toss loose change into money jars that sit beside each tree to vote for their favorites. Last year, PAC collected

about \$600, which was used to buy art supplies for the winter Free Art Saturday program.

In 2014, the exhibit included trees trimmed by Tyler Consolidated High School, which was inspired by surrealist painter Frida Kahlo; Parkersburg High School, whose inspiration came from graffiti artist Banksy; and Criss Elementary School, which featured post-impressionist painter Vincent Van Gogh. Williamstown High School's tree featured Dutch painter Piet Mondrian, Parkersburg South High School chose pop artist Andy Warhol and PAC's own ArtStart preschoolers highlighted sculptor Phyllida Barlow's work.





**Above:** PAC students ages 4-6 took their inspiration from *Go, Dog. Go!*, a 1961 children’s book written and illustrated by P.D. Eastman.

**Right:** Vincent Van Gogh’s “Sunflowers” and “Starry Night” inspired the trees trimmed by Criss Elementary School students and Marcia Ritchie, respectively.



The Frida Kahlo tree was a joint project between the art classes and the advanced-placement Spanish class students, who used the ancient art of calligraphy to write many of Kahlo’s famous sayings onto parchment paper before inserting them into clear balls that were hung on the tree.

Children created the Warhol tree using more than 400 cans of soup. After the show they were donated to House to Home, a food kitchen that serves the homeless in the greater Parkersburg area.

The student-trimmed trees were joined by trees trimmed by PAC staff, docents and volunteers. Those trees

featured American painter Francesca DiMattio, British painter and sculptor Damien Hirst, French painter Henri Matisse, British sculptor Phylidda Barlow and American pop artist Roy Lichtenstein, among others.

Each year PAC conserves the most popular trees to be displayed again the next season. Last year’s repeat trees were inspired by American painter Grant Wood, whose best known work is his 1930 painting *American Gothic*, and another one by American folk painter Edward Hicks. PAC’s co-education and membership director Marcia Ritchie’s tree, *Adoration of the Kings* by Jan

Grossaert, was the public’s favorite last year, and for that she received bragging rights.

Though PAC does not tell anyone what artist or works to use, it tries to ensure a mix of modern works with classic, better-known works, and often tosses out a challenge, Hayhurst said. “For instance, this past year we dared someone to come up with a workable Damien Hirst tree, which artist Virginia Killian managed to do by putting dismembered stuffed animals in stacks of jars full of tinted water,” she said. “It was probably our most whacked-out tree ever, but very funny.”

# West Virginia Commission on the Arts, Division of Culture and History Award Nearly \$900,000 in Grants

An outdoor public art trail in the Eastern Panhandle, a musical celebrating West Virginia's history and heritage, and a Webster County artist who wants to convert his dilapidated woodworking shop into an energy-efficient studio are among this year's recipients of nearly \$900,000 in competitive grants awarded by the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

Individual artists, nonprofit arts and community organizations, public educational institutions, school boards, local or county government agencies and colleges and universities are eligible for these funds, which are provided by the West Virginia Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. This year's recipients are:

## **AMERICAN MASTERPIECE-WV**

*Provides funding to support access to and deeper experiences of American masterpieces and works of American masters.*

**Total: \$20,000**

**Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$10,000 for "Creative Space: Works on Paper."

**Greenbrier Valley Repertory Theatre**, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County: \$10,000 for "You Can't Take It With You."

## **ARTS IN EDUCATION**

*Provides funding for in-school and out-of-school curriculum-based arts projects that meet the state Content Standards and Objectives, and tours that expose students in pre-K through 12th grade to various performing, literary and visual artists.*

**Total: \$85,252**

**Apollo Civic Theatre**, Martinsburg, Berkeley County: \$3,975 for its 2015 summer youth theater workshop.

**Greenbrier County Schools**, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County: \$17,870 for Spotlight

on Schools and Creative Classrooms programs.

**High Rocks Education Corporation**, Hillsboro, Pocahontas County: \$4,500 for Camp Steele arts programs.

**Ivy & Stone Council for the Arts**, Summersville, Nicholas County: \$3,109 for "From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. E. Frankweiler" and "Alexander, Who's NOT, NOT, NOT, NOT Going To Move."

**Jackson County Schools**, Ripley, Jackson County: \$5,000 for school performances of West Virginia Dance Company's production of "Earth's Quilt: Common Threads."

**Kanawha County Schools**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$13,500 for school performances of West Virginia Dance Company's production of "Earth's Quilt: Common Threads."

**Mid-Ohio Valley Symphony Society**, Vienna, Wood County: \$12,000 for its Young People's Concerts.

**Union Elementary School**, Buckhannon, Upshur County: \$5,078 for "American Journeys: Personalizing History through Narrative."

**West Virginia Dance Company**, Beckley, Raleigh County: \$15,000 for West Virginia

Dance Company's touring production of "Earth's Quilt: Common Threads."

**West Virginia Youth Symphony**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$5,220 for its Instruction in Sectional and Chamber Ensembles program.

## **ARTS PARTNERS**

*Provides general operating support to long-standing, stable arts organizations.*

**Total: \$495,067**

**ArtsBridge**, Parkersburg, Wood County: \$18,809 to support a season of concerts, exhibitions, arts education programs, arts-organization and artist-support, and the Very Spectacular Arts Festival.

**Carnegie Hall**, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County: \$39,420 to support a season of presenting artists, film, visual arts exhibitions, and festivals.

**Charleston Ballet**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$23,603 for a season of ballet in public and educational performances featuring guest artists, choreographers and master teachers with opportunities for master classes and professional coaching for West Virginia dancers.

**Clay Center for Arts & Sciences**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$63,119 for

**Participants of High Rocks Education Corporation New Beginnings and Camp Steele programs take a hike. Photo Courtesy of High Rocks.**





**Left: Riley is captivated by cellist Cynthia Puls during the Very Spectacular Arts Festival in Parkersburg. Photo courtesy of ArtsBridge.**



**Right: Artists take part in a workshop in the Walter Gropius Studios at the Huntington Museum of Art. Photo courtesy of the Huntington Museum of Art.**

a season of exhibitions, performances, events and education and community outreach programming.

**Greenbrier Repertory Theatre Company**, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County. \$45,541 for a season of eight main stage plays, six children's productions and more than 150 performances that include live theater, music, art and literary events.

**Huntington Museum of Art**, Huntington, Cabell County: \$72,459 to support a permanent collection of more than 15,000 objects, 10 exhibition galleries, an interactive education gallery, art reference library, a 287-seat theater, conservatory, sculpture courts and studio workshops.

**Morgan Arts Council**, Berkeley Springs, Morgan County. \$17,421 for a season of comprehensive programming for youth, arts integration programs, 10 gallery exhibitions, arts learning experiences for community members; a summer concert series and a digital center for community engagement.

**Oglebay Institute**, Wheeling, Ohio County. \$54,201 to support year-round classes, workshops, camps, exhibitions, concerts, theater productions, cinema, and school-based arts education programs.

**Parkersburg Arts Center**, Parkersburg, Wood County: \$31,464 for a season of arts programming, exhibits and arts education classes for all ages.

**Randolph County Community Arts**, Elkins, Randolph County. \$22,047 to support an evening concert series, brown bag concert series, community outreach programming, year-round arts

education programming and fine arts and crafts exhibits.

**West Virginia Symphony Orchestra**, Charleston, Kanawha County. \$56,975 to support a season that includes a symphonic and pops subscription series, Nutcracker performance, Symphony Sunday, Montclair String Quartet recital series and statewide touring.

**Wheeling Symphony Society Inc.**, Wheeling, Ohio County: \$52,008 for a season of four Masterworks concerts, three pops concerts, a holiday production, a Labor Day concert, two concert tours and education and outreach programming.

**CHALLENGE AMERICA**

*Provides funding for innovative projects that provide arts education to community members, expand or improve access to art experiences, use the arts as a catalyst for change, address cultural tourism and celebrate the unique characteristics of the arts in West Virginia, or create strong communities through the arts.*

**Total: \$40,000**

**Carnegie Hall**, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County: \$15,000 for the Second Annual Lewisburg Music Festival.



**The Steel Wheels perform at the Lewisburg Music Festival. Photo by Amos Perrine.**

**CraftWorks at Cool Spring**, Charles Town, Jefferson County: \$9,445 for "Streams of Consciousness," an outdoor public art trail.

**West Virginia Symphony Orchestra**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$11,922 for its Young People's Concerts with a pre-service student-teacher component.

**Wheeling Symphony Society**, Wheeling, Ohio County: \$3,633 for "French Festival: Influence of Art, Romance and Theater on Orchestral Music."

**COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT SUPPORT**

*Provides support for projects that offer arts programming to the public and planning and organizational development projects that strengthen West Virginia arts organizations.*

**Total: \$205,977**

**ArtsLink Inc.**, New Martinsville, Wetzel and Tyler counties: \$11,821 for seasonal programming that includes the Jenny Wilson Jazz Trio, Belle Starr, Mark Edwards, and others.

**Augusta Heritage Center**, Elkins, Randolph County: \$19,000 to help pay salaries for artists offering immersion courses in traditional cultures.

**Charles T. Chuck Mathena II Foundation Inc.**, Princeton, Mercer County: \$18,000 to help pay for seasonal programming that includes the Steep Canyon Rangers and EH-440, among others.

**Charleston Chamber Music Society**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$6,275 to help pay artist fees to the Chamber Orchestra Kremlin, Tesla Quartet, and Formosa String Quartet.

**Charleston West Side Main Street Inc.**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$3,328 for The West Side Shakespeare Festival production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

**Contemporary American Theater Festival**, Shepherdstown, Jefferson County: \$11,338 to help pay stage directors, designers, and stage managers involved in its 25th season.

**Fairmont Chamber Music Society**, Fairmont, Marion County: \$4,035 to help pay for classical chamber music concerts by Eugenia Zukerman with pianist Milana Strezevva, the D'Amore Duo, Chatham Baroque, and Low and Lower.

**Fairmont State University**, Fairmont, Marion County: \$6,206 to help pay for two West Virginia Symphony Orchestra performances including "The Music of John Williams."

**Friends of the Alban Arts & Conference Center**, Saint Albans, Kanawha County: \$6,887 to help pay artist fees for its 2015-16 season.

**Golden Horseshoe Inc.**, Morgantown, Monongalia County: \$4,625 to help pay for artist fees for the production of "Golden Horseshoe," a musical celebrating West Virginia's history and heritage.

**Highland Arts Unlimited Inc.**, Keyser, Mineral County: \$8,278 to help pay artist fees for the Potomac Concert Band, the Dutton Family, the Montclair String Quartet, Landau Eugene Murphy, and Marshall Barnhouse.

**Kanawha Valley FOOTMAD**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$5,620 to help pay for a part-time arts administrator and a four-concert series of traditional music.

**Mid-Ohio Valley Symphony Society**, Vienna, Wood County: \$10,176 to help pay for three performances by the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

**Morgan Arts Council**, Berkeley Springs, Morgan County: \$11,136 to help fund a part-time Events Administrator and Event Logistics & Facilities Coordinator at the Ice House.

**Pocahontas County Opera House Foundation**, Marlinton, Pocahontas County: \$6,699 to help pay artist fees for its 2015-16 performance series.

**Trillium Collective LTD**, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County: \$13,154 to help pay for a concert series, the Trillium



From left to right, actor Skylar Saltz, Sarah R. Rowan, Leonardo Altafini, Matt Casey, and Nathan Oesterle perform *Golden Horseshoe*, a musical celebrating West Virginia's history and heritage. Photo courtesy of Golden Horseshoe Inc.

Performing Youth program and educational workshops.

**Tug Valley Arts Council Inc.**, Williamson, Mingo County: \$7,498 to help pay artist fees to William Yang, 7 Bridges Band, Mark Thompson, and Donna The Buffalo.

**Unity of Kanawha Valley**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$2,956 to help pay artist fees and travel costs for The Woody Hawley Concert series at the Clay Center.

**WV Arts Presenters Inc.**, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County: \$17,138 to help pay committee stipends and professional artists' fees for a West Virginia Dance Company block booking with eight arts presenters.

**WV Professional Dance Company**, Beckley, Raleigh County: \$7,657 to

help pay for choreographers, music composition, recording, and design in developing a new work, "Rising Up from the Kettle Bottom."

**WVU at Parkersburg**, Parkersburg, Wood County: \$6,153 to help pay for the Ensemble Espanol Dance Theatre, The American Shakespeare Center's production of "Julius Caesar," and concerts by the French Canadian ensemble De Temps Antan.

**Youth Museum of Southern WV**, Beckley, Raleigh County: \$17,997 to help pay for its "I Feel" exhibit, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" pop-up book hands-on exhibit, and the BRIO Integrated Theatre workshop for community members with special needs.



The West Virginia Dance Company performs a piece choreographed by Donald Laney. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Beckett.





**Above:** Children explore the Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia's exhibition Science and Art, which is on loan from the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock, Ark. Photo courtesy of the Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia.

**Right:** Charleston artist Rob Cleland is one of two artists the Fayetteville Arts Coalition hired to paint murals in Fayetteville using grant funding. Photo by Alex Wilson.



**EZ ARTS ACCESS**

*Provides funding for arts projects to small and emerging organizations with budgets of less than \$30,000.*

**Total: \$9,185**

**Allied Artists**, Charleston, Kanawha County: \$3,000 for its 70th annual juried exhibition.

**Fayetteville Arts Coalition**, Fayetteville, Fayette County: \$2,750 for a Second Avenue mural.

**Monroe Arts Alliance**, Union, Monroe County: \$2,357 for an arts mentorship program and youth art show.

**Theatre de Jeunesse**, Parkersburg, Wood County. \$1,078 for "Noises Off," a youth theater arts project.

**MINI GRANTS**

*Provides support for schools, nonprofit community arts organizations and other nonprofit sponsors that do not present a season of events for the presentation of West Virginia artists.*

**Total: \$12,575**

**Alpine Heritage Preservation Society**, Thomas, Tucker County: \$750 to help pay for the ArtSpring Music Program.

**Appalachian South Folklife Center**, Pipestem, Summers County: \$850 to help pay for its 50th Anniversary Folklife Festival.

**Blue and Gray Reunion**, Philippi, Barbour County. \$600 to help pay for Ilene Evans/Voices from the Earth's

"Behind Enemy Lines."

**City of Oak Hill**, Oak Hill, Fayette County: \$1,000 to help pay for its summer amphitheater series "Taylor Made Band."

**Eagle School Intermediate**, Martinsburg, Berkeley County: \$175 to help pay Eric Johnson to perform during "Fourth Grade Heritage Day."

**Frankfort Intermediate**, Fort Ashby, Mineral County; **North Fork Elementary**, Circleville, Pendleton County; **Princeton Primary School**,

**Woody McKenzie (left) and Stan Bumgardner perform at the 50th Anniversary Folklife Festival in Pipestem. Photo courtesy of the Appalachian South Folklife Center.**



Princeton, Mercer County; **Summersville Elementary**, Summersville, Nicholas County; and **Taylor County Middle School**, Grafton, Taylor County: \$1,000 each to help pay for Mick Souter's touring musical theater "All Aboard the Iron Horse."

**Hacker Valley Elementary**, Hacker Valley, Webster County: \$250 to help pay for Ron Sowell's "Songs and Writing."

**Hampshire County Arts Council**, Romney, Hampshire County: \$400 to help pay for TarabRaqs Middle Eastern Music & Dance "Raqqin' the Kasbah."

**Holly River State Park Foundation**, Hacker Valley, Webster County: \$600 to help pay performers during the Holly River Festival.

**OH-WV Youth Leadership Association**, Point Pleasant, Mason County: \$1,000 to help pay for Ilene Evans' "Lead On! What's Your Freedom For?"

**South Charleston Museum Foundation**, South Charleston, Kanawha County: \$750 to help pay for "An Evening with Bob Thompson Quartet."

**Webster Springs Main Street**, Webster Springs, Webster County: \$300 to help pay for Burgoo Down Home Days with artists Cherry Run Bluegrass and Allegheny Outback.

**Weirton Area Community Foundation**, Weirton, Hancock County: \$1,000 to help pay for a performance of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

*Provides funding to artists to expand or improve their work.*

**Total: \$24,384**

**Robert Michael Bowen**, of Huntington, Cabell County, \$2,500 to purchase materials for building a multi-fuel soda kiln.

**Peter Cornett**, of Hacker Valley, Webster County, \$2,388 to purchase building supplies to convert a dilapidated woodworking shop into an energy-efficient studio.

**Aleta Cortes**, of Pipestem, Mercer County, \$2,191 to purchase camera equipment.

**Alice C. Fleischman**, of Davis, Preston County, \$1,211 to attend the Cascadia Irish Music Camp.

**Annie Henson**, of Wheeling, Ohio County, \$2,500 to purchase safety, wood-turning and wood-handling equipment.

**Dina Hornbaker**, of Charleston, Kanawha County, \$1,857 to purchase a banjo and mentor with Paul Gartner for six months.



**Left: West Virginia Artist Simon Oliver Lollis of Hillsboro plans to take classes at Joe Szilaski's Knifemaking. Photo courtesy of Simon Oliver Lollis.**

**Right: West Virginia Artist Stuart P. Strong of Elkins plans to purchase a free-standing, floor model wood lathe. Photo courtesy of Stuart P. Strong.**

**Simon Oliver Lollis**, of Hillsboro, Pocahontas County, \$2,500 to take classes at Joe Szilaski's Knifemaking School in Pine Plains, N.Y. and apprentice with master artist Zoe Crist in Rutherfordton, N.C.

**Melinda Elaine Shafer**, of Coalton, Randolph County, \$678 to attend a workshop conducted by award-winning polymer clay expert Christie Friesen.

**Michael Sizemore**, of Athens, Mercer County, \$1,830 to purchase a multi-



purpose welder.

**Kevin Raymond Stitzinger**, of Arbovale, Pocahontas County, \$1,478 for a self-designed apprenticeship with clay artist Keith Lahti.

**Stuart P. Strong**, of Elkins, Randolph County, \$2,500 to purchase a free-standing, floor model wood lathe.

**Kimberly Joy Trathen**, of Thomas, Tucker County, \$2,145 to purchase an industrial sewing machine, cutting table and supplies.

## WVDCH Launches Creative Aging Initiative

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History's Arts Section is seeking your help in expanding the reach of arts programming for older adults in West Virginia.

The state arts agency is in the process of creating a database of existing programs that support the arts and lifelong learning opportunities for older adults. With seniors comprising about 16 percent of our state's population, West Virginia is one of 31 states participating in the National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) Creative Aging initiative.

While the Arts Section and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts have long supported arts programs for older adults, we are stepping up our efforts because by 2035, nearly one in four state residents is expected to be 65

years of age or older. We're also motivated by research that shows active participation in the arts, whether by dancing, painting, acting or story-telling, not only enriches lives, but can improve health and boost vitality for both those receiving and those giving care.

Our database already includes information about more than 60 existing programs, from art classes at an assisted living facility in Ohio County to Healthy Steps classes and ballet performances for seniors in Kanawha County. Other organizations are offering poetry readings to people with dementia and other cognitive health disorders across West Virginia to help create new memories and tap into old ones.

Actors are entertaining folks

with plays and skits at community centers in Raleigh County and the Alban Arts Center in Kanawha County. The School of Harmony in Beaver in Raleigh County already teaches private lessons to seniors but plans to add group piano classes for seniors in the near future.

This new initiative will allow West Virginia organizations to tap additional resources through the NEA, which has provided more than \$1 million to arts organizations across the country to engage older adults in professionally led arts programming.

Please help us by sharing information about existing programs for older West Virginians. Let us know, too, if you are interested in starting one. All information should be directed to P.J. Dickerscheid at [Pamela.J.Dickerscheid@wv.gov](mailto:Pamela.J.Dickerscheid@wv.gov).

# Grant Opportunities for Artists

## **American Masterpieces–WV**

**Deadline: April 1**

*Provides support for projects that contribute to West Virginian's access to America's cultural legacy and an increased awareness of West Virginia's impact on that legacy.*

## **Arts in Education**

**Deadline: March 1**

*Provides support for curriculum-based, hands-on projects that involve K-12 students and teachers in the arts during daily instruction and for arts education programming outside of regular school hours.*

## **Arts Partners**

**Deadline: March 1**

*Provides general operating support to long-standing, stable arts organizations to further the general purpose or work of an organization, rather than for a specific purpose or project.*

## **Challenge America**

**Deadline: March 1**

*Provides support for innovative enhancement of public arts experiences; outreach documentation and evaluation.*

## **Community Arts Project Support**

**Deadline: March 1**

*Provides support for projects in all disciplines that offer arts programming to the public and planning and organizational development projects that strengthen West Virginia arts organizations.*

## **Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources**

**Deadline: July 1**

*Provides support for acquisition, construction, renovation,*

*accessibility improvements and capital purchases of durable equipment.*

## **EZ Arts Access**

**Deadline: April 1 /October 1**

*Provides support for small communities and organizations with small budgets. This is a simplified application process with the opportunity for application two times per year, allowing for special opportunities that occur after other WVCA deadlines have passed.*

## **Mini Grants**

**Deadline: 6 weeks prior to project date**

*Provides support for schools, nonprofit community arts organizations or other nonprofit sponsors that do not present a season of events.*

## **Professional Development for Artists**

**Deadline: February 1/October 1**

*Provides support for professional and emerging artists seeking ways to expand or improve their own work or share their expertise.*

## **Professional Development for Artist Organizations**

**Deadline: February 1/October 1**

*Provides support for professional artist organizations seeking ways to expand or improve their work or share their expertise.*

## **Training and Travel**

**Deadline: 6 weeks prior to project date**

*Provides financial assistance to artists, arts administrators and arts educators to attend seminars, conferences, workshops and showcases outside West Virginia.*

## **Contemporary American Theater Festival Celebrates 25 Years**

Happy Birthday, Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF)! For 25 years, CATF has hosted an annual professional theater festival that attracts audiences from around the world and pumps more than \$3 million annually into the local economy. For four weeks in July and early August, up to five new plays are offered in three venues on the campus of Shepherd University - the 400-seat Frank Center, the 200-seat Marinoff Theater and the 99-seat Studio 112. The plays are performed in repertory, allowing audiences to see all five plays over two to three days.

Founded by Ed Herendeen, CATF has grown from a \$90,000 budget in 1991 to just over \$2 million and from two plays a festival to five. Last year alone, more than 14,000 visitors came to Shepherdstown from 35 states as well as foreign countries for the festival.

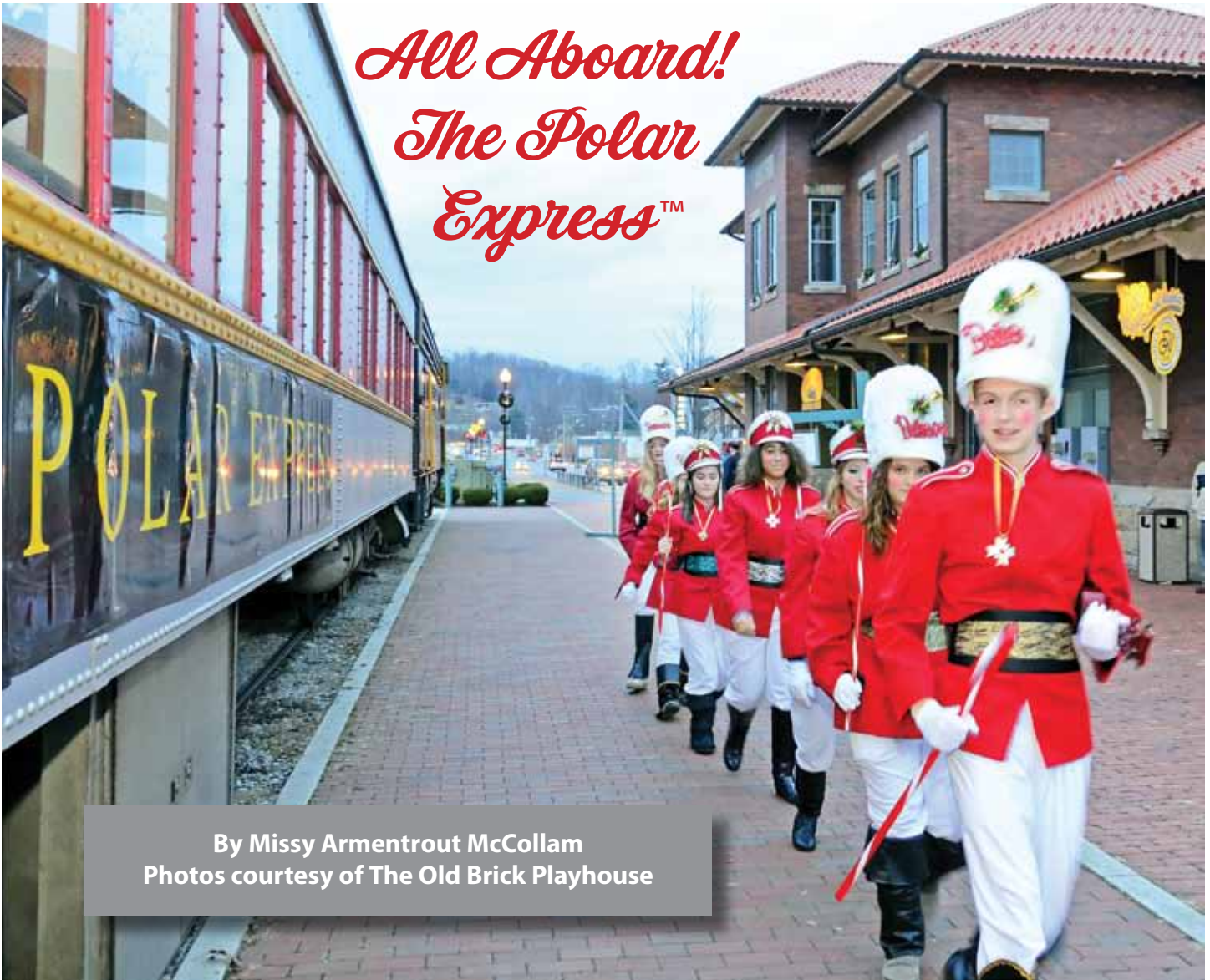
CATF, which received the Governor's Award for Leadership in the Arts in 2012, has produced 105 new plays, including 40 world premieres by 77 American playwrights.

Please join us in wishing CATF many more years of continued success in its commitment to new work by American playwrights that focus on contemporary issues.



**Contemporary American Theater Festival's 2015 season included a production of Joanna Adams' *Word Builders* featuring Chris Thorn as Max and Brenna Palughi as Whitney. Photo courtesy of Contemporary American Theater Festival.**

# *All Aboard! The Polar Express™*



By Missy Armentrout McCollam  
Photos courtesy of The Old Brick Playhouse

Toy soldiers march down the platform at the Elkins depot.



If you find yourself in Elkins in mid-November or December, you may encounter a myriad of magical characters, from life-sized toy soldiers to a parade of chefs, dancing and singing their way through rail cars onboard The Polar Express™ excursion train.

This unconventional yet highly successful collaboration between The Old Brick Playhouse Company and the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad began in 2011 with a simple query, "Can we do this?" More than 40,000 mugs of hot chocolate and 80,000 sugar cookies later, the answer is a loud and resounding "Yes!"

The partnership is viable because the railroad and theater education organization harnessed their efforts



**A parade of chefs dance and sing their way through rail cars onboard The Polar Express™ excursion train.**

toward a common goal – to create joy. The Old Brick Playhouse, which had a full-time staff of two, a student base of 75, and community members who participated regularly in theater projects, was delighted by the unexpected success and growth of the event.

The Old Brick Playhouse provides 17 onboard characters and 15 volunteers for each of 58 annual performances.

The talent was plentiful; the question was how to mobilize this collection of people. It was evident from the onset that additional staff was needed to orchestrate this military-like maneuver.

The solution arrived with assistance from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History’s Community Arts Staff Support grant program, which provided \$16,500 over three years to

*“Dear Santa, I’m on the naughty list, but I have an improvement plan. P.S. I still believe..”*  
 — Sam, age 6

help pay salaries for staff members to help keep up with the holiday excursion’s growth.

With careful guidance from the Arts Staff (and a hearty supply of candy canes), The Old Brick was encouraged to develop an inventory of needs and seek an individual who might help coordinate this Christmas caper. The organization was determined to not only maintain but improve extant educational programs.

The staff support team helped to provide the leadership and infrastructure needed for such an ambitious effort. Four years later, a small part-time position has matured



**Passengers wait to board The Polar Express™ at the Elkins depot.**

into two part-time positions.

Last year, 44 professional actors and 50 volunteers transported thousands of children dressed in their pajamas straight to the North Pole (aka Belington), and 10,000 visitors have already secured passage for this year.

The train rides are based on the 2004 holiday feature film by Warner Bros. and the beloved children's book by Chris Van Allsburg about a doubting young boy who takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole on Christmas Eve.

Onboard, children and their families are entertained by Mrs. Claus' domestic staff of enchanting chefs who not only serve fragrant hot chocolate but also read and amaze with a plethora of holiday surprises. The train conductor punches golden tickets as the train speeds toward the magical North Pole where Santa often boards the cars and visits with children offering a mysterious gift - but only to those who believe.

By seeking assistance through the Staff Support program, The Old Brick Playhouse was able to partner with the railroad to welcome nearly 50,000 visitors to Elkins. From the looks of their success, many more believers will follow suit.

*Missy Armentrout McCollam is the executive director of The Old Brick Playhouse.*

## **The Polar Express™**

**November 7, 2015 -  
December 20, 2015**

**Durbin & Greenbrier  
Valley Railroad  
315 Railroad Avenue  
Elkins, WV 26241**

**304.636.9477  
877.686.7245**



**Dressed as historical Randolph County characters, apprentices and alumni of The Old Brick Playhouse perform on the rail platform at the Elkins Depot. Photo courtesy of The Old Brick Playhouse.**

## **Challenge America Grant Helps Aspiring Actors in Elkins**

Through a \$10,000 Challenge America grant from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the Commission on the Arts, The Old Brick Playhouse Company is helping aspiring actors learn such skills as projection, physicality, improvisation and audience interaction in a unique environment.

Not only does Old Brick's Arts Incubator help prepare student actors for successful careers, it helps boost the local economy and increase interest in cultural tourism.

The Old Brick used its Challenge America grant to research, write, cast and produce original, historical mini plays that feature Old Brick apprentices, alumni, and local actors as historical Randolph County characters. Dressed in pre-World War II costumes, the actors appear on the rail platform at the Elkins Depot before passengers board the Tygart Flyer and other trains offering daily excursions.

Characters interact with passengers, helping to familiarize

them with the area's geography, history, folklore and culture.

Students who work on the train also participated in human resource and hospitality training workshops held by Old Brick. During these workshop, participants learned some of the best approaches for delivering world-class customer service.

The Old Brick's goal was to assist in personalizing the experience for each passenger, catching them up in the flavor of Elkins. To make the train journey more luxurious, Old Brick actors prepared a few additional amenities for onboard passengers, including a wellness basket full of ginger ale, peppermints, and saltines; a children's adventure basket complete with hobo signs; and a game and reading center for adults with guides to the flora and fauna of the area. Old Brick also developed an onboard narrative set in the 1940's that can be played as passengers enjoy their picturesque journey through the mountains.

Before boarding the train, passengers can converse with the local characters who enlighten them with chitchat and gossip, from Jesse James' mysterious connection with Elkins to using wild ramps as springtime tonic. "Yep, ramps'll put your lovelife into overdrive," says Amos, who not only sells local produce but can be called upon to procure white lightning as well. Social leader of the 1940's, such as the mayor and his wife, and the past society editor of The InterMountain newspaper in Elkins, check in with passengers to see where they motored from or if they have local connections.

The Old Brick Playhouse, which received the Governor's Leadership in the Arts Award for excellence in educational programming in 2010, has offered educational arts programming locally, throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and overseas since it was established in 1992. Its regular afterschool programs for elementary and secondary school students interested in exploring the arts earned it the Coming Up Taller Award in 2009 from the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Science. Besides its afterschool programming, The Old Brick Playhouse Touring Company creates an original play annually that focuses on social and cultural tolerance, conflict resolution, and drug and anti-bullying strategies.

Over the past 23 years these shows have entertained more than 2.5 million children and have been merited at the National Theatre in Washington, D.C., the Edinburg Festival Fringe in Scotland, and thousands of elementary schools in the Mid-Atlantic region and overseas.



**First Lady Joanne Jaeger Tomblin invites young and old to help trim this year's Artistree. Photo by Tyler Evert.**

## **Artists Invited to Help Trim the West Virginia Artistree**

Governor and First Lady Tomblin invite artists of all ages and abilities to help trim a tree at the Governor's Mansion with ornaments hand made by West Virginians.

Hundreds of artists have created ornaments for the Artistree since the program began in 2011. Each year, the governor and first lady look forward to opening the boxes when they arrive from the Culture Center to see what creative ideas people have.

Visitors throughout the holiday season will have the opportunity to enjoy the ornaments, which are

displayed on a tree that stands in the foyer of the Governor's Mansion at the State Capitol Complex.

This year, the handmade creations for the Artistree must be submitted by Friday, November 6. Submission forms are available at [www.wvculture.org/arts/artistree](http://www.wvculture.org/arts/artistree).

Ornaments and accompanying submission forms can be hand-delivered or mailed to the Culture Center, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston W. 25305 Attn: P.J. Dickerscheid.

WEST VIRGINIA  
*Governor's*  
Arts  
AWARDS

## Nominations Being Accepted For Governor's Arts Awards

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts invite you to nominate artists, arts advocates and arts organizations for the 2016 Governor's Arts Awards, which celebrate the accomplishments of some of the state's best artists and arts supporters.

Previous winners include crooner Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. of Logan, Oglebay Institute in Wheeling, the Morgan Arts Council in the Eastern Panhandle, photographer Arnout "Sonny" Hyde of Bluefield and Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg.

Nominations will be accepted through February 5, 2016.

The award categories include:

Arts in Education Award to recognize efforts to strengthen arts education in West Virginia public schools and the overall impact on arts education in West Virginia.

Distinguished Service to the Arts Award to recognize individuals and/or organizations of exceptional talent and creativity that have contributed to the arts and fostered growth, and influenced trends and aesthetic practices on a state and national level.

Leadership in the Arts Award to recognize individuals and/or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and access to the arts throughout

West Virginia.

Artist of the Year to recognize an individual artist who has impacted the exposure to the arts in West Virginia through his or her work.

Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement for significant accomplishments in the arts for an individual or organization. Winners will be announced during a gala ceremony next year.

Ten members of the West Virginia Legislature also receive Legislative Leadership awards for their significant accomplishments in the arts.

Nomination forms will be available in November on our website, [wvculture.org](http://wvculture.org).

**The 2014 Governor's Lifetime Achievement-Performance award winner Cathey Sawyer, left, performs during the award ceremony in Charleston last year along with pianist Kermit Medsker, bassist Joe Buttram and vocalist Kim Morgan Dean. Photo by Tyler Evert.**





# Governor's Arts Award Winners

## 2014

**Lifetime Achievement:** Don Page and Cathey Sawyer

**Distinguished Service to the Arts:** Carnegie Hall and John Gillispie

**Leadership in the Arts:** Community Music Association and Susan L. Adkins

**Arts in Education:** The Clay Center Explore and Soar 21st Century Community Learning Center and Sandra Shaw

**Artist of the Year:** Barrie Kaufman and Nina Denton Pasinetti

### Legislative Leadership Awards

**Arts in Education:** Del. John D. O'Neal IV, R-Raleigh, and Sen. Dave Sypolt, R-Preston

**Community Arts:** Del. Carol Miller, R-Cabell, and Sen. Rocky Fitzsimmons, D-Ohio

**Cultural Facilities:** Del. Kevin Craig, D-Cabell, and Sen. Ronald F. Miller, D-Greenbrier

**Folk Arts:** Del. Erikka Storch, R-Ohio, and Sen. Donna Boley, R-Pleasants

**Lifetime Achievement:** Del. Stephen Skinner, D-Jefferson, and Sen. Herb Snyder, D-Jefferson

## 2012

**Arts in Education:** Fine Arts Academy of Cabell Midland High School and the School of Harmony Inc.

**Distinguished Service to the Arts:** Grant Cooper and the Marshall Artists Series

**Leadership in the Arts:** Chesapeake Energy and the Contemporary American Theater Festival

**Artist of the Year:** Landau Eugene Murphy Jr.

**Lifetime Achievement:** Vernon Howell

### Legislative Leadership Awards

**Arts in Education:** Sen. John R. Unger II, D-Berkeley, and Del. Mary M. Poling, D-Barbour

**Community Arts:** Sen. Evan H. Jenkins, D-Cabell, and Del. Ruth Rowan, R-Hampshire

**Cultural Facilities:** Sen. Jack Yost, D-Brooke, and Del. Bob Ashley, R-Roane

**Folk Arts:** Sen. Karen L. Facemyer, R-Jackson, and Del. Meshea L. Poore, D-Kanawha

**Lifetime Achievement:** Sen. Jeffrey Kessler, D-Marshall, and Del. Charlene Marshall, D-Monongalia

## 2010

**Arts in Education:** Appalachian Education Initiative and the West Virginia Dance Company

**Distinguished Service to the Arts:** Jeanne Mozier

**Leadership in the Arts:** Oglebay Institute and the Old Brick Playhouse

**Artist of the Year:** Zachary J. Orcutt

**Lifetime Achievement:** Lynn Boggess

### Legislative Leadership Awards

**Arts in Education:** Sen. Robert H. Plymale, D-Wayne, and Del. Linda Sumner, R-Raleigh

**Community Arts:** Sen. Dan Foster, D-Kanawha, and Del. Jim Morgan, D-Cabell

**Cultural Facilities:** Del. Richard J. Iaquina, D-Harrison, and Sen. Roman W. Prezioso, D-Marion

**Folk Arts:** Sen. Ron Stollings, D-Boone, and Del. Harry Keith White, D-Mingo

**Lifetime Achievement:** Del. Thomas W. Campbell, D-Greenbrier, and Sen. Earl Ray Tomblin, D-Logan

## 2008

**Appalachian Folklife:** Gerry Milnes

**Distinguished Service to the Arts:** Adam DeGraff and Barbara Nissman

**Leadership in the Arts:** Larry Groce, Lakin Ray Cook and the Morgan Arts Council

**Lifetime Achievement:** William Maxwell Davis

## 2006

**Arts in Education/Service to Youth:** Augusta Heritage Center of Elkins

**Arts Leadership and Service:** John Bernard Schultz

**Creative Community Spirit:** City of Charleston's FestivALL

**Arts Innovator:** Kitty Clark

**Arts Patron:** Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

**Artistic Excellence:** Cathey Sawyer

**Lifetime Achievement:** David Wohl

## 2005

**Arts in Education:** Benny Mills

**Arts Leadership and Service:** Jessica Levine

**Creative Community Spirit:** Travel Berkeley Springs

**Arts Patron:** Clay Foundation Inc.

**Artistic Excellence:** Toneta Akers-Toler

**Lifetime Achievement:** Pam Parziale

## 2000

**Outstanding Contribution to West Virginia History or Literature:**

Dr. Ronald L. Lewis

**Outstanding Visual Artist:** Arnout "Sonny" Hyde

**Outstanding Performing Artist:** Larry Parsons

**Outstanding Cultural Organization:** Carnegie Hall

**Outstanding Renovation to an Historic Building:** Gregory and Rebecca Swords

**Lifetime Achievement:** George Crumb

## 1999

**Outstanding Contribution to West Virginia History or Literature:**

Otis Rice

**Outstanding Visual Artist:** Lynn Boggess

**Outstanding Performing Artist:** Thomas Conlin

**Outstanding Cultural Organization:** Contemporary American Theater Festival

**Outstanding Renovation to an Historic Building:** McKinley & Associates

**Lifetime Achievement:** Phyllis Curtin

# Governor Appoints New Members to West Virginia Commission on the Arts

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin appointed five new members to the West Virginia Commission on the Arts in July.

This citizen advisory board supports the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's Arts Section in its work with artists, arts organizations, schools and community groups to foster a fertile environment for the artistic, cultural, educational and economic development of the state. Established in 1967, the commission guides the state arts agency in establishing a state arts plan, approving and distributing grants, encouraging and promoting the arts and approving rules concerning its policies and functions.

Dr. Mickey Blackwell of Charleston, Jamie Dempsey-Butcher of Logan, Charles T. Mathena of Princeton, Jack Thompson of Morgantown and Amy Panzarella of Charles Town will serve staggered terms through June 2018.

The governor reappointed Susan Landis of Daniels, Carol Templeton of Milton, Max Armentrout of Elkins, Sam Winans of Parkersburg, Cindy McGhee of Charleston, Selina Midkiff of Charleston, DeEtta King Hunter of Lewisburg, John Strickland of Charleston, Susan Hogan of Wheeling and Dr. Bernie Schultz of Morgantown.



**Dr. Mickey Blackwell** of Charleston, Kanawha County, is assistant professor of education at West Virginia State University. For more

than 25 years, he served West Virginia as a teacher, principal, county superintendent, statewide director and collegiate professor. Blackwell is executive director for the West Virginia Association of Elementary/Middle School Principals, a professional organization that represents more than 200 administrators. He is a former superintendent of Roane County Schools and a former principal of Horace Mann Middle School in Charleston, which received national and state acclaim for academic achievement, attendance, athletics and a nationally recognized arts program including a string orchestra, show choir and performance band. At the state level, Blackwell directed the Office of School Improvement for the West Virginia Department of Education, a department that developed leadership, academic achievement and learning strategies for 29 Priority Schools and more than 40 Focus Schools. Blackwell has served on two public library advisory boards and the Kanawha Valley Arts Council.



**Jamie Dempsey-Butcher** of Logan, Logan County, who has been involved in theater since she was

15, earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Marshall University and a law degree from West Virginia University. With experience in marketing, public relations and electronic media, Dempsey-Butcher serves as president for the Board of Directors of the Southern Coalition for the ARTS Inc., a new theater

company whose mission is to help revitalize downtown Logan through history, culture and art. This new group is making a name for itself for its high-quality productions at the Coalfield Jamboree Theatre in downtown Logan and for its innovative and creative approaches to breathing life back into small towns.



**Charles T. Mathena** of Princeton, Mercer County, is president of the Charles T. "Chuck" Mathena II Foundation Inc. and

chairman of the Board of Governors for the Chuck Mathena Center, a nonprofit performing arts venue in Princeton. Born in Princeton and raised in Welch, Mathena attended Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and Bluefield State College. He and the love of his life, Marquette Ann Kruprey Mathena, had one son, an avid performing arts participant and supporter, who was born on Father's Day 1970 and died in an automobile accident in March of 1992. This tragedy led to the inception of the Charles T. Chuck Mathena II Foundation and construction of the Chuck Mathena Center, which opened on July 11, 2008, and now hosts more than 25,000 visitors annually. Mathena, who is president and general manager of Memorial Funeral Directory & Cremation Center in Princeton, is active in numerous civics groups and community foundations in southern West Virginia, including the Greater Princeton Little League and Princeton Rotary Club. He

served as chairman of the board for Princeton Community Hospital for nine years and is a member of First Church of God.



**Amy Panzarella** of Charles Town, Jefferson County, is vice president of human resources at American Public University System and a

contributing writer for the "Around the Panhandle" magazine offering human resources, management and professional advice to its readers. She was named "HR Professional of the Year" in 2011 by the West Virginia Society of Human Resources State Council. A 2011 graduate of Leadership West Virginia, Panzarella serves on several boards of directors, including the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce (president), the West Virginia University Hospitals – East Foundation Board (director), the Charles Town Old Opera House (secretary), Discover Downtown Charles Town (secretary) and is a member of the Charles Town Rotary Club. Panzarella volunteers for the Personnel Committee of the Eastern Panhandle Care Clinic, the Local School Improvement Council, the Career and Technical Education Council in Jefferson County, and the Marketing and Technology Advisory Council for Washington High School. Her interest in the visual and performing arts was born from her youngest son's passion for stage performance. Through these experiences, she realized how crucial the arts are to our youth and communities, yet the arts are underserved and under-recognized in her community, state and nation. She accepted a nomination to serve on the board of directors at the Old Opera House in Charles Town to better understand the

arts community and how she can serve the good work being done in theaters, schools, museums and art studios. Panzarella and her husband, Chris, have two sons, Andrew and Tyler, and dogs Bella and MJ.



**Jack Thompson** of Morgantown, Monongalia County, serves as the director of business development for the Morgantown

Area Chamber of Commerce. An avid art fan and collector, Thompson has previously served as director of corporate development for Chesapeake Energy, executive director of Arts Monongahela and worked for the Greater Morgantown Convention & Visitors Bureau and the American Red Cross. Thompson has

served as a consultant for the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and the West Virginia University College of Creative Arts. He has a degree in history from West Virginia University. Thompson serves on the Board of Directors for the West Virginia Botanic Garden and the Rosenbaum Family House. He is past chair of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra WVU Advisory Board and previously served on the Arthurdale Heritage Board of Directors and the Morgantown Museum Commission. He participated in the Leadership West Virginia program. A published freelance travel writer, Thompson enjoys traveling around the globe. He has helped promote travel, tourism and the arts in West Virginia. He has promoted the importance of cooperative projects and programs in his roles as state representative for the Mid-Atlantic Public Relations Association and as a speaker on the importance of regional cooperative projects.

## Strechay Joins WVDCH as Cultural Facilities and ADA Coordinator



It is my pleasure to join the West Virginia Division of Culture and History as the Cultural Facilities and ADA coordinator. As a West Virginia author, artist, art educator and native, I know first-hand how essential the arts are to our beautiful state, creative communities and one another. While my husband, Joseph Strechay, and I are proud to call Huntington home, we love to make time for our family and friends in Beckley, and may be found hiking in the New River Gorge with our rambunctious Australian Shepherd, Audrey, drinking iced tea and looking for great coffee, or cheering "Go Herd!" at a

Marshall home game. I am passionate about accessibility and ensuring that quality art experiences presented by West Virginia artists and cultural organizations are accessible to all audiences and look forward to serving as a positive source of support and information—because when the arts are available to all, everyone has the opportunity to participate, grow, and become an arts advocate.

— Jennifer Strechay

# Arts Presenters Save Money through Mid Atlantic Tours, Block Booking



West Virginia arts presenters can book quality performers at a fraction of the cost through the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation's Mid Atlantic Tours program. They can save additional money by block booking those same artists through West Virginia Arts Presenters.

Mid Atlantic Tours, which requires no application, can save organizations up to 50 percent off the artists' fees.

As a cooperative service organization that coordinates block booking of touring companies, West Virginia Arts Presenters can seek similar savings by filing a single application through the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's Community Arts Project Support grant program.

Coupled together, the two programs enable arts presenters of all sizes the ability to bring quality entertainment to their communities at more affordable prices.

Membership in Arts Presenters not only saves organizations money, said Community Arts Coordinator Debbie Haught, but also time as it will file a single grant application for all block-booking participants. Membership also affords smaller organizations with volunteer staffs the chance to learn from more experienced presenters, she said. To become a member of West Virginia Arts Presenters, contact Drew Tanner at [drew@pocahontasoperahouse.org](mailto:drew@pocahontasoperahouse.org).

Each year, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation selects seven artists for its touring roster, which includes performers of contemporary chamber music, dance, folk/traditional music, jazz, theater, world music, and a category that rotates annually to address different disciplines or special opportunities. Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status and a history of presenting are eligible for the program as well as colleges, universities, and local and state governments.

Several West Virginia communities have benefitted from Mid Atlantic Tours. The Beckley Concert

Association booked an October 20 performance of the string quintet Sybarites5 in Beckley. West Virginia University at Parkersburg is bringing folk artists De Temps Antan of Quebec to Parkersburg in February.

Shepherd University took advantage of the program in 2014 to bring Blues guitarist Guy Davis and the New Orleans-inspired rock and jazz band No BS! Brass. Earlier this year Shepherd and Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg each booked Fatoumata Diawara, a contemporary folk artist with a distinctly African spin. Shepherd also is hosting jazz songstress Cécile McLorin Salvant and Cirque Alfonse, a group of eight performers that blends contemporary circus with traditional Québécois music and some of Quebec's traditions and folklore.

In selecting its annual Mid Atlantic Tours roster, the foundation strives to include a diverse selection of artists based on feedback from presenters within the Mid-Atlantic region. It also factors in affordability, (fees normally range from between \$5,000-\$25,000), promotion of regional and international art forms and artists, and strong artist representation.

Supported engagements must include at least one public performance and one complementary activity that builds appreciation for the performance or art form. Complementary activities may include master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, and pre-or post-performance discussions, among others.

The Mid Atlantic's 2016-2017 roster, which was announced in late September, is available online at [midatlanticarts.org](http://midatlanticarts.org). Presenters must arrange the bookings themselves, but should also contact Michelle Grove at [michelle@midatlanticarts.org](mailto:michelle@midatlanticarts.org) to receive the discount.

For more information about our Community Arts Project Support grant program, contact Haught at [Debbie.R.Haught@wv.gov](mailto:Debbie.R.Haught@wv.gov).



Van Junior/Senior High School student Allison Kuhn cleans her brush before adding the next vibrant color to a school-spirit mural in the school's cafeteria.

## STEAM Power WV Grants Fuel Innovative Learning Projects

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History is partnering with the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to enable schools, nonprofit arts organizations and community nonprofits with arts-related missions to put STEAM Power WV to work for students in communities all across the state.

Thanks to a \$225,000 grant from the foundation, the division will offer up to \$7,500 for organizations that integrate the Arts with STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and math) in their curriculum and community programming.

A teaching or learning project that integrates the arts with STEM disciplines enhances school or after-school curricula by using

cross-disciplinary partnerships that include teachers, teaching artists, STEM educators or other professionals. Arts and community organizations as well as higher education organizations may also be involved.

The division plans to fund 30 STEAM projects between July 2015 and June 2016 and use these initial grants to create a repository of model STEAM projects that other schools, arts education organizations and community organizations can follow.

WVDCH Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith said he is delighted to be able to support the growth of STEAM projects across the state because studies have shown that STEAM projects encourage innovation, problem-based learning, creativity,

contextual thinking, and other aptitudes that are critical to 21st century college and career readiness demands.

Applicants must provide a match of at least a third of the total amount requested and must be organizations holding a 501(c)3 determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service or be a K-12 school, community college, technical school, four-year college or university.

Arts Director Renée Margocee said the division hopes to secure additional funding next year and offer a second round of funding for additional STEAM projects.

For more information, contact Jim Wolfe at the West Virginia Division of Culture and History at 304.558.0240 or at james.d.wolfe@wv.gov.



Celebrants join members of the WVU class of 2033 at the opening of the Art Museum at West Virginia University. Photo courtesy of WVU.

## Art Museum at West Virginia University Now Open

The Art Museum at West Virginia University, which houses the largest collection of work by renowned West Virginia painter and printmaker Blanche Lazzell, is now open.

Designed by Stanley, Beaman and Sears of Atlanta, the building near the Creative Arts Center on Patteson Drive in Morgantown houses more than 3,000 works of art assembled over more than 40 years. Admission to the museum, which features two exhibition galleries totaling 5,400 square feet and a two-story mural in the Plevin Lobby painted by graffiti artists How and Nasm, is free.

The museum will present exhibitions organized from the university art collection as well as host traveling exhibitions from other museums across the country.

Besides the work of Lazzell, a WVU

graduate who was born in 1878 in Madsville and played a significant role in shaping abstract art in America, the Art Museum of WVU will feature works by Pablo Picasso, Grace Martin Taylor, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, Polly Apfelbaum, George Bellows, Thomas Cole and Mauricio Lasansky.

The building is engineered to be energy-efficient while adjusting light, humidity, and temperature within the appropriate ranges required to protect vulnerable works of art. A university classroom, collection research room, and climate-controlled storage for the art collection are designed to meet professional museum standards.

At the August 25 dedication, WVU President Gordon Gee told a crowd of students, faculty and staff members,

elected officials, community leaders and art enthusiasts that art plays a critical role in a balanced education through giving us the capacity to embrace big ideas and connect with others.

"The arts, quite simply, nourish the soul," Gee said. "They make our lives richer, more compassionate, more fulfilled. They are, in fact, what makes us human. There is nothing like that exquisite moment when you first discover the beauty of connecting with others in celebration of larger ideas and shared wisdom."

Art Museum of WVU Director Joyce Ice encouraged the Morgantown community to take advantage of all the museum has to offer. She also noted that the museum "adds to the cultural vitality that makes Morgantown one of the best small cities in America."

# West Virginia Division of Culture and History Arts Section

304.558.0240



**Renée Margocee** is the Director of Arts for the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and is responsible for administering the division's arts programs, which include arts administration services, as well as state and federal grants for West Virginia's arts organizations, individual artists, schools and communities. [Renee.Margocee@wv.gov](mailto:Renee.Margocee@wv.gov)



**Robin Jones** is the Administrative Secretary for the Arts Section and helps administer, along with the Arts in Education coordinator, its Mini Grant program. [Robin.L.Jones@wv.gov](mailto:Robin.L.Jones@wv.gov)



**Barbie Smoot** is the Grants Officer and Budget Manager. She maintains the database and financial records for all grant applications and is responsible for compliance with all state and federal rules, regulations and policies. She also oversees the Training and Travel grant program. [Barbie.J.Smoot@wv.gov](mailto:Barbie.J.Smoot@wv.gov)



**P.J. Dickerscheid** is the Individual Artist Coordinator. She provides technical assistance to artists and artists' organizations, and administers the division's Professional Development for Artists and Artists' Organization grant program. She also is the editor of the agency's quarterly publication *ArtWorks West Virginia*. [Pamela.J.Dickerscheid@wv.gov](mailto:Pamela.J.Dickerscheid@wv.gov)



**Jennifer Strechay** is the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grant Coordinator and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Coordinator. She administers the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resource Grant and Fast Track Grant programs. She also reviews the accessibility of facilities and programs to ensure inclusion of all people. [Jennifer.Strechay@wv.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Strechay@wv.gov)



**Debbie Haught** is the Community Arts Coordinator. She oversees Arts Partners, Community Arts Project Support, American Masterpieces and EZ Arts Access grant programs. She also manages the Peer Assistance Network and offers training in grant writing and organizational development across the state. [Debbie.R.Haught@wv.gov](mailto:Debbie.R.Haught@wv.gov)



**Jim Wolfe** is the Arts in Education coordinator. He administers the Arts in Education, Challenge America, and Mini-Grant programs, and is the state coordinator for Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest for high school students. [James.D.Wolfe@wv.gov](mailto:James.D.Wolfe@wv.gov)



*Grants and services of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and West Virginia Commission on the Arts are made possible in part by a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the West Virginia State Legislature.*





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