

A free quarterly newsletter from the Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts

Art Works

Summer 2007

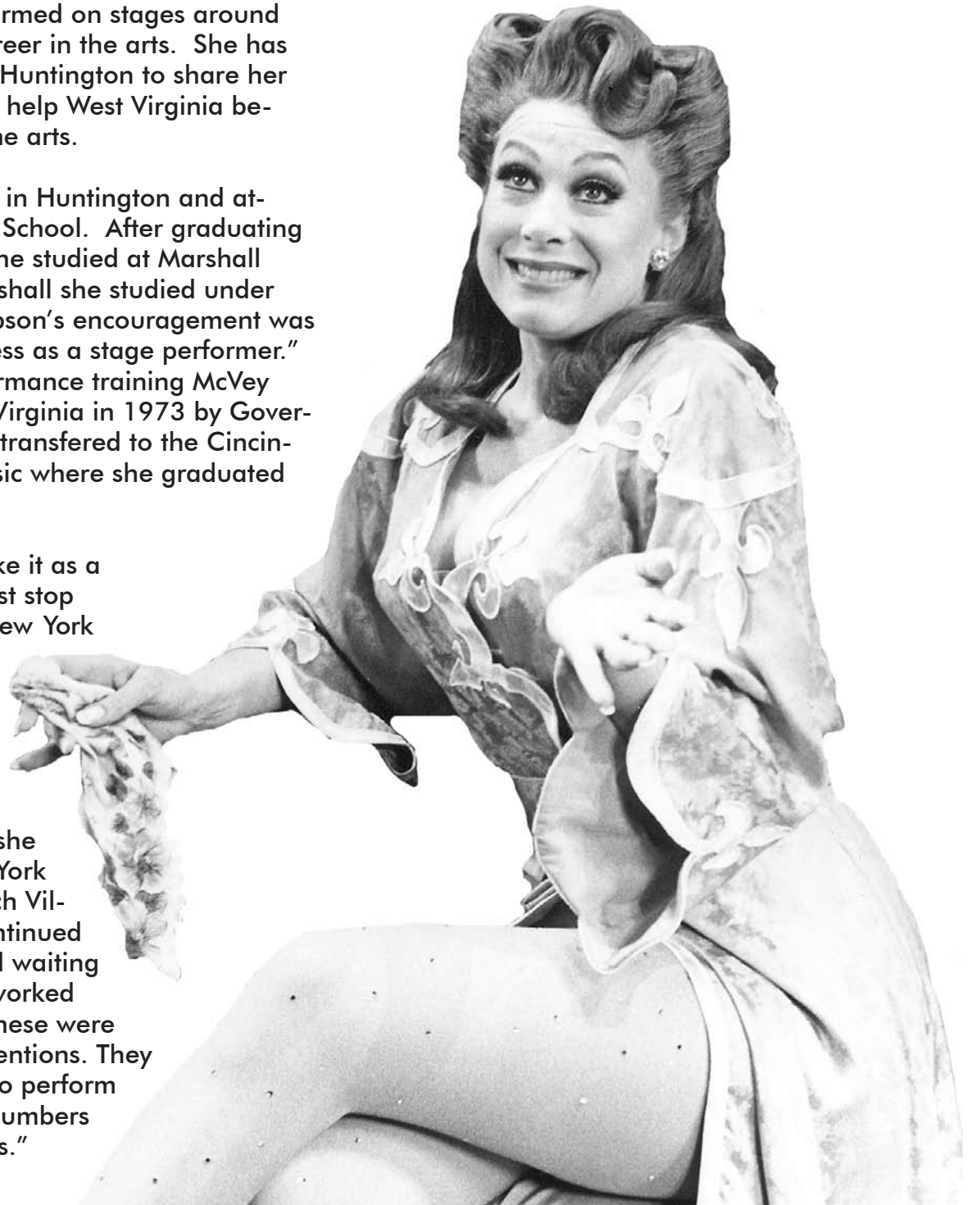
On Stage with Beth McVey By Jeff Pierson

Beth McVey has performed on stages around the country making a career in the arts. She has returned to her home in Huntington to share her talents with children and help West Virginia become a destination for the arts.

Beth McVey was born in Huntington and attended Huntington High School. After graduating from Huntington High, she studied at Marshall University. While at Marshall she studied under Jane Hobson. "Jane Hobson's encouragement was so important to my success as a stage performer." In the midst of her performance training McVey was crowned Miss West Virginia in 1973 by Governor Arch Moore. McVey transferred to the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music where she graduated with a BFA in Music.

McVey was set to make it as a star of the stage. Her first stop on the eventual trip to New York City was Washington, D.C. "At that time dinner theater was popular, I was doing shows in Laurel, Maryland, saving money to move to New York." In 1979, she made her move to New York City, living in a Greenwich Village apartment. She continued doing dinner theater and waiting tables. "In New York, I worked many industrial shows, these were shows at corporate conventions. They would hire entertainers to perform the most embarrassing numbers to promote their products."

continued on page 2



Beth McVey (Miss Adelaide) in a scene from *Guys and Dolls*. 1994

On Stage with Beth McVey

continued from page 1



Beth was crowned Miss West Virginia in 1973 (pictured here with Governor Arch Moore)

Over the next 20 years she performed in *Annie*, *Nine*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Beauty and the Beast* among others. Her focus, however was not the fame, it was the opportunities that she had. "I worked with some of the most amazing people. I learned so much from the people I had surrounded myself with. Jerry Orbach, of *42nd Street* and *Law & Order* taught me to be strong and self-confident. I was learning that the work itself has to be enough. Fame is nothing like you think it is going to be."



Beth McVey in *Man of La Mancha* with John Raitt 1991. photograph by Clark Linehan

"The more embarrassing the song the more you were paid." The important part of performing these shows were the connections made. One of the choreographers for the industrial shows had a contact with a new production at the Winter Garden Theater. That connection, mixed with hard work, landed her on stage on August 25, 1980 as part of the original cast of *42nd Street*.

42nd Street put McVey on the Broadway circuit.

After a long run on Broadway, McVey began touring in shows where she was given the opportunity to play the leads in shows like *Pirates of Penzance*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Oliver*, *Copacabana*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Urinetown*. In June 2004 after the run in *Urinetown* she moved back to Huntington. "I was ready for a change. I missed my home in West Virginia. All the things that I could not do in New York or on the road I can do now, I love to fish. I want to be involved in the arts here; I want to take a painting class."

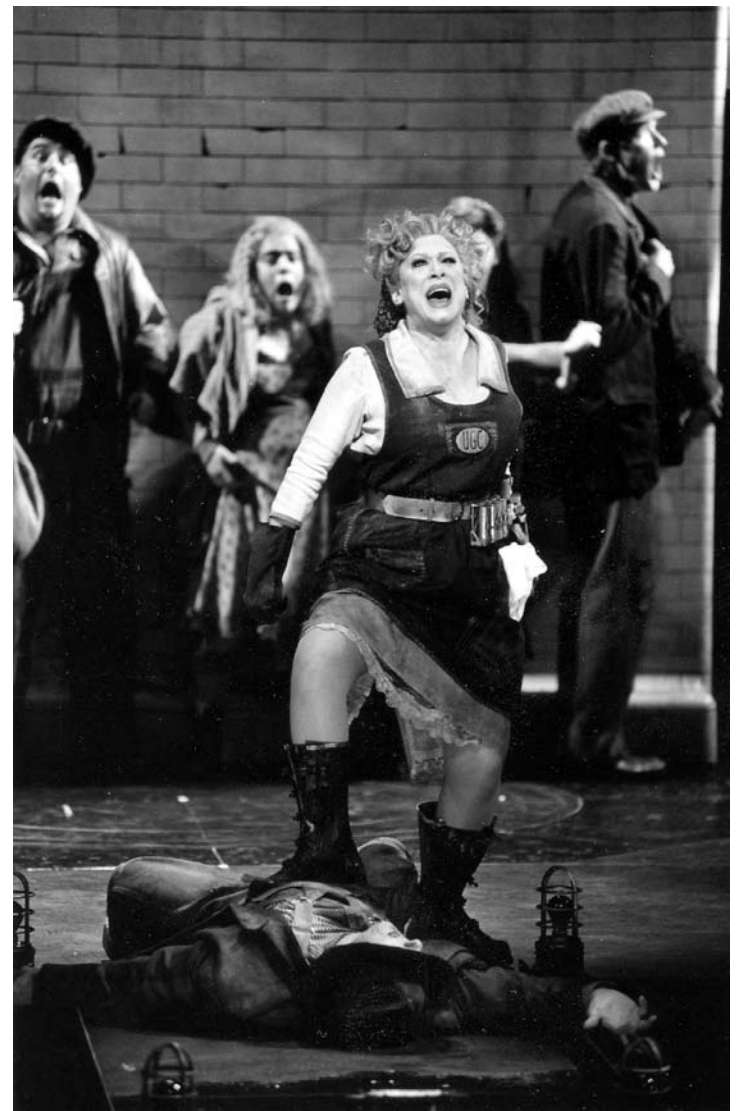
Since returning to West Virginia, McVey has remained active in theater. She has performed a cabaret

style one-woman show, worked with the Huntington Symphony, and this past April performed in *The Guys*, a show co-produced by the Marshall Artist Series and Greenbrier Valley Theatre.

Another focus since returning home is the arts in her community. She is an active member on the Arts Resources for the Tri-State board, a nonprofit arts organization that has a passion for arts education.

The organization is located in the Huntington High Renaissance Center. The facility has taken on many renovations to serve as an art center for arts education and as a production house for local theater. The after school program at the center provides students with top notch arts education. Students can choose from classes in theater, dance, and music. The classes are taught by members of the arts community in Huntington including McVey who teaches the theater class. "I love teaching, it is so important for these children to be exposed to the arts."

"My vocation has been replaced by advocacy" – Beth McVey



McVey as Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown the Musical*. 2003.

For more information on the Arts Resources for the TriState visit its website at www.733arts.org

Stay in a Work of Art by Jean Snedegar



photograph by Jean Snedegar

West Virginia has an interesting new twist on the getaway weekend – Elkins textile artist Michael Davis has created a new place to escape where you can literally sleep in a work of art. The canvas-and-silk riverside shelters are the centerpiece of Water Gap Retreat – Davis' new venture on the Shavers Fork River near Elkins.

Water Gap combines artistic and nature education workshops with camping by a scenic river. Calling on artist and naturalist friends and neighbors, Davis has created a series of weekends where guests explore subjects in a relaxed, outdoor setting. Topics range from creative writing, theater for non-actors and Appalachian singing to geology of the Allegheny Highlands, organic gardening and forest meditation. "One weekend we'll visit local artists' studios and another we'll be making felt with Laurie Flood from Morgantown," Davis says.

For more than 35 years Davis has been dyeing fabric – mostly silk – for one-of-a-kind clothing that is sold in galleries and exclusive shops around the country and abroad. He also uses his fabric to create wall hangings, bedspreads, tablecloths and lighting effects. In the dyeing process, Davis uses a technique called shibori, a Japanese method of putting color and texture into fabric. To get the richly textured effect, the fabric is wrapped around a pole before being tied with string and compressed.

"This results in intricate designs and extensive color-mixing," Davis says. "It's always surprising."

But at the end of last year Davis was looking for a new and challenging way to use his shibori-dyed fabric. He came up with the idea of putting it into a structure that people could stay in. He already owned a campground along the Shavers Fork River and thought he could build riverside shelters that were works of art.

He first approached Buckhannon architect Bryson VanNostrand. "Bryson was immediately supportive," Davis remembers. "He told me he's always wanted to work with nomadic structures, but never thought anybody would hire him to do so".

VanNostrand designed the new structures, which are 133-square-feet, built on platforms four feet above ground with tree trunk steps up to them. The shelters sleep two or three people.

Dormer rooflines on three sides make the shelters feel like you're in a cozy attic room and Davis' shibori fabric forms the side walls. With the river right outside, the sound is noticeably soothing.

In addition to sleeping in the shelters, workshop participants will experience local art, local food and local music. When they arrive, each guest receives a Water Gap mug made by Belington potter Kate Harward. The Appalachian rag rugs on the shelter floors were woven by Laurie Gundersen, who owns a folk art studio in Beverly.

Much of the food comes from Davis' vegetable garden on the property, as well as Scott Weaner's Rolling Thunder Farm near Parsons.

Baked goods – bread, scones and scrumptious brownies – are made by Mimi Kibler of LaFontaine, an artisan bakery in Parsons. Davis hopes to have guest chefs many of his weekends, including Tim Urbanic from Café Cimeno in Sutton.

Relaxation is a hallmark of the experience. On Saturday morning there is a "yoga-for-all" class led by Irene McKinney, West Virginia's state poet laureate. On Saturday evening, guests gather round a campfire and are entertained by local musicians.



photograph by Jean Snedegar

The first Water Gap Weekend took place in May. Michigan State professor Anita Skeen – a native of Big Chimney – led a creative writing workshop where participants ranged from beginners to professional writers. Skeen herself was captivated by the new shelters on the river:

"The shibori-dyed fabric looks to me like the stained-glass windows in church. When the evening light comes in from the west, it's stunningly beautiful – it's hard to believe it is fabric. It's magical."

As a writer, Skeen also liked the desks and the solar reading lights. (One solar panel lights all seven structures). "And you can pull that panel down in the back just like a window so you can overlook the river." Why would you need a stereo or CD player if you could listen to the river at night?"

About the Author

Jean Snedegar is a freelance writer and broadcaster based in Elkins.

For more information about Water Gap Retreat, visit
<http://www.watertreatment.com>
e-mail: watertreatment@gmail.com
or call (304)704-7867

Quilting: Art, Economics, and Fun by Jeanne Mozier

Like the quilts that are the core of the movement, this story of the Delectable Mountains Quilt Guild of Berkeley Springs includes a variety of pieces stitched together by common threads including the Apple Butter Festival, Morgan Arts Council, retirement trends and grants from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. The result is a pattern of dedicated women transforming a traditional and practical activity into contemporary fiber art of stunning creativity with an economic payoff for them and their community.

Quilts and the Morgan Arts Council



Satisfied student, Joanne Longverstein shows off her work

An important part of the Morgan Arts Council's (MAC) 30 year history has been nurturing single-focus arts groups in the county, often without premeditation. MAC's involvement with the art of quilting pre-dates the establishment of the Delectable Mountains Quilt Guild and grew from the family history of MAC founding member Suzanne Offutt. In 1979, MAC held its first art class in the space now known as the Ice House art center. Offutt's mother, Martha, was an accomplished quilter from Fairmont. She taught about a dozen MAC members a "Make and Take" class that created a log cabin pattern square.

When the Ice House gallery space was opened in 1999, the quilt guild moved their show in and made it an annual event. The quality of the space, which allowed the display of quilts so they could be showcased as art, had a profound effect on the evolution of the guild and the work its members were doing.

"Judy Merica is a local quilter who comes from the hand stitch, country school of quilting," said

Jane Frenke. "Until she saw her quilt hanging in gallery with lights on it, she did not realize it was a piece of art instead of just a practical exercise in reusing fabric."

The annual Delectable Mountains Quilt Show is produced by MAC as part of a grant from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. It is now one of the most popular and lucrative of the eight gallery shows staged at the Ice House each year.

MAC has also helped obtain professional development grants both for individual guild members and the group. Most recently, MAC won WVCA funding to bring in noted designer, Jean Ray Laury, for three days of lectures and hands-on workshops celebrating the guild's 25th anniversary.

"The Delectable Mountains Quilt Guild is one of our favorite collaborators," said MAC's Executive Director, May Hott. "They stage one of the most beautiful shows and contribute several dedicated volunteers for a range of MAC activities."

Quilting For Dollars



It is now a tradition. Every May, Berkeley Springs becomes Quilt Central with the annual Delectable Mountains Quilt Show at the Ice House and the Yard Square Quilt fund-raiser. Yard Square Quilts leaped from the creative mind of Jane Frenke as she gazed at five small quilts hanging over the frozen food case in a Wegmans Supermarket in Ithaca, New York in 2001. "I had noticed all these quilts hanging around town. My friend pointed to one she'd bought. It was a benefit conducted by local quilters. I immediately thought "We can do this."

The basic outline of the project is simple. Quilters complete a yard square wall hanging. They are displayed for a month in local businesses. A map of quilt locations is printed and widely distributed around town. People bid online or in the stores

for as many quilts as they want. On the final day, the bids are totaled and the amount donated to a local charity. In 2005, Delectable Mountain Quilters produced 28 yard squares and raised more than \$2000 which they presented to the Morgan Arts Council. In 2006, there were 37 quilts and the amount nearly doubled. The Morgan County Library received the donation. At deadline in 2007, 39 quilts had already received more than \$5000 in bids and organizers are anticipating a bidding frenzy on the final day. The Morgan County Humane Society is this year's recipient.

There are additional benefits beyond being a successful fund-raiser. "It is amazing to see the work the ladies can do in a yard square," observed Frenke. "There was some whining in the beginning about the rigid size but it is easier for bidders. They know exactly what the size is." A colorful poster with all the quilts depicted is available for a nominal price.

It is good for the businesses. If they did not have one, they noticed people walking in with the map of Yard Square locations wanting to know where their quilt was hanging. The array of participating businesses is impressive. At the century-old Hunter's Hardware, they always hang two quilts in the window next to the pellet stoves. Community Garden Market reports, "We have a lot of people

QUILT FACTOIDS

- 1. Delectable Mountains is a quilt pattern, the name of a book and the handle for the Morgan County quilt group.**
- 2. Quilters have cool words like “scrappy,” not meaning they pick fights but that they use scraps of fabric.**
- 3. Quilting originated simultaneously in China and Egypt, invented to create thick, warm textiles cheaply as well as to protect against both cold and heat. It is part of textile tradition in cultures around the world including Africa and Japan.**
- 4. Bedding made by Romans was called cultica which became a combination mattress and coverlet in medieval England called cowlte from which quilt derives.**
- 5. Pieced block quilts are an American innovation. Abe Lincoln’s “log cabin campaign” made log cabin quilts popular in the following decade of the 1870s.**
- 6. Jackie Kennedy Onassis was one of Cabin Creek Quilt’s first customers. The co-operative was started in Malden, WV by Jamie Thi-beault as a VISTA project to create jobs for women from coal mining families. Changing demographics and the emergence of many more outlets for the fabric art led to Cabin Creek closing in 2007, a victim of its own success.**

coming in with the map who have never been in an organic food store.”

It is good for the quilters, increasing attendance at the Quilt Show and getting the quilters known. “I walk around town collecting bids and having contact with the shopkeepers,” said Frenke. “It sure is fun finding these quilts all over town,” said one visitor to the Ice House show.

About 95% of the bids come in online from all over the country. In 2006, two individuals bought five quilts each and they are bidding again this year. The Internet segment is handled by guild member, Marilyn Moser. Once the quilts were posted online, bids began coming in even before they were hung around town. Quilts have been sent to high bidders as far away as California and Florida.

Frenke wants to get the word out about Yard Square Quilts fund-raisers. “This can work anywhere,” she said.



Jane Frenke: Breaking Out



Jane Frenke working in her studio.

Earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in graphic arts, Jane Frenke worked as a hand weaver, marketing her clothing from Maine to Texas through her business Loom Room. Relocating to Berkeley Springs from New Hampshire in 1999, she was taken to a quilt guild meeting by one of the long-time members, Isabella Young, “She told me to bring my quilts,” remembered Frenke. “I was self-taught, knew no rules and made quilts only for myself.” Frenke laughs at the memory of the guild members’ shocked faces when she presented her machine stitched, log cabin quilt that had writing all over it and a center made from gold lame. “One woman told me the gold lame would not last 200 years. I responded that neither would I. Isabella just sat there and smirked,” said Frenke.

In an avalanche of mutual stimulation, Frenke and the quilt guild transformed the work each was doing. Rika Bennett had been using machine quilting for the Apple Butter Festival piece, then Frenke arrived with a long-arm sewing machine that allows free motion stitching on up to 13-foot wide quilts. Now there are four such machines in the guild and several short arms. During the 1980s and 90s, the guild held biannual shows because

they could not hand stitch a quilt in less than two years. With the switch to machine quilting some members are challenging themselves to build and stitch a quilt in a day.

Frenke approached quilting like the production artist she was. She built a studio, uses the fabric she prints and paints, and does quilts in a series. “They are related but different,” she said. She draws with the needle, using the machine like a giant etch a sketch, moving it diagonally, watching the thread come out through the needle. “When the Gammel technician came to set up my new machine, he was amazed that I had written ‘tomato’ on a garden quilt I had.”

In less than a decade, Frenke went from quilting for herself to it being 75% of her business. She is juried into Tamarack where she usually sells one big quilt a year. When she first started, she won best amateur at the Pennsylvania Quilt National. More recently, she earned Honorable Mention at the West Virginia Quilt Show and has been juried into competitive shows including Paducah, Ky. and Hampton Roads, Va.



Jane Frenke and her long arm machine.

About the Author

Jeanne Mozier is a member of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts from Berkley Springs.

Do you Know your Moogily Googily from your Wang Dang Doodle?

By Kelley French



Steve Farley of the Steve and Steve Band rehearsing.
photo by Jack Rice

Started in January 2007, the West Virginia Blues Society (WVBS) is dedicated to promoting and preserving the history and heritage of Blues music as an American art form through education, activities and events. In short, the Society is dedicated to "Keeping the Blues Alive." Currently, the group is organizing and hosting the house concert series. The house concert is a variation of the "rent parties" of the early 1920s. Working musicians and others created informal gatherings and fellow musicians joined in to create improvisational impromptu jam sessions. For their donation, people in local neighborhoods and around the community got a chance to hear great music while they helped a musician pay the rent. Along with plenty of good food and spirits, folks got an up-close and more personal opportunity to hear the music and talk to the performers

Building on this inspiration, the house concert series continues to be a great success. The most recent performance with Pops Walker played to a full house in April. The WVBS hopes to expand the series by scheduling the concerts at more locations throughout the state. The unique ability to participate in such an intimate way allows listeners a one-on-one experience to learn more about the art of the blues and the artists. When you consider the cost of other local entertainment, the house concert series remains a unique and special offering from the WVBS for the public. In addition to its house concerts, the Society also works to bring in some of the finest acts around. Collaborating with festivals, other blues societies, fans and artists, the group seeks to provide blues lovers with a variety of great music.

The Society is committed to bringing educational programs into schools. Blues in the Schools (BITS) allows the society to share the experience and diversity of blues music with students in grades K-12. The students also have hands-on time with different musical instruments. WVBS and the Hohner and Gibson Companies supply the instruments and educational material for these workshops.

WVBS also taps into different musical styles such as folk, jazz and zydeco. This diversity is re-

flected in the make up of the Society's members. President Jack Rice hails from Wheeling, home of the Wheeling Heritage Blues Fest, one of the top blues festivals in the state. Rice is determined to make the Society the best of its kind. Hubert Sumlin, the one-time guitarist for Howlin' Wolf, and Australian Blues player Fiona Boyes, who is currently taking the country by storm with her talented performances, are also members of the advisory board.

Benefits to joining the Society include free admission to many events, discounts, promotions and other opportunities for members who play music, to network with fellow blues lovers. The WVBS has different levels of memberships beginning with an individual category at \$20 per year.

For more information about the WVBS, its programs, and upcoming events visit its website www.wvbluessociety.org or e-mail Rice at bkravenhawk@hotmail.com



Jack Rice, Alice Kelly, and Jimi Vincent at the fund-raiser event for the Blue Society.
photograph by Donna Price

"The necessity of the soul to express itself in ideas created from the heart means blues."

-The West Virginia Blues Society

"Musicians don't retire; they stop when there's no more music in them."

-Louis Armstrong

"A sculptor is a person who is interested in the shape of things, a poet in words, a musician by sounds."

-Henry Moore

ARTSBRIDGE Sponsors Ninth Very Special Arts Festival in Mid-Ohio Valley by Pamela Martino

ARTSBRIDGE is committed to its mission of improving the quality of life in the Mid-Ohio Valley through the arts. Created in 1986 to “bridge” the Ohio River between Wood County, West Virginia and Washington County, Ohio, ARTSBRIDGE is unique in that it may be the only arts agency that has done it successfully for 21 years!

On May 22, ARTSBRIDGE collaborated with West Virginia University-Parkersburg to sponsor the ninth Very Special Arts Festival where more than 700 kids with special needs and disabilities gathered for a day of interactive, hands-on arts activities. Ruby Ruppel, director of special projects for ARTSBRIDGE for 21 years, chairs the yearly event and enlists the help of more than 100 volunteers. Local artists set up art stops where the kids make their own art projects to take home.

The fun began when the kids arrived at WVU-P via school bus traveling from six counties in both West Virginia and Ohio. Art students from the Parkersburg High School art department created huge stringed instruments such as violins, cellos, guitars, and harps that were suspended from the ceiling at WVU-P where the kids entered the festival.

“Every year we choose a theme,” said Ruppel. “This year it was *Things with Strings* and it seemed to be a hit with all the kids.”

The headline performance was by Strolling Strings Sounds, a 25-member violin group from John Glenn High School in New Concord, Ohio. Sixteen interactive art stations were set up giving these special kids a hands-on opportunity to learn about different kinds of art and music, chalk art, Native American dance, wood carving and painting.

“This is definitely a collaborative project,” said Pamela Martino, executive director of ARTSBRIDGE. “We absolutely could never do it without the generosity of our community: folks at VSA-West Virginia, the Oakland Foundation, United Way, Rotary and Simonton Windows: all contributed money. Many others contributed food, art supplies AND their time.”

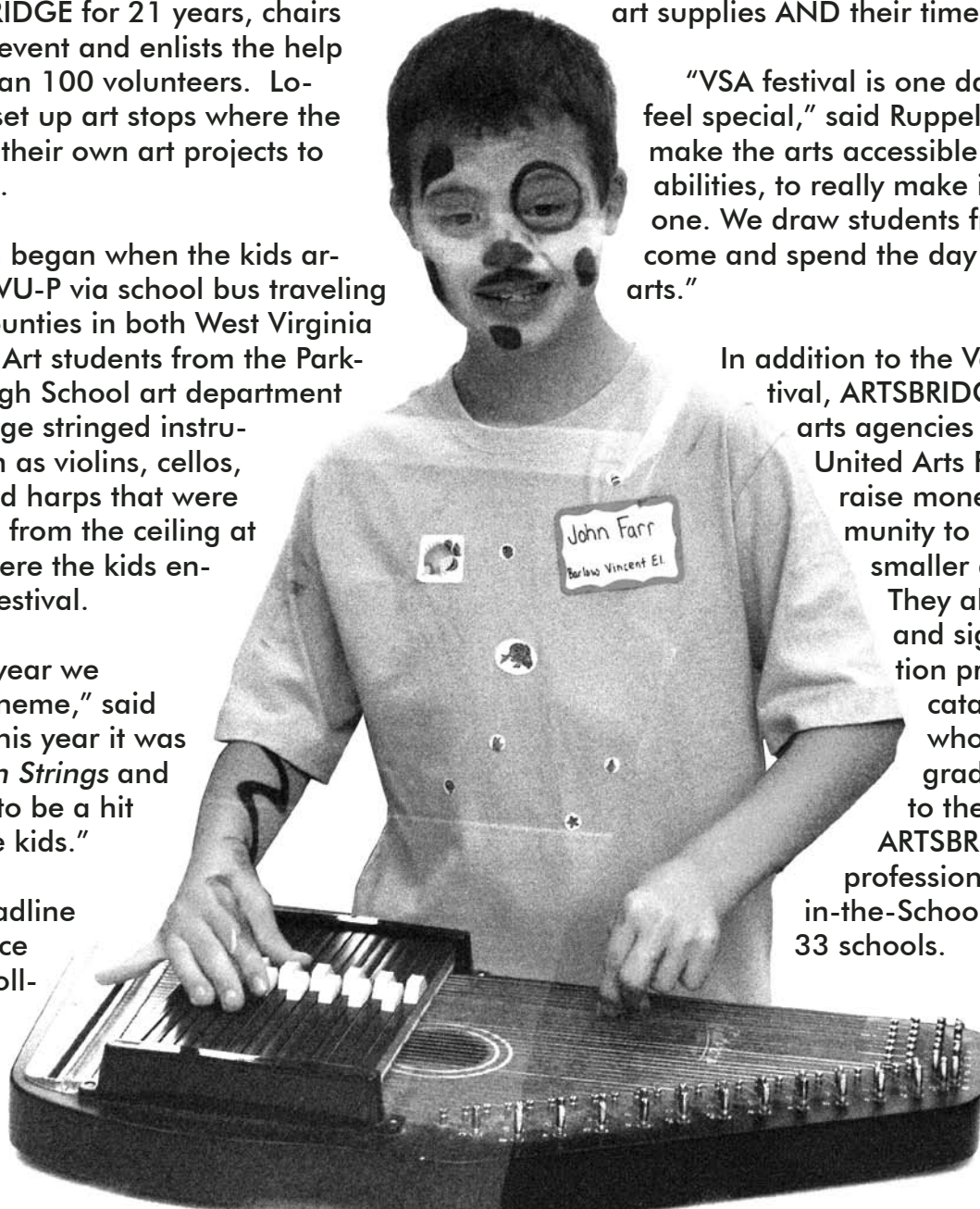
“VSA festival is one day when these kids feel special,” said Ruppel. “The idea is to make the arts accessible to students with disabilities, to really make it accessible to everyone. We draw students from six counties who come and spend the day learning about the arts.”

In addition to the Very Special Arts Festival, ARTSBRIDGE is one of the few arts agencies that still conducts a United Arts Fund campaign to raise money within the community to re-grant back to smaller arts organizations. They also have a strong and significant Arts Education program that utilizes a catalog of 25 local artists who visit 33 schools in grades K-6. In addition to the catalog program, ARTSBRIDGE sponsors three professional performing Tours-in-the-Schools that visit the same 33 schools.

The group’s newest project – The Labyrinth Project: Walking One Path Together – integrates the arts and spirituality using the labyrinth as the tool. This project piggybacked off the highly successful Heart of Art is Healing Project that was partially funded by a West Virginia Challenge America grant in 2006 and money from the Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund.

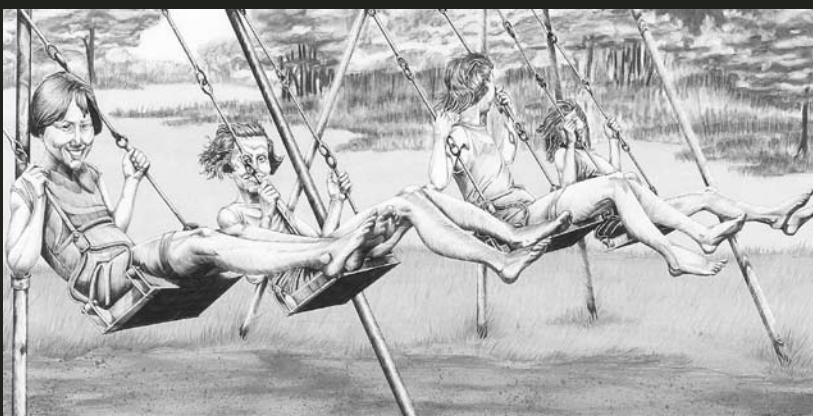


ADIA
ARTS for ALL



About the Author

Pamela Martino is the Executive Director at Arts-Bridge in Parkersburg



From the Collection: A spotlight on the collection of the West Virginia State Museum

Steve Opet
Weirton, West Virginia
Barefoot Swingers
Mixed Media
Award of Excellence, 2003 WV Juried Exhibition.

West Virginia Student Shines at National Poetry Out Loud Finals by Gregg McAllister

Elizabeth Ann McCormick, 2007 West Virginia State Champion of the Poetry Out Loud program, advanced to compete in the final round of the National Poetry Out Loud Competition in Washington, D.C. McCormick was among 12 finalists and 51 state champions from across the country who participated in the second annual national poetry recitation contest sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Poetry Foundation. Reciting the poetry of acclaimed writers, the contestants gathered to compete in two days of events at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium on April 30 and May 1.

McCormick, a ninth grade student from Capital High School, delighted the audiences and judges in the national finals with "The Spider and the Fly" by Mary Howitt, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost, and "Beauty" by Tony Hoaglund. The personification of grace, her performance so impressed the Chairman of the NEA, Dana

Gioia, that he remarked McCormick to be "... the reason the program was created!"

In this year's competition, Amanda Fernandez of Washington, D.C. became the 2007 National Champion and received a \$20,000 scholarship prize. The second-place winner was Branden Emanuel Wellington of Indianapolis, Indiana, who received a \$10,000 scholarship prize. The Virginia State Champion, Alanna Rivera of Arlington, Virginia, received the third-place prize and a \$5,000 scholarship. Their schools received \$500 each for the purchase of poetry books.

Special guest judges presided over the national competition, including Garrison Keillor, host of the radio show "A Prairie Home Companion;" poets Marilyn Chin and Kwame Dawes; Dominique Raccah, founder and CEO of Sourcebooks, Inc.; Steve Karesh of XM Satellite Radio; and last year's National Champion, Jackson Hille. Scott Simon,

host of National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition Saturday," served as emcee.

The other national finalists included Naja Selby of New Jersey; Robi Mahan of Illinois; Dean Muir of Kentucky; Shuqiao Song of Nebraska; Joshua Kelly of Montana; Fantasia Lonjose

of New Mexico; Janessa Nickell of South Dakota; and Amanda E. Fujiki of Utah. They each received a \$1,000 prize for the national competition, as well as two round trip airline tickets, and the all-

expense paid trip for two to Washington, D.C., a \$200 award and \$500 for their school libraries as state champions.

On March 24, 2007, McCormick led the field of contestants from West Virginia, taking home the coveted Championship at the State Finals at the Cultural Center. Hosted by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History with the support of the West Virginia Department of Education and the West Virginia Library Commission, the event showcased a remarkable array of talented high school students from across the state, including runner-up Francesca Wesley of Richwood High School, and 2006 State Champion, Brook Johnson of Sissonville High School.

The state finalists were awarded the West Virginia poetry anthology, *Wild Sweet Notes*, through a generous donation by its publisher, Patrick Grace of Publisher's Place, Inc., and tickets to The Charleston Ballet's performance of "The Windup" at the Charleston Civic Center as part of an all-expense paid trip to the capital. The special guest



Liz McCormick performing at National Poetry Out Loud Finals in Washington D.C.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

A great nation
deserves great art.



NEA Chairman Dana Gioia and Liz McCormick at National Poetry Out Loud Finals in Washington D.C.

judges for the Charleston event were actress and teacher Jamie Dunbar of The No Pants Players; poet and educator Crystal Good of the Affrilachian Poets Society; Marshall University English professor and author John McKernan; and poet and musician Doug Van Gundy. Actor and teacher Bryant McAllister served as emcee.

Poetry Out Loud seeks to foster the next generation of literary readers by building on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form as seen in the slam poetry movement and the popularity of rap music among youth. Through Poetry Out Loud, students can master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. Now in its second year of national competition, Poetry Out Loud has inspired thousands of high school students to discover classic and contemporary poetry. To find out how to get involved in the 2008 Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest, visit www.poetryoutloud.org, or contact Gregg McAllister at 304.558.0240 or gregg.mcallister@wvculture.org.

West Virginia Schools Celebrate the Arts by Gregg McAllister photographs by Mike Keller

The West Virginia Department of Education's (WVDE) inaugural "Arts Alive: The Best of West Virginia," showcasing the artwork of students statewide, was a free, public celebration held on Wednesday, May 2, at 7 p.m. at the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in Charleston. This year's signature event featured the visual arts, instrumental and vocal music. Plans are being developed to make the celebration an annual event spotlighting dance and theater also.

"The arts are vital to the success of the 21st century student," said WVDE Superintendent Dr. Steven L. Paine. "Arts programs encourage students to think creatively and adopt fresh approaches. Classes such as music, visual art, theater and dance challenge our perceptions and help develop ways of thinking that are visual rather than verbal. They foster creative thinking and help bridge language and other barriers among diverse cultures in a global society."

West Virginia's public schools have produced such successful artists as Don Knotts, David Selby, Kathy Mattea, Brad Paisley, Jennifer Garner, Lou Myers, and most recently, Derek Keeling, a finalist on the television show, *You're the One That I Want*.

Dr. Paine, First Lady Gayle Manchin, Education and the Arts Cabinet Secretary, Kay Goodwin, and other guests from the West Virginia Department of Education, and the Division of Culture and History, as well as families and friends were among those in attendance to enjoy the results of the hard work of teachers and their students in school arts programs across the state.

The program featured George Washington High's Band, Winfield and Hurricane High's Show Choirs, Edison Junior High's Jazz Band, Musselman High's Drum Line, Princeton High's Madrigal Singers, Westwood Middle's Steel Drum Band, Wheeling Park High's Orchestra as well as soloists, Brent Cox, baritone from Parkersburg High, and Branita Holbrook and Tristan Hott, cellists from Hampshire High. A visual art exhibit of work chosen by the West Virginia Art Education Association was projected on large screens during the event and, along with improvisational dance created by students in WV Dance Company, was displayed in the lobby before the show and during intermission.

Music performers were selected through regional solo and ensemble festivals. Other groups were included by invitation or through a variety of other existing contests and adjudications across the state.

For more information about "Arts Alive" and school arts programs, please contact Julia Lee, Arts Coordinator at the West Virginia Department of Education at 304-558-5325 or jlee@access.k12.wv.us.



**Westwood Middle School Panhandlers Steel Drum Band
Monongalia County**



**Edison Junior High School Jazz Band,
Wood County**



Winfield High School Show Choir, Putnam County



Hurricane High School Show Choir, Putnam County

Focus on the 2007 WV Artist Fellowships

Missy Armentrout McCollam and Mark Zanter recently received fellowships from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

Playwriting: Missy Armentrout McCollam of Elkins

Missy is the Executive Director of The Old Brick Playhouse, a nonprofit theater she created in Elkins, West Virginia in 1992. She holds a BA in Theater from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and a MFA in Directing from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. She toured with the Shenandoah Shakespeare Express and several improvisational companies. She studied theater at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland. McCollam has written more than 20 original musical comedies for children that have toured extensively from elementary schools in the Mid-Atlantic Region to the National Theater in Washington, D.C. to the Edinburgh Scotland Festival Fringe. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at several institutions including James Madison University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Davis and Elkins College, and Alderson Broaddus College. She has also been an ArtsBank instructor in Randolph County and an Artist-in-Residence in Pendelton County.



Music Composition: Mark Zanter of Huntington

Mark Zanter, an active composer/performer, has received commissions from the UIUC Creative Music Orchestra, CU Symphony, the American Composers Forum, the WV Commission on the Arts, and WVMTA. He has appeared as a composer and performer on WILL, IPR, Second Sunday concerts, on and WVPN "In Touch With The Arts." His works are published by Les Productions d'OZ and have been performed nationally and internationally at festivals including, MUSIC '98 (Cincinnati Conservatory) June in Buffalo, The Cortona Contemporary Music Festival, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts.

Zanter is currently associate professor of composition at Marshall University. He completed his A. Mus. D. in composition at the University of Illinois where he studied with, Salvatore Martirano, William Brooks, Paul Martin Zonn, and Erik Lund.



Tamarack Foundation to offer services for artists

TAMARACK FOUNDATION
Trust and Conservancy for West Virginia Culture

The Tamarack Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to funding important support programs for the artisans, craftspeople and specialty food producers of West Virginia. Donor support provides educational and training opportunities to help strengthen artisans in the development of their craft, opportunities to expand economic potential and assist artisans who face critical needs or are suffering hardships and career-threatening events beyond their control.

Programs Offered:

* **Access to Resources** – Any Tamarack juried artisan can contact the Tamarack Foundation or Tamarack's Artisan Services staff for resources on health and business insurance, safety information or sources of financial recovery support including the Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF).

* **Education and Training** – Between the Foundation's outreach efforts and the Artisan Resource Center located in uptown Beckley, the Foundation provides opportunities for learning and networking for professional development and business success.

* **Financial Support** – In 2004 the Foundation launched the Tamarack Foundation Artisan Relief Program (TARP) as a vehicle for providing assistance to artisans during difficult times. Examples of financial emergencies that qualify for funding include critical medical and health needs, replacement of essential personal items lost to theft, flood, fire or other disasters, emergency housing or relocation to escape dangerous living conditions. Assistance will not be provided for non-essential items. TARP receives support through private contributions to the Tamarack Foundation that are restricted to artisan relief. Assistance will be awarded as long as such funds are available.

* **Artisan Resource Center** - The Artisan Resource Center is a place where an artisan can come for individual counseling on the components that make up a successful artisan business including: marketing, presentation, and development.

To learn more about the Tamarack Foundation, contact Ron DeWitt, Artisan Services Director, at 304-256-6843 or visit the website at www.tamarack.com

Jeff Pierson named as new Director of Arts



photograph by Mike Keller

In April, Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History named Jeff Pierson of Charleston director of the agency's Arts Section. Pierson previously served the Division as Individual Arts Coordinator of the Arts Section. In his new role he will be responsible for administering the Division's arts programs which include arts administration services and the development and implementation of State and Federal grants for West Virginia's arts organizations, individual artists and schools and communities.

"In my time here at the Division of Culture and History I have had the distinct privilege of working with many wonderfully talented artists in this state. In my new position, I am looking forward to extending the reputation of West Virginia as a state that is known far and wide for its rich and varied arts community. Being a native West Virginian I have grown up with the arts in my life, they are a part of who I am. It is an honor to be serving the artists and arts organizations of West Virginia"

Pierson has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Illustration from Columbus College of Art and Design. Pierson is also a free-lance illustrator.

WVCA Public Comment Meeting

The West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) will hold its annual public comment meeting on Friday, October 19, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Parkersburg, WV (location details, tba).

The purpose of the meeting is to give members of the arts community the opportunity to address members of the Commission. Individuals who plan to appear before the Commission should submit their comments in writing to Arts Section, West Virginia Division of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, W.Va. 25305-0300.

Those who address the Commission in person should limit their presentations to 10 minutes. Interested parties are encouraged to call in advance to facilitate scheduling of speakers. For more information about the public meeting or to register to appear, call (304) 558-0240, ext. 714. You must be registered by Oct 5 in order to speak at meeting

On Wednesday June 6, 2007 The West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) held their annual grant approval meeting. This year the meeting was held at West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling. On Tuesday night, before the meeting the Oglebay Institute and the Wheeling Symphony held a "Meet and Greet" with the WVCA at the Stifel Fine Arts Center. Members from the community were invited to discuss concerns and new ideas with commission members. This event and meeting are part of a new initiative to provide the WVCA members the opportunity to see first hand the rich array of artistic expression in the various regions of the state.



Top Row left to right: Delegate Orphy Klempa, Cindy McGhee, Jeff Pierson, Addie Ours Middle Row: Kathleen McDermott, Jeanne Mozier, Penny Watkins, Susan Hogan Bottom Row: Delegate Andy McKenzie, Elaine D'Alessandri, Rosa Lee Vitez, Susan Landis, WVDCH Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith and Delegate Tal Hutchins. photograph by Misty Klug



The West Virginia Commission on the Arts, established in 1967, works with artists, arts organizations, schools, and community groups to foster a fertile environment for the artistic, cultural, educational and economic development of the state.

Managing Your Grant Award

Amazing arts experiences are being presented in communities all across West Virginia and many of them are being supported through grants from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVCA/WVDCH). As paid or volunteer arts administrators, we all know the planning that goes into a successful arts project, and the work that is required for a successful grant application. But just as important is what comes next – managing the grant.

Here are a few simple steps that will make the management of your grant the final step in the execution of a great arts project.

NOTIFICATION: YOU WERE FUNDED!

After the WVCA meets and approves all recommended funding, a grant award packet will be sent to the address presented on the original grant application. Make sure you read ALL the information included. If you have questions, please contact staff, we will be glad to assist you.

Inside your grant award packet you will find:

- A letter informing you of your award
- Grant Item Sheet
- Contract
- Logos for proper acknowledgement of your grant
- Final Report Form

LET YOUR LOCAL MEDIA KNOW

Let your local media know that your project was awarded funding. It is positive press for your organization and advocacy for the arts. A story about your successful grant also can be a wonderful pre-marketing tool.

SIGN AND RETURN YOUR CONTRACTS

Have your authorizing official (usually a member of your executive committee) sign the contract in BLUE ink. The contract must be notarized. Make a copy for your file and return the original to the WVCA/WVDCH (the grantor) as per packet instructions.

KEEP GOOD RECORDS

Make a separate file for each grant and label it with the name and grant number. Put a copy of the grant application, the contract and the final report forms in the file. Add to the file as your project progresses.

REVIEW YOUR GRANT AWARD MATERIALS

Are there any special provisions for which you need to plan? Is there any information requested that you should plan to collect?

The GRANT ITEM SHEET will give you several important pieces of information: 1) a break down of how your project was funded and at what level; 2) a timeline for payment; 3) comments from the panel review; and 4) any stipulations on your grant award. Please pay special attention to the COMMENTS and STIPULATIONS section of the GRANT ITEM SHEET. These areas provide feedback to improve future applications and alert you to any additional information that is required before your grant can be paid. Keep the COMMENTS handy for any upcoming applications. Comments are meant to inform and strengthen subsequent ap-

plications. If there is a STIPULATION, you will be required to submit additional information before your grant request can be processed for payment. Contact staff with questions! You will not receive your scheduled payment until the stipulations have been met.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX REGULARLY

Keep a copy of all correspondence between you and the grantor in your files. Print off emails and include them in your file as well.

KEEP THE GRANTOR INFORMED

Let the WVCA/WVDCH know if you change any part of your project, your address or contact information, or if your authorizing official changes.

HAVE GRANT CHANGES APPROVED

There are sometimes situations that require a change in your grant – bad weather forces re-scheduling, an artist is unable to fulfill their contract. These types of changes must be approved by the Director of Arts on any WVCA-funded project. Write a letter describing the requested changes and keep a copy for your file. You will receive a responding letter approving or denying your request. You can work with staff to best resolve your funding changes.

DOCUMENT INCOME AND EXPENSES

Keep a ledger of income and expenses related to the project. Keep copies of receipts and invoices in your grant file. Make sure you maintain the account according to generally accepted accounting practices.

KEEP PROJECT FILE UP TO DATE

As your project progresses – document! Collect programs, reviews, clippings, letters of support, attendance figures, photos, marketing samples and other information in your file.

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FUNDER

Remember to acknowledge the WVCA/WVDCH and the National Endowment for the Arts along with any other funders or sponsors in all printed materials and websites. For links to downloadable logos visit: <http://www.wvculture.org/arts/logo.html>

MARKET YOUR ACCESSIBILITY

In accordance with the law and the WVCA/WVDCH requirement – use appropriate accessibility symbols on all printed materials and websites. For free downloadable accessibility symbols visit <http://www.gag.org/resources/das.php>

MARK FINAL REPORT DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

Send your final report on time. If you have kept proper records and updated your grant file, all the information you need to prepare your final report should be at hand. Allow yourself time to present a thorough and well-written final report. The final report is your way of showing the grantor that you can manage successful projects. The evaluation used in preparing your final report also prepares you to enter your next phase of planning. For downloadable final report forms visit: <http://www.wvculture.org/arts/grants.html>. Starting with FY08 grant awards, all final reports will need to be notarized in compliance with SAGA (State Agency Grant Awards) requirements.



Ohio River Border Initiative

The Ohio River Border Initiative (ORBI) awards about \$30,000 in grants every year for projects that connect artists, organizations and communities across the West Virginia/Ohio border. The ORBI grant panel met this year on March 9 and awarded 15 grants. The total number of applicants, 19, was up from last year, and three first-time applicants were awarded grants this year. The ORBI grant program funds projects in both Ohio and West Virginia for organizations ranging from the relatively new and small Arts at the Alpine program in Ripley to the Wheeling Symphony and the Oglebay Institute. This year's projects included storytelling programs, youth dance programs, festivals, concerts for kids, and art exhibits. ORBI panelists look for projects that actively engage participants in the arts.

If you would like to find out more about ORBI, the annual grant program and its other programs, visit www.orbi.org.

Project	Organization	Grant Award
Montclair String Quartet in Washington Co., OH and Wood Co., WV schools	WV Symphony Orchestra, Parkersburg	\$2,300.00
Summer Festival Exhibit in Gallipolis, OH	French Art Colony	\$1,500.00
Children's Theater Program at Actors' Guild of Parkersburg, WV	Guild Builders	\$3,000.00
2007 Holiday Performances and Master Classes, Parkersburg, WV	Schrader Youth Ballet Company	\$1,900.00
Storytelling Programs, Meigs Co., OH and Mason Co., WV	Riverbend Arts Council	\$1,450.00
Artist and craft demonstrator fees at festival in New Martinsville, WV	Artslink	\$1,500.00
Artists' fees for 2007 festival in Parkersburg, WV	Mid-Ohio Multi-Cultural Festival	\$3,000.00
Evergreen Arts and Humanities Series in Marietta, OH and Parkersburg, WV	Washington State Community College Foundation	\$3,000.00
Young people's concerts for Ohio and West Virginia schools, Wheeling, WV	Wheeling Symphony Society	\$2,300.00
Storyteller Performance, Ripley, WV	Arts at the Alpine*	\$585.00
Very Special Arts Program, Parkersburg, WV	Artsbridge	\$2,700.00
Youth Theater Program, Monroe County, OH	Oglebay Institute*	\$2,300.00
Artist residency in Washington Co., OH & Wood Co., WV schools	The Blues, Jazz & Folk Music Society	\$2,500.00
First Annual Summer Concert Series Steubenville, OH	Old Fort Steuben Project	\$1,500.00
Miniatures Exhibition Huntington, WV	Renaissance Art Gallery*	\$590.00

*denotes first-time applicant

Workshop offered for Artists

Ohio Designer Craftsmen and Hocking College are presenting a two-day Business of Art workshop at Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio on October 20 and October 21, 2007. The workshop sponsors are planning much more than just a workshop.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2007, the Ohio Arts Council, Hocking College, the Voinovich Center and the Ohio River Border Initiative are co-sponsoring a series of community conversations to help create the workshop. The co-sponsors are inviting artists and craftspeople across Appalachian Ohio and western West Virginia to share their experience and ideas with the workshop planners.

The goal of the community conversations and the October workshop is to strengthen the ability of artists and craftspeople to respond to business challenges by helping them build viable support networks that link them to fellow artists, local business communities and new marketing and financial resources. The community conversations, hosted by local arts organizations around the region, are the first step in this process.

If you are an artist or craftsperson and want to learn from other arts business people, start with the community conversation in your area and get involved in the Business of Art workshop in October. For more information, visit the Business of Art program's Web blog at <http://soartbiz.wordpress.com>.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

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West Virginia Commission on the Arts

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WV Commission on the Arts

www.wvculture.org

Rolling Deadline: Mini-Grants and Emergency Fast Track Cultural Facilities and Accessibility Grants
August 21: American Masterpieces - WV
September 1: Artist Fellowship
February 1: Challenge America and Professional Development

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

www.midatlanticarts.org

West Virginia Development Office

www.sbdcwv.org

Ongoing deadline for reimbursement grant for web site design and maintenance training. Group training preferred. Click on "Small Business Work Force Training Grant Application." For more information, contact Kimberly Donahue at kdonahue@wvdo.org or call 304-558-2960 or 888-982-7232.

West Virginia Division of Tourism

www.wvtourism.com

The Cooperative Tourism Promotion Fund is a matching reimbursement program to assist tourism destinations/attractions by using direct advertising to attract visitors to West Virginia. Rolling application deadlines are Jan. 1, April 1, July 1 and Oct. 1. For more information, contact the Division of Tourism at (304) 558-2200.

National Endowment for the Arts

www.arts.endow.gov

Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth: June 11, 2007
Access to Artistic Excellence: August 13, 2007
New Play Development: August 20, 2007
Education Leaders Institute: August 22, 2007
The Arts on Radio and Television: September 7, 2007

WV Humanities Council

www.wvhumanities.org

Aug. 1, Oct. 1 and Dec. 1: Mini Grants
Travel Assistance Grants: Ongoing deadline
September 1 and February 1: Major Grants
September 1: Media Grants, Publication Grants and Teacher Institutes

Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour

www.pennpat.org

Presenter Deadlines for Fee Support and New Directions Grants: October 15, 2007 for events scheduled between February 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009
Rolling Deadline: Tour Planning Program
February 15: Presenter Travel Grants: Up to \$500 toward 50% of travel costs. See website for specifics.

**2007 West Virginia Juried Exhibition October 19, 2007 - February 8, 2008
Parkersburg Art Center for more information go to www.wvculture.org**

West Virginia Commission on the Arts Announces a new Grant Program

West Virginia's American Masters/Masterpieces initiative seeks to ensure that West Virginians have continued access to America's cultural legacy and an increased awareness of West Virginia's impact on that legacy through 1) increased opportunities through financial touring support for WV presenters to offer high quality touring programs with strong educational and outreach components; 2) encouraging collaborative multi-disciplinary projects featuring WV artists in innovative programs that can be toured to a minimum of three communities; 3) developing enhanced opportunities for colleges and universities to partner with arts organizations and artists to strengthen arts learning and pathways to arts careers; 4) documentation of masterworks with a final product to be shared with schools or libraries.

The WVCA encourages applications from West Virginia-based organizations for projects beginning in January 2008. Applicants should make the case that the proposed work is of acknowledged national stature and tenure. The language below (What Makes an American Masterpiece?) defining American masters/masterpieces will help clarify what American Masterpieces means to West Virginia, and will enable funded projects to represent the standards of quality set forth by the NEA.

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, re-creations, reconstructions, productions, presentations, reading, exhibition, meet-the-artist, broadcast, and touring of existing masterworks or master artists. Projects should be open to the public or presented as part of student curriculum with an emphasis on educational materials and activities meeting state instructional goals and objectives.

Projects may stand alone or be part of a larger season of presentations as long as those projects have not already been funded through regular grant programs of the WVCA. The work of West Virginia artists is eligible if it meets the criteria for American Masterpieces. Collaborative projects that feature the work of West Virginia artists in more than one community are encouraged.

Projects may complement or tie in directly to the broad portfolio of American Masterpieces projects awarded competitively through NEA discipline programs. Organizations may expand an existing project funded through WVCA to deepen appreciation and understanding of a masterwork. Commissioning new work is not eligible through

this program. Only one application for AMERICAN MASTERPIECES-WV per organization will be accepted.

Purpose of the Grant:

- To showcase the work of American artists who are acknowledged masters in their fields.
- To demonstrate the historical or cultural significance of American Masterpieces to West Virginia, either in origin or influence.
- To demonstrate artistic excellence in the quality of the presentation of the project.
- To develop projects that deepen the appreciation and understanding of American masterpieces for West Virginians
- To encourage collaborative projects featuring qualifying West Virginia artists from various disciplines and presenting those artists in at least three communities.

Disciplines: all disciplines

Activities: presentations, reconstructions, tours, productions, meet-the-artist, broadcast, re-staging, exhibitions, documentaries, documentation, readings of American Masterpieces that are open to the public or presented in the schools. All activities should provide context leading to a fuller understanding of the work and the artist(s).

Deadline: Postmark deadline of August 21, 2007.

Eligibility to Apply: West Virginia nonprofit organizations, schools, colleges and universities can apply for funding to assist in emphasizing American Masterpieces. Where a college or university is applying, one application per institution will be allowed, but the funding level will be the same for colleges and universities and all other applicants. Any applicant who is in arrears on final reports for previously funded WVCA grants is ineligible.

When: Projects may take place from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Funding: Matching grants ranging from \$2000 to \$10,000 will be available. Up to 50% of the overall project cost is eligible. A cash match for 50% of the overall project cost is required. No in-kind match is accepted.

Where: All projects must take place within the state of West Virginia. Project locations must be accessible to all citizens.

ArtWorks Summer 2007

State of West Virginia
Joe Manchin III
Governor

Department of
Education
and the Arts
Kay Goodwin
Cabinet Secretary

Division of
Culture and History
Randall Reid-Smith
Commissioner

Jeff Pierson
Director of Arts

www.wvculture.org

ArtWorks welcomes proposals for non-fiction articles of 500-750 words. Articles should focus on West Virginia artists, arts organizations and the performing, visual or literary arts. Of special interest are unique and successful community arts projects and new trends in West Virginia's arts scene. Artist profiles must also reflect some activity of significance to West Virginia or some enlightening aspect of their work. Photographs and other illustrations may accompany submissions. For submission guidelines and terms of payment contact: **ArtWorks**, West Virginia Division of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25305-0300.

ArtWorks does not publish advertising for commercial services or businesses, but welcomes announcements which may be of interest to the state's arts community.

All publications and application forms are available in alternate formats. Contact Rose McDonough, (304)558-0240 ext.152, (voice) or (304)558-3562 (TDD).



WEST VIRGINIA
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ArtWorks is free!

If you would like to have your name added to the mailing list for *ArtWorks*, please call (304) 558-0240 or e-mail kelley.french@wvculture.org.



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A great nation
deserves great art.



West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 The Cultural Center
 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.
 Charleston, WV 25305-0300

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Inside this issue:

Quilting: Art, Economics, and Fun.....4
West Virginia Schools Celebrate the Arts.....9
Managing your Grant Award12

Summer 2007

Art Works

A free quarterly newsletter from the Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts

