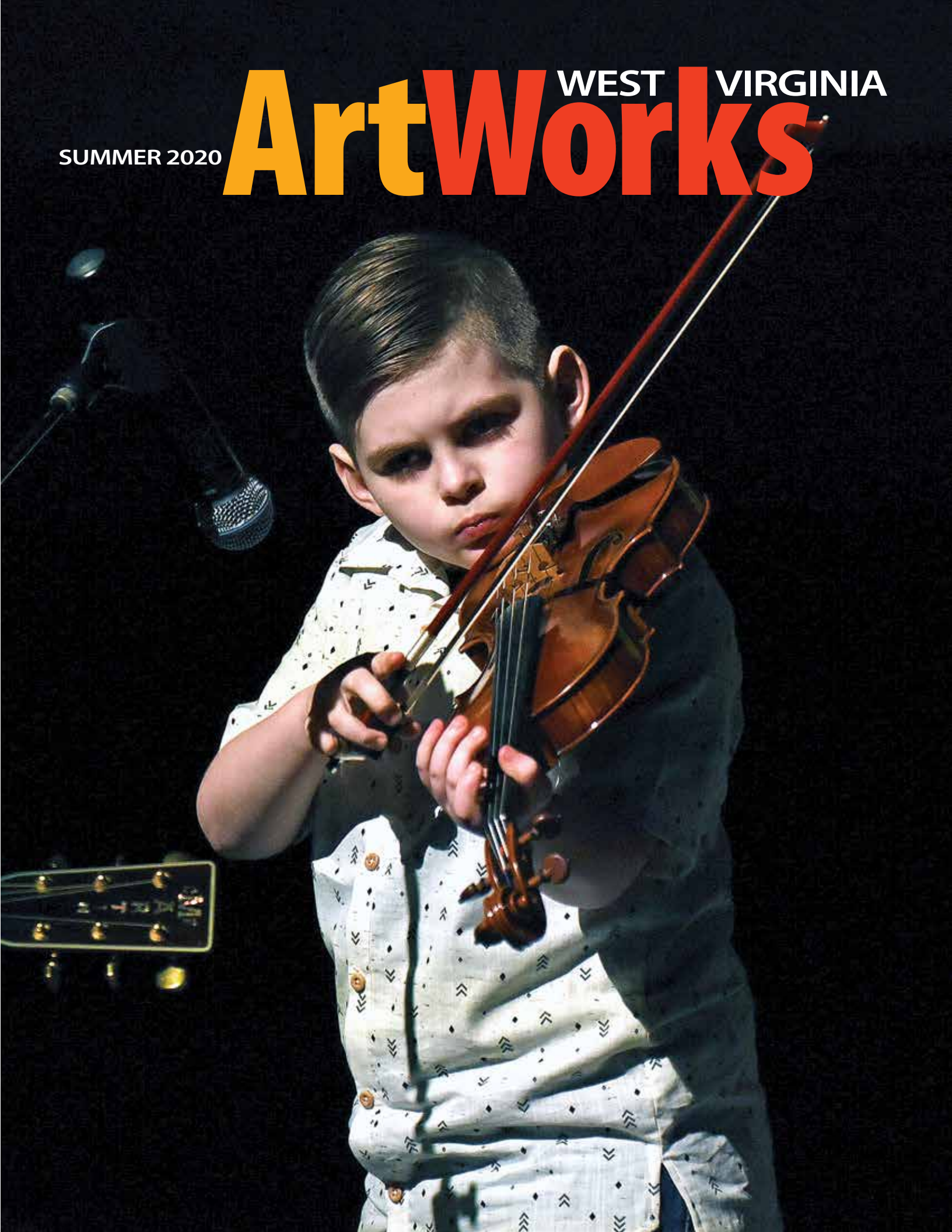


SUMMER 2020

# WEST VIRGINIA ArtWorks



# ArtWorks WEST VIRGINIA

## FEATURES

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Nineteen awards recognized outstanding achievements in the arts by individual artists, organizations, and legislators.



Capital High School's Voices of Perfection perform at the Governor's Arts Awards.

### 4 WVDACH Awards \$177,977 in Steam Grants

The grants funded K-12 students who took part in a wide variety of projects integrating the arts with science, technology, engineering, and math.

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Theater director and actor Jason Young talks about how he copes and continues to create during a pandemic.

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Liam Farley of Chapmanville (Logan County) performed at the West Virginia Governor's Arts Awards on March 4. Farley is the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of the 2019 Vandalia Gathering's Youth Old-Time Fiddle (age 15 and under) contest.

## SUMMER 2020



State of West Virginia  
Jim Justice, Governor



West Virginia Department of  
**ARTS, CULTURE  
AND HISTORY**

West Virginia Department of  
**Arts, Culture and History**  
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available in alternate formats.





Pianist Barbara Nissman of Lewisburg won the Lifetime Achievement Award and performed during the awards celebration.

## Governor's Arts Awards Include Nine Awards to Individuals and Organizations and Ten Legislative Leadership Awards

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) hosted the Governor's Arts Awards at the Culture Center in Charleston. During the awards ceremony, nine Governor's Arts Awards and 10 Legislative Leadership Awards in the Arts were presented. The program included performances by Barbara Nissman on piano, The Mountain Stage Band, Kari Stafford Blankenship on vocals, Caden Glover on banjo, Liam Farley on fiddle and The Capital High School VIP Show Choir.

The Governor's Arts Awards are presented biennially to celebrate the state's creative spirit and the amazing talents of the people and groups that produce art. They also recognize those whose willingness to support arts and artists help to ensure that the arts maintain an important place in our communities and schools. Matt Thomas, West Virginia artist, was commissioned by the WVDACH to make the awards, blending the timeless grain of wood with the permanence of hand-forged steel.

The Governor's Arts Awards include **Arts in Education Award**, which recognizes efforts to strengthen arts

education in public schools; **Susan S. Landis Distinguished Service Award to the Arts**, which recognizes individuals and organizations of exceptional talent and creativity that have fostered growth and influenced trends and aesthetic practices on a state and national level; **Leadership in the Arts Award**, which recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and access to the arts throughout the state; **Artist of the Year and Arts Organization of the Year Award**, which recognizes an individual artist and an organization who has impacted the exposure to

the arts in West Virginia through his or her work; and the **Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement**, which recognizes an individual or organization for significant achievement in the arts.

The Legislative Leadership in the Arts Awards include **Arts in Education Awards, Community Arts Awards, Cultural Facilities Awards, Folk Arts** and **Lifetime Achievement**, which are presented to those members of the Legislature who have made significant contributions in the arts.

A panel of members from the WVCA and staff of the WVDACH selected winners who were nominated based on the magnitude of their contributions and achievements, the range of individuals or groups served, the length of time and intensity of their dedication to the arts and their level of excellence.

## Governor's Arts Award Recipients

### Lifetime Achievement

Dr. Barbara Nissman, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County

### Artist of the Year

Charly Jupiter Hamilton, Charleston, Kanawha County

### Arts Organization of the Year

The River House, Capon Bridge, Hampshire County

### Arts in Education

Individual – Michael McKowen, Wheeling, Ohio County

Organization – Boys and Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle, Martinsburg, Berkeley County

### Leadership in the Arts

Individual – Josh Baldwin, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County

Organization – Marshall Artists Series, Huntington, Cabell County

### Susan S. Landis Distinguished Service to the Arts

Individual – Jeff Pierson, Charleston, Kanawha County

Organization – Oglebay Institute, Wheeling, Ohio County



Members of the Mountain Stage Band performed at the ceremony. Left to right: Bob Thompson, Ryan Kennedy, Ammed Solomon, Ron Sowell, Steve Hill, and Michael Lipton.





Clockwise from above:

Jeff Pierson, individual winner of a Susan S. Landis Distinguished Service to the Arts Award, looks on as Charly Jupiter Hamilton, Artist of the Year, receives his award.

Arts in Education winner Michael McKowen and Danielle McCracken, representing Oglebay Institute, winner of a Susan S. Landis Distinguished Service to the Arts Award.

Arts Director Lance Schrader, left, and Curator Randall Reid-Smith, right, present a Lifetime Achievement Award to Senator Roman Prezioso.

Senator Patricia Rucker receives the Arts in Education Award.



## Legislative Leadership Awards

### Arts in Education

Senator Patricia Rucker  
Delegate Jeff Campbell

### Community Arts

Senator Bill Hamilton  
Delegate Vernon Criss

### Cultural Facilities

Senator Glenn Jeffries  
Delegate Daniel Linville

### Folk Arts

Senator Mark Maynard  
Delegate Mike Pushkin

### Lifetime Achievement

Senator Roman Prezioso  
Delegate Erikka Storch

## **WVDACH Awards \$177,971 in Support of 37 STEAM Education Projects**



**Visiting singer/song writer/sound engineer EMay helping Pendleton County students record their original songs. Photo courtesy of Pendleton County Schools.**

*Thanks to STEAM Power WV grants provided by the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the state's K-12 students took part in a wide variety of projects integrating the arts with science, technology, engineering, and math. In the 2019-20 school year, 37 schools and nonprofit organizations put STEAM Power WV grants to work in at least 30 counties across the state.*

*The State Arts Office offered grants of up to \$7,500 for schools and educational organizations in support of innovative, hands-on projects integrating arts and STEM learning objectives. Additional funding was provided by the West Virginia Department of Education, with a variety of local project partners contributing matching funds.*

*Due to COVID-19 precautions and the closure of school facilities, many of the STEAM projects will be extended and completed in the 2020-21 school year.*

### **The 2019-20 STEAM Power WV grant recipients:**

#### **Anna Jarvis Elementary School**

Grafton, Taylor County  
\$2,259 for a "Mobiles" project in which all third-grade students study art, physical science, and the work of Alexander Calder. Students create mobiles for installation and display in Taylor County Arts Council's gallery.

#### **Ansted Elementary School**

Ansted, Fayette County  
\$4,397 for Project Ozobot, a schoolwide initiative integrating coding and robotics with art and music at each grade level.

#### **Arnoldsburg Elementary School**

Arnoldsburg, Calhoun County  
\$640 for Almost Heaven Collaboration. Working with a

teaching artist from the community, fourth-grade students create a canvas of the state of West Virginia as a three-dimensional, topographical map.

**ArtsBank, Inc.**

Elkins, Randolph County  
\$2,949 for Forest Path: Year 1.  
Teaching artists work with K-5 students at Third Ward Elementary, integrating art education with the study of forest ecosystems.

**Barboursville Middle School**

Barboursville, Cabell County  
\$7,500 for Fibonacci Sequence: A STEAM Experience. Interdisciplinary exploration of Fibonacci sequences involving artwork, computer science, coding, math, robotics, and broadcasting.

**Buckhannon-Upshur High School**

Buckhannon, Upshur County  
\$7,500 for Financial Literacy App Development and Design. Finance students collaborate with students in design & coding classes to create a user-friendly personal finance app.

**Carnegie Hall, Inc.**

Lewisburg, Greenbrier County  
\$7,500 for Carnegie Classrooms.  
Teaching artists from Carnegie Hall lead arts-integrated residencies at schools in Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas and Summers counties.

**Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences**

Charleston, Kanawha County  
\$7,096 for Astronaut Training Labs. Students explore the traveling exhibition "Be the Astronaut" and participate in hands-on labs integrating art with biology, astronomy, engineering, cartography, and physics.

**Eastwood Elementary School**

Morgantown, Monongalia County  
\$5,625 for Wonder Full Watershed. Students design and create watershed models throughout the

school environment, incorporating landscape design, gardening, sidewalk art, and a variety of hands-on experiments.

**Experience Learning, Inc.**

Circleville, Pendleton County  
\$6,200 for Schoolyard Scientists.  
Teaching artists collaborate with teachers at Belington and Junior Elementary Schools (Barbour County), leading students in arts-integrated research projects on plant and animal species found in their schoolyards.

**Fayette County Board of Education / Midland Trail High School**

Hico, Fayette County  
\$2,266 for Forensic Artistry. Advanced forensic science students learn about facial reconstruction, collaborating with Midland Trail's art, science and STEM teachers to create detailed models and to document the process.

**Hacker Valley Elementary School**

Hacker Valley, Webster County  
\$3,000 for Sounds Like Art. Students investigate the principle of sound in a variety of ways, including building rudimentary string and percussion instruments. Students create visual art pieces based on sound, utilizing a variety of media.

**Harrison County Board of Education**

Clarksburg, Harrison County  
\$7,500 for Saving the One with STEAM. Artists-in-residence from Story Tapestries and Open Circle Theatre provide STEAM-based professional development for faculty at Salem Elementary, as well as performances and workshops for all PK-5 students.

**Hundred High School**

Hundred, Wetzel County  
\$7,500 for Hundred High School STEAM Lab. Students choose from a menu of project-based learning options, including transportation modeling, 3D animation, and more.

Final projects are presented for school and community at a STEAM Day event.

**Huntington High School**

Huntington, Cabell County  
\$4,117 for Four Pole Creek: The Stream That Refused to Die. Students in environmental science and photography classes produce a video documenting the impact of two pollution events on the health of a stream in their community.

**Huntington Museum of Art, Inc.**

Huntington, Cabell County  
\$3,905 for Museum Making Connections. The Animals in Art program travels to elementary schools throughout the museum's service area, where teaching artists guide second-grade students exploring STEAM concepts through arts activities.

**Hurricane High School**

Hurricane, Putnam County  
\$7,500 for Let There Be Light. Show choir students learn how to install and operate professional theatrical lighting, how to use computer software to create custom lighting, and how to navigate challenges that occur during live performances.

**Hurricane Middle School**

Hurricane, Putnam County  
\$1,350 for West Virginia Native Tree Project. Science classes collaborate on the creation of a 3D Tree Sculpture display merging research, lab exercises, data collection, design, sculpture, documentation and public presentations.

**June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development**

Huntington, Cabell County  
\$6,750 for The Art of Sphero Robotics. Partnering with Meadows Elementary School in Huntington, Harless Center staff provide professional development and a series of tutorials





**Above and opposite: Advanced forensic science students at Midland Trail High School (Fayette County) create detailed models while learning about facial reconstruction. Photo courtesy of Midland Trail High School.**

for students. Students create art projects using Sphero Robots.

**Liberty High School**

Clarksburg, Harrison County  
\$4,464 for Coaster X-STEAM.  
Students create hands-on projects based on the engineering, design and marketing of roller coasters, with guest instruction provided by engineers from WVU and Hershey Park.

**Marion County Board of Education**

Fairmont, Marion County  
\$1,515 for Animation and Storytelling.  
All Marion County fifth-grade students visit the “STEAM Machine,”

the county’s mobile classroom, where they use iPads and green-screen technology to learn the science of body movements, character animation and storytelling techniques.

**Mason-Dixon Elementary School**

Blacksville, Monongalia County  
\$2,052 for Dash Into a Good Story, a project combining writing and storytelling with coding and robotics. Students participate in writing workshops with a West Virginia author, then use coding skills to create short movies with “Dash” robots as actors.

**Milton Middle School**

Milton, Cabell County  
\$2,000 for Spanish Flavor: An Exploration of Culture, Cuisine & Technology. Through a two-week unit on Spanish culture, eighth-grade students explore family traditions and cuisine. Curriculum and activities include language, etiquette, storytelling, music, food preparation and cooking technology.

**Morgan Arts Council**

Berkeley Springs, Morgan County  
\$7,500 for MAC STEAMWorks. Partnering with Morgan County Schools, project provides arts-integrated STEAM education focusing



on environmental science, math and digital media in all county schools.

### **Musselman High School**

Inwood, Berkeley County  
\$7,500 for Understanding Alloy and Metallic Shaping and their Sound Relationships. Faculty members collaborate with community experts to lead students in a multi-disciplinary exploration of the role of materials and shapes in musical instruments.

### **Mylan Park Elementary School**

Morgantown, Monongalia County  
\$5,307 for Children and Community: Beyond the Walls. Faculty and staff collaborate with WVU arts and STEM professionals to expand on an outdoor classroom space. All students participate in hands-on activities at outdoor stations focusing on health & wellness, music, gardening, and more.

### **North Elementary School**

Morgantown, Monongalia County  
\$2,112 for Picturing a Rainbow Garden. Garden-based arts integration project in collaboration with a local teaching artist. Student activities include planting and growing crops, photographing and drawing, papermaking, and creating a calendar featuring their artwork.

### **Oglebay Institute**

Wheeling, Ohio County  
\$7,500 for Bricolage's Midnight Radio Jr. Performing Arts staff and teaching artists partner with educators at Woodsdale Elementary to deliver Midnight Radio Jr. Fifth-grade students write, rehearse, and perform radio plays based on their social studies curriculum, including live Foley sound effects.

### **Pendleton County Board of Education**

Franklin, Pendleton County  
\$7,313 for Songs of the Students: Building Original Songs From

Concept to Composition to Recording. Through a series of interactive songwriting workshops, elementary and high school students learn the multi-disciplinary processes behind the creation of a song. Students use notation software to compose and arrange an original song and then record their piece using sound engineering equipment.

### **Pocahontas County Arts Council, Inc.**

Marlinton, Pocahontas County  
\$7,500 for Full STEAM Ahead: Expeditions for Discovering the Hidden Art of Science. Community teaching artists collaborate with K-12 teachers to develop a monthly series of hands-on arts integration projects for students throughout the county.

### **The River House, Inc.**

Capon Bridge, Hampshire County  
\$1,653 for The Science of Sound Field Trip. Capon Bridge Middle School students visit The River House for hands-on activities demonstrating how sound is produced, heard, amplified, and recorded.

### **Upshur County Schools / Washington District Elementary**

Buckhannon, Upshur County  
\$697 for One World, One Sky. Carnegie Science Center's "Science on the Road" portable planetarium visits Washington District Elementary School. Students in grades K-5 work with the school's art teacher to create a celestial picture.

### **Van Elementary School**

Van, Boone County  
\$2,640 for STEAM Special Programs. Collaborating with teaching artists from the WVU School of Art and Design, students create a cast aluminum tile wall art project. Other activities include creating artworks from handmade paper, a "STEAM Days" event, and establishing a mobile STEAM cart for the school.



### **Wardensville Garden Market**

Wardensville, Hardy County  
\$6,000 for STREAM Camp. Three-week summer camp for middle school students, providing hands-on, creative problem-solving activities in a farm-based setting. Students create a video PSA raising awareness of local environmental issues, as a culminating project.

### **West Virginia Professional Dance Company**

Beckley, Raleigh County  
\$7,500 for Adventures Around the Big Blue Marble. Dance Company visits five schools in Summers and Monroe counties, performing curriculum-based works exploring the seven continents. STEAM-based workshops are also provided.

### **West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Inc.**

Charleston, Kanawha County  
\$7,500 for ShookStruck. A trio of professional WVSO percussionists presents twelve performances to 2,600 students with emphasis on rural, underserved communities.

### **Woodsdale Elementary School**

Wheeling, Ohio County  
\$1,664 for a project in which kindergarten students investigate the structure and function of organs of the human body. Students complete a series of hands-on activities, incorporating drawing, storytelling, and green screen video production.

# A Man for All Seasons



Young performs as Jacques during the Laugh and Let Go Tour of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* at Toad Hall in Grafton (Taylor County). Photograph by Delegate Ben Queen.

*I first met Jason Young at a grant writing workshop I was leading in Clarksburg (Harrison County). As is typical when I meet members of the arts community in West Virginia, I asked him what he did for a living and his involvement with the arts.*

## Interview by Jack O'Hearn

*As he started to recite all his arts-community involvement, I thought, 'Wow, I'm never going to remember all this.' It's evident that Jason's life revolves around theatre and mentorship and that his contributions to the performing arts in West Virginia are incredibly important and far-reaching.*

*Jason is the founding producer and artistic director of The Vintage Theatre*

*Company, executive director of the West Virginia Theatre Association, and vice-chair of The West Virginia Community Development HUB. As if that's not enough, he's also the cofounder and artistic director of The Rustic Mechanicals, West Virginia's only touring Shakespeare troupe.*

*It seems as though I discover more projects he's involved in each time I speak with him. It wasn't until our initial conversation for this interview that I learned of the competitive arts programming he developed and teaches at Notre Dame High School (Clarksburg), as well as his improv comedy troupe, The Fearless Fools.*

*When I spoke with him earlier this year my focus for the interview was to introduce him as an artist and as a person, and to help promote the West Virginia Theatre Association's annual conference. The first two*

*questions are reflective of that, but as we were emailing back and forth with each other something unexpected happened. COVID-19 landed on the country's coast and rapidly spread throughout, drastically impacting the day-to-day lives of every single person.*

*Once the pandemic reached West Virginia, it was a while until I heard from Jason again. When he finally responded to the last set of questions I'd emailed him, he said something that, honestly, I should've better anticipated. "I have a deeper question for you," Jason said. "Are these questions even relevant?" He then described the dramatic shift of focus he's been experiencing over the past couple months. It was apparent we needed to change direction as soon as he pointed it out. I was happy with his responses to the first two questions, which I still considered relevant, so I*



kept them and added a series of new follow-up questions that would discuss the impact this pandemic is having on the conference as well as his other projects. There is no masking the difficulties this has presented and will continue to present for artists and arts organizations everywhere, yet Jason remains positive, energetic, and offers us all some sage advice. It's my hope that through this interview, he's able to inspire many of our readers the way he's inspired me.

**Being involved in so many different things — it must come from a very deep and personal mission.**

I want to leave West Virginia a better place than I found it. I was born in Logan County and spent my first six years in Mingo County. It wasn't until I moved to north central West Virginia, as a child that I realized the stigma surrounding southern West Virginia. Specifically, by those who had never lived there. Most people with negative opinions of the coalfields based them on stereotypes rather than actual knowledge. That's when I became protective of where I come from. People who had a low opinion of southern West Virginia were wrong and I needed to make sure they knew it.

As I grew older, I became aware of the stigma that surrounded West Virginia as a whole: how the rest of the country looks at us and how we are portrayed in the media, on television, and in movies. It was then that my focus changed, and I become very protective of West Virginia as a whole.

Once I went to college, traveled more, and social media started connecting me to more of the world, I became exposed to art that was happening everywhere else. This influenced the bulk of my work in providing this state with things that I love, which it might otherwise lack. And to specifically to impact students in new ways while providing them with experiences I never had as a student.

**The West Virginia Theatre Association (WVTA) organizes an annual state-wide conference with workshops and auditions that send a select number of high school and college students, and local performers, to a national conference. Can you describe this program in more detail along with the opportunities it presents?**

Each year, the WVTA invites theatre lovers from across the state — actors, singers, dancers, designers, technicians, stage managers, directors, playwrights, teachers, students, professionals, academicians, etc., together in celebration of theatre. It's three days of workshops, performance festivals, auditions, college recruiting, networking and more. There are two festivals happening together at the conference, The High School Theatre Festival and the Community Theatre Festival, as well as Pre-Professional Screening Auditions.

The High School Theatre Festival consists of a one-act competition, workshops, and the unified college auditions. Two high schools are offered the chance to advance their one-act performances to the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) in the spring. Perhaps the highlight, though, is the unified college auditions where high school juniors and seniors can audition for all the college theatre programs in the state of West Virginia.

The Community Theatre Festival

**Jason Young. Photograph by by Kyle Jenkins.**



at WVTA consists of a one-act competition. Two community theatre groups are offered the chance to advance their one-act performances to the SETC spring conference.

Finally, the WVTA Pre-Professional Screening Auditions are for actors and singers who don't yet meet SETC's qualifications as career professionals. WVTA gives them the opportunity to secure a spot at the SETC Spring Professional Auditions. Our screening auditions are primarily filled with college students from West Virginia as well as neighboring and nearby states, but they are open to adults and even senior citizens as well. However, only a percentage of those participating in the screening auditions are invited to advance to the Spring Professional Auditions.

**What are some of the ways WVTA might be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic?**

WVTA is a fall 2020 event. We'll have to see if large gatherings of people are still limited this fall. We want to bring as many people together as we can as it is one of the major purposes of WVTA. If we must limit the number of people in the building, it will be a very different looking conference. WVTA is always held at an in-state college or university. We're unsure whether they will be open, or if they are, whether they'll be hosting large events like ours. There is also the question of whether or not schools will be open in time to get shows ready to bring to the festival, or if they are open, what travel and gathering restrictions they might have in place then. These types of scenarios may cause us to explore virtual options, allowing schools to submit videos of productions for adjudication. We could potentially do the same for our pre-professional screening auditions, which typically include over a hundred students.

**How is the pandemic impacting your other projects?**



**Young performs at the West Virginia Comedy Festival at the Buckhannon Opera House in Buckhannon (Upshur County). Photograph by Delegate Ben Queen.**

The pandemic's impact on me is layered and complicated. The Vintage Theatre Company (VTC) is shuttered. We have no income as an organization, so my income as well as our artists' income from VTC has stopped. We have enough finances flowing right now to pay some bills, but we have canceled several comedy shows. This includes the 6th Annual West Virginia Comedy Festival and our murder mysteries. Our Shakespeare troupe, The Rustic Mechanicals, have canceled two statewide tours and a fundraiser. We have also lost our 6th Annual Harrison County Theatre Awards.

But, despite all that, we haven't stopped making art! We have remained committed to our students at the PAC at Notre Dame High School and the Rustic Mechanicals Apprentice Troupe. Our comedy troupe, The Fearless Fools, are

offering live-streamed improv shows every few weeks, and the Rustic Mechanicals are maintaining their mission of bringing Shakespeare to the state by creating digital content.

### **What are you doing to adapt to all these changes?**

I spend most of my days coordinating these digital efforts — keeping artists connected and engaged — so they can maintain their sense of purpose and keep making valuable contributions to our state. I am also looking ahead and trying to prepare for what might come in the fall. We would like all our original plans to happen but we're practical enough to know that probably won't be the case. I'm not comfortable with sitting and waiting to see what happens, so I'm trying to find ways to adapt and innovate in order to fulfill our mission.

### **Do you have any advice for emerging theater professionals in these uncertain times?**

The biggest advice I have to theatre makers is to invest in yourself. This is a great time to brush up on your skills, learn new ones, and focus on health and wellness. Achieving success as an artist requires a constant hustle and this down time is a rare thing. I suggest taking advantage of it. Do what is best for you and evolve as an artist. Athletes always have off-seasons with time to work on their game between competitions. This is a great off-season for artists and that is a major silver lining.

*To learn about these programs visit <http://www.wvtheatreassociation.org>, or search for Vintage Theatre Company, The Rustic Mechanicals, or The Fearless Fools on social media.*



# Over \$8,000 Awarded in Round Two Grant Funding

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, along with the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, approved and awarded \$8,692.00 in the second cycle of grant funding for Fiscal Year 2020. Funding is provided by the West Virginia Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. The second round of FY20 recipients were:

## Travel and Training

*Provides travel support to artists, arts administrators and arts educators for conferences, workshops, seminars, and showcases outside of West Virginia.*  
*Total: \$1,130*

Anna Stout-Tuckwiller  
Lewisburg, Greenbrier County  
\$300 to attend SURTEX in New York, New York.

Anna Davis-Abel  
Morgantown, Monongalia County  
\$300.00 to attend the 2020 AWP

Conference and Bookfair San Antonio, Texas.

Erin Ellis  
Morgantown, Monongalia County  
\$230 to attend the 2020 ASTA National Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Thomas Parker Bailey  
Westover, Monongalia County  
\$300 to attend the 2020 National Association of Music Merchants in Anaheim, California.



## Professional Development for Artists and Artisans

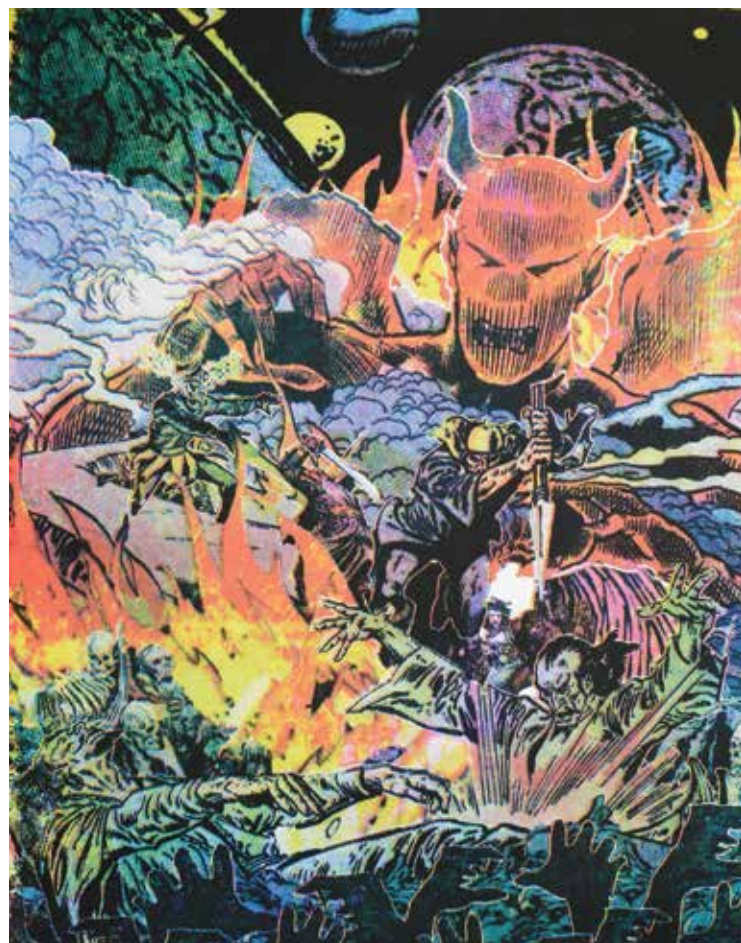
*Provides support for professional and emerging artists to expand or improve their work or share their expertise.*  
*Total: \$7,562*

Mateo Fuentes  
Morgantown, Monongalia County  
\$1,470 to purchase printing equipment.

Harriett Kirsten Lee  
Kearneysville, Jefferson County  
\$2,500 to attend the 2020 Plein Air Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Selina Midkiff  
Charleston, Kanawha County  
\$1,092 to attend the ACDA Children and Youth Choir Retreat.

Alison Safrit  
Green Bank, Pocahontas County  
\$2,500 to purchase an electric kiln and pottery wheels.



**Above, right:**  
**Painting by**  
**Harriett Kirsten**  
**Lee**

**Left: Print by**  
**Mateo Fuentes**

**Below:**  
**Ceramics by**  
**Alison Safrit**



# May I Have Your Autograph?



It arrived, inauspiciously, in a small, ivory, vellum envelope, much like the RSVP insert for a wedding invitation. The engraved return

address on the back read, “*Ladies’ Home Journal*,” followed by the magazine’s address in New York City. Assuming it was an advertising solicitation, albeit an expensive one, for our small craft organization to buy an ad in this prestigious women’s magazine, I nevertheless opened it.

## Essay by Carter Seaton

“Dear Ms. Seaton,” it read, “you have been nominated for the *Ladies’ Home Journal* Woman of the Year 1975 Award.” It went on to state the date of the awards presentation at a New York theatre and included an invitation from the magazine’s publisher to dine with her at Rockefeller Center before the event. Clearly, this was no solicitation, and just as clearly it was a mistake. Me? Woman of the Year? Me, director of a rural craft cooperative in West Virginia? How on earth did the *Ladies’ Home Journal* even know I existed?

After many moments of shock, I re-read the letter, which explained the annual awards presented by the magazine, and saw the response card. Now I realized fully that it was not a joke, nor a solicitation. Each year, *Ladies’ Home Journal* honored women for achievement in various fields such as entertainment, the political realm, government, education, communication, the arts—both visual and literary—and community service. It was

the latter category in which I’d been nominated for directing Appalachian Craftsmen, Inc., a rural, craft cooperative that gave women an opportunity to supplement her family’s income through the home production of patchwork and quilted clothing, home decorator items, and toys. Initially, the organization had been co-sponsored by a community action agency and the Junior League. In its formative years, I’d been a Junior League volunteer helping to shape the bylaws, the mission statement, and the organization’s operational manual. Once it was ready to launch, the board tapped me to be its executive director.

Now, four years later the invitation was like being told I had been granted fairy princess status, which included a weekend in New York with the possibility of a national award—all broadcast live on television. For a thirty-something woman with a house to keep clean, laundry to do, four kids, dogs, cats, a duck, and a horse this would be an alternative reality. Cincinnati was my big city. Suddenly, I’d been invited to New York City.

For my husband, his pride in me made the decision a no-brainer. Of course, we would go. Since the Junior League held a suite of rooms at the Waldorf Astoria that members could reserve for \$40 a night, we quickly made reservations, and booked our flight on Allegheny Airlines. A weekend in the Big Apple. What could be better? I was feeling pretty special by then. Oh God, what could I wear? On our limited budget, a dress fancy enough to wear to dinner at Rockefeller Center or this ceremony certainly didn’t live in my closet. A floor-length red cotton dress with a sleeveless shirred top would have to do. Besides, it looked dressy when I added faux pearls.

New York sparkled in the August sunlight as we landed. Outside La Guardia, yellow cabs lined the sidewalk. We took the first one that

didn’t have his OUT OF SERVICE sign lighted. Despite the distance to Manhattan, we should have walked. The cab smelled like a cheaply-perfumed lady of the night and that she and her greasy-haired john had been his last fare. The driver spoke limited English and drove like a stereotypical New York cabbie. He cut in and out of traffic at breakneck speed, narrowly missed two men crossing the street, and screamed “sombitch” at everyone in his way. We gripped the back of the seat in front of us until I thought I’d tear the worn fabric. When we encountered a traffic jam, he simply drove the wrong way on a one-way street. He was the one the other drivers should have been calling “sombitch.” It wasn’t an auspicious beginning to the fairy tale.

We arrived at the doors of the Waldorf in a sweat, glad for our lives, and trying desperately to regain the composure we believed befitting the hotel. While the hotel’s swanky lobby, with its storied clock tower and thick carpets, didn’t disappoint, the room was not as large as our bedroom at home. That’s what you get for \$40 in New York, I thought.

The ceremony, which was to be televised live by CBS, was set for Saturday night. If we were in New York, we were going to do it up right. Theater ticket prices were \$7 for the cheap seats and \$15 for good seats, so we decided to splurge. We may never get this chance again. Between arrival on Friday afternoon, we squeezed in a Friday night play, a Saturday matinee, and a Sunday matinee. On Friday night as we watched Richard Kiley reprise his original role in a revival of *The Man of la Mancha*, we spotted the theater critic Gene Shalit in the audience.

During intermission, while my husband was in the restroom, Mr. Shalit approached me and put out his hand. “Hello, Carter,” he said, as if we’d known each other for years. “It’s good to see you. Will you be at the dinner tomorrow night? If so, I’ll see



you there." Flummoxed, I stammered that I would. How in the world did he know me? He couldn't have, of course. My husband returned to our seats with a shit-eating grin on his face, and I knew. He'd asked the famous man to say hello.

Award night arrived. We safely cabbed it to Rockefeller Center where Lenore Hershey, the magazine's gracious editor, and a member of her staff met us in the lobby. Suddenly, I felt as if I were in a dream as our elevator sped toward the top floor of the skyscraper. When we alighted, the floor looked like an ordinary office building, closed doors lining the hall. Then we turned and entered a large suite set with a long well-appointed dining table. Places were marked with engraved place-cards. Not knowing a single soul, except our new acquaintance, Ms. Hershey, we awkwardly began looking for our seats. We took them and soon the table began to fill. As we met our fellow diners, it became clear most worked for the magazine, until Alan Alda and his wife, along with two of their three daughters, entered the room and took their seats. Everyone's favorite actors! And I was having dinner with him! I couldn't believe it. Wait until I tell Mother; she loves M.A.S.H., I thought. Throughout dinner I tried to think of something witty to say to him, if I got the chance. But, he talked as fast as he ate, mostly about his girls, who stared into their plates, looking as embarrassed as my kids would have, had I done the same in public.

By eight o'clock the tiny theater was nearly full. Not nearly as large as the ones we'd been in Friday or that afternoon, this one was set up for broadcasting what was on stage. It might have been used for *The Price is Right* or another game show, so the audience was up close and often a part of the show. Just before the doors closed, a group of teenage school girls rushed in. It appeared the show's producers wanted a full and hearty audience, even if they hadn't

been invited, so they had admitted these girls.

The house lights dimmed, but not until after I'd read the program and learned that I wouldn't be walking on stage to receive an award. A woman from Texas who had organized a half-way home for female ex-prisoners did. I had thought the awards would come as a surprise announcement, but I soon realized the magazine would have had to tell all the nominees to be sure they attended. This avoided awkward pauses if they announced a winner's name and they weren't in the audience.

I recovered, and actually breathed a sigh of relief. I hadn't realized I was nervous at the thought of crossing that stage. Now, I relaxed and watched women whose names I'd only read in the news, watched on television, or in the movies cross that stage. The great Barbara Jordan, the first black congresswoman from the Deep South, spoke after receiving her award. Her sonorous voice and deep accent vibrated the air. Marlo Thomas, her black hair in a perfect flip, crossed the stage in three-inch heels and a mini-skirt that revealed her long, slender legs. Florence Henderson bubbled in her role as Mistress of Ceremonies. Each woman had a story that revealed fully the rightness of their award. I couldn't have held a candle to them, not even the Texas winner in my category. Still, by being nominated, my work to help low-income women supplement their family incomes had been recognized. While I'd never expected accolades for what I was doing, I did feel it was important and rewarding work, but having it acknowledged nationally gave me a great sense of accomplishment. And, I'd been treated to a magical weekend. Who could have a single regret on such a night?

As the curtain came down, I made my way to the stage to thank Mrs. Hershey. The audience was leaving, the curtain had been raised to

breakdown the sets, and several of the famous winners were on stage including Marlo Thomas and Florence Henderson. As I talked with Mrs. Hershey, I could hear that several of the young girls who had arrived late were also on the stage seeking autographs from the actresses. As I turned to leave, they approached me as well. One girl asked, "May we have your autograph? Please?"

I hesitated briefly, then took the pad and pen. "Certainly," I said as I wrote. "My best, Carter Seaton." They squealed and went to look for others to add to their collection. I walked back up the aisle toward my husband with a huge smile on my face. In the future, as they show that autograph book to their daughters, they're going to wonder, "Who the hell was Carter Seaton?" I had given my first and only autograph. But, it was enough.

The fairy tale ended. Life with four kids, a house, and laundry awaited me. But, as they say, I'll always have New York, and that autograph seeker.

*Carter Taylor Seaton is the award-winning author of two novels, Father's Troubles, and amo, amas, amat...an unconventional love story, numerous magazine articles, and several essays, short stories, and the non-fiction, Hippie Homesteaders: Arts, Music, and Living on the Land in West Virginia. Her biography of the late Congressman Ken Hechler, The Rebel in the Red Jeep, was released in 2017. Her chapbook, Me and MaryAnn, is a compilation of stories of her childhood and youth. In 2020, two new books will be released: We Were Legends in Our Own Minds, the memoir of her husband's career that brought him in contact with the rock stars of the 70s and 80s and a novel, The Other Morgans. She has been a regular contributor to Huntington Quarterly Magazine for over twenty years. Seaton is an FY2001, FY2007, and FY2010 recipient of a Professional Development grant and received an artist fellowship grant in FY2008.*

# Gallery 35

**Gallery 35: Art from the Mountain State** features new work by West Virginia artists in each issue. If you are a West Virginia artist who would like your art shown in an upcoming issue, contact Jack O'Hearn at Jack.J.Ohearn@wv.gov for complete submission guidelines. To assure the best reproduction, photos of your work should be jpg images that measure 2400 pixels on the longest side, if possible.



**Above: Brittain McJunkin, Charleston, Kanawha County**  
*Soda Fountain, Trivillian's Pharmacy, Charleston*  
Photography

**Below: Alice-Gervais Sabatino, Elkins, Randolph County**  
*Ellenboro in the Spring, Photography*



**Above: Shir Wooton Beckley, Raleigh County**  
*Morgantown*  
Pastel painting

**Right: Herb Weaver Bethany, Brooke County**  
*CULT FIGURE, Sculpture*







**Above: Dylan Jones  
Davis, Tucker County  
*The Tree*, Photography**



**Left: Mark Tobin Moore  
Charleston, Kanawha County  
*Safer at Home*, Collage**

**Below: Christine Rhodes  
Parkersburg, Wood County  
*Rock Music*, Watercolor**





# Grant Opportunities for Artists and Organizations

## Arts in Education

**Deadline: April 1**

Provides support for curriculum-based hands-on projects that involve K-12 students and teachers in 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.

## Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources

**Letter of intent: February 1**

**Deadline: April 1**

Provides support for acquisition, construction, renovation, accessibility improvements and capital purchases of durable equipment.

## Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources - Fast Track

**Application Deadline: Rolling**

Provides emergency support for the acquisition, construction and renovation of arts venues, accessibility improvements and capital purchases of durable equipment.

## 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.

## Professional Development for Artists

**Deadline: February 1/October 1**

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

## 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 of West Virginia.



## Community Arts Mini Grants

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

Provides support for projects that present artists in performances, workshops, and other projects with a specific arts focus.

## Submit to ArtWorks!

Does your arts organization deserve to be in the spotlight? Are you an artist who attended a good conference or workshop? Do you have an idea for a great story? Whatever it is, email it to [elizabeth.a.yeager@wv.gov](mailto:elizabeth.a.yeager@wv.gov) with the subject "ArtWorks Submission" and your idea could be published in an upcoming issue of *ArtWorks*.

## Peer Assistant Networks (PAN)

The West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) allows arts organizations two PAN sessions per year, free of charge. Sessions last an average of two to four hours and can range anywhere from starting a non-profit and organizational development, to marketing and fundraising strategies, to lighting design and festival planning. Sessions can involve an organization's entire board of directors or only one to two staff members. The WVCA has a designated group of peer advisors that are paired to fit an organization's needs. These advisors have experience in the arts community in West Virginia and expertise in a range of fields. For more information about the Peer Assistance Network, contact Jack O'Hearn at [Jack.J.OHearn@wv.gov](mailto:Jack.J.OHearn@wv.gov) or (304) 558-0240.



# West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History • Arts Section

**304.558.0240**



**Lance Schrader** is the Director of Arts for the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History and is responsible for administering the division's art programs, which include arts administration services, as well as state and federal grants for West Virginia's arts organizations, individual artists, schools and communities.

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**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.

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**Jenna Green** is the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grant Coordinator and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Coordinator. She administers the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grant and Fast Track Grant programs. She also reviews the accessibility of facilities and programs to ensure inclusion of all people.

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**Jim Wolfe** is the Arts in Education Coordinator. He administers the Arts in Education grant program and is the state coordinator for Poetry Out Loud, a nation recitation contest for high school students. He is also the host of the monthly television show, ArtWorks.

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**Paul Neil** is the Secretary for the Arts Office. He assists the Director of the Arts and all the Coordinators with Arts Office grant programs and activities, and he provides creative input and whatever clerical support is needed.

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**Elizabeth Yeager** 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 and Training & Travel grant programs. She also is the editor of the agency's quarterly publication ArtWorks West Virginia.

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**Jack O'Hearn** is the Community Arts Coordinator. He oversees and provides technical assistance to the Arts Partners, Community Arts Project Support, and Community Arts Mini-Grant programs. He also manages the Peer Assistance Network.

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