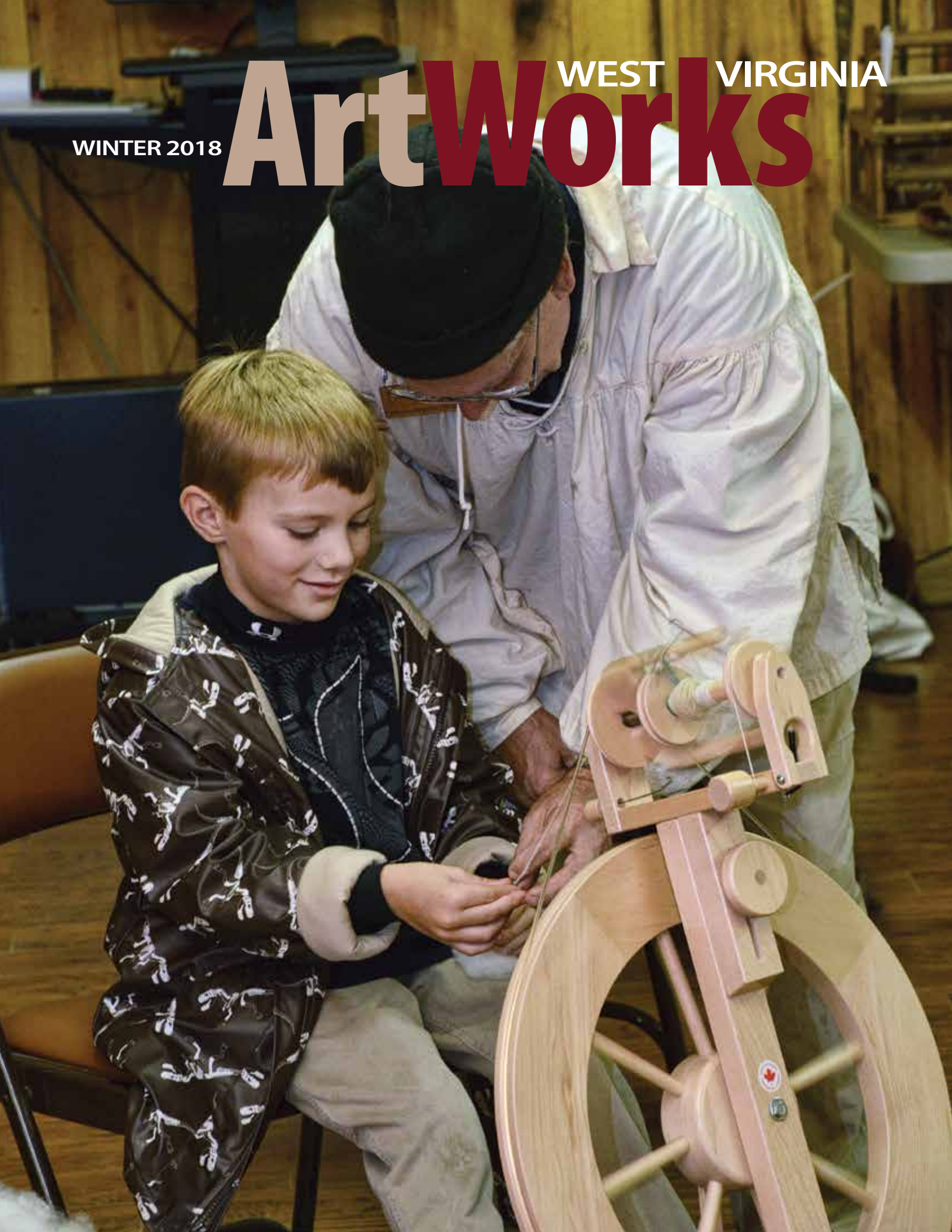


WINTER 2018

WEST VIRGINIA ArtWorks



ArtWorks WEST VIRGINIA

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Nearly 180 people gathered at the Culture Center in March 2017 to celebrate Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith's support of the arts.

2 Huntington Becomes America's Best

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WINTER 2018



State of West Virginia
Jim Justice, Governor



West Virginia Office of
Education and the Arts
Gayle Manchin, Cabinet Secretary



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

Arts Section

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Robin Jones, Administrative Secretary
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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

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Fall: August 15 ... Winter: November 15

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All publications and application forms are available in alternate formats.

WVSO, League, and Special Dignitaries Honor Commissioner Reid-Smith

By P.J. Dickerscheid
Photos by Perry Bennett



West Virginia Symphony Orchestra Board Chairman, John Elliot, honors Commissioner Reid-Smith.

Nearly 180 people gathered in March to join the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra (WVSO) and the West Virginia Symphony League in honoring Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History for supporting the state's vibrant arts community.

"No one could better exemplify the theme of the 2017 Symphony Gala – 'Take Me Home, West Virginia,'" said Cabinet Secretary for Education

and the Arts Gayle Manchin, one of numerous dignitaries in attendance for the black-tie event.

The former first lady credited Reid-Smith with bringing the West Virginia Division of Culture and History to a new level of excellence and overseeing the construction and completion of the West Virginia State Museum.

WVSO Gala Chair Katherine Heinaman said the division "allows

everyone to enjoy and learn from our past, appreciate our present, and keep the traditions and creative spirit alive for our future."

Besides honoring Reid-Smith and the agency he oversees, guests participated in a silent auction that included works by West Virginia artists, including David Pushkin, Kathy Boland and Arthur Evans. Guests also enjoyed some of their favorite West Virginia fare and local craft beers along with music by River Jam featuring Bob Thompson.

Proceeds from the gala benefit the WVSO's mission to enrich the region through live orchestral music experiences of the highest artistic quality, with a strong commitment to education and lifelong learning.

The WVSO is West Virginia's premier performing arts organization, presenting classical, pops, and chamber-music concerts annually throughout the Mountain State. Preparing to enter its 79th season, the WVSO is a proud member of the community and enriches the region by providing affordable, high-quality concerts, collaborations with West Virginia arts organizations and a nationally award-winning education program.



Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith enjoys his special evening.

Huntington Becomes America's Best

By Margaret Mary Layne

Right: "Make No Little Plans" was the hashtag for the Huntington Innovation Project, a community revitalization project that placed first in the America's Best Communities competition. Photo courtesy of the Huntington Innovation Project.



In April 2017, Huntington was named as the grand prize winner of Frontier Communications' America's Best Communities (ABC) competition. With a prize of \$3 million, the ABC competition was designed to encourage rural communities to develop a revitalization plan for which they would be judged on the quality and innovation of those plans.

What made the Huntington Innovation Project (HIP) stand out from more than 350 original applicants? Very simply put, our people; people who are creative, innovative and steadfast problem-

solvers. HIP was developed as a community endeavor. Several hundred people came together and were part of its making, and each brought his or her expertise and creativity to the table.

Huntington is not without its problems. Just like any other city in Appalachia, it is plagued with distressed neighborhoods and economic downturn from the evolving national economy. However, for the last several years Huntington has created a template of creativity and innovation for facing its challenges and solving its problems.

With the great leadership of Mayor Steve Williams, Huntington tackled three of its most distressed areas and created plans that will restore neighborhoods, provide job specific education, bring in high-speed broadband, and launch the economy of Huntington and the surrounding region into the future.

From the start, city leadership believed that if it could tap into its residents' love of place and empower them to believe they could make a difference, there would be no stopping Huntington. This proved to be true. "Make no little plans," a quote by

Daniel Burnham, became the city's mantra. Huntington was willing to look at the long term and envision a different future. It designed HIP to create that future. Each project in the plan had input from multiple viewpoints. The final product was a beautiful tapestry of the future with a variety of avenues to reach that goal.

Huntington is an arts town and a West Virginia Certified Arts Community. The arts and creativity are intrinsic to its very fabric. From traditional arts of every discipline to impromptu pop-up festivals, creativity is in our blood. It is this very creativity that developed and nurtured HIP. It is that same creativity that will infuse success into our strategies to attain our future vision. In his book, *The Art Spirit*, Robert Henri wrote, "Art, when really understood, is the province of every human being...When the artist is alive in any person, whatever his kind of work may be, he becomes an inventive, searching, daring, self-expressing creature." The artist described by Henri was alive and well in every individual who stepped up to become part of the solution. Keeping that artist alive is what will allow Huntington to manifest the dreams it has of a bright and brilliant future.



Above: Huntington Mayor Steve Williams displays the city's \$3 million award at a ceremony in Denver, Colorado.

WVDCH Awards \$117,409 to 22 STEAM Projects

By Jim Wolfe

For the second year, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH) sponsored STEAM Power WV, an innovative grant program supporting educational projects that combine the arts with one or more STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, math).

STEAM Power WV is made possible by a grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, with additional assistance from the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences, the Governor's STEM Initiative, and the Office of the Secretary of Education and the Arts.

Between January and June 2017, 22 West Virginia schools and nonprofit organizations put STEAM Power WV grants to work for students in communities across the state. The state arts agency offered grants up to \$7,500 to schools or organizations that developed and carried out multi-disciplinary hands-on STEAM learning projects.

WVDCH Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith said, "I am delighted to support the growth of STEAM projects across the state because studies have shown that STEAM encourages innovation, problem-based learning, creativity, contextual thinking and other aptitudes considered critical to 21st century college and career readiness demands."

Below: Students ages 7-18 participated in a two-part afterschool workshop series in Marion County. Science instruction and research took place at Hunt Haught Hall at Fairmont State University in Dr. Rachel Cook's classroom. All photos courtesy of Chris Nielson of Learning Options, Inc.



The 2017 STEAM Power WV projects:

Boone County

■ Van Elementary School, Van, \$1,500 for "Pendulum Painting," in which all the school's teachers and students collaborated on the design and construction of pendulums.

Cabell County

■ Huntington Museum of Art, Huntington, \$6,582 for "Animals in Art," an outreach program serving elementary schools in Cabell, Lincoln, Mason, Putnam and Wayne counties.

■ June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development, Huntington, \$5,625 for introducing the "littleBits" electronics and design program in Cabell County elementary afterschool programs.

■ Martha Elementary School/Appalachians, Barboursville, \$5,625 for "Immersed in Innovation," a program combining virtual reality design, drone technology, video art, and graphic art. Two hundred fifty Martha Elementary students participated, along with 75 gifted/special education students from nine other Cabell County schools.

Greenbrier County

■ Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg, \$6,000 for expansion of "Creative Classrooms" into Monroe County. Teaching artists worked in all Monroe County schools, providing a range of multi-disciplinary classes such as Ceramic Tiles, Design & Weave, Host an Astronomer, Math & Kirigami, Robotics, Solar System Timewalk, and Traditional Pottery.

Harrison County

■ St. Mary's Central School, Clarksburg, \$4,488 for the creation of a STEAM Room, with themed centers allowing faculty to expand cross-curricular lessons. Serves all students PK-6.

Kanawha County

■ Dunbar Intermediate School, Dunbar, \$4,968 for "Turtle Art

Tiles,” encompassing computer programming, ceramics, painting, art history, math, and 3D printing. Three hundred students, grades 3-5, each completed two ceramic tiles.

Lewis County

■ St. Patrick School, Weston, \$5,625 for “Just the ‘Write’ STEAM.” The entire student body, PK-7, worked with teachers, parents and community volunteers in age-specific STEAM labs. Students created STEAM journals.

Logan County

■ Man High School, Man, \$7,422 for “Healthy Streams, Healthy Communities.” Art and environmental science students participated in a community beautification project, including the design and creation of flower pots and beds, ceramic sculpture, and a wall of tiles.

Marion County

■ Learning Options, Inc., Fairmont, \$1,782 for “Promoting an Urban Nature Sanctuary.” Students ages 7 – 18 participated in a two-part

after-school workshop, learning about life science, ecology, urban design, and art. Students created permanent on-site art projects in a community garden and trail.

Marshall County

■ John Marshall High School, Glen Dale, \$7,500 for “Earth-Saving Exhibits,” in which students worked in teams to create interactive art exhibits raising awareness and proposing solutions to scientific/environmental issues.
■ Marshall County Schools, Moundsville, \$7,478 for “Plug and Play: EmPOWERing Our Orchestra,” in which high school strings students were introduced to electronic instruments and sound engineering.

Morgan County

■ Morgan Arts Council, Berkeley Springs, \$7,500 for MAC STEAMWorks. Teaching artists provided a curriculum of seven STEAM courses reaching all schools in Morgan County. Courses included Exploring Endangered Animal Families, Trash Art, Shake It Up, Art and Technology

and Digital Media Center Camp.

■ Warm Springs Intermediate School, Berkeley Springs, \$1,005 for “Food Chain Totems.” Student groups investigated food chains and ecosystems, and then worked with a teaching artist to create totems based on their research. The individual pieces were then assembled into a totem pole.

Ohio County

■ Oglebay Institute, Wheeling, \$5,000 for “The Science of Raku Ceramics.” Instructors immersed students in Japanese culture, and students used the Raku process to create a clay object of their own. Project serves Marshall, Ohio, and Wetzel counties.
■ Woodsdale Elementary School, Wheeling, \$888 for “Beebopping Around the Neighborhood.” Kindergarten students worked collaboratively with each other and teachers to design and build their idea of a perfect neighborhood. They then programmed a bee-shaped robot to travel through their town.

Pocahontas County

■ High Rocks Educational Corporation, Hillsboro, \$7,500 for the Mobile Film Photography Lab, incorporating art, science and technology. Project serves students in Greenbrier, Nicholas and Pocahontas counties.

Randolph County

■ ArtsBank, Inc, Elkins, \$3,021 for “DaVinci’s Apprentice Year II.” Teaching artists worked with students at Third Ward Elementary in Elkins, providing hands-on projects integrating arts and STEM through the study of DaVinci and the Renaissance.

Tucker County

■ Tucker County High School, Hambleton, \$7,500 for “Designing Our Futures Today.” Expanding on last year’s success exploring architectural landscape and tiny house design, this project involved teachers, students



Part two of the Bee Pollination Project took place at the Learning Options, Inc. facility. Art instructor Rebecca Moran has participants use research gathered in part one of the project to create art incorporating bee facts to be displayed at the Fairmont Community Garden. The completed project was installed near the raised flower beds to encourage pollination by bees.

and professionals in a collaborative effort to design and construct a multi-use trail system on the school campus.

Wayne County

■ East Lynn Elementary School, East Lynn, \$7,500 for “STEAM-Powered Marine Science Camp.” This is an afterschool/summer program for grades 1-4, in which students conduct hands-on STEAM challenges involving animal research, habitat studies, scale drawing, igloo building, and Lego Robotics.

Multi-County

■ West Virginia Public Broadcasting Foundation, Charleston, \$5,400 for “STEAM Power WV / Innovation.” Using the online resources of West Virginia LearningMedia, this project expanded the existing virtual scavenger hunt to include STEAM lessons and accompanying art

projects for grades 6-8.

■ West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, \$7,500 for “Shookstruck,” presenting 12 performances of a trio of WVSO percussionists, over four days to 2,600 elementary school students in underserved counties.

Percussion instruments were used to demonstrate musical, math and science concepts.

For more information about STEAM Power WV, contact Jim Wolfe at 304.558.0240 or james.d.wolfe@wv.gov.



WVDCH Welcomes New Arts Director



Lance Schrader. Photo by Josh Saul.

Lance Schrader was appointed by West Virginia Division of Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith as the director of the agency’s Arts Section. Schrader has more than 25 years’ experience working in West Virginia’s film industry in a variety of capacities, having served as the location coordinator for the West Virginia Film Office from 2016-2017. He worked on notable media and broadcast projects including *We Are Marshall*, *The Montel Williams Show*, *Inside Edition*, *The CBS Evening News*, *What the Night Can Do*, and NBC’s *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. Schrader has a background in visual arts and maintains a strong interest in drawing. He has been involved in theater productions for many years. He owned a production company and was previously the director of events at Huntington’s Big Sandy Arena, director of event services at Seneca Communications, and creative director for American Technology Rentals and Lee Hartman & Sons. He has a passion for WV Public Radio’s *Mountain Stage* and has been on its technical crew for a combined 15 years. Schrader has a master’s degree in radio/television broadcasting from the William Page Pitt School of Journalism at Marshall University and a bachelor’s degree in communications, with a double-track emphasis in film and theater, with a minor in art, from West Virginia State College.

INSPIRING
STUDENTS



**POETRY
OUT LOUD**

2017



Flanked by storyteller Bil Lepp, left, and Poetry Out Loud state coordinator Jim Wolfe, Tyler Ray accepts the award for his winning performance.

Tyler Ray was named West Virginia's Poetry Out Loud (POL) champion at the state finals event held at the Culture Center in Charleston in March. Ray, a Webster County High School senior, represented West Virginia at the national POL competition on April 25 and 26 in Washington, D.C.

Poetry Out Loud is a national competition in which high school students memorize and perform

By Jim Wolfe
Photos by Steve Brightwell

classical and contemporary poetry, beginning at high school level with students participating in classroom and school-wide contests. The winners of those competitions advance to the state finals.

In 2016-17, 44 West Virginia high schools held POL contests with over 4,500 students participating.

As state champion, Tyler Ray received \$200 and a trip to the national finals, as well as \$500 for Webster County High School for the purchase of poetry books

and materials. Sarah Beth Ealy, Morgantown High School, was named the state's runner-up. Ealy received \$100; and \$200 for her school. Kierston Carson of Lewis County High School, Makayla Tyree of Nitro High School, and Catharine Whiddon of Berkeley Springs High School round out the top five finalists.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts commissioned Kanawha County artist Nik Botkin to create the POL State Champion trophy and a companion award to be displayed at the winning school.

Students and teachers participating in the state finals also received a variety of works created by West Virginia artists. Handmade letterpress posters were created by Emily Sokolosky of Base Camp Printing Company in Charleston. Ceramic artist G.W. Lanham, a museum educator at the Huntington Museum of Art, made 6-inch by 6-inch "clay canvases" featuring an image of Maya Angelou and a quote from her poetry. All participants received a

copy of *Eyes Glowing at the Edge of the Woods*, a new anthology of West Virginia fiction and poetry published by WVU Press.

The two-day state finals event featured performances by Marc Harshman, the state's poet laureate, and acclaimed singer-songwriter Christian Lopez, a Martinsburg native who has performed throughout the country and is soon to release his second recording. Former POL state champion Neely Seams was the featured speaker at the event. Storyteller, author, and recording artist Bil Lepp served as the master of ceremonies.

Partnering with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, the Division of Culture and History sponsors POL to encourage young people to learn about great poetry and explore their literary heritage while mastering public speaking skills and building self-confidence. By incorporating the work of West Virginia artisans and performing artists in the program, the division seeks to nurture in each student a life-long appreciation for the arts.

Poetry Out Loud State Finalists 2017

Anthony Bankers-Beckett – Notre Dame High School
Grayland Emerson Brown – Parkersburg High School
Emily Cales – Meadow Bridge High School
Kierston Carson – Lewis County High School
Summer Danley – Oak Hill High School
Solange Disasi – Spring Mills High School
Tate Dixon – Hurricane High School
Daniel Dyal – Fayetteville High School
Sarah Beth Ealy – Morgantown High School
Natasha Fowler – Logan High School
Anya Glover – Paden City High School
Caleb Hanna – Richwood High School
Morgan Harris – Oak Glen High School
Jerrod Hildreth – Roane County High School
Ryan Horn – Magnolia High School
Emily King – Buckhannon-Upshur High School
Sarah Marzouk – George Washington High School
Cheyenne Meeks – Cameron High School
Dalton Miller – East Hardy High School
Jodee Mullins – Chapmanville Regional High School
Brett Napier – Greenbrier East High School
Isabelle Pethtel – Wirt County High School
Tyler Ray – Webster County High School
Elyse Samassekou – Huntington High School
Leah Seaman – Philip Barbour High School
Sabrina Smith – Tyler Consolidated High School
Amber Sturgill – Shady Spring High School
Trevor Swiger – Grafton High School
Makayla Tyree – Nitro High School
Kayden Upton – South Charleston High School
Madison Walker – Woodrow Wilson High School
Halona Webb – Liberty High School
Catharine Whiddon – Berkeley Springs High School
Ostin Williams – Capital High School
Kristin Wolfe – Union Educational Complex
Beverley Yarber – Nicholas County High School



**Above: Martinsburg native and recording artist Christian Lopez entertains competitors, parents, and teachers.
Below: Makayla Tyree, of Nitro High School, recites one of her poems during the competition.**



Each year, a West Virginia artist is commissioned to create a trophy for the winner of the Poetry Out Loud Finals. This year's creator, Nik Botkin, is the owner of Apartment Earth, a Fine Art gallery in downtown Charleston. He holds a Master of Arts with a concentration in sculpture from Marshall University and a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in painting from West Virginia State University. He has exhibited at numerous galleries and museums around the state. The shaping factor behind his work is the juxtaposition of being raised in a family with multiple generations employed by the local power plants and spending childhood summers in the wilderness of Pocahontas County. His goal is to create a non-hypocritical place for people on both sides of the environmental argument to come together.

Q & A with Greta Cox, Webster County High School teacher and Poetry Out Loud coordinator

A few weeks ago, we asked Webster County High School teacher Greta Cox to share her experiences of using poetry to motivate and inspire students at her school. Her story shows that poetry can engage and improve whole communities.

Q: *How did the Poetry Out Loud (POL) program get started at Webster County High School?*

A: I started Poetry Out Loud at Webster County High School in 2009. At the time, I was teaching a dual-credit public speaking class and we desperately needed an activity to showcase speech. I have always loved poetry, so when I saw a flyer for it in another teacher's mailbox, I thought, this is perfect; I can make students learn poetry for a purpose! The first year, students in my public speaking class were the only ones involved. They were so good and that's when I decided to invite the community to attend the following year.

Q: *How has the program grown or changed in Webster County since then?*

A: In 2010, we held our first community poetry showcase the week before Christmas break. My public speaking students, along with any student wishing to compete, could enter. Serious competitors used the POL website exclusively while those just needing a grade did slam poetry. Eventually, students began volunteering to do both formal recitation and reciting their own work. Even with putting out every chair in our building, the crowds grew to standing room only. We, students and teachers alike, were all shocked

by the interest and enthusiasm from the community. This year, 46 students performed in front of a crowd of more than 300. Social media was buzzing afterwards and alumni want to come back for POL.

Q: *What do you think your students gain from participating in Poetry Out Loud?*

A: Students have told me this program is life-changing; it has given them an outlet to express their emotions, made them interested in academics and the arts, and even helped them to stop self-injuring behaviors. I don't understand how poetry can do all these things but so many students attest that it does, so I believe them. Students, however, are not the only ones who have gained from POL. I feel as though it has added a touch of culture in an area mostly devoid of cultural experiences.

Q: *What are your plans for Poetry Out Loud and future poetry-related projects at Webster County High School?*

A: This experience with POL and its effect on teenagers and families has led me to want to pursue making poetry a bigger part of our rural area. Students are watching slam on YouTube, Spoken Word, Button Poetry and other sites. I want to start a tri-county slam poetry event,



Tyler Ray, left, with teacher Greta Cox.

hosted by WCHS. My students love writing this type of poetry and I feel this interest would boost literacy tremendously among teens and young adults. I plan to organize our first slam this summer and am currently looking for a venue. Tyler Ray, the current POL state champion, and several alumni are helping me in this endeavor. I believe poetry will broaden horizons and open doors for at-risk students as well as high fliers.

Q: *Do people find it surprising that this year's Poetry Out Loud state champion is from one of West Virginia's least populated counties?*

A: Some might be surprised that a rural student can excel at poetry. It's true - we don't have as much access to live performances as people who live closer to a big city or university. However, we do have the same feelings and problems found in great poetry, and we have the same drive to express and expose ourselves through poetry. A common stereotype is that rural people are too simple and unsophisticated to enjoy poetry and the arts. Tyler Ray's success and the interest shown in our little community proves this is just not the case.

My Poetry Out Loud Experience

Thoughts from Tyler Ray, 2017 Poetry Out Loud State Champion

I've been with the Poetry Out Loud program for four years and of all the activities I've been involved in, it is by far my favorite. Winning the title of West Virginia Poetry Out Loud State Champion was one of the proudest, most invigorating moments of my life. Getting to know the other competitors at the state level is always such an incredible experience because it's an opportunity to meet and befriend like-minded people that live in my home state. Being a senior this year meant I only had one shot left at the championship and I'm fortunate I was able to pull it off and win. I have to give a huge shout-out to my community for its continuous outpouring of support; the love my community showed me is tremendous and I'm so very thankful.

Winning the state championship meant I received the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of representing West Virginia at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals held in Washington, D.C. That trip was truly phenomenal and was by far one of the best experiences of my life. I met competitors from all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. Being surrounded by an abundance of creative people and brilliant minds left a lasting impression on me and gave me a new sense of creativity. I made friends that I will know the rest of my life, and that all came about through poetry.

I am a firm believer that poetry can change lives and open new doors for anyone that allows it into their lives. It has been an honor and absolute pleasure serving as the 2017 West Virginia Poetry Out Loud Champion. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for the Poetry Out Loud program here in wild and wonderful West Virginia.



Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Special Presenter Initiatives Applications Now Available

The 2018-2019 Special Presenter Initiatives (SPI) guidelines and application are now available. Application deadline is Friday, March 30, 2018.

Special Presenter Initiatives supports the presentation of professional performing artists in all disciplines at venues in Delaware, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and West Virginia.

Nonprofit presenters can request matching grants for up to two projects per annual cycle. Presenters in DC, DE, and WV can request up to \$2,000 per project and up to \$5,000 per project for presenters in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Important update to the 2018-2019 program

For the 2018-2019 cycle, SPI applicants can submit proposals to engage artists from anywhere worldwide. This includes artists based across the U.S. and internationally, except those based in the same state or jurisdiction as the applicant presenter.

Sign up to a webinar to learn more

MAAF will be offering three free webinars to assist potential applicants in understanding the Special Presenter Initiatives program

and filling out the online application. The next webinar will be Wednesday, March 21, 2016, 1:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Haowen Wang, Program Officer, Performing Arts at haowen@midatlanticarts.org, or 410.539.6656 x110

Visit www.midatlanticarts.org for more information.

The Special Presenter Initiatives program is made possible through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts' Regional Touring Program with additional support for engagements in Delaware provided by the Delaware Division of the Arts.

Federal Funds in Rural Communities

Communities, no matter how small or large, profit from the educational, economic and cultural benefits that the arts provide. Closeness to a metropolitan area allows citizens access to performing arts centers, museums, and multiple cultural activities. It is no secret that in West Virginia, the number of rural communities far outnumbers the number of large metropolises. Through community partnerships and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the WVDCH helps to provide the services and programs necessary to enrich the lives of those in smaller communities. Not only does this help create programs but, once in place, these programs have the ability for expansion and continued success.

The following essays, from five arts organizations around the state, describe the benefits that access to public money has meant for their communities.



A Morgan County student makes recycled art. Photo courtesy of Morgan Arts Council.

Public Arts and Morgan County

Without public arts funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH) and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) to our tiny, rural area there would be no Morgan Arts Council (MAC).

MAC programs in the Morgan County schools have exposed

more than 33,000 students to more than 1,200 artists. Youth art has been featured in Ice House Gallery shows for 20 years. A youth theater program began in 2000 with a nationally competitive grant from the NEA. Recently, it added a digital component for training youth Movie Maker. Today, MAC youth are performing and producing in a



A show of colorful quilts brightens the walls at the Ice House. Photos on this page courtesy of Morgan Arts Council.

variety of places, including New York City, South Korea and Morgantown. In 2012, MAC introduced Arts Integration bringing STEAM programs into local schools.

The impact of public art funding of MAC goes deeper than arts programming in schools or summer concerts in the park. The development of arts has been an enrichment of the local school system, a benefit to tourism and major economic force in Berkeley Springs, and helped to create a vibrant community life that is a lure for visitors.

MAC's most significant use of public arts funds is transformation of a 40,000-square foot former cold storage building in the heart of town. Thanks to public funds from the West Virginia Legislature and the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources grants, half that space has been transformed into the Ice House – a productive art and community center where demand for use is high. Permanent activity spaces include an artist co-op, curated gallery and digital media center. Classrooms and theater spaces are available to the community as well. The care, feeding and development of an arts space

is an expensive proposition but one that is priceless for a community; a perfect use for public art funds.

Half of MAC's annual budget is generated by various fundraising activities and local government entities, including school budgets and hotel/motel tax revenues. There

is substantial earned income from admissions, space rentals and gallery sales commissions.

Public arts funds fill the gap either from state and national grants or various private foundations. Berkeley Springs shows that public arts funding has return on investment.



The Ice House, a hub of community creativity in Berkeley Springs.

Monroe Arts Alliance: From Small Beginnings, Large Things Can Grow

In 2002, Monroe County citizens who were interested in the arts and wishing for more opportunities founded the Monroe Arts Alliance (MAA). It has a simple mission: to promote and support the arts and culture in the county and surrounding area. Exclusively charitable, its annual income is around \$6,000 which is gained from private donations, foundation support and local business contributions. There are no formal groups that sponsor concerts or arts events. MAA is the only organization that offers arts scholarships in the county.

Although Monroe County is physically large, it is primarily rural with little industry. With a county population of only 15,000 and a median family income of just under \$35,000, where does one find other folks with similar interests? Instructors for lessons? Artists and musicians to show and perform? It didn't take long to find that there were such people right inside the county and surrounding area.

With support from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, MAA was guided through the EZ Arts Access grant application, a program designed to assist small organizations. With continual grant funding for the past 15 years, MAA has been able to increase interest and public participation centered on the arts. From hosting fine arts exhibits in Union and Peterstown to sponsoring



Artist Tyler Cody shows off his painting. Photos courtesy of Monroe Arts Alliance.

the Annual Youth Art Show and giving scholarships to students, the MAA has been able to help the arts grow and flourish in Monroe County.

Raising money for something that many view as "extras" is difficult, especially in a rural county such

as Monroe. However, receiving a matching grant from public monies stimulates giving from private sources. With the support of public funding, continuing the dreams of the Monroe Arts Alliance does not seem so overwhelming.



A young violinist performs in Monroe County.

Warrior Creek Development

In his book, *Appalachian Folkways*, cultural geographer John B. Rehdner observes that the “families living in the mountainous region stretching from West Virginia to northeastern Alabama have forged one of the country’s richest and most distinctive cultures, encompassing music, food, architecture, customs, and language.” In many ways, the town of Welch and McDowell County form the very heart of the Appalachian region. Indeed, in every respect, the community’s historical experience defines Appalachian culture.

McDowell County has a well-documented history of economic stagnation and recession. Yet, though it is often forgotten, the area abounds with a rich artistic and cultural heritage. We believe one of the key components of revitalizing this community is to provide ways for the community to heal from the wounds of the past. Part of that healing process comes from encouraging residents to reflect on what was good in the past; what made this area special. A key element in healing from our economic and social losses is to identify what resources we do have and create a way to access those resources. The primary resource in any community is its people. Establishing a creative space to gather artists and other creative individuals will create a pathway to connect those resources.

At present, there is no center for the promotion of the arts in Welch. The city and surrounding area has a rich cultural and artistic heritage that needs to be preserved for both current and future generations in McDowell County. Establishing a center for the recovery, development and preservation of the arts and culture is central to much of what will help us revitalize the community and reach for our new tomorrows.



An early planning session for an arts center in McDowell County. Photos courtesy of Warrior Creek Development.

This center will not only generate programs to inspire creativity in the arts but will seek to create a dynamic and thematically-driven place where residents and visitors may reflect on the rich history of this area.

Through its many programs, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts provides hope that our vision for a center for

the promotion of arts and culture can be a reality for a rural location like McDowell County. The grant opportunity for establishing facilities like this allows us to leverage other local resources to make this dream become a reality. To have a center for children, youth, and adults that provides a variety of workshops for participants to discover and engage in a wide array of art forms.



Two young McDowell County performers.

ArtsLink: Fostering the Arts in Wetzel and Tyler Counties

Now entering its 16th year, ArtsLink, Inc. was created to increase opportunities for the people of its service area, Wetzel and Tyler counties, to experience the arts and culture. Using a building provided by West Virginia Northern Community College, ArtsLink has established a center for exhibits, classes, performances and meetings. The organization was facilitated by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History Arts Section Peer Assistance Network members who helped with the strategic planning. This set the foundation for what has become a vibrant arts organization in a rural area of West Virginia void of such.

The donated building, Francis Creative Arts Center, was renovated thanks to a Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources grant. Among other needed improvements, this grant allowed for the rehabilitation of the center with an ADA approved restroom on the ground floor and a lift to the second floor.

The board determined a need for a paid staff person and ArtsLink was able to take advantage of the staff support funding. More than \$8,000 in West Virginia arts grant funding provided supplement for staff salary over three years. Ms. Earley's duties include managing the financial records of the organization, monitoring state and federal tax reports that must be completed each year, finding and writing grants, and administering ArtsLink's participation in the Neighborhood Investment Program.

ArtsLink's primary source of grant funding for concert events comes from the Community Arts Project Support program. Artists have



Above: Isaac Price and Levi Goddard of Paden City perform "We Can Do It" from *The Producers*. This will be performed at the International Thespian Festival this year.

Below: 2017 Valentine's Concert featuring the Roger Humphries Quintet.

included the United Kingdom Ukulele Orchestra, River City Brass, and White Ghost Shivers. West Virginia artists presented include Mid Ohio Valley Ballet, Jenny Wilson Jazz Trio, Oglebay Institute Youth Ballet, Quiet, Montclair String Quartet, West Virginia Dance Company, Gerald Lee, and Doris Fields. Receiving more than \$136,000, ArtsLink has been able to serve more than 20,000 children and adults. School activities are included for most of the concert events. Grant funding also allowed for performances of Missoula Children's Theatre which was attended by almost 2,500 children and adults.

Through the funding ArtsLink receives from Community Arts Project Support grants, it is able to provide mini-grants to area residents for arts-related projects. Recently, awardees have included area theater troupes, the Wetzel County Museum for an art exhibition, a local after-school art program, and a summer music in the park program.

ArtsLink is a member of the state-wide West Virginia Arts Presenters and has participated in their block booking program for several years. These grants also come through the Community Arts Project Support program.



Rowlesburg Revitalization

The original Rowlesburg school was constructed in 1910. In 2008, the building became a community center for events, dances, dinners, performances, cultural programs and youth activities. The building was designated as a historical building and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in November 2005.

Now known as the Janet and Imre Szilagyi Center for Visual and Performing Arts, this building has become a destination since 2009. It houses a remarkable WWII Museum, two sports museums, an arts room where pottery and other arts are taught, a quilting room, a café, and a gift shop. There also is a catering kitchen and gymnasium which converts into a dining facility for monthly community dinners. Each year, many bus tours include The Szilagyi Center as one of their special destinations. In other



As part of the River City Festival in May, the Preston High Knights Theatre Ensemble performed *War of 1812 - Causes, Conflicts and Consequences*, directed by Lynn Broderick.

words, this building has become an important asset for the community of Rowlesburg and Preston County.

In 2014, the building developed serious leaks in the roof which threatened its very existence. Attempts to make repairs were futile which necessitated the solicitation of bids to replace the entire flat roof of the building. The lowest bid came in at \$62,341, a number much too high for the organization to fund alone. Along with funds raised from local citizens and alumnae, the roof was replaced and the old building lives on.

Because of the revitalization of this building, important community

events such as the River City Festival, United States Military and Veteran's Commemoration Day, Annual West Virginia Chestnut Festival, and Christkindlmarkt are held here each year. Moreover, youth of the community and surrounding area enjoy the pottery classes, both hand built and with the use of the pottery wheel.

Without the assistance received from funds from the Division of Culture and History, this building would be no more than a blight on the community. Thank you, State of West Virginia, for your generous support.



The Wheeling Symphony String Trio performs at the Szilagyi Center. Photos by Phil Wotring.

New
Opportunities
for Artists

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts Educator Scholarships Available

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts is a national art education center in Gatlinburg, TN offering weekend, one- and two-week workshops for the beginner to advanced artist. Taught by national and international practicing studio artists and university faculty, students work and learn in professionally equipped studios on a 14-acre residential campus. Workshops and classes are offered in ceramics, fiber, metals/jewelry, painting, drawing, photography, warm glass, woodturning, woodworking, mixed media, books and paper.

Educator Scholarships provide 50% of workshop tuition for one workshop per educator per year and are open to any educator regardless of discipline. K-12, technical school, community college, college and university faculty are eligible. Open to all skill levels.

APPLICATION DEADLINE • No deadline, rolling with class availability.

HOW TO APPLY • Educators must submit a current copy of their pay-stub as proof of active educator status to Cynthia Bellacome, Registrar, at cbellacome@arrowmont.org before class starts to receive their scholarship. Pay-stub must show name, school name and current date – income and other personal data may be redacted.

Browse workshop descriptions and instructor profiles - choose your workshop and register online today! For more information, visit www.arrowmont.org.



Visitors view the 2017 exhibit at the Springfield Art Museum. Photo by Aaron J. Scott.

Watercolor USA 2018 Call for Entries

The Springfield Art Museum (Springfield, Missouri) is pleased to announce a call for entries for Watercolor USA 2018, highlighting the very best in contemporary American watermedia. This year's exhibit will run from June 2 through August 26, 2018. The deadline to apply is March 6, 2018.

Organized in 1962, this year marks the 57th year of Watercolor USA. The nationally known exhibition is open to artists from all 50 states and U.S. territories and seeks to discover what is new and what is next in the world of American watermedia. This year's exhibit will be judged by Kelly Kane, former editor-in-chief of Watercolor Artist magazine and a leader in art publishing for more than 20 years.

Approximately \$20,000 in cash prizes and possible museum purchase awards are available. Top awards include the \$3,000 Kenneth M. Shuck Memorial Award, the \$2,000 Greg G. Thielen Memorial Award, the \$1,500 Bill Armstrong Memorial Award, and the \$1,000 Robert E. Goodier Memorial Award for Traditional Transparent Watercolor,

among others. Additional cash awards are generously provided by the Watercolor USA Honor Society.

Artists from all 50 states and U.S. territories, ages 18 and up, who are using watermedia as critical components of their work are eligible to apply. Artists whose work pushes the boundaries of traditional aqueous media are encouraged to enter. High realism, abstraction, traditional transparent watercolor, and innovative uses of the medium are all welcomed as the exhibit continues to expand and adjust with contemporary artistic practice, including the use of nontraditional supports and mounts.

For more information on entry rules, entry fees, and artwork submission, visit www.sgfmuseum.org. The Springfield Art Museum is Springfield, Missouri's oldest cultural institution, founded in 1928. A department of the City of Springfield, it is dedicated to enhancing the education and documenting the cultural heritage of the people of southwest Missouri through the collection, preservation, and exhibition of art objects.

West Virginia Writers, Inc. Announces Annual Writing Competition

On January 2, 2018, West Virginia Writers, Inc., (WVW) will begin accepting submissions for its annual writing competitions, offering \$5,075 in total cash prizes, including monetary awards specifically designated for students in elementary, middle, and high school through the New Mountain Voices Contest.

For the first time, the organization will be accepting online submissions. Dreama Pritt, WVW contest coordinator, is excited about the change. "Online submissions will open opportunities for more writers," she said. "We hope that the ease of submitting online will create incentive for younger writers and the technologically astute to participate."

Eliot Parker, WVW president, agrees that allowing online entries is a positive change. "I think this is truly going to be transformative for our organization," he said.

Since 1982, WV Writers has held an annual writing competition, accepting original, unpublished entries in a variety of themed writing categories. In addition to several other options, traditional categories returning for the 2018 contest include: Children's Books, Middle Grade/Young Adult Books, Short Story, Short Nonfiction, Short Poetry, Long Poetry, Book Length Prose, as well as the Emerging Writers categories—one each for prose and poetry. (Unpublished writers who have never won a cash award in a WVW Annual Contest are eligible for the Emerging Writers awards.)

The WVW Annual Contest is open to all residents of West Virginia as well as to any member of WV Writers, Inc. residing outside of the state. The competition has a \$10 fee for each entry, except for the book length and screenplay categories, which are \$12 for each entry.

The WV Writers Contest does not have an age limitation, but younger West Virginians may want to submit instead to the New Mountain Voices Student Writing Contest, which is designed specifically for those who are under age 18. Students may choose from six suggested writing topics or follow their own prompt for an original story or poem. The student contest has three age group categories—for grades 1-5, 6-8, and 9-12—each of which will have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes awarded. The New Mountain Voices Contest is free to enter and is open only to student residents of West Virginia.

Submissions for both contests are accepted from January 2 through March 15 (with a late deadline of March 31) and may be submitted online through Submittable at <https://westvirginiawriters.submittable.com/submit>. The organization accepts printed entries, as well. Printable submission forms for mailing can be found online at wvwriters.org.

Winners will be announced June 9, 2018 at an awards ceremony during the 40th annual West Virginia Writers Conference, to be held at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, W.Va. All winners, including honorable mentions, will receive certificates suitable for framing, with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category.

For official contest entry forms, contest rules, list of contest judges, and the contest frequently asked questions list, please visit the contest webpage at wvwriters.org/contest.html, or email contest coordinator Dreama Pritt at wvwcontest@gmail.com.

Upcoming Exhibitions at Tamarack: The Best of West Virginia

MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

April 7 - June 10, 2018

Image Submission Deadline: March 5, 2018

We've been making music in the mountains for as long as we've called them home. Tamarack's David L. Dickirson Fine Art Gallery is seeking original two and three dimensional artwork following the tune of Music in the Mountains. This exhibition theme intends to celebrate music. All artwork prompted by the theme are welcome. Examples for entry include depictions of musicians or instruments, allusions to songs and lyrics, or handmade instruments, etc.

THE BEST OF WEST VIRGINIA OPEN JURIED EXHIBITION

June 16 - August 5, 2018

Image Submission Deadline: April 23, 2018

TAMARACK: The Best of West Virginia celebrates West Virginia artists by showcasing their creativity and talent in this special juried competition. This show, which opens West Virginia Day weekend, is the only exhibition hosted by the David L. Dickirson Fine Arts Gallery that can be entered by any artist or artisan who is a West Virginia resident. Participants compete for four monetary awards, totaling \$4,000: \$2,000 first place, \$1,000 second place, \$500 third place, \$500 people's choice.

For more information, call 1-888-262-7225 or visit www.tamarackwv.com.

In Memoriam

Susan Stevenson Landis
April 3, 1943 – July 14, 2017

West Virginia is truly a better place thanks to Susan. As the executive director of the Beckley Area Foundation and chair of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, she was a teacher, mentor, community leader and friend. She stayed in constant motion as she built networks, encouraged creativity and led with thoughtful attention to details.

Her services to West Virginia Grantmakers, Theatre West Virginia and West Virginia Leave a Legacy are representative of the many service organizations and volunteer activities with which she was involved. Her willingness to serve on regional and national arts and volunteer boards furthered her successes and enhanced our state's reputation.

Susan excelled in so many ways. She is recognized for her invaluable contributions to the arts and education. She is remembered for her tireless community work and volunteerism.

Most of all, she was positive, supportive and dedicated to enhancing the best of West Virginia and showcasing that to its residents and to national audiences. We honor her by celebrating her spirit and continuing her work.

While West Virginia lost one of its treasures, and we all have lost a dear friend, the legacy of Susan Stevenson Landis, her dedication and commitment to the Arts and Humanities, and her public service to others at all levels will continue to be a beacon of light and hope throughout West Virginia and this nation. Her friendship, her loyalty, and her infectious enthusiasm for life will be our treasures to remember and carry on in her name.

—Gayle C. Manchin, Secretary of Education and the Arts

Cathy and I were fortunate to know Susan Landis well and to be associated with her for many years. Susan was a giver in the truest sense of the word. She dedicated her time, her talents and her money to make life better for those in her community, state and country. She embodied the word volunteer and was a shining example for others to follow.

I would be remiss if I didn't point out that perhaps Susan's strongest attribute was that she was a visionary. Through her tireless commitment to the Beckley Area Foundation and dozens of other

causes, thousands of people benefited and will continue to be benefited for decades to come. She will be sorely missed.

—Jim Justice, Governor, State of West Virginia

Susan was not only a great friend but a true leader and a pillar in the Beckley community. She was always willing to lend her support to worthy causes in any way she could. Susan will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and selfless humanitarian.

—Cathy Justice, First Lady, State of West Virginia

Susan made a life-changing impact on Beckley, Southern West Virginia, West Virginia, and the country through philanthropy, the arts and culture, community betterment, economic development, and contributions to organizations, communities, and lives. For many in the nonprofit community, Susan served as an advisor, mentor, encourager and friend. Her sharp wit, passion and commitment to excellence are well known throughout our network.



Susan Stevenson Landis

—Heather Foster, Executive Director, Volunteer West Virginia

I have always felt that the most noble of all the arts is teaching. Susan Landis has been one of the great teachers and mentors in my life. She influenced my hopes, dreams, and aspirations for all artists in our beloved West Virginia. She will always live on in all our accomplishments.

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

Susan was more than a colleague to me; she was a dear friend, mentor and role model. Her dedication to advancing the Arts in West Virginia and the tireless energy she invested in serving her community were a true source of inspiration. She was an incomparable force: fiercely dedicated with boundless generosity and kindness. I am fortunate to have known her.

—Renee Margocee, Executive Director, Tamarack Foundation for the Arts

Susan Landis was a valuable member of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation board of directors for more than ten years. Her dedication to the arts and to her constituents in West Virginia was unwavering. She was especially dedicated to insuring that young jazz musicians from Beckley and the surrounding communities had opportunities to participate in the Foundation's jazz programs. Her strength of leadership and dedication were inspiring to all who knew her. I feel enormous thanks to have known and worked with her.

—Alan Cooper, former Executive Director, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

Susan left an indelible mark in Beckley and surrounding communities through her work at the Beckley Area Foundation. Throughout her years of service, Susan was a positive role model, teacher, mentor and inspiration to the BAF staff, current and past board members and a multitude of volunteers. She led by example and has left a legacy of unselfish living throughout West Virginia.

—Dena Cushman and Sharon Lilly, Beckley Area Foundation

Susan Landis once defined the West Virginia Commission on the Arts board as a "working board." . . . As I became familiar with her leadership style, I realized it meant just that – working. To achieve progress, she read, researched and spoke passionately to grant panelists for EVERY grant review. She went to arts listening tours and participated in West Virginia Division of Culture and History activities . . . At the same time, she served on national and regional boards with significant responsibilities to them.

Her relationship with the Arts Section staff was incredibly meaningful. Her understanding and compassion went beyond just bringing candy as a treat when she met with them. She herself was a treat.

—John Strickland, Chair, West Virginia Commission on the Arts

Susan Landis was a remarkable person among many remarkable people in our universe. As volunteers, especially front-line volunteers, these council/ commission/board members serve our states with no compensation except the considerable reward of bringing the arts to our fellow citizens. She ably served West Virginia in so many ways.

Her real job was with the Beckley Area Foundation. Yet, in her volunteer roles, she helped us in many ways. When my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, Susan, who was a breast cancer survivor, became my big sister and Anne's volunteer caregiver. We will be forever grateful for her support and encouragement and the occasional cookies that came our way.

Her gentle call to duty to all of us and her generous appreciation for all we do is how I will remember Susan Landis.

—Philip Horn, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

Susan Landis was dear to me: a mentor, friend, inspiration, connector and confidante. She was filled to the brim with life, had a wonderful sense of possibility, a great big laugh and saw the best in people, no exceptions. A gifted fundraiser who could inspire anyone (really, ANYONE!), Susan taught me to lead with optimism, truth, practicality, gratitude and kindness. Her passion elevated NASAA as an origination and her advocacy lifted all state arts agencies, enhancing our community more than words can say. I am honored to have known and loved her.

—Laura Smith, Chief Advancement Officer, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Susan provided strategic arts and cultural leadership across the state, the region, and the nation as Chair of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and through her service on the boards of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Her vision helped to position a galaxy of organizations for a bright future.

When Susan served on the National Endowment for the Arts panel for state arts agencies, she presented each of us with beautiful handcrafted mugs by a West Virginia artist. That was Susan.

When we think of Susan, we remember the warm welcome she always extended, the joy she felt for her work, and the passion she had for sharing the arts with others.

—Andi Mathis and Laura Scanlan, State and Regional Partnerships, National Endowment for the Arts

Susan Landis inspired in the state arts agencies family and in me a heightened appreciation for gratitude. Susan never missed an opportunity to thank her fellow volunteers, and her genuine spirit of gratitude always left her state arts agencies colleagues feeling Susan's warmth and deep love of our community and mission. It's an honor to mark our love and gratitude for her. Our hearts go out to Susan's family and to all our West Virginia friends as we remember the many moments of joy Susan brought to our community.

—Pam Breaux, chief Executive Officer, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

I called Susan Landis my friend, as many others had the privilege of doing. . . She did not merely support the arts, she gave all she had to make the arts important in our community, our state and our country. When I became arts director for the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Susan helped me navigate my first days. . . She was like a second mother to me. She was at the hospital the night my daughter was born, and Susan loved my daughter as her own.

Her passion made everyone feel they had something to give and an important part to play in making life better. She inspired me and many others. I am honored to have called her my friend. She is deeply missed.

—Jeff Pierson, Director of Public Arts, City of Charleston, W. Va.

Grant Opportunities for Artists

Inspiration



While discussing upcoming renovations to Gallery 62 West, in Grafton, with architects and contractors, members of the Taylor County Arts Council took this photo of the ladder the contractors climbed to reach the top of the building.

"We were all inspired by the image and things to come," said one member.

Submit to ArtWorks!

Does your arts organization deserve to be in the spotlight? Are you an artist who attended a great conference or workshop and feel like you must share your experience? Do you have an idea that you believe would make a great story? Whatever it is, email it to elizabeth.a.yeager@wv.gov with the subject "ArtWorks Submission" and your idea could be published in an upcoming issue of ArtWorks. Please submit all ideas by February 15.

Arts in Education

Deadline: March 1

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

Arts Partners

Deadline: March 1

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

Challenge America

Deadline: March 1

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

Community Arts Project Support

Deadline: March 1

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

Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources

Deadline: July 1

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

EZ Arts Access

Deadline: April 1 /October 1

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

Mini Grants

Deadline: 6 weeks prior to project date

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

Professional Development for Artists

Deadline: February 1/October 1

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

Professional Development for Artist Organizations

Deadline: February 1/October 1

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

Training and Travel

Deadline: 6 weeks prior to project date

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

West Virginia Division of Culture and History Arts Section

304.558.0240



Lance Schrader is the Director of Arts for the West Virginia Division of 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.
Lance.E.Schrader@wv.gov



Jim Wolfe is the Arts in Education Coordinator. He administers the Arts in Education and Mini-Grant programs, and is the state coordinator for Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest for high school students.
James.D.Wolfe@wv.gov



Robin Jones is the Administrative Secretary for the Arts Section and helps administer, along with the Arts in Education coordinator, its Mini Grant program.
Robin.L.Jones@wv.gov



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.
Barbie.J.Smoot@wv.gov



New to the Arts section is Community Arts Coordinator **Jack O'Hearn**. He oversees the Arts Partners, Community Arts Project Support and EZ Arts Access grant programs.
Jack.J.Ohearn@wv.gov



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 and Travel grant programs. She also is the editor of the agency's quarterly publication *ArtWorks West Virginia*.
Elizabeth.A.Yeager@wv.gov



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The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
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Jerry Rose, Beckley

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