



Greene Arts

Greene County Council on the Arts
398 Main Street, P. O. Box 463
Catskill, NY 12414
518.943.3400
www.greenearts.org

FY 2012 - 2013

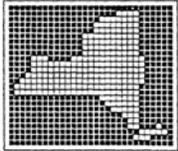
ANNUAL REPORT

History & Activities: Since 1975, the GCCA has provided programming, information and services to artists, arts organizations, cultural and educational institutions, civic groups, community agencies, and the general public. While our central mission is to broaden and enrich the quality of life in Greene County, over the years our programs and activities have grown and expanded to reflect the varied needs of our constituents. We are first and foremost a service organization. We act as a chamber of commerce for the arts and as a clearinghouse for the promotion of arts activities. We foster an awareness of the vast cultural resources within Greene County through the support of our artists and cultural organizations. And we serve our community through the development and presentation of cultural and arts-related activities. Our aim is to stimulate the area's cultural and economic growth through the arts.

Vision: We envision Greene County as a cultural center of the Catskills and Hudson Valley where the quality of life is enriched by artistic and cultural programs, actively enjoyed and supported by residents and visitors alike.

Mission: To provide the leadership and vision necessary for our communities to work together, support the work of our artists and cultural organizations and promote artistic and cultural opportunities for our residents and guest.

State of the Arts



NYSCA



Greene County Council on the Arts

Thanks to the New York State Council on the Arts, Governor Cuomo, and the
Greene County Legislature for vital support.
Thanks to The Bank of Greene County for major underwriting of the Beaux Arts Ball.
Thanks to Smart Systems Group for donation of computer services.
Thanks to Columbia-Greene Media and the Pennysaver for advertising support.
Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

2013 - 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Current Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Area of Representation/Affiliation</u>
President:	David Slutzky	Hunter: <i>Artist, Resort Industry</i>
Vice President:	Frank Cuthbert	Athens: <i>Artist, Composer, Real estate,</i>
Treasurer:	Paul Poplock	Catskill: <i>Business, Finance</i>
Recording Secretary:	Lawrence Krajeski	Durham: <i>Non Profit Industry</i>
	Ava Barbour	Cairo: <i>Artist, Graphic Design</i>
	Kico Govantes	Catskill: <i>Artist, Art Dealer</i>
	Laura Segall	Cairo: <i>Art Teacher, Dev. Dir. Non Profit (retired)</i>
	John Sowle	Catskill: <i>Artist, Theatre</i>
	Brenda Taylor	Leeds, <i>Social Work Consultant, Artist</i>
	Sheila Trautman	Jewett: <i>Artist</i>
Nominee, January 2014	Bill Deane	Ashland: <i>Artist, Civil Engineer (retired)</i>

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Casey Biggs (Athens), chairman;
Karl T. Anis (Windham); **June Battisti** (Catskill); **Susan Beecher** (Jewett); **Dick Brooks** (New Baltimore);
Andrea Cunliffe (Germantown); **Michel Goldberg**, (Freehold); **Louise Hughes** (Jewett); **Ronnie McCue** (Catskill);
Kim McLean (Athens), **Patrick D. Milbourn** (Catskill); **Patti Morrow** (Windham); **Ruth Sachs** (Jewett),
Michael Smith (Catskill), **Robert Sheridan** (Haines Falls); **Reginald Willcocks**, (Windham)

STAFF

Kay Stamer, Executive Director
Sharon Hulett-Shephard, Asst to Director; Membership Coordinator
Colette Lemmon, Director Community Arts Grants for the Twin Counties
Renee Nied, Schoharie County Decentralization Coordinator
Fawn Potash, Visual Arts Director
Patricia Britton, Bookkeeper
Donna Trunzo & Dale Loughran, "Sprouts" Directors
Elizabeth Tyre, Catskill Gallery Reception, Courtesy of Experience Works
Barbara Ratcliffe, Catskill Gallery Reception, Courtesy of Experience Works
Marcia Witte, Grants Writer, Courtesy of Experience Works

Consultants

Anthony Rago, Apogee Web Advisor
Kate Boyer, Arts Alive
Eugene DeVillamil, Computer Tech

Volunteer Gallery/Office Staff

Dara Young, Editor, Calendar & Opportunities
Jean Heiberg, Coordinator "I Love You Greene"
Phyllis Bowen, William Barnds, William Carbone, Dot Chast, Flo Hayle,
Erica M. Klein, Pat Lemmon, Daniel Marcus, Andi Porazzo-Nangle, Brenda Obremski, Christy Rupp,
Carol Swierzowski, Richard Talcott, Dara Trahan, Ilana Wolfe

Catskill Gallery Committees

Deborah Artman, Jill Skupin Burkholder, Kico Govantes, Erica M. Klein, Ruth Leonard

...and a host of people like you!

The Year 2013- in Review

Prelude: The year 2013 has been exciting and challenging. The challenges we faced in 2010 continued into 2013 and beyond. They were and are enormous. Continued delays in receipt of state funding leave us struggling to keep the doors open and the lights on at our Catskill Gallery headquarters. In the “good ole’ days” we received our NYSCA (New York State Council on the Arts) funding in September. Then it was delayed until November. Three years ago, our funding finally arrived three days before the New Year. In FY 2012-13 we received funding in mid-February and June. This year, we still have not received our contracts or funding! The rewarding, not to mention heartwarming, side of the equation is the number of you who responded to our appeals and Fawn’s creation of a new fundraiser for the gallery programs, “Playing with a Full Deck”.. We’re holding on thanks to all of you and we can’t thank you enough!

The State budget for NYSCA for the 2013-2014 fiscal year remained level with 2012-2013. That was good news considering the nearly 40% reduction over the previous five years. We await news of the Governor’s 2014 recommendations. In 2013 we received \$150,000 from the Governor’s Regional Economic Development Council administered by NYSCA. Our project, “Mainly Greene” is a partnership between GCCA’s Masters on Main Street (MOMS) program, the Catskill Mountain Foundation, Zadock Pratt Museum, and Prattsville Art Center.

Our County funding was held level for the third year in a row. While we advocated for an increase, we are truly grateful after several years of 10% cuts (from a high in FY 09-10 of \$53,769 to our current \$46,950.) The county’s support has been essential. With the economy stretched, funding for the arts is often considered by many to be of a “discretionary” nature – with food, shelter, health care and education being the essentials. Yet, consider this information provided by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. In addition to the inherent value to society, the arts offer a distinctive blend of benefits, including:

- **Economic Drivers:** The arts create jobs and produce tax revenue. A strong arts sector is an economic asset that stimulates business activity, attracts tourism revenue, retains a high quality of work force and stabilizes property value. The arts have been shown to be a successful and sustainable strategy for revitalizing rural areas, inner cities and populations struggling with poverty.
- **Educational Assets:** The arts foster young imaginations and facilitate children’s success in school. They provide the critical thinking, communications and innovation skills essential to a productive 21st century work force.
- **Civic Catalysts:** The arts create a welcoming sense of place and a desirable quality of life. The arts also support a strong democracy, engaging citizens in civic discourse, dramatizing important issues and encouraging collective problem solving.
- **Cultural Legacies:** The arts preserve unique culture and heritage, passing a state’s precious cultural character and traditions along to future generations.

As we reflect on 38 years of service to our community, we are all the more grateful to our members, donors and friends for your continued support. It is also important to note the wonderful contributions of our exceptionally talented and dedicated staff, Board of Directors, artists and volunteers. We have been blessed.

Let us all continue to work together toward a common goal – economic revitalization through the arts and the continued realization of our vision.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2013

For 38 years, our presence has brought thousands of dollars in state and federal funds into the county in support of the arts, and our partnerships with the Greene County Legislature and local businesses have put local dollars to work keeping local arts healthy and vibrant. GCCA has nurtured artists in all disciplines throughout the county and the region and has been their stalwart advocate since the inception of many of the arts organizations that now grace Greene County with their presence. We at the Greene County Council on the Arts are proud to be a continuing wellspring of support for this wonderful spirit of creativity, experimentation and artistic achievement.

Under the direction of Fawn Potash, Visual Arts Director, GCCA hosted a year of remarkable exhibits, beginning with *Visitors, Visitations, Visions* a group show of whimsical, fantastic and sci-fi creatures in all media and *Animal, Myth, Magic* exploring personal and mythological relationships between humans and animal. In March GCCA hosted its annual Youth Arts exhibit. Hundreds of young artists from schools all over Greene County had the opportunity to display their work. Following in May, Plowshares, attributed photographic works celebrating the land and people who work with the land and the work of street photographer, the late Jerry Miller. The various methods of photography gave testament to the intrinsic nature of making art is often reflective of the inherent nature of our relationship to the land. In August, *Cancer Journeys; Expressions of Hope and Transformations* and the *Grace Project* brought very deep and personal stories of cancer survivors, caregivers and loved ones out and up front proving art as a redemptive power. In addition book signings, health care resource materials and Care of the Cancer Services Program of Columbia & Greene Counties Health Care Consortium offered a session on information about the health care act at the GCCA Catskill Gallery. To end the year, GCCA proudly hosted its artist member's works in Salon 2013 and Handmade Holiday in the Artful Hand Boutique.

Early in the year a new website, www.mainlygreene.org, was launched to promote the arts and culture, events and excursions around Greene County. "Mainly Greene" is a partnership project of four Greene County arts organizations using the arts as a Main Street business catalyst to promote the region's great cultural, historic and geographic adventures to residents and visitors. Sponsored by the Greene County Council on the Arts, this unprecedented collaboration brought together Masters on Main Street, Catskill Mountain Foundation, Prattsville Art Workshop & Residency and the Zadock Pratt Museum with joint planning and marketing efforts supported in part by a \$150,000 award from the New York State Council on the Arts through the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) created by Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Invaluable marketing support was provided by Finn Partners and the Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning Department.

As part of Masters on Main Street, in February we presented the third annual festival featuring film and video artists from MFA programs around the country at the Catskill Mills in Catskill. Our special guest curator for the festival was Andrea Cunliffe.

This is only a sampling. As we go forward, we can be thankful for your support and that our mission continues to be accomplished - *to broaden and enrich the quality of life in Greene County by developing and strengthening all the arts and by fostering cultural and arts related activities in Greene County.*

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Catskill Gallery, Offices & Information Center – If you have visited our gallery in Catskill or seen a copy of *Arts Alive*, our bimonthly publication, you know the work we do providing opportunities and information for artists and the general public. Each year, we coordinate and mount five to six group shows in our 1st floor gallery and three to four solo shows in our 2nd floor gallery, where the work of artists and crafters can also be seen at The Artful Hand, our gift boutique. To complement our gallery exhibits, we offer special lectures, performances, workshops and book signings throughout the year.

Arts Alive! Our bi-monthly newspaper continues to provide essential information to artists, members and the general public regarding cultural activities and opportunities. *Arts Alive!* will continue as long as advertising revenues are generated. The GCCA believes that *Arts Alive!* is a valuable resource for our members. If you believe as we do, please spread the word for advertising revenue. Sharon Shepherd is in charge of production. Kate Boyer has been providing the graphic layout. Our friend and volunteer, Dara Young, has taken on the responsibility of compiling the information found in our Events Calendar and Artist Opportunities. And, most importantly, our wonderful board member, Ava Barbour, created a new branding linking Arts Alive! with the Garden Party and other events.

Cultural Fund Regrant Programs – Two regrant programs provide vital support to established and emerging artists, cultural organizations, and community-based groups while ensuring a wealth of cultural activities to a broad range of constituents. In 2013 the GCCA awarded \$114,400 to not for profit organizations and individual artists through the Greene County Initiative Program (CIP) and Community Arts Grants in Columbia, Greene and Schoharie County. Funding for (CIP) is received from the Greene County Legislature and is intended for major cultural organizations in Greene County. Funding for Community Arts Grants is received from the New York State Council on the Arts. Community Arts Grants include several tiers for cultural funding to non-profit community organizations, individual artists, and Arts Education. Arts Education is our partnership with schools, teaching artists, students and parents which provides developmental support and matching funds to artists for in-school curriculum based residencies. Abundant thanks to Colette Lemmon, our Director of Community Arts Grants, for shepherding this vital program through all its vagaries. These regrant programs are our most important means of supporting the growth and development of the arts within our communities and we thank the New York State Council on the Arts and the Greene County Legislature for providing us with the funding which makes this possible. Through these programs we are able to bring our tax dollars home and put them right back to work within our community.

Programs for Youth – Youth ArtsReach “Sprouts” programs provide services to children, students, parents, and community groups while providing employment and presenting opportunities to a variety of artists. These summer workshops are offered free to Greene County youth and provide a wide spectrum of programming designed to enhance creativity and self-esteem. At the same time, school studies are enhanced and skills are developed which help our young people react in a positive manner to the problems of today while preparing them for meeting the challenges of the future. “Sprouts” is coordinated with school districts and community groups to serve the needs of our young people. During any given year, “Sprouts” employs over 20 artists teaching programs in Music, Arts, Theatre and Dance to over 300 children and young adults throughout Greene County.

Ruth Leonard, our “Sprouts” Director for 18 years, completed her last six sessions in the summer of 2013. As always, Ruth did a fabulous job with the program and, with the help of Marcia Witte, raised more money than every for the summer 2013 program. We shall miss Ruth in her capacity as “Sprouts” Director and take heart knowing that we will still see her frequently as a teaching and exhibiting artist. The torch is being passed to Donna Trunzo and Dale Loughran – both of whom have taught in our Sprouts program. Welcome Donna and Dale and thank you Ruth!

Major funding for Sprouts is received from the Greene County Legislature, the Greene County Youth Bureau, the United Way of Columbia-Greene, New Athens Generating, the Nan Guterman Foundation, Hudson River Bank & Trust, Stewart’s Holiday Match, and Target. Matching funds are received from almost every municipality in the county as well as from local businesses, corporations, and individuals.

Fundraising Programs – *The Beaux Arts Ball* is our largest fundraiser, generating net proceeds of between \$30,000 and \$50,000. The success of the Ball is directly linked to the generosity of our benefactors and artists, whose donations of art for the auction build substantial proceeds. As a “thank you” to donating artists, each year a donating artist is randomly selected to receive two tickets to the Ball.

At the Ball we also honor those who have contributed substantially to the arts in Greene County. In 2013 our Distinguished Service Award was presented to Michel Goldberg. In 2014 we will be honoring the contributions of two dynamic women, Lisa Fox Martin and Betsy Jacks. As a team they have brought the Thomas Cole National Historic Site to international attention.

As an added element of fun and festivity, we encourage “creative” black tie and masks. For those who may not have a mask, we will have artist made masks available at the Ball. So, come join in the fun!

In the fall we offer our ***Garden Party*** at the Beattie-Powers Place, courtesy of the Friends of Beattie-Powers Place. This past September, our theme was Grazin' Greene which featured a sampling of Greene County businesses and brought in over \$8000 to help support GCCA programming. Over 175 members and friends attended and dined on a bounty of food donated by 25 restaurants. Six specialty shops that set up as vendors allowed for the purchase and sampling of goods. Eighteen Greene County businesses donated items for Greene Luck Raffles and furniture pieces painted during the Sprouts Program were offered in Silent Auction. Guests purchased GCCA Artist Members artwork and viewed originals from the 2013 Sprouts Program. Local musicians, coordinated by Enrico Scull, came together to play live music and kept the crowd entertained. A wonderful time was had by all, so plan to attend next year.

New for 2014 is wonderful new fundraiser created by Fawn Potash for our Visual Arts Programs. ***"Playing with a Full Deck"*** has the potential for raising a net of \$30,000 if all the decks and accompanying goodies keep selling as they have been, and if the Poker Party and Auction go as planned. In addition to 54 artist designed poker sized playing cards with the back designed by Kiki Smith in a custom box, there is a special edition of 25 poster size prints containing all 54 designs, a deluxe collection with a signed archival limited edition print, 1 set remaining of six limited edition engravings by Kiki Smith, T-shirts, etc. We hope to make this fundraiser an annual event featuring different artist designs each year.

We hope we can count on your continued support to help us provide meaningful, quality programs and services to our constituents. We are able to maintain such a diverse array of programs and reach so many current and future artists through the generous support of you, our committed members and donors. We couldn't do it without you. Your input is vital to our success and always welcome. Let us hear from you.

On behalf of all of us at the Greene County Council on the Arts, thank you one and all!

Kay

Kay Stamer, Executive Director

David

David Slutzky, President Board of Directors