



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**CREATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS**

Greene County Council on the Arts, Inc.

P.O. Box 398 Main Street

Catskill, NY 12601

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Board Member, Village of Catskill Local Development Corporation

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## YEAR IN REVIEW

### General Operations & Programs

#### Overview

As we reflect on the past year – the ups and downs, the unparalleled challenges, and opportunities- the one thing that remain constant is that we are standing together to help our region of artists, arts organizations, and the public during the time of crisis and throughout the year.

During the COVID-19 pandemic hit, **CREATE Council on the Arts** knew that the impact would be severe for many including our own service organization and so our immediate response was to convene with partners and other collaborators to mobilize critical resources to support the most vulnerable in our region. Our first response came in the form of two (2) COVID-19 Impact Surveys conducted by staff to assess the challenges, needs and future work of over 100+ artists & arts that we serve.

**CREATE** took on the new challenges of the pandemic by remaining committed to our mission, operating as a service organization balancing constituent service remotely with a focus on creative engagement. Our operative words became "*Postpone, Reschedule, Rethink.*" During this moratorium on public gatherings, we had to devise new ways of operations, providing services to the field, and deepening our artistic exchange and engagement with our audience. Virtual delivery of a project became the supportable option for both our programs and activities as well as for our community of grantees. Our goal was and remain to maintain the creativity and cultural vibrancy of our artists, art works, and overall impact on the communities we serve. On a case-by-case basis, we were able to assist our grantees with setting up various infrastructures for online delivery of programs, providing them with extensions at their discretion and encouraging them to continue to take a broad and flexible approach for delivering their funded projects including changes to the scope of projects, public outreach, and documental losses such as cancellation fees, etc.

While we continued to work remotely, we kept in contact and maintained creative exchange with our community as the key to sustaining a high level of artistic vitality as well as a sense of normalcy. **CREATE** began transitioning programs and resources to online platforms- application guidelines and processes, website development, online galleries for artists and members, hosting seminars, meetings, workshops, digital newsletters, etc. As a service organization, our goal is to provide opportunities for the public to engage with a diversity of art forms and provide tools for creative development for artists and arts organizations.

#### Programs & Activities

**CREATE Council on the Arts dba Greene County Council on the Arts** is a regional arts service organization serving Greene, Columbia & Schoharie counties providing programmatic and outreach activities to over 40,000 individuals annually via 65+ regional grants, ongoing exhibitions, 490+ memberships, art educational programs, bi-monthly cultural arts news, and weekly e-mail blasts.

#### **Greene County Initiative (CIP) Program**

Since 1983, The Council annually administers the **Greene County Initiative (CIP) Program**, which is made possible by the Greene County Legislature to major Greene County arts and cultural institutions that offer quality professional services and programs of benefit to the residents of Greene County. **CREATE Council on the Arts** has administered this fund since its establishment in 1983. CIP funding is intended to promote the development, growth, and viability of major Greene County organizations. With invaluable support from the Greene County Legislature, these goals continue to be met, producing a positive impact on the state of the

arts and quality of life in Greene County. Fifteen (15) awards were made to Greene County arts and cultural institutions and is outlined below:

**Athens Cultural Center** <https://www.athensculturalcenter.org/> **Award \$3,250**  
**24 2nd St, Athens, NY 12015**

To support 2020 art education classes, exhibits, and community programming events.

**23Arts Initiative** <http://www.23arts.org/> **Award \$3,000**  
**PO Box 203, Tannersville, NY 12485**

To present a free community-based educational outreach and free concert series September-December 2020

**Bridge Street Theatre, Inc.** <https://bridgest.org/> **Award \$1,700**  
**44 W Bridge St, Catskill, NY 12414**

General operating support for presentation of theatrical events, including productions created by the BST artistic team as well as events brought to the theatre by outside presenters.

**Bronck Museum, GCHS** <https://www.gchistory.org/> **Award \$2,400**  
**90 Co Hwy 42, Coxsackie, NY 12051**

General Operating Support for Fall Programming

**Catskill Community Center** <https://www.catskillcommunitycenter.org/> **Award \$1,000**  
**344 Main St, Catskill, NY 12414**

Request for Summer for elementary school children, (2) programs for teens and older preteens, and (3) programs for adults.

**Catskill Mountain Foundation, Inc.** <https://www.catskillmtn.org/> **Award \$3,000**  
**7971 Main St, Hunter, NY 12442**

Catskill Mountain Foundation request support for our 2020 Performing Arts season.

**LUMBERYARD Center for Film & Performing Arts** **Award \$2,500**  
**62 Water St, Catskill, NY 12414**

Support of its 2020 Catskill artistic summer season-artist residencies, new works-in-progress, film screenings, concerts, artist talks, and community engagement.

**MJQ Irish Cultural & Sports Centre** <https://www.lumberyard.org/> **Award \$1,500**  
**2267 NY-145, East Durham, NY 12423**

Weeklong immersion in Irish culture and heritage featuring world-class traditional Irish artist from Ireland, USA, and Canada.

**Music & Art Center of Greene County** <http://www.grazhdamusicandart.org/> **Award \$1,500**  
**Route 23A Hunter, Ny 12442**

Support for the presentation of live performances of classical music concerts.

**Planet Arts Inc.** <http://www.planetarts.org/> **Award \$1,500**  
**P.O. Box 387, Catskill, NY 12414**

Support of its innovative presenting programs (the one2one jazz series and Tone Structure Lab) and new workshop series for artists of all music genres dealing with music industry perspectives.

**Prattsville Art Center** <https://www.prattsvilleartcenter.org/> **Award \$3,500**  
**14562 NY-23, Prattsville, NY 12468**

Support for its 2020 program season: regular music events, art exhibitions, video screenings, lectures, afterschool programs, and weekend classes, Next Generation art and music classes, Music events, exhibitions, etc.

**Stephen Petronio Dance Company, Inc.** <http://petron.io/> **Award \$3,500**

**140 2nd Ave # 504, New York, NY 10003**

Funding for its Summer Dance and Movement Intensive workshop held in its state-of-the-art studio facility.

**Thomas Cole National Historic Site** <https://thomascole.org/> **Award \$3,400**

218 Spring St, Catskill, NY 12414

Support for a collaborative exhibition and publication entitled "Cross Pollination: Heade, Cole, Church and our Contemporary Moment" stemming from the influential series of hummingbird paintings by the 19th-century American landscape artist, Martin Johnson Heade (1819-1904).

**Wave Farm** <https://wavefarm.org/> **Award \$3,500**

5662 Route 23 Acra, NY

Support for the Wave Farm Residency Program, a dynamic and innovative incubator for artists' experiments with broadcast media and the airwaves. Each year the program provides visiting artists with unique space and resources to create new transmission art works and conduct research about the genre.

**Zadock Pratt Museum, Inc.** <https://zadockprattmuseum> **Award \$1,500**

14540 Rte 23, Main St, Prattsville, NY 12468

Support for general operating support for its 2020 season, which includes exhibits, lectures, children's programs & musical events. This project is a partnership of the Zadock Pratt Museum and the Prattsville Art Center.

### **Community Arts Grants**

Part of our growing legacy has been administering the **Community Arts Grants** since 1986, made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) through the Decentralization Program and with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York Legislature. Community Art Grants are intended to foster the continued development of local cultural resources and increase access to the Arts. We aim to assist individual artists, artist collectives and organizations in growing professionally and encourage enhancing the local cultural climates particularly in areas that are geographically isolated, economically disadvantaged or ethnically diverse. **Approximately 52 grants were distributed across 3 counties, as follows:**

- 1. Greene County received a total of \$42,838** to support the following artists, arts projects, and arts organizations:

**Arts Education:** Mountain Top Library, Adult Art Class Series at the Library; Edward J. Arthur Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization, The Sounds of Music: From Recycled Bottles to Remixed Beats; Heermance Memorial Library, Creative Community Arts Programs

**Community Projects:** Catskill Wheelhouse, Saturday Family Arts; Carmen Borgia, Home Movie Project; Palenville The Hamlet, Inc., Hidden Gallery Walk of Palenville; Horton by the Stream Theatre Co., Horton by the Stream Theatre Co. – 26th Season; Kaaterskill Actors Theater, Kaaterskill Actors Theater/Schoharie Creek Players 2020 Season; Judy Polkow, ArtPlay, Hearthstone; Blackdome Music Festival; Freehold Art Exchange, Photozine Workshop; Cairo Public Library, Multidisciplinary Arts Programs for Youth and Adults; Greenville Drive-In, , QWERTY Film Festival; Kevin VanHentenryck, The Hunter Stone Carving Seminar; Catskill Glee Club, Catskill Glee Club 2020 Concert Series <http://catskillgleeclub.org/catskill.htm>

**Individual Artist:** Luis Macia, Greene County History in Art

**2. Columbia County received a total of \$42,100** to support the following artists, arts projects, and arts organizations:

**Arts Education:**

Ichabod Crane PTA, You Can do a Graphic Novel; Roeliff Jansen Community Library, The Art of the Novel: A Graphic Novel Workshop Series

**Community Projects:**

Diata Diata International Folkloric Theatre, FIRE DANCE! A Celebration of First Nation Stories of the North Eastern United States; Chatham Public Library, Stories in Clay: Ceramic Workshops for Adults and Children; Roeliff Jansen Community Library, Adventures in Music at the Roeliff Jansen Community Library; Valatie Community Theatre, Artistic Programming, Valatie Community Theatre; FILMont Media Project, Animating the Past: Experiments in Animation, Explorations of the Past; North Chatham Free Library, Literature and the Arts; Sondra Loring, Dance Collective Project: Above Ground; Coarc, The Columbia County Chapter of the Arc New York, Arts Connect; Winds in the Wilderness Concerts, Winds in the Wilderness Concerts; Hudson Area Association Library, Summer Hack: A Tween and Teen Media Arts Program; Free Columbia, Community Puppet Theater

**3. Schoharie County received a total of \$40,340** to support the following artists, arts projects, and arts organizations:

**Arts Education:**

Schoharie Free Library; Mark Swanberry, Arboreal Resilience; Jefferson Historical Society, Community Beginning Ballet Program

**Project Support:**

Jefferson Historical Society, Maple Museum Free Music & More 2020; George Landis Arboretum, Full Moon Music Series; Depot Lane Theater, Broadway Bound; Upper Catskill String Quartet, #1 Four summer free concerts #2 Masterworks concert; Theater Project of Schoharie County, The Schoharie County Community Christmas Chorus performance of The Messiah by G. F. Handel; Schoharie Valley Singers, Schoharie Valley Singers 2020 Concert Season; Esperance Historical Society, Second Anniversary; Schoharie County Historical Society, Mr. President, How long must we wait? The centennial of Women’s Right to Vote; Schoharie Free Library, Creative Joy: Fiber Arts & Music; Sonny Ochs, Sonny Ochs Not So Quiet Concert Series 2020; Theater Project of Schoharie County, Theater Project of Schoharie County 2020 Season; Richmondville Historical Society, Music at the Mill; Gilboa Historical Society, Gilboa Historical Society Community Outreach; Klinkhart Hall Arts Center, Inc., 2020 Sharon Springs Poetry Festival; Breakabeen Grange, Breakabeen Grange Contradances

**Exhibitions**

Due to the pandemic and the moratorium on public gatherings, **CREATE** was able to mount four (4) exhibitions this year, as follows:

- February to April-**AERIAL ABSTRACTION**, Photographs by Alon Koppel on display at New York Restaurant, 353 Main Street in Catskill, NY.
- April to December-**STILL STANDING**, Paintings by Diana Cook on display online – Website, Facebook
- October 4 to January 1<sup>st</sup> -**SIRPA COWELL**, Paintings on displayed at New York Restaurant
- December 8 – January 23 -**ANNUAL Members Show** on display in CREATE Gallery and Online

## Membership

Amassed a membership of 490 artists, merchants, craftspeople, organizations, civic groups, etc. and is currently working on updating the value proposition for its members. Significant Membership Benefit accomplished this year is the New Optional Supplemental Insurance Benefits. With this new venture, the Council joins a few local businesses that also work with Combined, including The Juice Branch, Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, Village Pizza, and the Catskill Police Department. The membership benefit provides supplemental insurance that pays cash to individuals when they are sick or injured, helping them to maintain their standard of living when the unexpected happens. Coverage is extremely affordable, and the benefits are extraordinary.

## Arts Alive

Digital Newsletter in the format of an email blast updated twice per week with events, exhibitions, happenings, artist opportunities, employment, grant deadlines, workshops, etc. around the region and distributed to over 4,000 subscribers.

## Professional Development Workshops

**CREATE**'s workshop series supported the professional development of artists and organizations in our community through FREE monthly workshops, beginning in June 2020. Each workshop was led by a different expert and covered topics including Online Marketing, Grant Writing, Nonprofit Practices, Diversity in the Arts, and more! This program is made to support our regranting programs.

BRANDING +  
DIGITAL MARKETING  
*for creatives*

A FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP  
Thursday, June 18th  
4-6PM

 + IBARRA STUDIOS

GRANT WRITING 101  
*with jeffrey lependorf*



A FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP  
for small nonprofit orgs  
Thursday, July 30th 4pm  
Register Online

 contact: [maeve@createcouncil.org](mailto:maeve@createcouncil.org)  
[@greenearts](https://www.instagram.com/greenearts) | [greenearts.org](https://www.greenearts.org)  
398 Main Street, Catskill, NY 12414

STRATEGIC PLANNING  
what is it? why does it matter?  
*with alyson pou*



A FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP  
Thursday, August 20th 4pm  
Register Online

 contact: [maeve@createcouncil.org](mailto:maeve@createcouncil.org)  
[@greenearts](https://www.instagram.com/greenearts) | [greenearts.org](https://www.greenearts.org)  
398 Main Street, Catskill, NY 12414

BUDGETING FOR SMALL  
NONPROFITS AND INDIVIDUALS  
*with jeremy adams*



A FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP  
Thursday, September 24th 4pm  
Register Online

 contact: [maeve@createcouncil.org](mailto:maeve@createcouncil.org)  
[@greenearts](https://www.instagram.com/greenearts) | [greenearts.org](https://www.greenearts.org)  
398 Main Street, Catskill, NY 12414

This workshop presented in conjunction with: CRAA's Community Arts Grants Program. The Community Arts Grants Program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

## New Initiatives & Sponsorships

### **ARTIST EMERGENCY FUND**

Developed and established the Artist Emergency Fund for artists living in Greene, Columbia, and Schoharie Counties who have been financially impacted by the Coronavirus and require immediate support. Grants of \$50 are being administered to artists who have lost income due to the virus to supplement costs of necessities including groceries and rent.

### **FREE TO CREATE**

Grants for Black Artists living in the Hudson Valley in partnership with Free Columbia This grant funds black artists who are inspired to use their creative work to enlighten and bring change into the world. *Free to Create* funds creative projects for black artists living in Columbia, Greene, and Schoharie Counties NY.

### **MASKS4PEOPLE**

Served as fiscal sponsor for and artist led initiative, MASKS4PEOPLE, who mission is to make and distribute face masks to hospitals, healthcare centers, organizations, and individuals in need for FREE. Over 5,000 masks to over 175 different groups. Most mask recipients were based in New York City and Upstate New York where our operations are located.

### **MOVIN' PICTURES**

An evening of original short films by and about artists from our to celebrate the diversity of artists living and creating work here, which took place on September 17 at the Greeneville Drive-In, located at 10700 NY-32, Greeneville, NY 12083. The program ran approximately 90 minutes and COVID protocols will be strictly observed with approximately 70 cars.

### **PALENVILLE**

Mapping the Palenville's Architectural and historical development for recommendations for a National Register Historic District in Palenville.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**