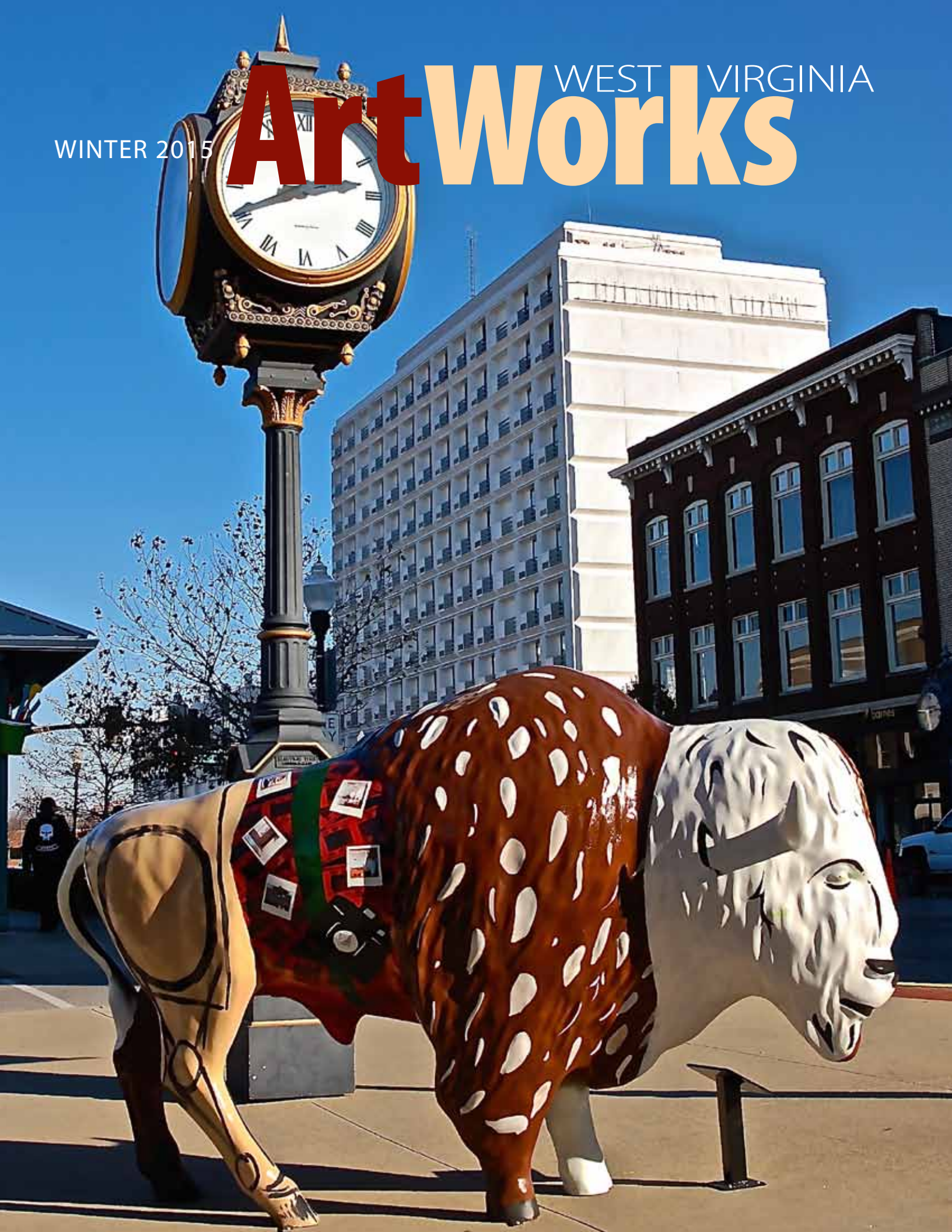


WINTER 2015

# WEST VIRGINIA **ArtWorks**



# ArtWorks WEST VIRGINIA

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Marshall University art major and sophomore Brianna Jarvis painted the colorful bison that sits in front of Pullman Square. Photo by P.J. Dickerscheid. (See story on page 10.)

## WINTER 2015



**State of West Virginia**  
Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor



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Education and the Arts**  
Kay H. Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary



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

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### DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Spring: February 15 ... Summer: May 15 ...  
Fall: August 15 ... Winter: November 15

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*All publications and application forms are  
available in alternate formats.*



# Artists Encouraged to Enter WVDCH Juried Exhibit

West Virginia artists are encouraged to enter the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's 19th biennial juried exhibition later this year.

Artists who are at least 18 years of age may submit two works created in the past two years in the areas of painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing, photography, mixed media and crafts.

The Division will present up to \$33,000 in awards for the exhibition, which will be held this fall. The awards are made available through the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the WVDCH through funds appropriated by the West Virginia Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. Awards include three \$5,000 Governor's Awards (purchase awards), seven \$2,000 Awards of Excellence (purchase awards) and eight \$500 Merit Awards. Works receiving Purchase Awards become part of the West Virginia State Museum's Permanent Collection of Art.

The prospectus will be placed on the agency website, [wvculture.org](http://wvculture.org), as soon as details for the 2015 exhibition are complete.

## Applications Due Feb. 2 for School Program Awards

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is accepting applications through February 2 for the 2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards.

Twelve award-winning programs will each receive \$10,000 and an invitation to accept their awards from First Lady Michelle Obama at a ceremony at the White House.

After-school and out-of-school time arts and humanities programs are encouraged to apply. Applications are available at <http://www.nahyp.org/how-to-apply/>.

## A Message from the Director



In the past year, I have made it my priority to travel across West Virginia to visit arts organizations and schools, and to attend performances and community

roundtables focusing on the arts. I have learned a great deal from the many dedicated people I have met who have good ideas for advancing the arts in our urban and rural communities. These conversations have reinforced my belief that while the arts are alive and well in the Mountain State, there is room for growth.

In keeping with the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH) Arts Section's mission to foster creativity in our great state, the arts staff is here to assist communities and individuals in their pursuit of creative endeavors.

We offer competitive grants that can be used to assist arts in education opportunities and community arts

programming. Our professional development grants provide funding for individual artists and our cultural facility grants help support art venues all across West Virginia.

I hope that you will see in this issue of *ArtWorks West Virginia* how these grant programs are succeeding. We are focusing on communities that have pulled together to create unified approaches to supporting the arts in their cities and towns.

Huntington, the most recent city to attain the WVDCH's Certified Arts Community status, has successfully used cultural facility funding to restore and maintain the Keith-Albee Theater. Downtown Huntington is bustling with new arts activities thanks to Marshall University's new state-of-the-art School of Art and Design in the former Anderson-Newcomb/Stone & Thomas building.

To the north, Wheeling is growing its art scene with help from local community members, businesses

and government officials. The city continues to renovate the Capitol Theatre, which is home to the Wheeling Symphony and is a standout performance venue for local artists and touring shows. This hard work anchors the city's arts community and residents are benefitting from new public arts projects that are under way, bringing fresh reasons to visit.

I think you will agree with me that the arts are an essential component in building West Virginia's capacity for growth, spurring innovations that support distinctive art offerings and helping to attract tourists, and new businesses and residents alike. I am confident the arts have a strong future in our state and I look forward to working with communities small and large to advance the arts and create a larger economic platform for our artists and residents.

As we start the new year, let us remember to approach life in an artful way, maintaining a cultural identity that distinguishes us as people who understand how to craft a creative life.



## Arts Day at the Capitol Set for February 26

Artists and arts organizations across West Virginia will participate in Arts Day at the Capitol, set for Thursday, Feb. 26.

The annual event honors the impact the arts has on cultural growth, economic development and education across the Mountain State, and is an ideal time for arts supporters to discuss with lawmakers the important role the arts play in communities across the state.

The event is sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

For more information, contact Debbie Haught, Community Arts Coordinator, at 304.558.0240, ext. 714, or at [Debbie.R.Haught@wv.gov](mailto:Debbie.R.Haught@wv.gov).



**Top: Arts Day at the Capitol includes performances by some of West Virginia's finest musicians.**

**Below: Arts Day at the Capitol is a perfect time for West Virginia arts organizations to talk to lawmakers about the important role the arts has on economic development and education. Photos by Tyler Evert.**

# How to Advocate for the Arts

Arts advocacy means speaking up for the arts with the people whose support and influence can help your cause, including legislators, school board members and other public policy makers. By providing reliable information from a personal perspective to the people who make public policy decisions, you build familiarity and trust. As this year's Arts Day at the Legislature nears, we'd like to offer some action strategies for you to consider:

- Meet annually with the mayor and other key lawmakers to familiarize them with your programs.
- Link public arts funding to issues in education, social concerns, the economy and commercial development.
- Share your support of arts education with friends and family.
- Invite policy makers to performances, exhibitions, board meetings.
- Include advocacy as an agenda item at every board meeting.
- Write and distribute a monthly column on legislative issues important to the arts.
- Acknowledge your funding sources.
- Recognize and thank lawmakers for their help.
- Welcome newly elected officials.
- Provide art for public display in legislators' offices.
- Generate public service announcements.
- Write letters and articles for the local newspaper about the arts.
- Send copies of news about the arts to policy makers.
- Recognize politicians for their good work.
- Promote alliances with teachers, tourism groups, youth organizations, chambers of commerce and business groups.
- Offer to bring performing artists or exhibitions to city hall, the county courthouse, state capitol.
- Respond promptly to all requests for information.
- Send lawmakers copies of your annual report, program guides, calendar of events.
- Collect funding examples and anecdotes with data that support the major arguments for funding arts in your community.
- Recruit others to advocate for the arts.
- Be persistent. Advocacy is an ongoing process.
- Remember: Every effort helps.

## Additional Resources

**National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**  
[www.nasaa-art.org](http://www.nasaa-art.org)

**Americans for the Arts**  
[www.americansforthearts.org](http://www.americansforthearts.org)

**ArtsEdge**  
[artsedge.kennedy-center.org/connect/aes.cfm](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/connect/aes.cfm)

**Arts Education Partnership**  
[www.aep-arts.org/resources/advocacy.htm](http://www.aep-arts.org/resources/advocacy.htm)

**Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**  
[www.kennedy-center.org/education/kcaaen/home.html](http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/kcaaen/home.html)

**National Endowment for the Arts**  
[www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)

**Americans for the Arts ACTION Fund**  
[www.artsactionfund.org](http://www.artsactionfund.org)

## Research Demonstrates Arts Role in Improving Quality of Life

*From the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies:*

- Cultural development plays a central role in community renewal strategies.
- The arts attract businesses, visitors and new residents, contributing to increased tax revenues.
- Companies and potential employees often consider cultural offerings when relocating.
- The arts attract tourism dollars.
- Children who study the arts demonstrate stronger overall academic performance.
- Arts programs improve students' self-confidence, build communication and problem-solving skills, and prepare them to be creative problem solvers that employers seek.
- Engagement in the arts by older adults leads to better overall physical health, fewer doctor visits and falls than those not involved in the arts, better scores on depression and loneliness scales, reduced use of medications, and overall reduction in the factors that drive the need for long-term care.



# Dancers of All Abilities Express Art Through Movement



The Dancing Wheels Company & School in Cleveland, Ohio, unites the talents of dancers with and without disabilities. Photo courtesy of the Dancing Wheels Company & School.

The Dancing Wheels Company & School is all about movement as an expression of the human spirit, but the philosophy behind its mission is so much more. It's about moving minds, removing barriers and making the arts accessible to everyone, both onstage and off.

By P.J. Dickerscheid

The professional, physically integrated dance company based in Cleveland, Ohio, unites the talents of dancers with and without disabilities. The results, according to Cheryl Pompeo, director of dance at Oglebay Institute's School of Dance in Wheeling, are performances that are both beautiful and inspirational.

In recent years, the troupe has performed at Oglebay, the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, the Wheeling campus of West Virginia Northern Community College and during a West Virginia Advocates' seminar titled "Employment

Possibilities: Thriving, Not Just Surviving."

This spring, Dancing Wheels will lead a workshop at Oglebay followed by an April 6 performance that begins at 7 p.m.

Individuals who previously found limited access to the arts because of physical, sensory, or developmental disabilities enjoy inclusive dance and participatory learning with their disabled and non-disabled peers.

Mary Verdi-Fletcher, the first professional wheelchair dancer in the United States, founded the dance company in 1980. Born with spina bifida, Mary wanted to offer others with disabilities full and equal access into the world of dance.

Furthering the mission of inclusive arts and recreation opportunities for all, the School of Dancing Wheels proudly opened its doors in 1990. Its state-of-the-art studios are regarded as a world-class training center for dancers, choreographers and educators. That same year, a partnership with the Cleveland Ballet created the groundbreaking Cleveland Ballet Dancing Wheels,

which went on to delight audiences for nearly a decade.

To date, the Dancing Wheels Company's inspirational mission has touched more than 5 million people through performances, school assemblies, residencies and workshops. Millions more have enjoyed their artistry via appearances on CNN, "Good Morning America," and the TV special "Christopher Reeve: A Celebration of Hope."

As a dancer, Pompeo said she often wondered what she would do if she were ever injured, and the answer has become obvious to her. "You dance," she said.

*For more information about the Dancing Wheels workshop and performance, call Oglebay Institute's School of Dance at 304.242.7700. For more information about the Dancing Wheels Company & School, visit [www.dancingwheels.org](http://www.dancingwheels.org)*

**Dancing Wheels Company's  
Spring Performance  
7 p.m. April 6  
Oglebay Institute's School of Dance**

# West Virginia Dance Festival Set for April 17–19 at the Culture Center in Charleston

As it has for the past 32 years, the West Virginia State Dance Festival will showcase the talents of West Virginia dancers who perform and take classes from nationally acclaimed dance instructors April 17-19 at the Culture Center in Charleston.

More than 400 high school and college dancers will delight audiences with two nights of performances that are open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Two participating dancers also will be awarded \$500 scholarships to attend intensive dance programs over the summer. Out-of-state festival adjudicators select the winners based on an application and audition process.

Past faculty members include such esteemed dancers and instructors as Lorraine Elizabeth Graves, former principal dancer at the Dance Theatre of Harlem where she is on

the master teacher faculty; Maurice Brandon Curry, creative director at Innovative Arts & Media in New York and a freelance director and choreographer; and Kate Trammel, dance professor at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va.

Guidelines and applications can be found on the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's website at <http://www.wvculture.org/dance/index.html>.

**Esteemed dancer and instructor Lorraine Elizabeth Graves has helped many aspiring dancers from West Virginia hone their skills. Photo by Tyler Evert.**





# How to Write an Effective Artist Statement

A well-written artist statement can open doors of opportunity for artists. Artist statements help people understand the most important aspects of an artist's work. By talking about what makes a body of work special, significant or worthy, an artist distinguishes his or her art from that of other artists, thereby inviting conversations that can lead to shows and sales. To maximize the audience and opportunities for exposure, an artist statement must be written in a way that everyone can understand. Artist statements should be conversational. They should be written in first person, and use present tense and simple language – no art-speak. And they should be no more than a couple of paragraphs long.

So, before writing the first word, artists should think about their art, and answer these questions:

- What do I make?
- How do I make it?
- Why do I make it?
- What inspires me to make it?
- Who or what influences my art?
- What does it signify or represent?
- What's unique or special about how I make it?
- What does it mean to me?

An artist's statement should begin with a discussion of why an artist makes art, making it as personal as possible. Artists should talk about their goals and what they hope to achieve through their art.

Then talk about the decision-making process. How do you select a theme? How do you choose your materials? What techniques do you use?

Finally, provide some insight into the work. How does it relate to your previous work? What life experiences informed it? What are you exploring, attempting or challenging through this work?

After writing an artist statement, it helps to walk away from it for a while before rereading it and making any necessary changes before sharing it with others. Ask friends, family members, even strangers to read it to make sure they understand the intended message. If an artist has to explain it, it needs to be rewritten to eliminate the confusion.

Once complete, an artist statement can be used to promote work to grant-review panels, gallery owners, museum curators, photo editors, publications and the general public.



*My interest in cameras started in childhood, fostered by my father, whose business and passion was photography. Early training as a silversmith helped me cultivate patience for process and an eye for subtleties of light and form. Returning to the world of photography in recent years, with its many digital options, has given me a new focus for artistic expression.*

*For many years I have been photographing plants. I gather the plants locally, often from my garden or nearby fields. My choice of subject is not typically the most beautiful flower. Instead, I look for living forms in which I see expressive possibilities. I use lighting to emphasize contour and internal structure. I search for fine details rarely noticed until observed very closely. The resulting "plant portraits" are my way to illustrate what I see as their essential nature and mystery.*

*Another of my fascinations is glass, due to its inherent light transforming properties. I gather glass scrap which has been discarded by some of the old West Virginia foundries. Shining light through or onto the glass changes what is visible. The images I create from these studies are abstractions of light and color, seen through the imperfections, fractures and flaws.*

*Photography has now become the primary medium for me to express what I observe in the world. I study the close at hand, the not quite seen. Macro photography lets me explore and record amazing details through the lens. Mastery of the equipment and facility with the process enable me to share my vision. My techniques and choices are the means to create the image, but my goal is to present what was already there in a new light.*

**Diane Sanders  
Parkersburg  
Wood County**



*Stories of the natural world, its beauty and current imbalance, inform my work. Living in West Virginia, I feel the destruction of the mountains, forests and rivers. I am passionate about telling this story in my art work. Spending long stretches of time in a rural, Canadian environment by the sea has sensitized me to the rhythms of nature and is also evident in my creative process.*

*I continually explore a variety of experimental processes and challenge myself to develop new media in two and three dimensions, which include woodblock, etching, carborundum, viscosity and silk aquaprint printmaking as well as cast, blown and etched glass and painting.*

*For 35 years I have been making woodblock prints. I love the feel of carving the wood and printing on handmade Asian and Western papers by layering multiple blocks and colors and collaborating with master craftsmen. My new work is cast and blown glass, luminous and reflective, translating my ideas to three dimensions.*

*Some people have described my work as chaotic with forms, lines and symbols jumbled together, mirroring the abuse of the environment. I have also told stories of homelessness, abuse, poverty and war which I have witnessed in West Virginia and beyond. I am constantly exploring themes of light and dark to tell the story of our current humanity, which uplifts and challenges the viewer.*

**Barrie Kaufman**  
Charleston  
Kanawha County

Photo courtesy of Barrie Kaufman.



*I am Chef Bear, and I turn wood. I apprenticed to be Chef when I was 14. Thirty plus years of culinary arts has entwined itself in my wood turning and the family based fabric of my life. I love the story of things and that things ought have a sense of place. I want things sturdy in function, gorgeous in form, and perfectly executed – I emulate this in my art. I make the bowl you love, that one you reach for every day.*

*I am Chef Bear, and I made your bowl.*

**Henry H. Ullman**  
Buckhannon  
Upshur County

*As a dancer, my body is my tool and I am constantly trying to hone my technique and musicality. As a percussive dancer, a sense of vulnerability is revealed as I strive to make the audience hear what I have to say. I have been a percussive dancer since I was a child and started intensively studying dance at 12 years old, when I worked with Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble. Dance has remained my outlet through both times of struggle and stability, and has played a seminal role in shaping both my professional and personal life. I use percussive dance to bridge the gap between music played on an instrument and artistic movement of the body. I have explored styles such as flatfooting, clogging, tap, Quebecois step dance, English waltz clog and body percussion, all of which inform my decisions in performance and choreography. My goal as a percussive dancer is to reimagine my feet as musical instruments, which I then use to engage an audience both visually and aurally. I believe the entire body can be utilized as an instrument, weaving together movement, footwork, and body percussion. Nothing brings me more joy than collaborating in innovative ways using this medium.*

**Rebecca Hill**  
Elkins  
Randolph County

# The Capitol Theatre: The Heartbeat of Wheeling



The restoration of The Capitol Theatre in Wheeling was funded in part by a West Virginia Commission on the Arts and West Virginia Division of Culture and History Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources grant. Photo by Thorney Lieberman.

Since opening its doors in 1928, the historic Capitol Music Hall in Wheeling has been the heartbeat of the community, offering audiences toe-tapping good times, and stunning stage shows.

**By Tabitha Walter**

As the long-time home of Jamboree USA - a Saturday night country-music show broadcast live on WWVA AM 1170 - the historic Beaux-Arts style theater now known as The Capitol Theatre drew such legends as Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, and Charley Pride. It also sparked a passion inside Brad Paisley, a Glen Dale native who took to its stage at

age 12 and is now a country-music star in his own right. Since 1929, the Wheeling Symphony Society has entertained audiences inside the elegant red and gold theater.

So it came as a blow to the community in 2006, when the music hall's owners announced they were closing the 2,400-seat theater after it failed a safety-code inspection. The hall remained silent as a group of local organizations, including the city of Wheeling and the Wheeling National Heritage Area, joined forces to raise \$8 million to renovate the building and bring it up to code. Part of the restoration money, roughly \$330,000, came from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's Cultural Facilities and

Capital Resources Grant program, which paid for stage curtains, carpeting, audio and visual systems, and the installation of handicapped-accessible seating and bathrooms.

"The whole project has experienced a big snowball effect because of the Cultural Facilities grant," said Jeremy Morris, executive director of Wheeling National Heritage Area, an entity Congress established to collaborate with the local community in determining how to make heritage relevant to local interests and needs.

The Wheeling-Ohio County Convention and Visitors Bureau, which purchased the theater in 2009, committed revenues from a hotel/motel tax to help pay the \$1.9 million cost of bringing the building



up to code. The Capitol Theatre Preservation Trust was established to collect money for the project while Morris' group oversaw the renovation project and provided the match for the Cultural Facilities grant by paying to install an elevator.

Soon after initial improvements were made, more businesses and individuals stepped forward to financially support additional renovations. As a result, the building's terra cotta exterior is being cleaned, stabilized and repaired to restore it to the way it looked in 1928. The convention and visitors bureau plans to have a new roof installed.

Today, music, theater, and laughter again fill its halls. Since reopening in 2009, The Capitol Theatre has delighted audiences with performances of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, several Broadway productions, comedian Ron White, country singer Luke Bryan and the Avett Brothers. Local dance troupes, schools, and churches also use the theatre for their productions.

Wheeling Mayor Andy McKenzie said the iconic theater is a beautiful arts venue, and so much more because it helps drive the local economy as arts patrons also support local restaurants, retail shops, hotels and gas stations.

"The theater is vital to our quality of life, downtown revitalization, and future investments in our community," McKenzie said.



## Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grants

**Provide support for acquisition and capital purchases of durable equipment.**

**Deadline: July 1**

**For more information, visit [www.wvculture.org/Arts](http://www.wvculture.org/Arts)**

*(See list of recent grant recipients on page 18.)*

**Left: Cecil Tominack removes wood from the old country store. Photo courtesy of the Wheeling-Ohio County CVB.**

**Below: People flock to the grand reopening of the Capitol Theatre in Wheeling. Photo by Scott McCloskey.**







# Huntington Becomes West Virginia's 9th Certified Arts Community

By P.J. Dickerscheid

**Above:** The Huntington Museum of Art brings the world of art to people living in the Tri-State region with its distinguished fine art museum, innovative exhibitions and educational programs on a 52-acre site where art and nature blend in harmony. Photo by P.J. Dickerscheid.

**Opposite:** The Mexican Baroque-style Keith Albee Theatre is listed in the National Register as part of the downtown Huntington historic district. Photo courtesy of the Marshall Artists Series.

When it comes to the arts, the city of Huntington has got it together. Its vibrant arts community, which was guided by a collaboration of artists, arts organizations, businesses and government agencies, prompted the West Virginia Commission on the Arts to recently recognize the state's second-largest city as a Certified Arts Community. It joins eight other communities across West Virginia in earning the designation by capitalizing on the impact the arts have on economic development, education, civic involvement and quality of life.

Huntington offers many wonderful arts experiences, from fine arts and crafts to theater and music, experiences that enhance the lives of everyone who lives there.

The designation will help the city promote itself as a tourist destination. It will bolster the city's

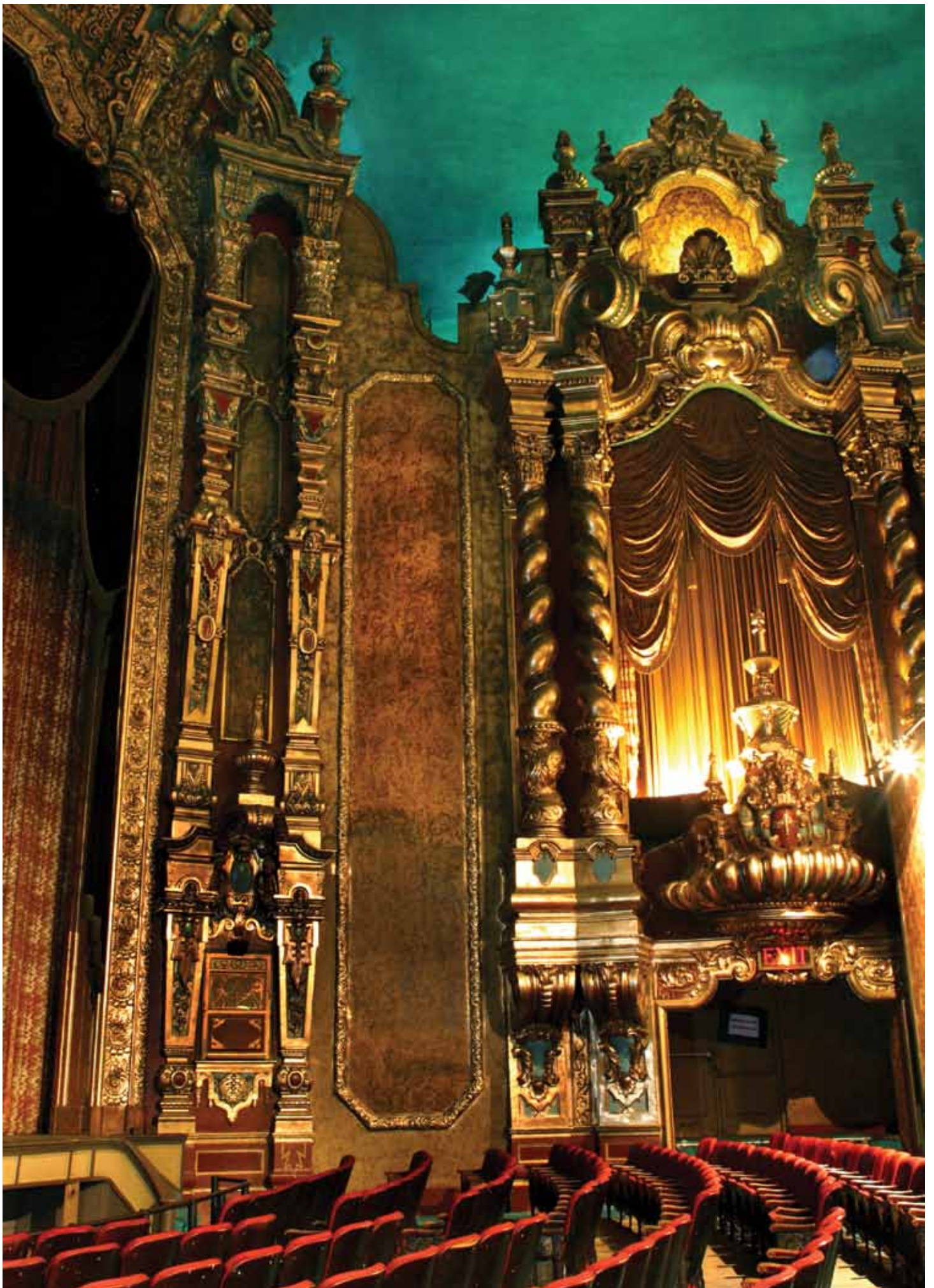
grant applications. It will help its downtown revitalization efforts by attracting more artists, restaurants and businesses.

Already, art is everywhere along the streets of Huntington. Attempting to list all the venues, art experiences and arts organizations helping to shape the city is a daunting, if not impossible task. For starters:

■ The Huntington Museum of Art, a nationally accredited museum with a permanent collection of more than 15,000 objects that also offers art classes for children and adults alike as well as a Music at the Museum series.

■ The Keith Albee Theater, an opulent Mexican Baroque-style performing arts venue that is listed in the National Register as part of the downtown Huntington historic district.









**Don Van Horn, dean of Marshall University's College of Arts and Media, said the roughly 300 students taking classes in the new Visual Arts Center provides city and business leaders access to some of the university's most creative thinkers. Photo by Tyler Evert.**

■ Marshall University's new Visual Arts Center, with its interactive classrooms, spacious studios, and flexible space for various activities in the former Stone and Thomas building offers instruction in art history, art education and creative production in drawing, fibers, graphic design, painting, printmaking and photography.

■ The Corbin Building, an abandoned clothing factory that the Coalfield Development Corporation plans to turn into a creative arts-based hub offering studio space, living space and a small-business incubator, thanks in part to a \$350,000 ArtPlace America grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

■ Heritage Station, a historic train depot that is now home to an eclectic mix of locally owned shops offering local art, jewelry, furniture, craft beers, gourmet cheeses, wine, and gifts.

And that doesn't even begin to put a dent on the list. The Marshall Artist Series, which has been delighting audiences since 1936, has a great lineup again this year, including Puccini's *La Boheme*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, Britain's BBC Concert Orchestra and comedian Jay Leno, among many others. Then there are the Musical Arts Guild, First Stage Theater, Fifth Avenue Players, Huntington Dance Theatre, and the Huntington Symphony. The Appalachian Film Festival, the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse, the Birke Art Gallery, Gallery 842 and so much more.

The arts also are an integral part of the curriculum of the Cabell County School System, exposing students to music, theater, and fine arts. Cabell Midland High School features a 420-student-strong Fine Arts Academy while Huntington High School has a theater program and a new Expeditionary Learning School that is scheduled to open next year







Huntington Mayor Steve Williams, West Virginia Division of Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith, Huntington Director of Administration and Finance Margaret Mary Layne and Cabell-Huntington Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Tyson Compton celebrate Huntington's recognition as a certified arts community at the Huntington Museum of Art.

that will unite academic challenge and scholarship with critical skills like perseverance, critical thinking, and an ethic of contribution.

Mayor Steve Williams said he has high hopes that the Certified Arts Community designation will help the city continue to capitalize on its unique heritage, a strategy at the core of its ongoing renaissance. What it has already done is immeasurable,

he said.

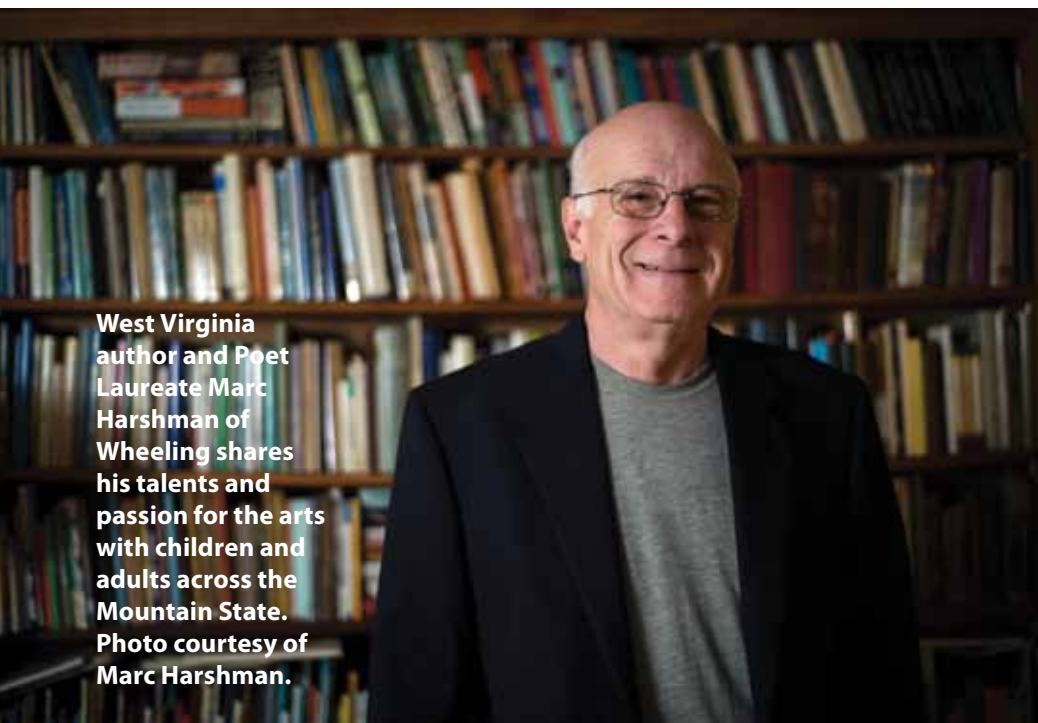
"Everywhere I go, you see the squaring of the shoulders and the lifting of heads," Williams said. "It was a pride factor for us. It helps to remind people that we are exceptional in so many ways. It reminds people of how important the arts are in our community and how we do stand distinctly apart from others."

## West Virginia's Certified Arts Communities

**Berkeley Springs**  
**Bluefield**  
**Elkins**  
**Huntington**  
**Jefferson County**  
**Lewisburg**  
**Mercer County**  
**Mid-Ohio Valley**  
**Wheeling**

**Opposite and below: Heritage Station is an integral part of Huntington's vibrant arts community. Photos by P.J. Dickerscheid.**





West Virginia author and Poet Laureate Marc Harshman of Wheeling shares his talents and passion for the arts with children and adults across the Mountain State. Photo courtesy of Marc Harshman.

## Passion Drives West Virginia Poet Laureate to Share Talents With Students

Marc Harshman's parents planted a seed inside him that helped him grow from a farm boy from Indiana to West Virginia's esteemed poet laureate.

As a child growing up near Union City in east-central Indiana, Harshman was sometimes ill, and often found relief, along with his destiny, in books.

By P.J. Dickerscheid

"It started with my father coming in from milking the cows and reading James Whitcomb Riley's poetry to me. Once a week, on our trip to town, we'd stop at the Carnegie (Public) Library," Harshman said. "Mom and Dad were not college-educated, but they had a passion for reading. Our house was always filled with books," and with no TV to distract them, "our supper table became a story table with people lingering afterward and talking."

Today, the published author,

acclaimed poet, exceptional storyteller and ardent arts supporter from Wheeling shares his talents with hundreds, if not thousands, of schoolchildren each year.

A \$12,050 arts-in-education grant from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History will enable students in Marshall County to explore the curriculum and imagination through dance and poetry this spring. The two-week collaboration between Harshman and the West Virginia Dance Company will include hands-on movement and creative writing workshops as well as a dance improvisation set to a live poetry reading during a school performance of "Earth's Quilt: Common Threads." Harshman also has agreed to help prepare the 2015 state Poetry Out Loud winner for the subsequent April 28-29 national competition in Washington, D.C.

The former fifth- and sixth-grade teacher at the Sand Hill School in the Marshall County community of Dallas

says it is a privilege to help promote literature and other art forms across West Virginia, his home for more than 40 years.

"For a state as seemingly small as ours, we have an amazingly rich diversity of extremely talented writers and artists," he said. "I am happy to trumpet their accomplishments." Harshman's full-length collection of poetry, *Green-Silver and Silent*, was published in 2012 and shortly after his fourth chapbook *All That Feeds Us: The West Virginia Poems* was published to celebrate his appointment as West Virginia's poet laureate. Many first knew Harshman as a children's author with a growing list of children's picture books including *The Storm*, a Smithsonian Notable Book. His 14th children's title will be published early in 2017.

The Bethany College graduate with a Master in Religion and the Arts from Yale Divinity School and a Master of Arts in English from the University of Pittsburgh says one key to success in any art form is to immerse yourself in all art forms.

"If you're in a new town, seek out an art gallery, listen to live music, whether it's rock n roll or jazz. Touch a sculpture," he said. "Amazing miracles can grow from that." His advice to young writers in particular: "Read all you can and then write all you can: as much as you can as often as you can."



# POETRY OUT LOUD

**West Virginia  
Poetry Out Loud  
Competition**

**March 6-7, 2015**

**The Culture Center  
Charleston**



# *Legislative Leaders*

## Reflect on the Influence of the Arts



**Senator Ron Miller**  
**Greenbrier County**

The arts can sometimes change the way we look at the world. It influenced me as a child by opening up a world I would have never been exposed to, particularly due to my socio-economic status. Participation in the arts and arts learning has long been believed to support the development of human potential. It helped stimulate and develop my creativity that brings innovation and continues to influence me today, not only in my work as a state senator but also as a pastor.

Over the years I began to recognize how the arts can change the lives of young people by providing a creative outlet or an emotional connection to a piece or performance. As an adult, my wife and I began shaping our family memories around these types of moments and today still actively support the sustention of these programs.

The arts are an important part of my life's work because everyone, no matter their situation, can benefit. Whether listening, viewing, or a combination of the two, the arts provide a safe haven for the human experience and a connection for all of us to share.



**Delegate John D. O'Neal IV**  
**Raleigh County**

While I do not have much talent or ability in music or the arts myself, it gives me great pleasure to assist others in pursuing their passions.

Having always enjoyed teaching and coaching students, I appreciate arts programs that not only entertain and enliven, but educate our children by offering them hands-on involvement in the visual and performing arts.

Whether through the VH1 Save The Music Foundation program, which has provided musical instruments in our schools, Theatre West Virginia, the Southern West Virginia Youth Museum or Tamarack, area artists and educators are sharing their gifts. I intend to continue to do what I can at the state level to assist in that effort.



**Delegate Kevin J. Craig**  
**Cabell County**

As a delegate, a member of my community and, most importantly, a father, I believe performing and visual arts are critical to a well-rounded education and a community's general quality of life.

I am grateful to be recognized for my support of the Keith Albee Theater, the Huntington Museum of Art and the Huntington Symphony, all of which provide outstanding performances and valuable hands-on experiences. In addition, our region owes a great deal to Marshall University's Artist Series, which for more than 70 years has drawn quality entertainment and worked to inspire and educate our young people.

All of these important organizations have as their advocate the Division of Culture and History, which does so much to enrich arts programs throughout West Virginia.

*The arts provide a safe haven for the human experience and a connection for all of us to share.*

— Senator Ron Miller

## Rave Reviews



**Woven artwork by  
Belington artist  
Wendy Clark.**

### 5 West Virginia Artists Named Finalists for Prestigious 2015 NICHE Awards

Five West Virginia artists were chosen from among nearly 2,000 entries as finalists for the prestigious 2015 NICHE Awards, which celebrate excellence and innovation in American and Canadian fine craft.

Judges for NICHE magazine's 26-year-old awards program selected furniture craftsmen Peter Cornett of Hacker Valley, Joseph Elbert of Leon, and John Wesley Williams of Renick; metalworks

and wood worker Matt Thomas of Shock; and weaver Wendy Clark of Belington.

The top five creators in 14 categories are named finalists, with the top prizes announced at the American Made Show in Washington, D.C., in January.

Williams won the NICHE Award for furniture in 1999; Thomas has been among the finalists for three years; and Clark was a finalist in 2014.

**Below: Woodwork by Matt Thomas of Shock. All photos courtesy of the Tamarack Artisan Foundation.**







Woodwork by Joseph Elbert of Leon.

## Book Awards Program Honors Moundsville Author Andy Fraenkel

Multicultural storyteller and author Andy Fraenkel of Moundsville recently received a Finalist Award from the 2014 Next Generation Indie Book Awards, the largest not-for-profit book awards program for indie authors and independent publishers.

Fraenkel's book, *Mahabharata: The Eternal Quest*, is the epic story from ancient India of five princely brothers who were cheated out of their kingdom and banished into the forest.

The Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group presents the Next Generation Indie Book Awards in cooperation with Marilyn Allen of Allen O'Shea Literary Agency.

## 4 West Virginia Artists Win Fellowships

Artisans from central West Virginia have won fellowships from the Tamarack Artisan Foundation to help support their ongoing efforts to preserve and enrich West Virginia's cultural heritage.

The artisans, who were honored with the foundation's highest recognition, include music and folklore preservationist Michael Kline of Elkins; award-winning wood sculptor Norm Sartorius of Parkersburg; wheel-thrown pottery maker Brian VanNostrand of Hacker Valley; and nationally recognized porcelain and ceramics maker Kate Harward of Belington.

Private donations fund the Tamarack Artisan Foundation grants to artisans, including fellowship awards.



Woodwork by Peter Cornett of Hacker Valley.

# 7 Arts Groups Share in Nearly \$547,000 in Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grants

The West Virginia Commission on the Arts funded seven capital improvement projects totaling \$546,984 under its fiscal year 2015 Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grant program. The competitive grants provide funding to West Virginia arts facilities and museums to purchase buildings, property, artistic equipment for visual and performing arts, and durable equipment; renovate arts venues; and improve accessibility and safety. Funding for this program comes from the West Virginia Legislature and the

West Virginia Lottery.

This year's recipients are:

- A New Clendenin, Inc., \$75,000 to rebuild the interior lobby of the Roxy Theater.
- Carnegie Hall, Inc., \$14,500 for stage and sound equipment.
- Charles T. "Chuck" Mathena II Foundation, Inc., \$13,755 for theatrical equipment.
- Hardy County Historical Society, Inc, \$46,229 to renovate the second floor of the building.

- Historic Beverly Preservation Inc., \$99,000 for outside repairs, lighting upgrades, and interior wall renovations.
- Keith Albee Performing Arts Center, Inc., \$200,000 for an HVAC system.
- Wheeling-Ohio County Convention and Visitors Bureau, \$98,500 for stage lighting and a sound system for Capitol Theatre.

For more information about this grant program and others, visit our website at [www.wvculture.org/Arts](http://www.wvculture.org/Arts).

## Opportunities for Artists

### 2 Residencies Available through Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, through its Creative Fellowships program, annually supports two residencies for West Virginia writers, composers and visual artists at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Sweet Briar, Virginia.

Visiting artists are provided with a private studio, room and board, and the company of other artists from around the nation for an intensive period of self-guided creative exploration and development. A small travel subsidy also is awarded to the artists. Artists must apply directly to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. The deadline for June to September residencies is Jan. 15. For more information visit <http://www.vcca.com/main/apply>

### Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Offers Financial Support to Presenters of Featured Artists from Roster

The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation is offering financial support to presenters from West Virginia and six other states that book artists from its Mid Atlantic Tours roster.

Seven artists -- one each from the categories of contemporary chamber music, dance, folk/traditional music, jazz, theater, world music, and a category that rotates annually to address different disciplines or special opportunities -- are selected each year for the program's annual roster.

Presenters must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or a unit of state or local government and be in good standing with Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with no overdue or outstanding required reports or grant documents.

Supported engagements must include at least one public performance and one complementary activity that build

appreciation for the performance or art form. Complementary activities may include master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, and pre- or post-performance discussions.

Presenters reaching communities underserved by the arts will be given priority consideration for support. An underserved community is one in which individuals lack access to arts programs due to geography, economic conditions, ethnic background or disability.

There is no application process involved for Mid Atlantic Tours, but funds are limited, and fee support grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Firm, written offers must be received and accepted by roster artist agents by March 2. For more information, contact Michelle Grove, Program Officer, Performing Arts, at [michelle@midatlanticarts.org](mailto:michelle@midatlanticarts.org) or 410.539.6656 ext. 110.



# Grant-Writing Tips

- Write in positive terms.
- Be concise. Reviewers look at thousands of pages. Make every sentence count.
- Use clear and descriptive writing to paint a picture of your project. Good proposals are easy to understand.
- Assume the reviewers know nothing about your project or organization. Include enough historical information to provide context about you, your organization, your mentors, schools, artists – all aspects of your project.
- Clearly define your needs, how you identified those needs and how those needs will be met.
- Be realistic. It is better to limit your proposal to fewer, more assuredly attainable goals, than to promise more than you can deliver.
- Answer questions in the order they are asked.
- Position your proposal as a model to be replicated.
- Winning proposals give something back. Disseminating information or knowledge to others may give your proposal the winning edge.
- Follow directions. If the guidelines limit you to one page, do not write more than one page.
- Clearly understand the guidelines before writing your proposal. If something doesn't make sense, contact the Arts staff at 304.558.0240.
- If you don't understand what the application is asking for, don't make assumptions. Contact the Arts staff for clarification.
- Include current letters of support from your peers.
- Take advantage of staff reviews and put their suggestions to work for you in your final submission.
- Proof-read your application to make sure it is free of grammatical and spelling errors.
- Submit all requested supplemental materials. If that's not possible, explain in a cover letter why the materials cannot be submitted on time and include the date by which you will submit them.
- Sign the application.
- Provide backup documentation for all costs.
- Submit your application on time.
- Keep a copy for your files.

## Recent Additions to the West Virginia State Museum's Permanent Art Collection



*A Thin Blade*  
Multicolored woodblock on handmade Japanese paper  
Barrie Kaufman  
Charleston



*Moundsville Prison Break, 1949*  
Re-purposed metal, nails, oil paint, birch panel  
Robert Villamagna  
Wheeling



*Large vessel*  
Stoneware with porcelain slip  
Jeff Diehl  
Meadow Bridge

# Grant Opportunities for Artists

## American Masterpieces–WV

**Deadline: April 1**

Provides support for projects that contribute to West Virginians' access to America's cultural legacy and an increased awareness of West Virginia's impact on that legacy.

## 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.

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

**January 2:** The 2015 West Virginia Writers Annual Writing Contest opens for submissions

**January 3:** Gallery Show Opening Night, *Vision of the Ages*, curated by Sterling "Rip" Smith, Ice House Gallery, Berkeley Springs, 7:30 p.m.

**January 12:** Classes in art, dance, fitness, nature and theater for all ages and skill levels begin, Stifel Fine Arts Center & School of Dance, Wheeling

**January 15:** Regional Student Art Exhibition opening reception, Stifel Fine Arts Center & School of Dance, Wheeling, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**January 25:** Open auditions for Towngate's production of John Cariani's *Almost Maine*, Towngate Theatre & Cinema, Wheeling

**January 29-31:** West Virginia American Choral Director's

Association winter conference, Charleston Civic Center

### FEBRUARY

**February 2:** Deadline to apply for the 2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards.

**February 2-4:** *Showboat* auditions, Charleston Light Opera Guild, 7:30 p.m.

**February 13-15:** Potters Gathering, Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley

**February 15:** Valentine Concert by The Parkersburg Choral Society, location TBA. 3 p.m.

**February 21:** *The Music of the Night: A Museum Ball* fundraiser, Huntington Museum of Art, 6 p.m. to midnight

**February 26:** Arts Day at the Capitol

**February 26:** *Crosscurrents* Arts Exhibition opening reception, Stifel Fine Arts Center & School of Dance, Wheeling, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**February 28:** Youth Art Month Opening Night, Ice House, Berkeley Springs, 7 p.m.

### MARCH

**March 6-7:** Poetry Out Loud state finals, Culture Center, Charleston

**March 11-13:** West Virginia Music Educators Association Conference, Charleston Civic Center

**March 15:** Open auditions for Joseph Kesselring's *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Towngate Theatre & Cinema, Wheeling

**March 19:** 17th Annual Very Spectacular Arts Festival, Parkersburg

**March 21:** Two Virginias Dance Showcase, Chuck Mathena Center, Princeton

**March 26-28:** West Virginia Thespian Festival, Culture Center, Charleston

**March 26:** Walter Gropius Master Artist Koo Schadler's public presentation, Huntington Museum of Art, 7 p.m.

**March 31:** Lunch with Books, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, noon

To submit a calendar item, contact P.J.

Dickerscheid at 304.558.0240, ext. 148 or by e-mail at Pamela.J.Dickerscheid@wv.gov.



# West Virginia Division of Culture and History Arts Section

**304.558.0240**



**Renée Margocee** is the Director of Arts for the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and is responsible for administering the division's arts programs, which include arts administration services, as well as state and federal grants for West

Virginia's arts organizations, individual artists, schools and communities.

**Renee.Margocee@wv.gov**



**P.J. Dickerscheid** 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 grant program. She

also is the editor of the agency's quarterly publication *ArtWorks West Virginia* and its monthly television show *ArtWorks*.

**Pamela.J.Dickerscheid@wv.gov**



**Debbie Haught** is the Community Arts Coordinator. She oversees Arts Partners, Community Arts Project Support, American Masterpieces and EZ Arts Access grant programs. She also manages the Peer Assistance Network and offers training in grant

writing and organizational development across the state.

**Debbie.R.Haught@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. She also oversees the Training and Travel grant program.

**Barbie.J.Smoot@wv.gov**



**Jim Wolfe** is the Arts in Education coordinator. He administers the Arts in Education, Challenge America, and Mini-Grant programs, and is the state coordinator for Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest for high school students.

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