

WINTER 2016

# WEST VIRGINIA ArtWorks



# ArtWorks WEST VIRGINIA

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## WINTER 2016



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



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**West Virginia Division of  
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#### DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

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All publications and application forms are available in alternate formats.



# A Message from the Director



The question of whether public funds should be used to support arts education puzzles me because it assumes the arts are a luxury.

Public funding for arts education makes good fiscal sense. It benefits society by creating a better educated and more productive workforce, which leads to fewer demands on publicly funded social programs.

Research shows that arts education is just as important to a child's development as reading, math and science. Students who participate in the arts outperform their peers in nearly every measure, with students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds experiencing the greatest benefit. Strong links exist between arts education and a child's ability to think, communicate, solve problems and process information. Perhaps most important, especially in our state, the arts can help open a new world of learning to disengaged students who are struggling to stay in school.

This past July, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History was fortunate to receive \$225,000 from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to support STEAM projects for West Virginia students. STEAM education uses the arts to provide ways to help students learn science, technology, engineering and

mathematics. West Virginia artists and arts organization also benefit from the division's competitive arts grants, which allow us to serve every West Virginia county with support from the West Virginia Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

When it comes to public funding priorities, there are certainly many – healthcare, roads, public safety – the list is seemingly endless. However, we must all work together to keep public funding for the arts at the top of budgeting priorities. As our legislature prepares for the 2016 session, I invite you to join us for Arts Day at the Legislature on Monday, February 22. It is an ideal time to showcase all you do for the arts in West Virginia and to reach out to state leaders to remind them of what the arts mean to you, your family and your community.

If we are concerned about education and the future of our country, we have to make public funding of the arts a priority. We have the research to prove the importance of the arts in education. What we must do now is continue to make our case heard – loudly and clearly. We won't change perceptions overnight, but if we continue to present the facts, we will make progress – and society will be better for it.

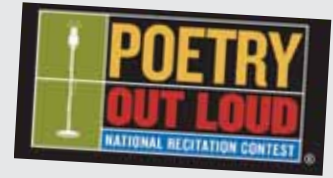
Renée Margocee, Arts Director

## Things to Know as Grant Deadlines Approach

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History is implementing two new guidelines during the upcoming fiscal year 2017 grant cycle.

Applicants for Community Arts Project Support will be limited to an annual award of \$20,000, and all applicants for EZ Arts Access grants are now required to submit a draft for review at least one week prior to the deadline.

We'd also like to remind applicants for all of our grant programs that arts staff program coordinators are available to share tips and trends for success and will provide draft reviews on a first-come, first-serve basis.



**West Virginia  
Poetry Out Loud Competition  
March 4-5  
The Culture Center  
Charleston  
Free admission**



## Nominations Being Accepted For Governor's Arts Awards

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts invite you to nominate artists, arts advocates and arts organizations for the 2016 Governor's Arts Awards, which celebrate some of the state's best artists and arts supporters. The award categories include Arts in Education, Distinguished Service to the Arts Award, Leadership in the Arts Award, Artist of the Year and Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement for significant accomplishments in the arts for an individual or organization. Ten members of the West Virginia Legislature also receive Legislative Leadership awards for significant accomplishments in the arts. Nomination forms are available at [wvculture.org](http://wvculture.org). The deadline for submissions is February 5. Winners will be announced during a gala ceremony later this spring.



**Todd Rosenlieb uses scarves to teach right from left, following directions, shape, motion and more. Photo courtesy of Steve Earley, *The Virginian-Pilot*.**

## Dancer Inspires Others to Offer Inclusion-based Classes

By P.J. Dickerscheid

Dance instructor Todd Rosenlieb said he was a little reluctant when Melissa Zaletski first approached him with the idea of teaching dance to her grandson, Gus, and other children with Down syndrome. After all, the director of the TRDance Center in Norfolk, Virginia, had no training in special needs education. But he rose to the challenge and now encourages others to do the same.

This past fall, Oglebay Institute's School of Dance in Wheeling invited Rosenlieb to present his Adaptive Dance workshop to area educators, parents and teachers, where they learned how to tailor classes for individuals with differing abilities.

Rosenlieb, who was a master teacher and adjudicator for the West Virginia Dance Festival from 2008-2013, recommends anyone wanting to emulate his class reach out to potential partners who can assist in enlisting the help of a physical therapist, accompanist and assistants. With just a few simple materials – a

ballet class CD, colorful scarves, lots of tissues and hand sanitizer as well as red and blue tape – he said anyone can easily replicate his class. Ballet barres are optional.

When Rosenlieb's students enter his dance studio for the first time, he pays special attention to whether they can put on their own shoes and whether they come dressed in their dance clothes or change at the studio. Rosenlieb says this information helps him evaluate each dancer's abilities.

Full of energy and warmth, Rosenlieb seems as energized by the class as his dancers whose genetic condition is associated with mild to moderate learning disabilities, developmental delays, characteristic facial features, and low muscle tone.

"OK, everyone," Rosenlieb calls out to the students. "Let's all take our seats and sit up very tall." With the sound of classical music and soft African drumming as a backdrop, Rosenlieb guides the students through a series of seated stretches that include tickling the stars and



**Dance instructor Todd Rosenlieb. Photo courtesy of Oglebay Institute.**





**Above: Rosenlieb presents his Adaptive Dance workshop to area educators, parents and teachers at the Oglebay Institute's School of Dance in Wheeling.**



**Left: Oglebay Institute's School of Dance Director Cheryl Pompeo dances with Todd Rosenlieb.**

touching their toes. Throughout the class, Rosenlieb issues constant encouragement to help keep his students engaged and focused.

A series of leg and ankle movements helps the children identify right from left as their ballet slippers are marked with colored tape — red for right, blue for left.

The rhythm game helps dancers find the pulse of the music using different body parts and accesses muscular activity that might not otherwise happen in their daily lives. For his students, he said the barre "was like a jungle gym at recess."





**Above: Rosenlieb helps instructors tailor dance classes for individuals with differing abilities.**

**Below: Rosenlieb with Oglebay Institute's School of Dance Director Cheryl Pompeo, right, and dance instructor Kim Kafana.**

His dancers learn the nomenclature: the pliés, tendus, relevés, dégagés, the positions. Besides learning right from left, they learn how to count, keep rhythm and exhibit good manners and posture. They learn sequence and balance while learning to socialize, work as a team, make decisions and follow directions. While learning to dance they also gain confidence.

To instill a sense of pride, leadership and teamwork, Rosenlieb allows students to lead the group in a simple follow-the-leader-game with por de bras, an exercise designed to develop graceful movement and disposition of the arms.

The classes culminate with a recital performance that Rosenlieb says is surprisingly flawless. "It's a miracle, but they always come through," he said.



# Nearly \$900,000 Awarded for Portable Stages, Updated Equipment

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts awarded \$888,093 to six applicants in September to buy portable stages, update heating and cooling systems and replace aging equipment, among other projects.

The Cultural Facilities & Capital Resources Grant program provides support for the acquisition of real property, construction and renovation, the purchase of durable equipment directly related to programming, and accessibility improvements to comply with Section 504 of the 1974 Rehabilitation Act, the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act and the 2010 Revised Regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act under Titles II and III.

This competitive grant program, which is funded by the West Virginia Legislature and the West Virginia Lottery, is available to 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) not-for-profit arts organizations as first priority, 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) not-for-profit history museums as secondary priority and agencies of municipal or county governments, including county school boards.

This year's grant recipients are:

- **Central Appalachian Empowerment Zone of West Virginia, Mount Hope, Fayette County:** \$420,800 to continue Phase I of a renovation project, including exterior restoration of the Coal Heritage Discovery Center, front courtyard construction and streetscape, stabilization of masonry walls, interior rough carpentry and installations of mechanical and electrical systems.



**The City of Clarksburg received a \$255,270 Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources grant to help replace a failing electrical system at the Waldomore. Photo courtesy of the Waldomore.**

- **City of Clarksburg, Harrison County:** \$255,270 to replace a failing electrical system at the Waldomore, a two-story Neo-Classical brick mansion that serves as an arts venue in Clarksburg.

- **Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of West Virginia, Charleston, Kanawha County:** \$176,332 to replace equipment in the digital dome and visual systems in the Maier Foundation Performance Hall, Walker Theatre and Grand Lobby.

- **Charleston Light Opera Guild, Inc., Kanawha County:** \$18,695 to replace 3 HVAC units in the CLOG workshop/theatre, sound console and Marley dance floor.

- **Charles T. "Chuck" Mathena II Foundation, Inc., Princeton, Mercer County:** \$11,810 to purchase stage lighting, including LEDs and a Marley dance floor.

- **4PALS Productions, Inc., Montcalm, Mercer County:** \$5,187 to purchase a portable stage so the traveling theater company can present traveling shows to a larger audience.

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

## Old Brick Playhouse Recognized for Outstanding Arts Programming

Ten apprentices of the Old Brick Playhouse were among 40 students from four states invited to the White House in November to learn from such internationally acclaimed Broadway directors, actors, choreographers and writers as Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stephen Swartz, Matthew Morrison and Whoopi Goldberg.

Besides attending workshops, students from Maryland, Louisiana, Washington and West Virginia who participated in Broadway at the White House were part of the dress rehearsal and taping of a TV special that aired on TLC on Thanksgiving Day.

This was the second time the Elkins theater group has been invited to the White House.

In 2009, First Lady Michelle Obama presented the theater's Apprentice Program with a Coming Up Taller Award, which recognizes and supports programs that give children, especially those with great potential, an opportunity for creative expression. Old Brick was one of only two rural programs among the 15 recipients recognized for outstanding after-school arts and humanities programs.





## WVDCH Awards \$162,432 to 41 STEAM Projects

Students at Madison Elementary in Wheeling in Ohio County will use the arts to learn about solar movement, robotics, garden design and more thanks to a STEAM Power WV grant provided by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH) and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Students at Clay Battelle High School in Blacksville in Monongalia County will explore the chemistry behind plant pigments and dyes while students at Greenwood Elementary School in Berkeley Springs in Morgan County will discover some of the science behind music.

All total, 39 schools and nonprofit arts organizations are putting STEAM Power WV grants to work for students in communities all across the state.

The state arts agency offered up to \$7,500 to organizations that integrate the arts in their curriculum and community programming with STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and math). Additional funding was provided by the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts in collaboration with the Governor's STEM Initiative, and by The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences.

WVDCH Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith said he is delighted to support the growth of STEAM projects across the state because studies have shown that STEAM projects encourage innovation, problem-based learning, creativity, contextual thinking and other

aptitudes that are critical to 21st century college and career readiness demands.

The recipients are:

**Barter Theatre serving Mount View and River View High Schools, McDowell County:** \$7,500

for Project REAL (Reinforcing Education through Artistic Learning). **Beckley-**

**Stratton Middle School, Beckley, Raleigh County:** \$7,500 for a 3D Animation/3D Printing Lab in the school's STEAM Library.

**Cabell Midland High School Band, Ona, Cabell County:** \$7,000 for a project combining the study of music with math, science and technology.

**Clay-Battelle High School, Blacksville, Monongalia County:** \$4,824 for exploration of the molecular structure and function of plant pigments used to dye fabric.

**Clay Elementary School, Clay, Clay County:** \$6,737 for songwriting and movie making curriculum titled Full Steam Ahead.

**Confidence Elementary, Poca, Putnam County:** \$3,117 for Composting with Confidence, in which students build and maintain three school compost bins.

**East Lynn Elementary School, East Lynn, Wayne County:** \$6,758 for a STEAM Powered Science Camp combining robotics, life science, music and art.

**Eastwood Elementary,**

**Morgantown, Monongalia County:** \$5,000 for Wake Up Your Senses, Sleepy Bears, a program that combines STEAM principles with garden-based learning.

**Flemington Elementary, Flemington, Taylor County:** \$2,805 for a collaborative project with the West Virginia Symphony, integrating literature, music, physical science, technology and math.

**Gilmer County High School, Glenville, Gilmer County:** \$7,000 for curriculum that combines music instruction with math, science and technology.

**Greenwood Elementary School, Berkeley Springs, Morgan County:** \$1,074 for arts integration with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra's Student Centered Arts Learning Environment (SCALE) project.

**Hedgesville Middle School, Hedgesville, Berkeley County:** \$5,891 for HMS News: Making Our Own Headlines with Creative Media, and Makey Makey Piano.

**High Rocks Educational Corporation, Hillsboro, Pocahontas County:** \$3,750 for arts education programs that include Creative Expressions, Musical Math and The Art of Science.

**Hodgesville Elementary School, Buckhannon, Upshur County:** \$1,082 for a project examining the art, architecture and engineering of bridges.

**Holz Elementary School, Charleston, Kanawha County:** \$776 for a Lego robotics program.

**Huntington Museum of Art, Huntington, Cabell County:** \$4,586 for Turn Up the HEAT, in which Mason County middle school students explore the effects of heat on multiple art processes.

**Lakewood Elementary, St. Albans, Kanawha County:** \$1,266 for Legos Recreate the World's Architectural Landmarks.

**Liberty High School Fine Arts Department, Daniel, Raleigh County:** \$3,003 for a music composition project in which



students apply STEM principles to antique and futuristic musical instruments.

**Lincoln County Schools, Hamlin, Lincoln County:** \$6,228 for After-school Publishing, a student-based book publishing program.

**Madison Elementary School, Wheeling, Ohio County:** \$5,700 for Oglebay Institute STEAM Achievers.

**Milton Elementary School, Milton, Cabell County:** \$1,698 for Arts and Bots.

**Morgan Arts Council, Berkeley Springs, Morgan County:** \$7,500 for MAC STEAMWorks, a partnership with Morgan County Schools that uses art, animation, dance and music to explore science, technology and math.

**Mountaineer Middle School, Clarksburg, Harrison County:** \$7,072 for The "Art" of STEAM Integration, combining science, technology, and math with music instruction.

**Mountaineer Middle School, Morgantown, Monongalia County:** \$359 for West Virginia Watersheds, a student-community collaboration in which students investigate water quality and create model watersheds.

**Mountain Ridge Middle School, Gerrardstown, Berkeley County:** \$5,129 for Mountain Ridge Choir iPad Composition Project.

**North Elementary, Morgantown, Monongalia County:** \$5,000 for SuperSTEAM to the Rescue, a problem-solving project combining visual art, environmental science and engineering.

**Oglebay Institute, Wheeling, Ohio County:** \$3,877 for its Science of Raku Ceramics program, serving high school students in Ohio and Marshall counties.

**Page Jackson Elementary School, Charles Town, Jefferson County:** \$947 for Using Science to Compose Music.

**RESA 1, Beckley, Raleigh County:** \$1,500 for Smart Moves for Education & the Arts in three Raleigh County elementary schools.



Students in Berkeley Springs make kinetic sculptures using found and recycled materials while exploring color, texture and scent. Photo courtesy of the Morgan Arts Council.

**Richmond Elementary School, South Charleston, Kanawha County:** \$1,618 for City Planning 2040, a design project incorporating 3D printing.

**Sherrard Middle School, Wheeling, Marshall County:** \$7,500 to create an "Urban Tree" sculpture for the school campus.

**The Linsly School, Wheeling, Ohio County:** \$800 for Rome Wasn't Built in a Day, combining art, architecture, engineering and math.

**Tucker County High School, Hambleton, Tucker County:** \$4,600 for Tiny Houses: Designing Solutions, Building Collaboration, a project in which students investigate the value of art and architecture in designing solutions to economic, energy and environmental challenges.

**University High School, Morgantown, Monongalia County:** \$5,625 for expansion of the school's clay studio, with students contributing work to the Empty Bowls project. Collaboration includes environmental science, art, math, physics, and engineering/technology faculty.

**Warm Springs Intermediate School, Berkeley Springs, Morgan County:** \$1,044 for the collaborative creation of a bottle cap mural, integrating environmental science and art.

**West Virginia Public Broadcasting Foundation, Charleston, Kanawha County:** \$4,875 for a virtual scavenger hunt that combines STEM disciplines with art lessons and activities.

**West Virginia Symphony Orchestra:** \$4,000 for its SCALE (Student Centered Arts Learning Environment) project.

**Wheeling Park High School, Wheeling, Ohio County:** \$5,000 for Picking Up STEAM, a project that combines math, modeling, theater and design.

**Woodsdale Elementary School, Wheeling, Ohio County:** \$2,691 for Artbots, combining computer coding, geometry, and collaborative painting.

**For more information about STEAM Power WV, contact Jim Wolfe at 304.558.0240 or [james.d.wolfe@wv.gov](mailto:james.d.wolfe@wv.gov).**

# West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts: How Arts-Based Learning Builds a Better State

By Seth Young



Hillary Kenney



Dakota Peak

*Seth Young is a music educator and performer from Randolph County, now touring with Blackwater Mojo, an Appalachian Blues duo featuring his wife, Erin.*

In a time when the arts are being placed on the back burner in favor of other state education initiatives, it is important to reflect on what arts-based learning is really all about. Unlike STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), the true value of a workforce that has studied the arts may not be as readily apparent. Creativity is difficult to teach and impossible to test using current methods, yet it is one of the most sought-after skills a productive citizen can possess. What do students learn when studying the arts? How does it impact our community? Why make an investment in arts education?

To help me unlock some of these riddles, I contacted three students who completed one of this state's finest arts programs – the West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts (GSA). The school selects about 100 high school juniors per year to study theater, dance, instrumental music, vocal music, visual art, digital media and creative writing. Participants are housed and taught at a host university for a three-week intensive in July. Each student spends the bulk of their time working with their "major" subject, but they also rotate through all the "minors" to round out their experience. These students give us insight into the long-term lessons learned while studying the arts, even when pursuing a career path in a seemingly unrelated field.

Jason Abshire, who enrolled in the agriculture extension program at West Virginia University, hopes to work in conservation and rural development. This is probably not the first career choice that comes to mind when discussing arts education, but Jason has a clear understanding of how the arts helped him get to where he is today. The school "definitely helped me learn self-discipline," the 2012 instrumental music major said without hesitation. "It takes a lot of self-discipline to do what I do, to work the hours that I

work. It's the same as when I was studying guitar at the GSA. I had to be in charge of my time."

For Dakota Peak, a 2013 digital media major, there was "something more important than what I learned in my discipline -- networking." Now in his first year at Davis & Elkins College, Dakota understands how important it is "to float ideas around and see another point of view. Whether it's a work or social environment, having a good connection with the people around you is a requirement in order to thrive." He still works closely with many people he met at the school, which is invaluable in his pursuits in music and film.

Hillary Kenney, a 2011 creative writing major now studying at West Virginia University (WVU), said her creative-writing training helped hone her communication skills. "This has been beneficial not only as a journalism major, but also as a student organization leader at WVU. I started a chapter of the Food Recovery Network, an organization that works to reduce food waste and feed people in ... Morgantown. Through the skills I learned in creative writing, I've been able to speak and write to many students, faculty members and community members regarding our goals and ideas for this organization." Another added benefit is her strengthened ties to her home state. "Before I went to GSA, I didn't feel like I had been challenged creatively in school. I started to think that the only way to find that would be to leave the state. But now I am proud to call myself a Mountaineer at WVU!"

As you can see, arts-based education is not a luxury, nor should it be swept under the carpet because it is not as bureaucratically efficient to test as other subjects. We absolutely must add the arts when talking about STEM subjects because West Virginia runs best when it runs on STEAM.

**For more information, visit [www.govschools.wv.gov](http://www.govschools.wv.gov)**



# Arts Group Yarn Bombs Beckley

The Beckley Art Group is yarn bombing its city with more than 90,000 yards of cord.

All across Beckley the public can enjoy creative and colorful art as part of the nonprofit's tree cozy initiative titled "Stitching a community together ... Unexpected art happens."

Beckley Art Group collaborates with businesses and organizations who want trees bombed and are willing to purchase the yarn. Volunteer artists, including people of all ages and about 50 stitchers then design and crochet the cozies.

These artful wonders inspired by crochet artist Carol Hummel of Ohio fit the center's mission of offering avenues for the community to be exposed to all forms of art, providing programs that stimulate interest in the arts and encouraging

development of artistic talent.

Some of the 14 tree cozies already in place have a special meaning for the sponsoring organization. For instance, the Alzheimer's Awareness Support Group of Raleigh County commissioned a purple tree cozy in honor of the signature color that supports its cause.

Peggy Debnam, vice president of the Beckley Art Group, said the tree cozies are "hitting people at an emotional point, not only for their beauty but for whatever their passion is."

**For more information visit [www.beckleyartcenter.org](http://www.beckleyartcenter.org).**

**Right: The Alzheimer's Awareness Support Group of Raleigh County commissioned a purple tree cozy in honor of the signature color that supports its cause. Photo courtesy of the Beckley Art Group.**



## 2 West Virginia Artists Named Finalists For Prestigious 2016 Niche Awards



Two West Virginia artists were chosen from among nearly 2,000 entries as finalists for the prestigious 2016 NICHE Awards, which celebrate excellence and innovation in American and Canadian fine craft.

Judges for NICHE magazine's 27-year-old awards program selected metal artist Bradley Sanders of Shepherdstown's Lotus Fountain and Dragon Railing and fiber artist Nellie Davis of Elkins' City Planning Trapeze Dress.

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.

**Left: Metal artist Bradley Sanders' Dragon Railing.**

**Right: Fiber Artist Nellie Davis' City Planning Trapeze Dress. Photos courtesy of NICHE Magazine.**







# Artistic Expression Trumps Aches and Pains

By P.J. Dickerscheid  
Photos by Steven Brightwell

**Top: Smith's painting class meets at the H.R.C. building in Wheeling.**

**Opposite, top: Some of Gussie Smith's students share a laugh during class.**

**Opposite, bottom: Donna Hall works on her landscape.**

Gussie Smith's art students in West Virginia's Northern Panhandle schedule their doctor appointments around painting days.

All of her students are 60 or older and though their skills run from novice to intermediate, they all share an interest in art education, instruction and appreciation.

"It's not just that we paint," said Smith, a 76-year-old mother of six, grandmother of 16 and great-grandmother to seven. "We share, we laugh, and they get a lot of self-satisfaction from their work, especially when they accomplish something they didn't think they

could do. It's very rewarding. It makes you feel better even when you have aches and pains." For some, she said, "it's like opening a new door."

By creating works of art on canvas, paper or board, Smith says her students in the Family Services of the Upper Ohio Valley classes build confidence, purpose and self-esteem while developing new friends and fostering their creativity. The end result not only benefits her students, she said, but the Ohio Valley art community because they participate in community art events, shows and programs.

Still, the woman who has been



"pushing the pencil and the crayons and the paint as long as I can remember" says "I gain more than I give because it just makes me feel good to see them enjoy everything so much."

Lori Rice, Family Services' director of nutrition, transportation and activities, said Smith is a patient and encouraging teacher who can make even the most reluctant student gain confidence in their artistic abilities. "Gussie is able to break it down for you," Rice said. "She teaches you everything, from brush strokes to how to mix colors, even how to hold the brush. She's just a lovely person and so talented."

Paula L. Calvert, CEO at Family Services of the Upper Ohio Valley, encouraged others to join Smith's class, saying, "It is fun and even though her students are at different levels they encourage each other. It is a very welcoming group of people."

It is also the type of program that the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts hope to encourage and support by providing technical assistance, capacity-building tools and peer-to-peer mentoring.

Last year, West Virginia's state arts agency joined 30 other states in the National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) Creative Aging initiative as a way to help expand the reach of arts programming for older adults in West Virginia, where seniors comprise 16 percent of the population. By 2035, nearly one in four state residents is expected to be 65 years of age or older.

A recently created state database includes information about nearly 100 lifelong learning opportunities for older adults that help enrich lives, improve health and boost vitality, thereby saving costs for services and medical treatment. The state arts agency hopes to encourage West Virginia organizations to tap additional resources through the NEA, which has provided more than







**Monika Witke stitches a quilt at the Kanawha Valley Senior Services' weekly quilting class in Charleston.**

\$1 million to arts organizations across the country to engage older adults in professionally led arts programming.

Later this spring, the state arts agency will host a gathering of people involved in the arts, aging, community service, education and health care along with other interested parties to help spark ideas for new collaborations and programs.

Preston County Senior Citizens Inc. is sure to be on our invitation list. It was interested in initiating arts programming at its seven senior centers several years ago but could not find anyone to coordinate it. Its clientele includes talented painters, photographers, woodworkers, seamstresses, writers and musicians, including a woman who learned to

play the dulcimer a few years ago and now makes them, who are eager to participate.

Many West Virginia organizations already are putting their talents and imaginations to good use. Here's a sampling of just a few programs that might spark some ideas:

**Alban Arts Center** offers a program called M.O.S.T. (Mostly Over Sixty Theater) for older community members who want to participate in short plays and skits.

**Charleston Ballet and the River City Youth Ballet Ensemble** take groups of dancers to local nursing homes, intermediate-care facilities and retirement homes to perform for residents who cannot attend shows.

**Clarksburg Harrison Cultural Foundation** sends invitations to senior centers, nursing homes, and assisted living centers to attend nearly two dozen free, live musical performances it sponsors each year.

**Community Educational Outreach Service**, a volunteer organization of the West Virginia University Extension Service, offers demonstrations and workshops on heritage crafts, photography, culinary arts, poetry and short-story writing, among others.

**Hancock County Senior Services** offers weekly quilting sessions, a Shutterbugs Club for photographers and a Book Club that features West Virginia authors. It also organizes field trips for seniors to museums, historical sites and other places of interest.

**Hansford Senior Center** in St. Albans offers sessions on painting, singing and dancing.

**Huntington Museum of Art** engages patients at the chemotherapy infusion centers of the Edwards Comprehensive Care Center and St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington in creative art making as part of its Arts in Medicine program.

**Kanawha Valley Senior Services**





Members of the Kanawha Valley Senior Services' quilting class are, from left, Darlene St. Louis, Janet Armstead, Sandy Breedlove, Barbara Keen, Monika Witke, Tamera Moore, Betty Sydenstricker, Sheila Duncan, Frankie Shinn and Betty Arthur.

recently started a performing arts program to augment its other arts programming, which includes a quilting group that makes quilts for veterans, sick children and the homeless; painting classes for older West Virginians and people with Alzheimer's and dementia; and tai chi, Zumba® and Healthy Steps classes. The agency also invites volunteers to read poetry to seniors, sing with seniors, play piano for them and tell stories.

**Morgantown Chapter of the American Harp Society** sends ensembles to perform once a month at the Village at Heritage Point, a retirement community in Morgantown, and a harpist performs twice a month at the Madison Center, a nursing home and rehabilitation center in Morgantown.

**Raleigh County Commission on Aging** in Beckley offers theater, live music and history lessons.

**Shepherd University's Lifelong Learning Program** includes classes on "Coal Mining Songs," "Readings from the Private Journal of a Public

## Benefits of Artistic Expression and Arts Exposure

Research shows:

- Making art reduces anxiety and raises endorphins and natural killer-cell levels
- Play-acting and theater games raise pain thresholds and mood
- Writing creatively reduces anxiety, depression and doctor visits
- Dancing improves circulation, coordination and alertness
- Music lowers anxiety, raises pain thresholds and reduces the need for medications
- Aesthetic environments shorten hospital stays
- Sustained laughter lowers blood pressure and stress hormone levels

Active participation in the arts:

- Promotes physical health
- Enhances a sense of well-being
- Improves quality of life for those who are ill
- Reduces the risk factors that lead to the need for long-term care
- Provides a pleasant therapeutic distraction in otherwise difficult and challenging times
- Helps treat the whole patient in mind and body
- Helps seriously and terminally ill patients experience success and feel pride in their accomplishments
- Helps people remain involved and active in daily life
- Stimulates the mind

## Model Programs Around the Country

**KAIROS Dance Theatre's Dancing Heart™** program in Minneapolis, Minnesota, involves dance and movement improvisation activities that lead to improvements in flexibility, energy, balance, memory and socialization among participants at long-term care facilities, adult day cares, and senior community centers. [www.kairosalive.org](http://www.kairosalive.org)

**Yamaha's Clavinova Connection** program uses a digital piano to introduce the art of piano playing to novice musicians through a series of musical and wellness exercises created to harmonize mind, body and spirit. Each session, which consists of singing, physical stretching, meditation and musical improvisation, is designed to build confidence, camaraderie and self-esteem, enhance relaxation and well-being, and reduce depression and loneliness. [www.yamaha.com](http://www.yamaha.com)

**Lutheran SeniorLife** in Zelienople, Pennsylvania, sponsors a grant-funded class in woodturning and woodworking conducted by the Society for Contemporary Crafts of Pittsburgh. Participants learn to use a lathe and other tools to create original works of art. All classes culminate with an exhibition of participants' work, and participants sell their work at an Excellence in Aging gala in Pittsburgh. This creative project helps to restore a sense of beauty, dignity and celebration to residents of assisted living facilities and long-term care facilities. [www.lutheranseniorlife.org](http://www.lutheranseniorlife.org)

**Elders Share the Arts** in Brooklyn, New York, introduces older adults to the art of storytelling. Through partnerships with senior centers and libraries, the Story Circle programs explore a significant theme and culminate with a compilation of the group's shared recollections in an anthology. This project gives older adults an opportunity to find their stories, develop a voice, hear the stories of the group and reflect on their commonalities and differences. [www.estanyc.org](http://www.estanyc.org)

**Memories in the Making®** in Cincinnati, Ohio, offers people in the early and middle stages of memory loss a means of self-expression through painting and drawing under the guidance of an artist. In conjunction with Memories in the Making®, the Alzheimer's Association offers a Time for Caregiver's Workshop, a separate program for family members of participants in the Memories in the Making® sessions. [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

**The Healing Arts Program** for older veterans in Washington, D.C., is led by a professional teaching artist in different art forms and a music therapist. Activities include writing, art, dance and theater. Veterans also are invited to visit art museums and create a piece of art based on their experience, musical performances during shift changes and interactive discussions on world events, history and culture. [www.washingtondc.va.gov](http://www.washingtondc.va.gov)

**For more ideas, visit [creativeaging.org/programs-people/cad](http://creativeaging.org/programs-people/cad)**



Besides quilting, the Kanawha Valley Senior Services offers weekly knitting, crocheting and tai chi classes, among others.

Historian," "Short Stories: Memory and Perception" and "Investigating the Mozart Effect," based on research that suggests listening to Mozart's music may induce a short-term improvement when performing certain mental tasks.

**West Virginia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association** provides rich arts experiences for individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer's or dementia and their care partners during its 6-week "Experience the Arts" program, which includes a "Music of the Decades Dance," performances by the Alban Arts Center, as well as a behind-the-scenes look and box-seat performances at the Clay Center.

**Wheeling Symphony Orchestra's** concertmaster visits and performs for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

**If you would like to become part of the conversation and did not respond to inquiries last summer for information about existing arts programs for seniors, contact P.J. Dickerscheid at [pamela.j.dickerscheid@wv.gov](mailto:pamela.j.dickerscheid@wv.gov).**

### Additional resources

[www.healing-power-of-art.org](http://www.healing-power-of-art.org)

<http://artsandaging.org/>

<http://www.creativeaging.org>



# Huntington Artist Wins Prestigious Award for 'In the Limelight'

By P.J. Dickerscheid  
Photos by Stephen Brightwell



**Hanna Kozlowski-Slone of Huntington received the D. Gene Jordan Memorial Award for "In the Limelight."**

An assistant professor at Marshall University's School of Art and Design in Huntington took home the top honor in the 2015 West Virginia Juried Exhibition, which is on display through February at TAMARACK: The Best of West Virginia in Beckley.

Hanna Kozlowski-Slone, a second-generation Polish American, received the D. Gene Jordan Memorial Award, for "In the Limelight," in which she combined oil painting with traditional Polish cut-paper designs known as *wycinanki*. Jurors John A. Hancock of Waynesboro, Virginia, and Lenore Thomas of Pittsburgh were especially impressed with the complexity and historical nature of Kozlowski-Slone's piece.

Kozlowski-Slone was joined by Robert Villamagna of Wheeling and Alison Helm of Morgantown in earning a Governor's Award. Villamagna, who works primarily in assemblage, collage and mixed media and is an assistant professor of art at West Liberty University, was honored for "Captains of Industry." Helm, a sculptor and director of the School of Art & Design at West Virginia University in Morgantown, was recognized for "Cyber Clash."

Their work is among the 119 pieces accepted into the exhibit of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. Since 1979, the biennial exhibit has featured some of the state's best artwork and offers the public a current view of the arts and crafts practiced across the state. This year's show includes textiles, sculptures, blown glass, paintings and more created by 95 artists from 29 of the state's 55 counties.

Artists recognized with the Governor's Award receive \$5,000 each, Award of Excellence winners receive \$2,000 each and Merit Awards winners receive \$500. Purchase awards also become part of the permanent collection at the State Museum at the Culture Center in Charleston.

## D. Gene Jordan Memorial Award

Hanna Kozlowski-Slone, Huntington, Cabell County

## Governor's Award Winners

Alison Helm, Morgantown, Monongalia County

Hanna Kozlowski-Slone, Huntington, Cabell County

Robert Villamagna, Wheeling, Ohio County

## Awards of Excellence

Mark Cline, Caldwell, Greenbrier County

Vernon Howell, Barboursville, Cabell County



**Left: Robert Villamagna of Wheeling earned a Governor's Award for "Captains of Industry."**

**Below: Alison Helm of Morgantown earned a Governor's Award for "Cyber Clash."**



Christine Rhodes, Parkersburg, Wood County

Randy Selbe, South Charleston, Kanawha County

Clayton Spangler, Charleston, Kanawha County

Michael Teel – Saint Albans, Kanawha County

Larry Weese Jr., Ravenswood, Jackson County

## Merit Awards

Chris Dutch, Charleston, Kanawha County

Robert Fisher, Charleston, Kanawha County

Mary Grassell, Hurricane, Putnam County

Charly Jupiter Hamilton, Charleston, Kanawha County

Newman Jackson, Charleston, Kanawha County

William Kubach, Clendenin, Kanawha County

Morgan Richards – South Charleston, Kanawha County

Christopher Schultz – Bridgeport, Harrison County

# Experts Help Arts Organizations Overcome Challenges for Free

Having trouble raising money to support quality arts programming? Not sure how to get your message heard in the right circles? Trying to figure out what type of sound system to install in your theater?

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History offers free, expert assistance to nonprofit arts organizations as part of its Peer Assistance Network (PAN) and Connecting To Collections (C2C) program.

PAN links arts organizations with more than a dozen highly skilled arts leaders who can help with fundraising, board development, program planning, strategic planning, organizational development and technical assistance. Other areas of expert assistance include audience development, budgeting, marketing, arts in education projects, diversity and accessibility training, artist cooperatives, computer uses and technical assistance in theater lighting and design.

C2C uses the skills of professionals currently working in the field to provide assessment and guidance on collections care and management. Nonprofit museums, libraries, archives and historic sites are eligible to apply for assistance with books, paper, art, decorative objects, digitization, collection development, archival management, photographs and works on paper.

West Virginia organizations in crisis also are eligible for an extended mentorship in which an advisor offers year-long support at no cost.

Here is just a sampling of the knowledge and skills some of our advisors have to share:

**Lori Hostuttler** is the digital projects and outreach archivist for the West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) at West Virginia University Libraries. She previously worked at the WVU Health Sciences Library as assistant director

and access services coordinator. Before that she was photographs manager at WVRHC and helped build West Virginia History OnView, the center's online photographs database. Hostuttler holds a master of library and information science from the University of South Carolina, a master of arts in history from West Virginia University and a bachelor of science in social studies education.



**Arif Khan** is the Mary Price Ratrie curator of art at the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences and former gallery director at Tamarind Institute, a world-renowned fine art lithography workshop offering educational programs and a collaborative studio for artists in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He also served as curator of the Governor's Gallery, New Mexico Museum of Art, in Santa Fe. Khan holds a bachelor of arts degree in history from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, a master's degree in American studies from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, and a master's in art business from the Sotheby's Institute in London.

**Margaret Mary Layne**, a consultant and former Huntington city manager, executive director



and director of development at the Huntington Museum of Art, specializes in history and art history. A Marshall University graduate with a regents bachelor of arts degree specializing in history and art history, Layne spent 20 years as a legal assistant for Huntington law firm, working in the corporate, real estate, tax and estate planning fields. A former owner and operator of a small business, Layne's areas of expertise include management, operations, development, fundraising and communications.



**Drew Tanner** is marketing director for Peoples Bank Theatre in Marietta, Ohio. With more than a decade of experience serving nonprofits, small



businesses and rural community media organizations as a freelance photographer, writer, web developer and marketing consultant, Tanner is active in arts organizations all across West Virginia, including the West Virginia Mountain Music Trail and the Pocahontas County Artisans Cooperative. He also serves as marketing coordinator for the Pocahontas County Opera House, president of West Virginia Arts Presenters, and a board member of Arts Advocacy West Virginia.



**Patrick Wallace** has 20 years of experience in live theater. He is the Mid-Atlantic regional rigging manager for PSAV Presentation Services and was a production manager for Shepherd University and director of production for the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown. He also co-owned Welsh Sound, a regional live-events and install company serving eastern West Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region. With a degree in technical theater from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, Wallace is past chair of the Chesapeake Chapter of United States Institute for Theatre Technology, a professional organization that promotes networking, communication, training, and new ideas in the entertainment industry. He currently designs ongoing renovation and expansion projects for the Old Opera House in Charles Town.

## Peer Assistance Advisors

### **Lynn Creamer**

Artistic Director, Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg

### **Paul J. Flaherty**

Production manager, *Mountain Stage*, Charleston

### **Melanie Griffis**

Senior Director of Development, College of Fine Arts at Marshall University, Huntington

### **Margaret Mary Layne**

Private Consultant, Former Executive Director and Director of Development at the Huntington Museum of Art

### **Mary Leb**

Program Manager, Chuck Mathena Center, Princeton

### **Tom Pasinetti**

Technical Director, Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences of West Virginia, Charleston

### **Drew Tanner**

Marketing director for Peoples Bank Theatre, Williamstown

### **Patrick Wallace**

Regional rigging manager for PSAV Presentation Services, Charles Town

### **Jeanne Mozier**

Founder, Morgan Arts Council, Berkeley Springs

## Connecting to Collections Advisors

Kathleen Bledsoe

Marshall University Special Collections Librarian (retired)

Lori Hostuttler

Digital Projects and Outreach Archivist, West Virginia and Regional History Center, WVU Libraries

Arif Khan

Mary Price Ratrie Curator of Art, Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences

Lori Thompson, Archivist and Digital Preservation Librarian, Marshall University Special Collections

**For more information about the Peer Assistance Network or Connecting to Collections, contact Debbie Haught, community arts coordinator, at 304.558.0240, ext. 714 or by email at [Debbie.R.Haught@wv.gov](mailto:Debbie.R.Haught@wv.gov)**

## Professional Development Grants Provide More than \$26,000 to 13 West Virginia Artists, One Arts Group

Below: Robin McClintock's "What's More Important?"

Thirteen artists from across West Virginia and one nonprofit arts organization will share in more than \$26,000 in grant funding provided by the West Virginia Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Administered by the state Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, the Professional Development for Individual Artists and Arts Organizations grant program provides money to help support West Virginia artists in improving or exploring new departures in their work. New equipment, materials, apprenticeships and workshops - including travel, registration fees, meals and lodging - are eligible expenses. The program also supports artists' organizations that assist groups of artists in any of those endeavors. The maximum each applicant for these matching grants can receive is \$2,500.

The fall 2015 recipients are:  
**Allegheny Echoes**, Marlinton,

Pocahontas County: \$3,000 for instructors' salaries for summer workshops.

**Benjamin Campbell Jr.**, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County: \$2,000 for a creative writing residency at Moniak Mhor in Scotland.

**Patricia Cross**, Winfield, Putnam County: \$2,246 to attend the 2016 Art of the Portrait conference in Washington, D.C.

**Robert Eugene Cutright**, Weston, Lewis County: \$500 to purchase supplies to boost inventory.

**Stephanie A. Danz**, Fayetteville, Fayette County: \$1,011 to attend a Mixed Metals Mania class in North Carolina.

**Rebecca Hill**, Elkins, Randolph County: \$2,500 to take private dance lessons from Yiota Peklari and Sandy Silva in Athens, Greece.

**Michael Loop**, Morgantown, Monongalia County: \$1,486 to purchase equipment and supplies to create a commissioned piece for the Chautauqua Institute in New York.

**Nancy Marshall**, White Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier County: \$1,268 to attend the "New Color Mixing for Dyers" workshop in Ohio.

**Lucy Mauro**, Morgantown, Monongalia County: \$2,500 to pay musicians to record the complete works of Nadia Boulanger.

**Robin McClintock**, Hendricks, Tucker County: \$2,000 for equipment, research and other expenses related to producing a series of paintings of the rural West Virginia extraction industry architecture 1880-1920.

**Sean Price**, Huntington, Cabell County: \$2,426 for a computer and music-writing software to produce a one-act opera commissioned by the Marshall University Opera Workshop.

**Denise Roberts**, Albright, Preston County: \$2,500 to attend Nancy Crow's quilting workshop titled Finding Your Voice.

**Dalton Sayre**, Buckhannon, Upshur County: \$500 for woodworking tools and accessories.

**Hannah Marie Watters**, Nitro, Kanawha County: \$2,500 for a laptop and camera lenses.





# WV Craft Week Earns 3 National Honors During Inaugural Event

Congratulations, West Virginia crafters! The first annual WV Craft Week was a huge success as more than 150 artists across the state opened their studio doors and organized special events in October as part of a national tribute to American handmade objects.

West Virginia received three national honors from the country's largest celebration of handmade American craft, which is now in its sixth year.

West Virginia participants received the Exceptional new Participation from a State or Region Award.

Berkeley Springs was chosen through a web competition as the third most favorite place in the country to enjoy a vibrant craft scene.

Habitat for Humanity of Kanawha & Putnam won Best Up-Cycled Artwork for its Double Take Art Show and Silent Auction at The Restore in Charleston. The Restore encouraged local artists to put a new-fangled

touch on old-fangled art by adding a few of their own special touches. Double Take visitors voted for their favorite piece in the exhibit, and the Community Choice Award, along with \$200, was awarded to Adrienne Galloway for "Alice in a Winter Wonderland." Visitors also were able to bid on any piece that caught their eye through a silent auction process. To see more winners from this event visit [charlestonwvrestore.org/double-take-winner](http://charlestonwvrestore.org/double-take-winner).

By inviting visitors into their creative worlds, artists all across the country offered an inside look at the creative process as they practiced their craft, held art demonstrations and offered their works for sale.

American Craft Week is a volunteer managed program of CRAFT (craft retailers and artists for tomorrow), a trade association dedicated to the growth and vitality of the craft industry.



**Berkeley Springs, shown here celebrating its Apple Butter Festival, was chosen as the third most favorite place in the country to enjoy a vibrant craft scene by American Craft Week. Photo by P.J. Dickerscheid.**



The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts invites artists and arts organizations to participate in Arts Day at the Capitol on Monday, February 22.

Arts Day celebrates the vitality of the arts in West Virginia and honors the impact the arts have on cultural growth, economic development, education and quality of life. It also is an ideal time for arts enthusiasts to schedule meetings with lawmakers to express gratitude for their support and to discuss the impact the arts have in communities all across West Virginia.

To arrange for space for an information booth, please contact Robin Jones at 304.558.0240 or [Robin.L.Jones@wv.gov](mailto:Robin.L.Jones@wv.gov).

## Favorite Places to Enjoy a Vibrant Craft Scene

1. St. Petersburg, FL
2. Brattleboro, VT
- 3. Berkeley Springs, WV**
4. Alexandria, VA
5. Asheville, NC
6. Cumberland Valley, PA
7. Santa Fe, NM
8. Pittston, PA
9. Berea, KY
10. New Hope, PA

# Grant Opportunities for Artists

## **American Masterpieces–WV**

**Deadline: April 1**

*Provides support for projects that contribute to West Virginian's 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.*



## **Strickland Elected to National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Board**

West Virginia Commission on the Arts member John Strickland was elected in October as a new member of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' (NASAA) board of directors.

NASAA is a nonpartisan membership organization that represents the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies' individual and collective interests, empowers their work through knowledge and advances the arts as an essential public benefit.

Strickland, a member of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts for more than eight years, is president and major shareholder of Maynard C. Smith Construction Company, Inc., a Charleston-based commercial general contracting firm that specializes in new construction, renovation and restoration of hospitals, office buildings and schools as well as construction management. Strickland also is active in civic and arts organizations: as a board member for 17 years of Sunrise Museum, which expanded to a new facility and became The Clay Center for Arts and Sciences of West Virginia, and a board member and incoming president of Edgewood Summit, a Charleston retirement and assisted living community.



# 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](mailto:Renee.Margocee@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](mailto: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](mailto:Barbie.J.Smoot@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*. [Pamela.J.Dickerscheid@wv.gov](mailto:Pamela.J.Dickerscheid@wv.gov)



**Jennifer Strechay** is the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grant Coordinator and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Coordinator. She administers the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resource Grant and Fast Track Grant programs. She also reviews the accessibility of facilities and programs to ensure inclusion of all people. [Jennifer.Strechay@wv.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Strechay@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](mailto:Debbie.R.Haught@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. [James.D.Wolfe@wv.gov](mailto:James.D.Wolfe@wv.gov)



*Grants and services of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and West Virginia Commission on the Arts are made possible in part by a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the West Virginia State Legislature.*





The Culture Center  
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**Mickey Blackwell**, Charleston

**Jamie Dempsey-Butcher**, Logan

**Susan Hogan**, Wheeling

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**Renée Margocee**, Charleston\*

**Charles Mathena**, Princeton

**Cindy McGhee**, Charleston

**Selina Midkiff**, Charleston

**Amy Panzarella**, Charles Town

**Dr. Bernie Schultz**, Morgantown

**John Strickland**, Charleston

**Jack Thompson**, Morgantown

**Sam Winans**, Parkersburg

\*ex-officio nonvoting member