



Greene Arts

Greene County Council on the Arts
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FY 2013 - 2014

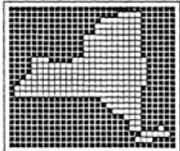
ANNUAL REPORT

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

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

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

State of the Arts



NYSCA



Greene County Council on the Arts

Thanks to the New York State Council on the Arts, Governor Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, and the Greene County Legislature for vital support.

Thanks to The Bank of Greene County for major underwriting of the Beaux Arts Ball.

Thanks to Smart Systems Group for donation of computer services.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

2014 - 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Current Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Area of Representation/Affiliation</u>
President:	David Slutzky	Hunter: <i>Artist, Resort Industry</i>
Vice President:	William Deane	Ashland: <i>Artist, Civil Engineer (retired)</i>
Treasurer:	Paul Poplock	Catskill: <i>Business, Finance</i>
Recording Secretary:	Lawrence Krajeski	Durham: <i>Non Profit Industry</i>
	Kico Govantes	Catskill: <i>Artist, Art Dealer</i>
	Liz Kirkhus	Catskill: <i>Designer, Business Owner</i>
	Laura Segall	Cairo: <i>Art Teacher, Dev. Dir. Non Profit (retired)</i>
	John Sowle	Catskill: <i>Artist, Theatre</i>
	Brenda Taylor	Leeds, <i>Social Work Consultant, Artist</i>
	Sheila Trautman	Jewett: <i>Artist</i>
Nominee, January 2015	Jeff Friedman	Elka Park: <i>Greene County CC Exec Director</i>

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Casey Biggs (Athens), chairman;

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

STAFF

Kay Stamer, Executive Director

Sharon Hulett-Shepherd, Asst to Director; Membership Coordinator, Arts Alive

Colette Lemmon, Director Community Arts Grants for the Twin Counties

Renee Nied, Schoharie County Decentralization Coordinator

Molly Stinchfield, Visual Arts Director

Patricia Britton, Bookkeeper, Financials

Donna Trunzo & Dale Loughran, "Sprouts" Directors

Fawn Potash, Masters on Main Coordinator

William Barnds, Catskill Gallery Reception, Courtesy of Experience Works

Consultants

Anthony Rago, Apogee Web Advisor

Kate Boyer, Arts Alive

Eugene DeVillamil, Computer Tech

Ruth Leonard, "Sprouts" Program

Volunteer Gallery/Office Staff

Dara Young, Editor, Calendar & Opportunities

Jean Heiberg, Coordinator "I Love You Greene"

Jordan Baker, **William Barnds**, **Kirsten Bates**, **William Carbone**, **Dot Chast**, **Piper Dorrance**, **Flo Hayle**,

Millie Goldberg, **Erica M. Klein**, **Jennifer Lehmann**, **Pat Lemmon**, **Andi Porazzo-Nangle**,

Wayne Sheridan, **Carol Swierzowski**, **Richard Talcott**, **Dara Trahan**, **Ilana Wolfe**

Catskill Gallery Committees

Deborah Artman, **Jill Skupin Burkholder**,

Kico Govantes, **Ashley Hopkins-Benton**, **Carol Swierzowski**, **Richard Talcott**

...and a host of people like you!

The Year 2014- in Review

Prelude: The year 2014 has been exciting and challenging. The challenges we faced in 2010 continued into 2013 and beyond. They were enormous. Continued delays in receipt of state funding leave us struggling to keep the doors open and the lights on at our Catskill Gallery headquarters. In the “good ole’ days” we received our NYSCA (New York State Council on the Arts) funding in September. Then it was delayed until November. Three years ago, our funding finally arrived three days before the New Year. In FY 2012-13 we received funding in mid-February and June. This year, we are thrilled to report that our contracts and funding seem to be getting back on track. We received our operating funds and most of our regrant funds in October! The rewarding, not to mention heartwarming, side of the equation is the number of you who responded to our appeals. We’re holding on thanks to all of you and we can’t thank you enough!

The State budget for NYSCA for the 2014-2015 fiscal year remained level with 2013-2014. That was good news considering the nearly 40% reduction over the previous years. We await news of the Governor’s 2015 recommendations. Arts advocates throughout the state have been unanimous in requesting an increase of \$5 million for NYSCA in the new budget. Letters requesting this increase have also been sent to the Governor by our elected officials and some of our constituents. We are also pleased to report that we received \$60,000 from the Governor’s Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) administered by NYSCA for 2015. Our project, “Mainly Greene” is a partnership between GCCA’s Masters on Main Street (MOMS) program, the Catskill Mountain Foundation, Zadock Pratt Museum, and Prattsville Art Center. Congratulations to Fawn and partners for another excellent application.

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

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

As we reflect on 39 years of service to our community, we are all the more grateful to our members, donors and friends for your continued support. It is also important to note the wonderful contributions of our exceptionally talented and dedicated staff, Board of Directors, artists and volunteers. We have been blessed.

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2014

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

For 39 years, our presence has brought thousands of dollars in state and federal funds into the county in support of the arts, and our partnerships with the Greene County Legislature and local businesses have put local dollars to work keeping local arts healthy and vibrant. GCCA has nurtured artists in all disciplines throughout the county and the region and has been their stalwart advocate since the inception of many of the arts organizations that now grace Greene County with their presence. We at the Greene County Council on the Arts are proud to be a continuing wellspring of support for this wonderful spirit of creativity, experimentation and artistic achievement.

Catskill Gallery Exhibitions - GCCA continued to host another year of remarkable exhibits. In early February GCCA welcomed Molly Stinchfield as Visual Arts Director with Fawn Potash remaining on as the Masters on Main Coordinator. Before her official departure as Visual Arts Director, Fawn orchestrated an extraordinary fundraiser, *Playing With a Full Deck*, to benefit the GCCA Visual Arts program. 54 artists designed poker sized playing cards with the back designed by Kiki Smith in a custom box, there was a special edition of 25 poster size prints containing all 54 designs, a deluxe collection with a signed archival limited edition print, six limited edition engravings by Kiki Smith and a special T-shirt design. The *Playing With a Full Deck* exhibition included a Texas Hold 'Em Charity tournament and silent auction March 8th ending with a live(ly) auction with over 60 people in attendance. All but a few of the original artworks sold! The entire fundraiser was deemed an astonishing success. Simultaneously, the Upstairs Gallery hosted a solo show, *Quiet Space*, a solo show of plein air meditations by painter Maria Katzman, whose oil paintings chronicled a six year residency at the Woodstock Byrdcliffe cabins, closely observing nature, framed by the cabin's simple architectural features.

In March GCCA hosted its annual Youth Arts exhibit, *Outside the Lines*. Hundreds of young student artists, K-12, from both public and home schools throughout Greene County had the opportunity to display their work.

Following in May, *Burnt Offerings*, a selected group show featuring ceramic work, examined the interplay between clay as a sculptural medium and representations of similar ideas in other media. In addition to traditional ceramic pieces, the show included related drawings, encaustics, prints and sculptures by ceramicists that engage similar themes, stylistic concerns or subject matter. Husband and wife Richard Talcott and Carol Swierzowski joined forces and presented a show in the Upstairs Gallery, *A Visual Partnership*. Both artists made work independently for decades and recently began curating shows of their work. This show, their fourth collaboration, was an examination of their non-objective work. It featured pieces selected to present a visual metaphor of a marriage and working partnership.

In July and August, *Ad Infinitum, An Installation Show*, attracted many curious visitors to our gallery! This site-specific installation was a collaboration between selected artists, who made a conceptual, maze-like web of sculptures, photograms, and collages. The show, co-curated by Tasha Depp and Molly Stinchfield, was a convergence of earth and sky, cardboard and glass. Much of the art was rooted in natural themes, with repeating organic forms and patterns made

from recycled materials, found objects, and every day objects given a new life. Concurrently, *Tasha Depp, Connected Vision* was displayed in the Upstairs Gallery. Depp's paintings and drawings were contemplations on everyday views of nature. Environmental commentary was quietly present in Depp's art. She saw occasional beauty in the rubble; she revealed her own modern human struggle of trying to make a difference in a world that seems unfixable. Her material choices invited us to think about the effects of overconsumption while also enjoying the end result of her gorgeous paintings.

In September GCCA invited the community to a celebration of the 25th anniversary of National Recovery Month during the exhibition, "*The Other Side*". Preceding the opening reception, there was a screening of Greg Williams' documentary "*The Anonymous People*" in the Bridge Street Theatre. This exhibition honored the journey of recovering addicts and their friends and families with artwork by individuals who have been affected by addiction and illustrates the hope found in recovery. The exhibit featured portraits of recovering addicts by local photojournalist, Kyle Adams, who worked in partnership with Twin Counties Recovery Services and the P.A.S. It On Committee after reporting on a series of public forums to generate open discussion on heroin abuse in the region. The group wanted to make images that would challenge the shame associated with addiction: to depict a person rather than a disease. Simultaneously, Matthew Zappala's solo show, *After the Shot in the Wheatfield*, poetically portrayed Van Gogh's unraveling in a series of painting show in the Upstairs Gallery.

Following in October GCCA presented *Rock, Paper, Scissor*, a group collage/assemblage exhibition that encapsulated the industrious nature of artists who translated discarded scraps, magazines, fabric, wood and plastic into new languages. Familiar sights become re-contextualized, causing the viewer to consider the world with fresh eyes. An after hours collage workshop was held free of charge and open to the public. *Leah Rhodes. Myths & Milagros* was on view in the Upstairs Gallery. The woman responsible for an exhibition career of nearly six decades has collected materials that inspire her and crafting them into exquisite micro worlds.

To end the year, GCCA proudly hosted its artist member's works in Salon 2014 and Handmade Holiday in the Artful Hand Boutique. Ever popular, over 25 original artworks sold from the Salon which opened in November and ran through January 3, 2015.

Mainly Greene & Masters on Main Street - Sponsored by the Greene County Council on the Arts, Mainly Greene continues to promote the arts and culture, events and excursions around Greene County. Mainly Greene is proud to announce a \$60,000 Regional Economic Development Council grant to support *American Masquerade*, a year-long project exploring creative transformation. The collaborative group, Greene County Council on the Arts' Masters on Main Street project, Catskill Mountain Foundation, Prattsville Art Center and Zadock Pratt Museum, have been working together for three years, sharing program planning, marketing and funding strategies. Committed to making an impact on each organization's community through the arts, the partners carefully select project themes that are both relevant to residents and attract cultural tourists. In 2015, Mainly Greene will present an historic exhibit about the violent revolt of the region's tenant farmers in the mid 1800's. Visit the site www.mainlygreene.org for the current events.

Under the direction of Fawn Potash as part of Masters on Main Street, GCCA presented **#CatskillBalloons** in April. The projects started with Jason Hackenwerth's *AVIARY*, a massive 35-foot tall latex balloon sculpture that was commissioned for a one-night exhibition by Works

& Process, a sculptural centerpiece for its 30th Anniversary Gala at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum held on April 2, 2014. With the unusual permission of the artist, this gift from Curator Duke Dang, arrived upstate in the wee hours of April 3 to begin its new life as *AVIARY Reimagined*; reconfigured balloon sculptures on display in various locations throughout Catskill, April 12 - May 3. Coinciding events included Saturday Storytime under the big balloons at Bridge Street Theatre, a Catskill Elementary School collaborative sculpture and a Closing Night (fundraiser) Party at Bridge Street Theatre. In addition there were indoor installation locations at Catskill storefront windows providing easy access to a great view 24/7. Later in August, Masters on Main Street presented filmmaker Tobe Carey's newest film, *Rails to the Catskills* in a free screening at the Community Theater in Catskill. The film was followed by an opportunity to talk to the filmmaker and ask questions. The DVD remains available in the GCCA Artful Hand Boutique.

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

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

Cultural Fund Re-grant Programs – Two re-grant programs provide vital support to established and emerging artists, cultural organizations, and community-based groups while ensuring a wealth of cultural activities to a broad range of constituents. In 2014 the GCCA awarded \$120,900 to not for profit organizations and individual artists through the County Initiative Program (CIP) and Community Arts Grants in Columbia, Greene and Schoharie County. Funding for (CIP) is received from the Greene County Legislature and is intended for major cultural organizations in Greene County. Funding for Community Arts Grants is received from the New York State Council on the Arts. Community Arts Grants include several tiers for cultural funding to non-profit community organizations, individual artists, and Arts Education. Arts Education is our partnership with schools, teaching artists, students and parents that provides developmental support and matching funds to artists for in-school curriculum based residencies. Abundant thanks to Colette Lemmon, our Director of Community Arts Grants, for -shepherding this vital program through all its vagaries. Thanks also to Renee Nied, our on-site coordinator for Schoharie County grants. These re-grant programs are our most important means of supporting the growth and development of the arts within our communities and we thank the New York State Council on the Arts and the Greene County Legislature for providing us with the funding which makes this possible. Through these programs we are able to bring our tax dollars home and put them right back to work within our community.

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

Donna Trunzo and Dale Loughran – both of whom have taught in our Sprouts program-became the new Sprouts Directors in 2014. Donna and Dale brought their individual teaching skills and experience to the program adding new procedures and introducing new teachers to the 2014 program. By the end of the six weeks they gained many new volunteers and Sprouts members. Though new to fundraising, they did a remarkable job with gaining funds to support this important program. Ruth Leonard, former “Sprouts” Director for 18 years, returned to the program as a consultant and an art teacher.

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

Fundraising Programs – *The Beaux Arts Ball* is our largest fundraiser, generating proceeds of between \$55,000 and \$70,000. The success of the Ball is directly linked to the generosity of our benefactors and artists, whose donations of art for the auction build substantial proceeds. As a “thank you” to our artist members, each year an artist who donates work to the Silent Auction is randomly selected to receive two tickets to the Ball.

At the Ball we also honor those who have contributed substantially to the arts in Greene County. In 2014 our Distinguished Service Award was presented to two dynamic women, Betsy Jacks and Lisa Fox Martin who serve as Executive Director and president of the Board, respectively, at Cedar Grove. As a team they have brought the Thomas Cole National Historic Site to international attention. In 2015 we will be honoring the contributions of Natalia Sonevytsky, co-founder and President of the Music & Art Center of Greene County. Thanks to Natalia and a dedicated core of volunteers, The Music & Arts Center will be entering its 33rd year of presenting remarkable world class music, Ukrainian folk arts workshops and visual arts at the Grazhda in Jewett.

As an added element of fun and festivity, we encourage “creative” black tie and masks. For those who may not have a mask, we will have artist made masks available at the Ball. So, come join in the fun on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at the Copper Tree Restaurant at Hunter Mountain!

In the fall we offer our ***Garden Party*** at the Beattie-Powers Place, courtesy of the Friends of Beattie-Powers Place. This past September, our theme, Grazin’ Greene, featured a sampling of Greene County businesses and brought in over \$8000 to help support GCCA programming.

Major sponsorship from 20 different businesses and individuals helped with underwriting the production of the event. Over 175 members and friends attended and dined on a bounty of food donated by 25 restaurants. Nine specialty shops and another nine working GCCA Artist Members that set up as vendors allowed for the purchase of their original artwork and sampling of goods. 40 Greene County businesses and individuals donated items for Greene Luck Raffles- twice as many participants from 2013! Fun chairs painted during the Sprouts Program were offered in Silent Auction along with original art from area artists and crafters. Guests viewed set designs, books and artwork from the 2014 Sprouts Program. Local musicians, coordinated by Enrico Scull, came together to play live music and kept the crowd entertained. A wonderful time was had by all, so plan to attend next year.

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

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

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

Kay

Kay Stamer, Executive Director

David

David Slutzky, President Board of Directors