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ArtVORKST VIRGINIA

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The associate producing director of the Contemporary American Theater Festival discusses her life and work.

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8 Winners Named in 21st Biennial Juried Exhibition

Three Governor's Purchase Awards and the D. Gene Jordon Memorial Award topped the list of awards presented to a total of 21 winners.



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Four Moons Ago, a sculpture by Jo Perez, was among the artworks in the 21st Biennial West Virginia Juried Exhibition.

SPRING 2020



State of West Virginia Jim Justice, Governor



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Peggy McKowen: High Drama Queen

Interview by Elizabeth Yeager
Photos by Steve Brightwell



Peggy McKowen discusses her life in the theater.

In 2008, McKowen became the Contemporary American Theater Festival's associate producing director, where she designs costumes and sets. Her work has been critically acclaimed in national publications, including American Theatre, The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. She played a large part in the creation of Shepherd University's Contemporary Theater Studies major, which launched in the fall of 2017. McKowen's artistic accomplishments have impacted the Eastern Panhandle, the state of West Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic Region, national and international communities.

Founded in 1991, the Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) produces and develops new, American theater. Each July, CATF, a professional theater company produces six plays in rotating repertory, crafting the ultimate theater experience for both artists and audiences. CATF's unparalleled dedication to playwrights and passion to storytelling ignite breathtakingly bold theater. Of the CATF, The Washington Post has called it "one of the nation's most satisfying seasonal destinations for original drama," while the New York Times has said it has "substantial new plays" and "thought provoking works".

Let's start with a quick overview of you and your career.

I practically grew up in the theater because its where my mother worked when I was young. I always knew that the theater was a place I wanted to be. Even bigger – my family believed that the arts were essential in one's life and our communities so it never occurred to me that I should pursue any other calling.

I majored in theater in college at West Virginia University and then went on to get my M.F.A. from the University of Texas in theatrical design. After school I started freelancing and teaching. I started teaching at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and freelancing anywhere and everywhere I was offered work. I became the Resident Designer for the Jean Cocteau Repertory in New York City and really learned to be a designer and a theater artist at that theater working with truly extraordinary artists.

My freelance career has led to design gigs in Germany, Brazil, Scotland and China. My teaching career led to London and Rome and eventually to WVU where I became Chair of the Division of Theater and Dance. Now having been the Associate Producing Director at CATF for 14 years I have found a place that enables me to combine leadership and art – that challenges me every

day to be a better collaborator, communicator and storyteller through my management and design skills.

How did you get into designing?

I watched my mother design scenery and costumes and just felt like it was inherent in the way I thought. I participated in "behind the scenes" work and on-stage as an actor

A view of the exhibition at the Culture Center in September 2019.





Above: McKowen encourages visitors to stop and touch the fabrics used to create a character's ensemble.

Below: A close up of a costume from A Welcome Guest: A Psychotic Fairy Tale.



throughout junior high and high school. I designed my first set for a local community theater when I was in junior high.

Did you always know designing was something you would want to do?

Yes. Designing just felt more like the perspective from which the audience experienced the play – that I was sitting in the audience creating from the position that the audience would ultimately be, and I liked that feeling better than any other aspect of the theater. I also like having the ability to really shape the world of the play the characters and the mood. In addition, a designer, especially a costume designer really touches all the people in the process of making the play and that's cool too.

When did you know?

I probably consciously made that decision in high school, but I think I was born that way.

Explain/describe the High Drama exhibit.

The exhibition is a combination of process and product from the theatrical designers of CATF. The works shows, research, preliminary sketches, final drawings, drafting, and models that illuminate the way the world of a play is created. Many of the pieces are the results of that process including furnishings, props and costumes - costumes that show wigs, shoes, jewelry and every detail that an actor may have worn on stage. Since the mission of CATF is to produce new plays I tried to include a brief synopsis of all the plays so the pieces would have some story context. Finally, there is a little section of the exhibition where guests can touch various textures, pick up swatches and samples and "touch" materials used in many of the pieces.

How did you pick which pieces to include in *High Drama*?

I tried to pick pieces that represented "period" clothing or items that guests would immediately identify as costumes and then tried to include costumes that were particularly unique or unusual – ones that would prompt guests to really look more deeply at the creative process of theatrical designers. I hope that guests will begin to see that costumes, or scenery or props come from a real creative thinking and visualizing endeavor in addition to patterning, sewing and building.

When making costumes in general, where do you find your inspiration?

Research! It is important to truly examine what people wear and then allow color, texture and line to reshape what one has learned from the research. In designing new plays inspiration often comes when you work with the playwright to fine-tune a character or with an actor who is detailing the life of that character in rehearsal.

If you could design for anyone and/ or any show, who/what would it be and what would you do?

I choose the plays that I design based on the people working on the project and the potential for creative interpretation in the project. Sometimes I just want to do a big pretty, period show but mostly I want to do something a "little out of the box" with collaborators that inspire and challenge me. And, okay, yes, I'd do a season of *The Masked Singer* if I could.

You were named the Artist of the Year at the 2018 Governor's Arts Awards. Did this come as a surprise?

Yes! Honestly it did. I wondered if people would really look at the work of a costume designer and consider it 'art'. So, I must say I was very honored and humbled that I was considered an artist by folks outside of the theater.



A close up of a costume from A Welcome Guest: A Psychotic Fairy Tale.

What have you learned in your years of designing? Do you have any experiences/highs/lows that had a significant impact on your career?

This is a funny time for me now. On the one hand I'm receiving more recognition as a designer and artist but unfortunately on the other hand designing less. I'd like to ramp up my design opportunities a bit because I am just now feeling like I know how to design, and I want to do more. The thing I have learned the most is to pay attention and to listen to all the artists in the process and that nothing is truly precious about what we create until shared and experienced with an audience.

What advice do you have for young designers?

Work – just work. In the beginning I took almost every gig I could get, and I learned so much from every show I did even if it wasn't ultimately my best work or the best situation. Plus, I met many collaborators along the way that have become my favorite people to work with regardless of the project or the theater.

What are your hopes/plans/goals for the future?

I think I'll take my own advice. I'd just like to keep working – to keep creating and to keep getting better.

More than \$1.5 million in FY20 Grants Awarded for WV Artists and Organizations

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, along with the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, approved and awarded \$1,567,768.00 in the first cycle of grant funding for Fiscal Year 2020. Individual artists, nonprofit arts and community organizations, public educational institutions, school boards, local and county government agencies, and colleges and universities are eligible for these funds, which are approved by the West Virginia Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. The first round of FY20 recipients were:

Arts in Education

Provides funding for in-school and out-of-school curriculum-based arts education projects, and projects that expose students in pre-K through 12th grade to professional performing, literary and visual arts experiences. Total: \$105,038



ArtsBank, Inc.

Elkins, Randolph County \$5,000 for contracted artist/ professional fees and supplies, enabling teaching artists to collaborate with classroom teachers to provide integrated arts curriculum in three rural elementary schools.

Charles T. "Chuck" Mathena II Foundation

Princeton, Mercer County \$4,400 for contracted artist/ professional fees, in support of a series of literature-based theatrical performances for PK-5 students in a seven-county area.

Greenbrier County Schools

Lewisburg, Greenbrier County \$3,154 for contracted artist/ professional fees, supporting Spotlight on Schools performances by Terrance Simien for students in grades 3-5.

Greenbrier County Schools

Lewisburg, Greenbrier County \$15,643 for contracted artist/ professional fees and supplies in support of Carnegie Classrooms, providing multi-disciplinary artist-led workshops in 163 classrooms.

High Rocks Educational Corporation

Hillsboro, Pocahontas County \$9,998 for contracted artist/ professional fees and supplies in support of arts education at Camp Steele and New Beginnings, two summer camp programs for girls.

Kanawha County Schools

Charleston, Kanawha County \$14,250 for contracted artist/ professional fees, in support of dance performances and arts integration workshops in 12 county schools.

Kanawha Valley FOOTMAD

Charleston, Kanawha County \$5,100 for contracted artist/ professional fees and travel expenses supporting Dance of Hope, a oneweek residency at Stonewall Jackson Middle School.

Mid-Ohio Valley Symphony Society

Vienna, Wood County \$7,700 for contracted artist/ professional fees, in support of Young People's Concerts performed by the WV Symphony and OhioBrass Quintet in Wood County elementary schools.

Ruffner Elementary School

Charleston, Kanawha County \$4,125 for contracted artist/ professional fees and supplies, supporting an eight-week teaching artist residency exploring the music and dance of Africa and Appalachia.

Upshur County Schools

Buckhannon, Upshur County \$12,000 for contracted artist/ professional fees, in support of 9 dance performances and 12 arts integration workshops for elementary, middle and secondary students.

West Virginia Professional Dance Company

Beckley, Raleigh County \$15,000 for contracted artist/ professional fees, in support of a 12-school tour featuring dance performances and arts-integrated workshops for K-12 students.

West Virginia Youth Symphony

Charleston, Kanawha County \$5,490 for contracted artist/ professional fees and supplies, supporting professional musicians coaching and teaching student musicians in ensemble performance skills.

Yew Mountain Center

Hillsboro, Pocahontas County \$3,178 for contracted artist/ professional fees and supplies, supporting a summer arts camp combining classical and folk styles for young string musicians.

Arts Partners

Provides general operating support to long-standing, stable arts organizations.
Total: \$520,922.00

ArtsBridge, Inc.

Parkersburg, Wood County \$20,384.00

Carnegie Hall Inc.

Lewisburg, Greenbrier County \$ 49,311.00

Charleston Ballet, Inc.

Charleston, Kanawha County \$32,326.00

Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences

Charleston, Kanawha County \$54,223.00

Greenbrier Repertory Theatre Company

Lewisburg, Greenbrier County \$44,803.00

Huntington Museum of Art, Inc.

Huntington, Cabell County \$62,792.00

Morgan Arts Council, Inc.

Berkeley Springs, Morgan County \$19,782.00

Oglebay Institute

Wheeling, Ohio County \$75,593.00

Parkersburg Art Center, Inc.

Parkersburg, Wood County \$35,185.00

Randolph County Community Arts

Elkins, Randolph County \$12,726.00

WV Symphony Orchestra, Inc.

Charleston, Kanawha County \$65,141.00

Wheeling Symphony Society Inc.

Wheeling, Ohio County \$48,656.00

Community Arts Project Support

Provides support for projects that offer arts programming to the public and planning and organizational

development projects that strengthen West Virginia arts organizations. Total: \$255,935.00

Appalachian South Folklife Center

Pipestem, Summers County \$4,894.00 for public performances at the Culturefest World Music and Arts Festival.

Arts & Humanities Alliance of Jefferson Co.

Shepherdstown, Jefferson County \$5,000.00 for the Teaching Arts Creatively regranting program.

Arts Monongahela, Inc.

Morgantown, Monongalia County \$10,500.00 for staffing support.

ArtsLink, Inc.

New Martinsville, Wetzel County \$10,997.00 for a regranting program; a series of public performances; and educational concerts.

Charles T. "Chuck" Mathena II Foundation, Inc.

Princeton, Mercer County \$20,000.00 for Missoula Children's Theatre, a production of A Christmas Carol; and a series of musical performances.

Charleston Chamber Music Society

Charleston, Kanawha County \$3,749.00 for a series of public performances.

Children's Theatre of Charleston

Charleston, Kanawha County \$13,631.00 for staffing support and production of three performances.

contemporary american theater festival

Contemporary American Theater Festival

Shepherdstown, Jefferson County \$20,000.00 for production of a series of new plays.

Davis & Elkins College, Inc.

Elkins, Randolph County \$20,000.00 for programming and instruction in traditional cultures, music, dance, crafts, and folklore.

Fairmont Chamber Music Society

Fairmont, Marion County \$5,225.00 for a series of public performances.

Festiv-ALL Charleston, WV Inc.

Charleston, Kanawha County \$4,290.00 for a public performance by Airplay during FestivALL 2020.

Friends of the Alban Arts & Conference Center

Saint Albans, Kanawha County \$7,744.00 for four productions.

Friends of Music

Shepherdstown, Jefferson County \$13,841.00 for a series of public performances.



Highland Arts Unlimited, Inc.

Keyser, Mineral County \$8,288.00 for a series of public performances.

Kanawha Valley FOOTMAD

Charleston, Kanawha County \$7,900.00 for a series of public performances.

Mid-Ohio Valley Symphony Society

Vienna, Wood County \$9,000.00 for a series of public performances.

Old Opera House Theatre Company, Inc.

Charles Town, Jefferson County \$15,000.00 for staffing support.

Pocahontas Co. Opera House Foundation, Inc.

Marlinton, Pocahontas County \$11,775.00 for Missoula Children's Theatre and a series of public performances.

The River House, Inc.

Capon Bridge, Hampshire County \$2,505.00 for a summer and fall performing arts series; and community chorus.

Trillium Collective LTD

Lewisburg, Greenbrier County \$11,475.00 for a public performance series and performing youth program.

WV Arts Presenters, Inc.

New Martinsville, Wetzel County \$15,000.00 for two touring productions to perform around the state.

WV Foundation for Architecture

Charleston, Kanawha County \$2,741.00 for production of a film documenting Bauhaus architecture of the mid-20th century in West Virginia.

WV Professional Dance Company

Beckley, Raleigh County \$12,400.00 for production of two new works to be incorporated in public performances.

Youth Museum of Southern WV

Beckley, Raleigh County \$20,000.00 for two educational exhibits.

Cultural Facilities and Capitol Resources

Provides support for the acquisition, construction and renovation of arts venues, accessibility improvements and capital purchases of durable equipment.

Total: \$649,750.00

Carnegie Hall, Inc.

Lewisburg, Greenbrier County \$219,404.00 for auditorium seat replacement.

Valley High School

Pine Grove, Wetzel County \$20,853.00 for curtain replacement and projector upgrades.



City of Mannington

Mannington, Marion County \$60,000.00 for construction of a new amphitheater.

Actors Guild of Parkersburg

Parkersburg, Wood County \$99,736.00 for playhouse renovation.

WV Museum of American Glass

Weston, Lewis County \$7,500.00 for floor replacement.

Friends of Ashby's Fort

Fort Ashby, Mineral County \$57,400.00 for creation of a visitors center.

Charles T. "Chuck" Mathena Foundation, Inc.

Princeton, Mercer County \$83,585.00 for theater equipment upgrades.

City of Buckhannon

Buckhannon, Upshur County \$67,000.00 for Colonial Theater renovation.

Old Opera House Theatre Company

Charles Town, Jefferson County \$34,272.00 for renovation of administrative space.

Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Fast Track

Provides emergency support for the acquisition, construction and renovation of arts venues, accessibility improvements and capital purchases of durable equipment. Total: \$12,000.00

Strand Theater Preservation Society

Moundsville, Marshall County \$2,000.00 for catwalk ladder replacement.

Gary Bowling's House of Art

Bluefield, Mercer County \$10,000.00 for roof replacement.

EZ Arts Access

Provides support for small communities and organizations with small operating budgets (\$50,000 and under).
Total: \$6,764.00

Experience the Arts, Inc.

Marlinton, Pocahontas County \$2,848.00 for Watoga Art in the Park.

Harrison County WV Historical Society

Clarksburg, Harrison County \$2,816.00 for a presentation of Real Talk on Realities for Victorian Ladies.

Huntington Old Time Dance and Music, Inc.

Huntington, Cabell County \$1,100.00 for a series of public dances and performances.

Mini Grants

Provides support for schools, nonprofit community arts organizations and other nonprofit sponsors that do not present a season of events, for the presentation of West Virginia artists in workshops or performances.

Total: \$10,324

Adaland Mansion Development

Philippi, Barbour County \$325 for presentation of Vintage Theatre Company/Rustic Mechanicals.

Almost Heaven BBQ Bash

Roanoke, Lewis County \$1,000 for presentation of musicians at BBQ Festival.

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc.

Elkins, Randolph County \$350 for presentation of musicians at Tunes on the Tracks Old-Time Music Showcase.

Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.

Arthurdale, Preston County \$775 for presentation of musicians at New Deal Festival.

ArtSpring, Inc.

Thomas, Tucker County \$1,000 for presentation of musicians at ArtSpring Festival.

Boone County Community & Economic Development Corp.

Madison, Boone County \$375 for presentation of "Coal Camp Memories" theatrical performance.

Charleston WV Blues Society

Charleston, Kanawha County \$650 for presentation of musicians at Chandler Alternative Learning Center.

Cougar Vision Alliance for Students

Baker, Hardy County \$1,000 for presentation of dance performances at East Hardy Early/ Middle and High Schools.

Elkins Main Street, Inc.

Elkins, Randolph County \$1,000 for presentation of ten jazz artists at the Elkins Jazz Walk.

Hampshire County Arts Council

Romney, Hampshire County \$625 for presentation of musicians at the Hampshire Highlands Arts & Music Festival

Hodgesville Elementary School

Hodgesville, Upshur County \$187 for presentation of Adam Booth storytelling performance.

Holly River State Park Foundation

Hacker Valley, Webster County \$600 for presentation of musicians at the Holly River Festival.

Pocahontas County Arts Council

Green Bank, Pocahontas County

\$1,000 for artist workshops and community-based arts classes.

Rock Cave Elementary School

Rock Cave, Upshur County \$187 for presentation of Adam Booth storytelling performance.

St. Francis De Sales School

Beckley, Raleigh County \$1,000 for presentation of dance performance and arts-integrated workshop

Webster Springs Main Street

Webster Springs, Webster County \$250 for presentation of musicians at Burgoo Down Home Days

Professional Development for Artists & Artisans

Provides support for professional and emerging artists to expand or improve their work or share their expertise. Total: \$5,665.00

Adam Booth

Shepherdstown, Jefferson County \$1,287.00 to cover travel and lodging expenses while researching archives and visiting keepers of the oral tradition across the state in order to learn ballads and singing styles.



Virginia Danz

Fayetteville, Fayette County \$1,500.00 to attend an immersive abstract art-making experience at the largest contemporary art museum in the United States.

Fred Powers

Bluefield, Mercer County \$384.00 to assist with expenses associated with storytelling workshops at Wild Acres Retreat in North Carolina.



Denise Roberts

Albright, Preston County \$2,494.00 to purchase fabric and dyes for a solo exhibition.

Training and Travel for Individual Artists

Provides travel support to artists, arts administrators and arts educators for conferences, workshops, seminars and showcases outside of West Virginia. Total: \$1,370.00

Cynthia Dearborn

Milton, Cabell County \$200.00 to attend the 2019 National Docent Symposium.

Brian Fencl

Wheeling, Ohio County \$270.00 to attend the Cuttyhunk Island Artists' Residency's Fall Artist Residency Program.

Renée Margocee

Charleston, Kanawha County \$300.00 to attend the 2019 Haystack Summer Conference.

Jonas Thoms

Morgantown, Monongalia County \$300.00 to attend the 51st International Horn Symposium

Jennifer Weingardt

Huntington, Cabell County \$300 to attend the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Maryland/Delaware/West Virginia Fall Focus Retreat at the Beach 2019.



One section of the West Virginia Juried Exhibition display at the Culture Center.

Winners Named in 21st Biennial WV Juried Exhibition

Christopher M. Rodgers of Charleston, Robert Villamagna of Wheeling, and Thomas Warton of Wheeling took home the top awards as the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) announced the winners of the 21st biennial West Virginia Juried Exhibition in October. One hundred one West Virginia artists, of which 18 were awarded monetary prizes, were selected for the exhibit. It featured 131 pieces, including painting, drawing, mixed media, craft, photography, digital art, sculpture and print. All were on display at the Culture Center in Charleston.

"The West Virginia Juried Exhibition

Robert Villamagna's *Siblings* was honored with a Governor's Award and the Gene D. Jordon Memorial Award. Villamagna lives and works in Wheeling.



has continued its tradition of presenting the best mixture of our state's well-known and emerging artists," said WVDACH Curator Randall Reid-Smith. "We were pleased to open this year's exhibit back in Charleston. It was the first time since the 2005 Juried Exhibition that the Culture Center has been the host of the opening exhibit." In past years, the exhibition has been in Beckley, Martinsburg, Wheeling, Huntington, Parkersburg and Morgantown.

The department presented \$33,000 in awards for the exhibition. The awards are made available through the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the WVDACH through funds appropriated by the West Virginia Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. Awards included three \$5,000 Governor's Awards (purchase awards), seven \$2,000 Awards of Excellence (purchase awards) and eight \$500 Merit Awards (non-purchase awards). Works receiving Purchase Awards become part of the West Virginia State Museum's permanent art collection. A complete list of winners follows.

Winners

Governor's Awards

Christopher M. Rogers Charleston, Kanawha County Untitled (Collection) - Sculpture

Robert Villamagna Wheeling, Ohio County Siblings - Mixed Media D. Gene Jordon Memorial Award

Thomas Wharton Wheeling, Ohio County A Sunny Disposition - Painting

Awards of Excellence

Alex Brand Lewisburg, Greenbrier County Rainbow Platter - Crafts

Betsy Cox Glen Dale, Marshall County Ghost Cactus Form - Crafts

Clayborn Dotson Williamson, Mingo County King Strut - Crafts

Donald Earley Greenville, Monroe County Rocking Horse - Drawing/Painting

Barrie Kaufman Charleston, Kanawha County Paradox - Sculpture

Martyna Matusiak Wheeling, Ohio County Soft at the Edges - Mixed Media

Naijun Zhang Morgantown, Monongalia County Woman Holding A Rag - Painting

Merit Awards

Madison Cochran Marmet, Kanawha County Monsters Under the Bed (Part 1) -Mixed Media

Chuck Conner Spencer, Roane County Mother Jude - Photography

Mike Danko Parkersburg, Wood County Bridge at Cedar Lakes - Crafts Alison Helm

Morgantown, Monongalia County Landscape Disrupted - Sculpture

Suzan Morgan Buckhannon, Upshur County Who Will Be Next? - Crafts

Nicole Suptic White Oak, Raleigh County Country Roads Series; Sunset - Drawing

Nevada Tribble Elkins, Randolph County Gaudineer Knob from Memory -Sculpture

Shea Wells Fayetteville, Fayette County Homage to Mondrian - Crafts

The following artists, by county, were also featured in the exhibition:

Barbour

Leah Seaman, Moatsville - Mixed Media Jeni Stewart, Philippi - Mixed Media

Berkeley

Dennis Clarke, Martinsburg - Painting

Braxton

Steve Balcourt, Exchange -Photography

Brooke

James Haizlett, Wellsburg - Sculpture Herb Weaver, Bethany - Mixed Media

Cabell

Larry Keith Brumfield, Barboursville -**Painting** Vernon F. Howell, Barboursville -Mixed Media Anthony Kelly, Milton - Sculpture Sandra Reed, Huntington - Print Jesse Thornton, Huntington -Photography

Brian Michael Reed, Ivydale - Painting

Fayette

Ginger Danz, Fayetteville - Painting Machele Kindle, Montgomery - Crafts

Greenbrier

Adrienne Belafonte Biesemeyer, Alderson - Mixed Media Jo Perez, Alderson – Sculpture/Crafts

Hampshire

Susan L. Feller, Augusta - Crafts

Harrison

Stacey Oxley, Clarksburg - Mixed Media

Jackson

Larry Weese, Jr., Ravenswood - Crafts

Jefferson

Bruce Fransen, Harpers Ferry -Sculpture Patricia Perry, Shenandoah Junction -**Painting** Diana Suttenfield, Shepherdstown -**Painting**

Kanawha Dick Allowatt, St. Albans - Mixed Media Canyon K. Beary, Sissonville -Photography Laura Chapman, Elkview - Painting Joyce Waltz Daniels, Charleston -Mixed Media Chris Dutch, Charleston - Crafts Ross Estep, South Charleston - Crafts Tonie Garrett, Saint Albans - Painting Frank Gourley, Charleston - Crafts Michael Keller, Saint Albans -**Photography** Thorney Lieberman, Charleston -**Photography** Bennett Life, Charleston - Crafts Ric MacDowell, Charleston -**Photography** Betty McMullen, Charleston - Painting Jennifer Mullins, Charleston - Crafts Tori Myres, Charleston - Digital Art Janet Parker, Charleston - Painting Taylor W. Raab, Charleston -Photography Steven Wayne Rotsch, Charleston -**Photography**

Ellie Schaul, Charleston - Painting Clayton E. Spangler II, Charleston -Photography

Regina Swim, Charleston - Crafts Cynthia Walton, Charleston - Painting Donna Wood, Charleston - Painting

Todd Turner, Weston - Crafts

Lincoln

Eddie Austin, Hamlin - Crafts Jim Probst, Hamlin - Crafts

Marion

Stephanie Dulaney, Fairmont - Crafts

Mingo

Woodrow Baisden, Breeden -Sculpture Randall Sanger, Williamson -Photography

Monongalia

John Michael Barone, Morgantown -Painting

Mimmie Byrne, Morgantown - Painting

Betsy Jaeger, Morgantown - Mixed Media

Stephen Lawson, Morgantown - Photography

Raymond Thompson Jr., Morgantown

- Photography

Jenny Wilson, Morgantown - Painting

Nicholas

Anne Johnson, Summersville - Photography

Ohio

Cheryl Ryan Harshman, Wheeling - Print

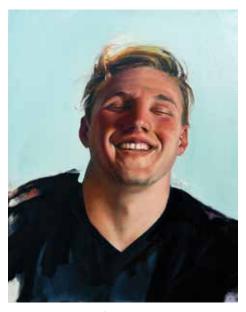
Nancy Tirone, Tridelphia - Mixed Media

Pendleton

F. Brown Steele, Franklin – Painting/ Drawing

Pleasants

Michele Binegar, Saint Marys -Painting





More winners of Governor's Awards in the West Virginia Juried Exhition. Left; A Sunny Disposition, a painting by Wheeling artist Thomas Wharton. Right: Untitled (Collection), sculpture by Christopher M. Rodgers of Charleston.

Jon Kevin Dalton, Saint Marys - Painting

Pocahontas

Laurie Cameron, Hillsboro -Photography

Preston

Randy B. Williams, Independence - Painting

Putnam

Pat Cross, Eleanor - Painting Anna Toler Frazier, Fraziers Bottom -Mixed Media Randy Selbe, Hurricane - Crafts Patty Stewart, Scott Depot – Painting

Raleigh

Brent A. Woodard, Beckley - Mixed Media

Randolph

Becky Blackley, Elkins - Crafts Kilsong Cox, Elkins - Photography

Roane

Domi Williams, Spencer - Painting

Tucker

David S. Johnston, Dryfork - Photography

Upshur

Levi Bender, Buckhannon - Mixed Media

Wayne

Romey Williamson, Lavalette - Drawing

Wood

Hemlock Hyde, Vienna - Painting Judah John Hyde, Vienna - Drawing Akemi Matsumoto, Vienna - Painting Jeff Morehead and Becky Anderson, Mineral Wells - Photography Christine Rhodes, Parkersburg -Painting Norm Sartorius, Parkersburg -Sculpture Jonathan Walsh, Vienna – Sculpture





Flanked by costumed suffragettes, West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner addresses attendees at a reception kicking off a year of commemorative events to celebrate the Suffrage Centennial.

WV Women Vote 100: State Celebrates Suffrage Centennial

On January 8, women in white blouses, floor-length black skirts, and fancy hats gathered in the Great Hall of the Culture Center. They came to kick off West Virginia's yearlong centennial commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which in 1920 established women's voting rights in the United States.

Designating 2020 as "the year of the woman," West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner saluted the costumed suffragettes, read a proclamation from Governor Justice, and unveiled an official logo to mark West Virginia's celebration of the centennial.

West Virginians are marking the anniversary with a number of events during the year, including the following:

During February and March, West Virginia Public Broadcasting network featured "100 Years: A Celebration of Women's Suffrage," a series of two-minute remembrances of the fight for voting rights. The essays are now available for streaming at wvpublic. org.

On June 17, the Kanawha Valley chapter of the National Organization for Women will present an original play, *Inalienable Rights: West Virginia*

Women Battle for the Vote. Written by Dan Kehde and produced by Mariette Clinton, the two-act play dramatizes the fight for the vote between 1848 and 1920 in many quick vignettes. Music and background photos will add to the drama onstage. The play takes place in Walker Theater at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences, in Charleston.

Funding for a number of the public events is provided by the West Virginia Humanities Council, the

Charles and Mary Fayne Glotfelty Foundation, Mike Kelly Law, Henson and Kinney PLLC, and Ray, Winton and Kelly PLLC.

A growing list of other celebratory events throughout the state — documentary films, lectures, teas, an art exhibition, an opera, and voter registration drives — may be found at the Secretary of State's website. On Facebook, search "West Virginia Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment" for more information.



Reception attendees gather for the unveiling of the centennial logo. In an artist's statement, designer Colleen Anderson wrote: "Voting is one of the few powers women share equally with men. To decline it is a renunciation of the time and efforts, the tears and sacrifices, of our foremothers. To take that power, and use it wisely, is every woman's privilege and duty."



Shenandoah Junction Wins Grant to Present the Levitt AMP Shenandoah Junction Music Series

In December, the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation named Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia, as one of 20 small to mid-sized towns and cities across America to win a Levitt AMP Grant Award of \$25K in matching funds to present a free concert series at the AMP at Sam Michaels Park. Jefferson County Parks and Recreation submitted the Levitt AMP proposal.

In July 2019, the Levitt Foundation invited nonprofits to submit proposals that would reflect the three goals of the Levitt AMP awards: Amplify community pride and the city's unique character; enrich lives through the power of free, live Music; and illustrate the importance of vibrant public Places. Nonprofits that received a previous Levitt AMP grant were eligible to reapply. To inspire and engage communities across the country around the power of creative placemaking, the Levitt Foundation opened the selection process to the public to choose the top 25 finalists.

The public voted on the submitted proposals over a three-week period in November, selecting their favorite projects online.

"We are thrilled to announce the 2020 Levitt AMP Grant Awards winners, and express our appreciation to everyone who voted online to choose the finalists," says Sharon Yazowski, executive director of the Levitt Foundation. "The first Levitt AMP Shenandoah Junction Music Series, presented by Jefferson County Parks and Recreation, will spotlight community pride in this historically significant area while bringing new energy to the AMP at Sam Michaels Park."

The 2020 Levitt AMP winners

include 5 new and 15 returning grantees from a broad range of communities: rural towns with populations of less than 5,000 like Shenandoah Junction, W.Va.; Houston, Miss.; and Soldotna, Alaska: mid-sized cities like Carson City, Nev.; Stevens Point, Wis.; and Woonsocket, R.I.; and larger cities with populations of 80,000 to 115,000 like Merced, Calif.; Fort Smith, Ark.; and Springfield, Ill. Each winner will present 10 free concerts featuring a diverse lineup of high-caliber entertainment as part of the Levitt AMP Music Series, for a total of 200 free Levitt AMP concerts across the U.S. in 2020.

The Levitt AMP Shenandoah Junction Music Series presented by Jefferson County Parks and Recreation at "The Amp" marks the next chapter in the decades-long journey to create a vibrant, music-







filled community gathering place in the 130-acre Sam Michaels Park. The Levitt AMP Music Series will elevate and expand the amphitheater's existing concert series, bringing together people from throughout the area to enjoy world-class music while building community.



About the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation

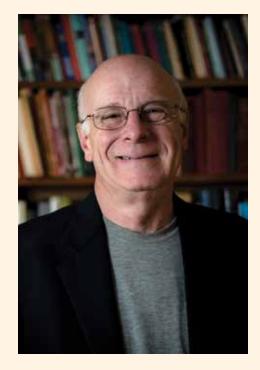
The Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation is a private foundation that exists to strengthen the social fabric of America. Through its support of creative placemaking, the **Levitt Foundation empowers** communities to transform underused public spaces into welcoming destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together and invigorates community life. The foundation's primary funding areas include permanent Levitt venues and the Levitt AMP [Your Cityl Grant Awards, an annual grants competition. During the past decade, the foundation has awarded more than \$20 million in grants to support access to free, highcaliber live music experiences while bringing new life to public spaces. Learn more at levitt.org

WV Poet Laureate Wins Poetry Center Award

Marc Harshman, poet laureate of West Virginia, has been named the co-winner of the 2019 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards for his poem "Poet in the Schools." He shares the first-place spot with Francesca Maxime of Brooklyn, NY.

In February of 2020, Harshman and Maxime recited their respective winning poems at The Poetry Center's home base, the historic Hamilton Club Building, located on the Paterson campus of Passaic County Community College (PCCC). Their poems will be published in Issue #48 of the Paterson Literary Review.

The Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards aims to honor Ginsberg's



contributions to American literature and his Paterson, NJ upbringing. This award comes from The Poetry Center based at PCCC. The center was founded in 1980 by award-winning poet and executive director Maria Mazziotti Gillan.
Through the years it has hosted a multitude of poets including poet laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, and poets of national and international recognition. Readings at the center have included Allen Ginsberg, Amiri Baraka, Lucille Clifton, Stanley Kunitz, Ruth Stone, Marge Piercy, Billy Collins, Richard Blanco, Patricia Smith and many others.

Appointed in 2012, Harshman is the seventh poet laureate of West Virginia. He has won many awards for his poetry including the more recent Weatherford Award and the 2017 Blue Lynx Prize. Harshman has published poetry collections and children's books, been published in periodicals, and had his poems anthologized by Kent State University, University of Iowa, University of Georgia, and University of Arizona. He resides in Wheeling, Ohio County.

NASAA Elects New 2020 Board Chair, Directors

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) announced the election of a new chair and five new members to its board of directors. As part of a rigorous national nomination process, state arts agencies elected these exemplary leaders at the NASAA 2019 Leadership Institute in Providence, Rhode Island. The new chair, Suzanne Wise, executive director of the Nebraska Arts Council, will serve a two-year term. Three new members drawn from the state arts agency field will each serve a three-year term: Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Executive Director Karl Blischke, ArtsWA Executive Director Karen Hanan, and Louisiana State Arts Council Member Gene Meneray. Mary V. Bordeaux, First Peoples Fund Vice President of Programs and MUSE Research Principal Ivonne Chand

O'Neal, both new at-large members will each serve a two-year term.

In addition to these new directors, Amber Sharples, executive director of the Oklahoma Arts Council, was elected to a second three-year term.

"We are delighted that the membership has elected Suzanne as our chair," said NASAA President and CEO Pam Breaux. "We heartily welcome Karl, Mary, Karen, Gene and Ivonne to the NASAA board and are pleased that Amber will continue her service. These experienced leaders bring a breadth of knowledge, strong commitments to serving the public and a sincere passion for the arts. We are eager to work with this new team and we welcome their expertise and quidance."

Per NASAA's bylaws, the board elected these officers:

1st Vice Chair: Omari Rush, Chair,

Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs

2nd Vice Chair: Amber Sharples, Executive Director, Oklahoma Arts Council

Secretary: Stephanie Conner, Council Member, Tennessee Arts Commission

Treasurer: Karen Paty, Executive Director, Georgia Council for the Arts

"The 2020 NASAA board represents strong and committed leadership from state arts agencies and the wider arts and culture field," said NASAA Chair Suzanne Wise. "I am excited to work with these outstanding leaders as we advance NASAA's mission to strengthen state arts agencies and continue to advocate for the value of the arts across all communities." For more information on NASAA's board members, visit www.nasaa.org.

Gallery 35

Gallery 35: Art from the Mountain State

features new work by West Virginia artists in each issue. If you are a West Virginia artist who would like your art shown in an upcoming issue, contact Jack O'Hearn at Jack.J.Ohearn@wv.gov for complete submission guidelines. To assure the best reproduction, photos of your work should be jpg images that measure 2400 pixels on the longest side, if possible.











Opposite page, clockwise from top:

Jeff Greenham - Morgantown, Monongalia County - *Cone Vase*, Glazed Porcelain
Jo Perez - Alderson, Greenbrier County - *Cherry Blossom Andon*, Stained glass and wood
Kimberly Joy - Thomas, Tucker County - *Variation #7*, Reclaimed leather remnants
John D'Amico - Romney, Hampshire County - *Blue Bell Morning Sparkle*, Sherman
Williams Exterior Latex Paint



This page, clockwise from top left:

Brian Fencl - Wheeling, Ohio County View of Canapitsit Channel (Cuttyhunk Island), Oil on panel

Eric Pardue - Milton, Cabell County Wounded

Earthenware with glaze, slips, commercial and artist made decals

Steve Konya II - Fairmont, Marion County Elkins Snow and Fog, Photograph



Grant Opportunities for Artists and Organizations

Arts in Education

Deadline: April 1

Provides support for curriculumbased hands-on projects that involve K-12 students and teachers in 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.

Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources

Letter of intent: February 1 Deadline: April 1

Provides support for acquisition, construction, renovation, accessibility improvements and capital purchases of durable equipment.

Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources - Fast Track

Application Deadline: Rolling

Provides emergency support for the acquisition, construction and renovation of arts venues, accessibility improvements and capital purchases of durable equipment.

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.

Mini Grants

Deadline: 6 weeks prior to project date

Provides support for schools, nonprofit organizations or other nonprofit sponsors that do not present a season of events.

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.

Professional Development for Artists

Deadline: February 1/October 1

Provides support for professional artist organizations seeking ways to expand or improve their work or share their experiences.

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 of West Virginia.

Submit to ArtWorks!

Does your arts organization deserve to be in the spotlight? Are you an artist who attended a good conference or workshop? Do you have an idea for a great story? Whatever it is, email it to elizabeth.a.yeager@wv.gov with the subject "ArtWorks Submission" and your idea could be published in an upcoming issue of *ArtWorks*.

Peer Assistant Networks (PAN)

The West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) allows arts organizations two PAN sessions per year, free of charge. Sessions lasts an average of two to four hours and can range anywhere from starting a non-profit and organizational development, to marketing and fundraising strategies, to lighting design and festival planning. Sessions can involve an organization's whole board of directors or only one to two staff members. The WVCA has a designated group of peer advisors that are paired to fit an organization's needs. These advisors have experience in the arts community in West Virginia and expertise in a range of fields. For more information about the Peer Assistance Network, contact Jack O'Hearn at Jack.J.OHearn@wv.gov or by calling (304) 558-0240.

West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History • Arts Section

304.558.0240



Lance Schrader is the Director of Arts for the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History and is responsible for administering the division's art programs, which include arts administration services, as well as state and federal grants for West Virginia's arts organizations, individual artists, schools and communities.

Lance.E.Schrader@wv.gov



Jenna Green is the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grant Coordinator and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Coordinator. She administers the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grant and Fast Track Grant programs. She also reviews the accessibility of facilities and programs to ensure inclusion of all people.

Jenna.R.Green@wv.gov



Paul Neil is the Secretary for the Arts Office. He assists the Director of the Arts and all the Coordinators with Arts Office grant programs and activities, and he provides creative input and whatever clerical support is needed.

Paul.R.Neil@wv.gov



Jack O'Hearn is the Community
Arts Coordinator. He oversees and
proved technical assistance to the
Arts Partners, Community Arts Project
Support, and EZ Arts Access grant
programs.

Jack.J.Ohearn@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 manages the Peer Assistance Network.

Barbie.J.Smoot@wv.gov



Jim Wolfe is the Arts in Education Coordinator. He administers the Arts in Education and Mini-Grant programs, and is the state coordinator for Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest for high school students. He is also the host of the monthly television show, ArtWorks.

James.D.Wolfe@wv.gov



Elizabeth Yeager 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 and Training & Travel grant programs. She also is the editor of the agency's quarterly publication ArtWorks West Virginia.

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