



ARTWORKS

A PUBLICATION OF WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF CULTURE AND HISTORY



FALL 2011

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Commission Chair Susan Landis

West Virginians value creative problem solving. Creativity is important in all aspects of our lives.

The National Endowment for the Arts has published a research report called "Artists in the Workforce." It noted that two million Americans describe their primary occupation as artist. Artists represent a larger group than the legal profession, medical doctors, or agricultural workers. In terms of sheer numbers, artists are workers who play an important role not only in terms of our general cultural vitality, but also within our economy.

Yet the impact of the arts goes far beyond the contributions of our visual and performing artists. Creative workers are solving serious problems related to technology, transportation,

energy use, food production and international relations. We need to recognize the value of offering arts education and arts experiences in terms of economic benefits, recreation, cultural stimulation, and the enhancement of our ability to think creatively.

ARTWORKS:

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PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHER: Tyler Evert

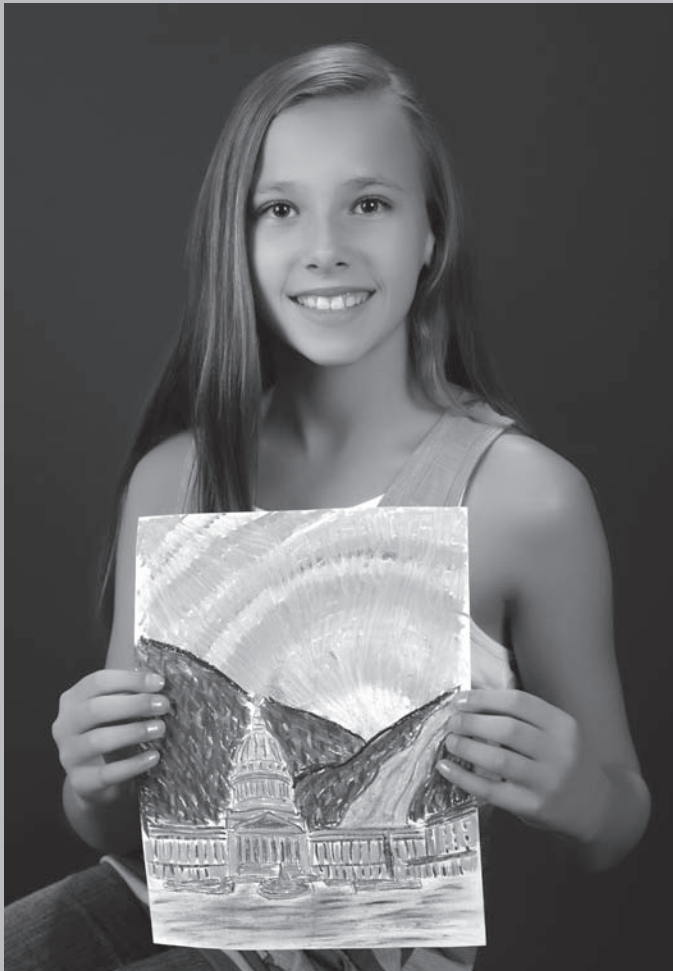
DESIGN BY: Jeff Pierson

COVER IMAGE: "Almost Heaven" oil pastel on paper. by Karly O'Dell

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COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES: KENNA ELEMENTARY STUDENT WINS COVER CONTEST

BY CAROLYN ROSE GARCIA



ArtWorks cover contest winner Karly O'Dell. Photo by Tyler Evert

Since it is always the first thing a reader notices, a lot of effort goes into a magazine's cover. The cover of this issue of ArtWorks features the work of a local artist instead of its usual photograph. The artist's age, however, may surprise you. Eleven-year-old Karly O'Dell won the Artworks Cover Contest for K-6th graders with her piece in oil pastels titled "Almost Heaven." She arrived at the Culture Center for a photo shoot and interview accompanied by her mother and her 13-year-old sister, Jordan. The family had just returned from a vacation in Myrtle Beach, SC. When she wasn't surfing or taking swim lessons there, Karly expressed her creative flair by making elaborate sand sculptures. She answered some questions for Artworks less than two weeks before her first day at John Adams Middle School.

Karly, a Charleston native, attended Kenna Elementary when she entered the competition. She learned of it from a volunteer, a parent of one of

her classmates, who coordinated an arts-related project with her class. Then Jeff Pierson, director of arts, visited Kenna to talk to students about the contest. Since she was interested in drawing and painting, Karly thought she'd give it a try.

"I didn't think I would win," she said, "but I thought that the winner would deal with the Capitol [building]." The 'Almost Heaven' slogan was also an inspiration for her drawing's theme. She used the oil pastel kit that her aunt had given her as a present to create a landscape with the gold-domed Capitol building set against multicolored hills, a river and a vibrant sunset. The colors she used for the hills and sunset were inspired by the natural scenes she sees when she and her family walk their pet bunnies in the forested area behind their home.

Although young, Karly is an artist with a strong spirit of independence. As she was creating her winning piece, Karly's father gave her advice to improve it. "Her dad is artsy," explained her mother, Debbie, "and he was trying to tell her, 'Maybe you should put a bridge there.' But she said, 'No, I know how I want it.'" Despite her talent, Karly reported that her individualistic style didn't always pay off. In school, her art class often participated in other contests, but she stated, "I never won because I never followed the rules." Her air was not one of disappointment, however, but one that displayed a quiet confidence in her ability. Luckily, Karly found her niche in this contest, which gave free range to her to carry out her artistic vision.

According to Debbie, art has always been a big part of her daughter's life. She said Karly is always drawing and doing art projects at home as well as during art class at school. Karly said that besides oil pastels, she has worked with clay and made tissue paper collages. She uses art to "express her feelings" as well as her love for "exploring new things." Living with domesticated rabbits and having the occasional opportunity to visit a neighboring farm means that she and her family have plenty of contact with nature. She enjoys the fact that there are a lot of outdoor activities available in her home state and feels that "people should appreciate the woods and the big mountains" here. The striking colors and the majestic landscape of her piece remind us all to appreciate the natural beauty that surrounds us in West Virginia.

A Note from the First Lady

As the First Lady of West Virginia, an education leader and a supporter of the arts, I have always passionately believed in the importance of the arts and arts education, not only for our state's economic development, but also the development of our children.

Arts education in schools contributes powerful benefits to students of all ages and grade levels, as it is a great vehicle for giving students a deeper understanding of world cultures, traditions, values and beliefs. Arts education also reinforces the content of all curriculums, from reading and history to math and science, and it encourages students to use their creativity and imagination to express themselves. Test scores support that arts-based education increases academic success, raises standardized test scores and lowers the incidence of crime among general and at-risk populations.

While arts education in schools is extremely important, arts education and appreciation within our communities is equally important, as it helps to increase community involvement and aid in economic development.

Two of the greatest contributors to the arts and economic development in our area are the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra. With the West Virginia State Museum and more than 50 events scheduled throughout the state each year, Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith and his staff continually work to rebuild, restore and maintain our history, culture and traditions. As the state's premier performing arts organization, the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra presents more than 50 concerts annually to audiences throughout the Mountain State and continues to provide young people with a chance to participate in a nationally award-winning arts education program.

The Governor and I also take time to personally support the arts in many ways. Each year, we commission an official Governor's Mansion Christmas Ornament, which is sold in limited edition at Tamarack and the West Virginia State Museum Gift Shop. Additionally this year, all the Christmas trees throughout the Governor's Mansion will be



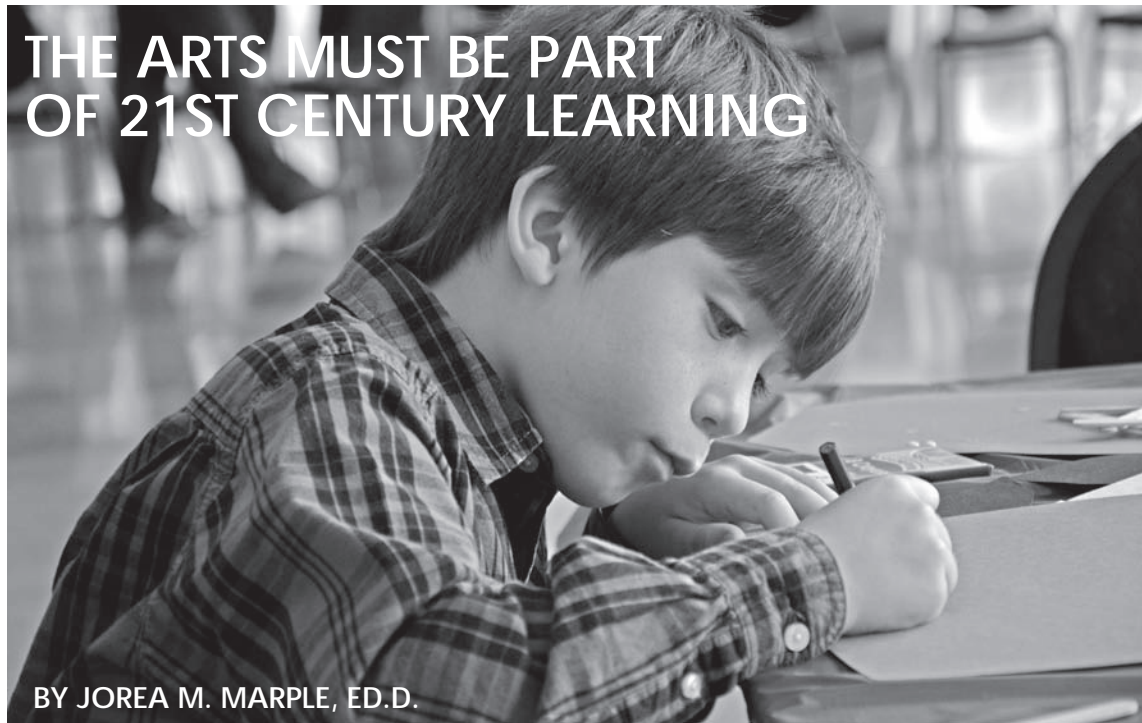
First Lady of West Virginia Joanne Jaeger Tomblin

decorated with hand-made ornaments contributed by West Virginia artists. We host numerous annual events and art contests throughout the year, such as Joyful Night, the Easter Carnival and the Christmas Ornament Competition. These opportunities contribute tremendously to West Virginia's arts education and appreciation.

The Governor and I encourage you to support the arts by shopping locally and taking advantage of the cultural and artistic opportunities available in your community, and we look forward to the opportunity to continue to showcase and show our appreciation for the commitment and dedication of West Virginia's artists.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Jaeger Tomblin".

THE ARTS MUST BE PART OF 21ST CENTURY LEARNING



BY JOREA M. MARPLE, ED.D.

In signing legislation creating the National Endowment for the Arts, President Lyndon Johnson said, “Art is a nation’s most precious heritage, for it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish.”

I, too, believe the arts provide a vision that not only guides us as a nation, but on a more personal level, guides our children to discover their own abilities and helps them aspire to achieve more than they ever believed possible.

I can think of nothing more rewarding than seeing children discover the potential they didn’t realize existed, and then fulfill that potential. A holistic education that includes the arts ensures children do just that.

Today’s competitive global economy demands imaginative, resilient thinkers who can design and produce new ideas, new services and products. Well-taught arts courses, including dance, theater, visual art and music are where creativity, flexibility, innovation, understanding and empathy are consistently required and refined.

Research clearly tells us that an arts-rich education is closely aligned to gains in math and reading, and improves cognitive ability, critical thinking and verbal skills. All children deserve the opportunity to study the arts regardless of financial status.

Arts learning also can improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork. A report by the Rand Corporation about the visual arts argues that the intrinsic pleasures and stimulation of the art experience do more than sweeten an individual’s life, they connect people more deeply to the world and open them to new ways of seeing.

These are the reasons parents of means pay for piano lessons and ballet lessons and take other steps to expose their children to the arts. All children deserve such exposure regardless of their family’s financial status.

The arts are the soul of the school, nurturing creativity that is the greatest gift of human intelligence. The more complex the world becomes the more creative we need to be to meet its challenges.

Yet many people and students wonder if they have any creative abilities at all. It is our job as educators and community partners to provide instruction that supports and releases the creativity that exists in each student. I want you to know that the West Virginia Department of Education is working to make sure the arts are an integral element of 21st century schools.

As a community of stakeholders who are committed to achieving the common purpose of creating “Good kids who do great work,” we must support comprehensive arts opportunities in every school in West Virginia.

In closing, I encourage you to visit learn21wv.com to see the numerous online resources



available to help your children explore the arts and all they have to offer.

Marple is state superintendent of schools, overseeing West Virginia’s public schools.

Damienne Dibble

Never Too Late for Shibui

PHOTOS BY TYLER EVERT

It was on a beach a decade ago, where I first became enthralled with the surf-tossed shards of shell I found in the grey sands of the Outer Banks. Paying homage to their grace in survival, I made sculptural collages of those shapes that resist becoming anonymous grains of sand. Dozens of them were eventually sold as pins and pendants to craft shops in North Carolina and Maryland. The pendants evolved into beaded necklaces with gemstones that enhanced the soft patinas of the shard assemblages I called Shibui.

Kilnridge and beyond. From 1972-1985, my husband and I operated a full-time pottery studio and workshop at Kilnridge in Jackson County. Land in West Virginia was plentiful and cheap in the early 70s. Here in “Wild and Wonderful” we became part of a growing but scattered community of creative homesteaders linked with the migration of restless urbanites to find a more authentic existence.

In the early 1980s, my previous life in graphic arts and publishing beckoned me to urban life again and a focus on new computer technology. It was the discovery of sea shards and the development of Shibui that compelled me to re-explore three-dimensional design.

Zen-like focus. Then a ripple-rimmed stoneware bowl I had made in the 1970s turned up at The Purple Moon, a downtown

Charleston gallery.

When some friends chipped in to purchase it for me as a birthday gift, I was overwhelmed by the love in their gesture and its physical reminder of those creative Kilnridge years.

Centering clay on a wheel takes a zen-like focus on form and function. So does writing poetry (a long time preoccupation) or designing necklaces I had learned.

Home studio. By the fall of 2009, one corner of my graphics studio held my jeweler’s bench with its magnifying lamp, vice, pliers rack, and a significant inventory of beads sorted by color. I was a new member of Allied Artists of West Virginia, and my necklaces were sold in Charleston at The Purple Moon. But sea-shard jewelry, I learned, was mostly limited to coastal or seasonal marketing. To advance my jewelry making to a level worthy of upscale artisan markets and competitions, I needed new materials, tools, equipment, and skills.

Opportunity to grow. That September, the Professional Development Grant Program for Individual Artists was a special topic at the monthly Allied Artists meeting, presented by the Arts staff of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. This program, I learned, offers financial help to artists for special materials, and for learning new skills to advance their professional level.

Hmm. Maybe I could transfer my potter’s experience to working with metal “clay,” a

new medium for jewelry artists: powdered silver, bronze, or copper in an organic clay-like binder. When fired in a kiln, pure metal is left after the binder burns away. Here was my kind of turf. The shard shapes I used to make pendants could be interpreted in silver, bronze, or copper.

As I left the meeting, I heard myself saying out loud, "If I were younger, I'd go for it." (OK, so I talk to my, uh, muse a lot.) "So what's stopping you now?" she challenged. "I double-dog dare you!" That did it. "OK, OK, stop nudging me. I'll do it."

Courting the muse. It took me three months to complete all of the application requirements. Online research led me to sources for learning to work with kiln-fired silver, bronze, and copper, and for developing my wire-working skills. Building a materials and equipment list, researching sources and comparing prices was a tedious but valuable exercise. By the time I was ready to turn my application in, I had examined all the whats, whys, hows, ifs, and whens about exploring metal clay to make significant jewelry works for artisan shops and exhibitions. My quest had a plan, a specific investment value, and a schedule for completion. My muse was pleased with me again. "About time," she said. "Been twiddling your thumbs long enough. Go for it!"

No going back. Then came the long five-month wait for the Arts staff and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) to log in, sort, and consider all the applications. During that time, I was haunted by the question: "Would I/ could I do this if I didn't get support from the WVCA? Oddly, I found that the application process itself is transformative. It whets

the artist applicant's appetite for growth and change. It charges our will power with fresh energy and self-challenge. In my case, I knew there was no going back, no matter what the commission decided. My muse wouldn't let me.


Fairy fingers. Almost a year has passed since the Arts Commission approved my grant application for professional development.

Thanks to their support, my home studio now includes special tools and a kiln for creating one-of-a-kind silver, bronze, and copper, pendants. I am at last working with silver clay after learning some basics about this new stuff at a private workshop in Maryland with Dawn Fernald-Spruill. Being a pioneer again is exciting, though some days, I confess, are a little weird. My fingers remember being dipped in water and sliding along a big handful of moist, cheesy porcelain to pull (like milking a cow) a handle for a mug or pitcher. Now I squirt them with olive oil to keep a gum-sized slab of metal clay from drying while I shape it into a silver pendant. "They're too big for this stuff," I mutter, "I need fairy fingers." "Hey, stop your griping," says my muse. "You got what you asked for. Now work those new tools! Make it clean. Make it good. Make it Shibui!"



SAVING the MUSIC

BY CICELY BOSLEY



This fall students and music teachers in 11 middle schools across the state returned from summer vacation to find their band classrooms a little fuller. VH1 Save The Music Foundation, with the help of local sponsors and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, placed \$30,000 worth of band instruments in each school. "This year, thanks to generous partners, the grants and sponsorships total \$330,000," said Randall Reid-Smith, commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

The VH1 Save The Music Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring instrumental music education in America's public schools, and raising awareness about the importance of music as part of each child's complete education. To date, the Foundation has provided more than \$47 million in new musical instruments to 1,750 public schools in more than 100 cities around the country, impacting the lives of over 1.6 million children.

While those numbers are impressive, until Commissioner Reid-Smith entered the scene, the Foundation had only worked on the school district level to provide grants for instruments. Since West Virginia's school system is organized by county rather than district, Reid-Smith encouraged the Foundation to launch its first statewide initiative.

Student performing at Bridge Street Middle School. Photo by Jeff Pierson



Shady Spring Middle School. Photo by Tyler Evert

“The VH1 Save The Music Foundation is enormously proud and excited about our initiative in West Virginia. The Foundation generally works in partnership with local districts and community leaders to develop a strategic plan to restore instrumental music education for all students within that district. West Virginia is the largest and first statewide effort we have undertaken to ensure, over time, greater access to music education in each of the state’s 55 counties. We are delighted to have the commitment of the state leaders and the generous support of local funders which makes this initiative possible and undoubtedly will serve as model for other parts of the nation.”

Paul Cothran, Executive Director & Vice President-VH1 Save The Music Foundation



Students performing at Bridge Street Middle School. Photo by Jeff Pierson

After two years of implementation, the Foundation has committed to placing instruments in qualifying middle schools in the state over the next several years.

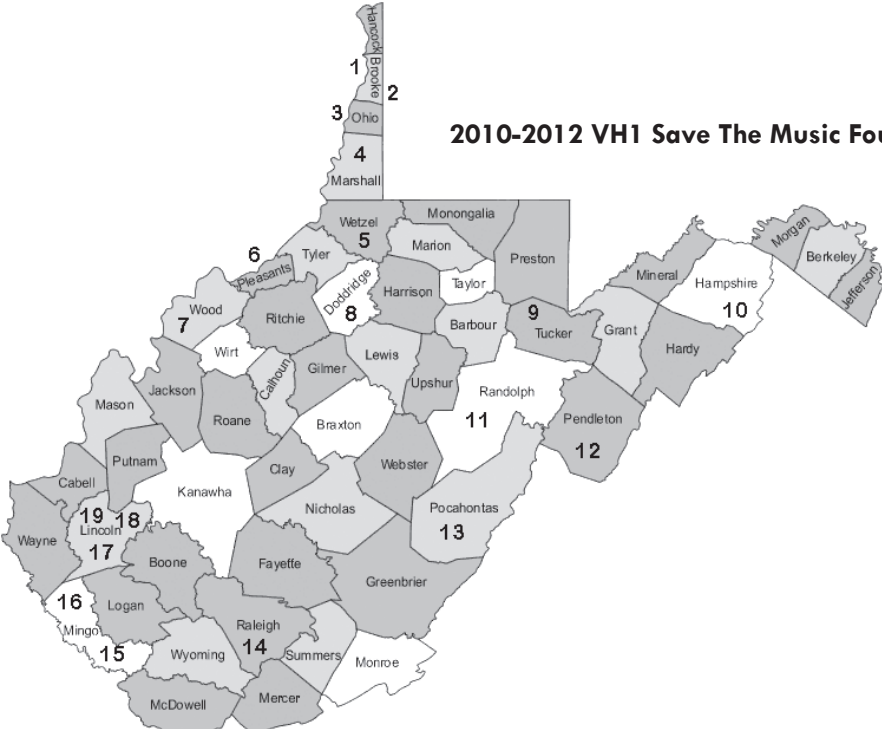
Here’s how it works: The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the VH1 Save The Music Foundation select the recipient schools for each grant year. Working with the county superintendent, school principal, and band teacher, each school submits an application that identifies its current instrument inventory, current programming and “dream” program growth. The Foundation provides half of the cost of the instruments, and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History finds local sponsors to provide the match of \$15,000. Purchased from local vendors, schools receive the instruments and own them outright with only one requirement: a full time, endorsed music teacher must be employed at the school to keep the instrumental music program active.

The project has been overwhelmingly well received by schools and communities. As the West Virginia Division of Culture and History traveled the state with the Foundation, school administrators and corporate sponsors repeatedly shared memories of playing an instrument in school and how that experience shaped them positively. Beginning in the Winter 2011 issue, *ArtWorks* will share these memories as the magazine follows the progress of the VH1 Save The Music program in West Virginia.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: First Lady of West Virginia Joanne Jaeger Tomblin with Rob Davidson, Program Director, VH1 Save the Music Foundation. Students from Marlinton Middle School. Director of Arts Jeff Pierson with student from Shady Spring Middle School. Photos by Tyler Evert, Jeff Pierson and Cicely Bosley.

2010-2012 VH1 Save The Music Foundation Grant Recipients and Sponsors



School/County

1. Wellsburg Middle, Brooke County
2. Follansbee Middle, Brooke County
3. Bridge Street Middle, Ohio County
4. Sherrard Middle, Marshall County
5. New Martinsville Middle, Wetzel County
6. Pleasants Middle, Pleasants County
7. Van Devender Middle, Wood County
8. Doddridge Middle, Doddridge County
9. Davis Thomas Elementary Middle, Tucker County
10. Capon Bridge Middle, Hampshire County
11. Harman Middle, Randolph County
12. Pendleton Middle, Pendleton County
13. Marlinton Middle, Pocahontas County
14. Shady Spring Middle, Raleigh County
15. Kermit Area, Mingo County
16. Gilbert Middle, Mingo County
17. Duval Middle, Lincoln County
18. Hamlin PK-8, Lincoln County
19. Guyan Valley Middle, Lincoln County

Sponsor

- Chesapeake Energy/VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- Chesapeake Energy/ VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- Chesapeake Energy/ VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- Chesapeake Energy/ VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- Chesapeake Energy/ VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences/ VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- Sam and Sandi Winans in memory of Jim and Frances Winans and Russell and Garnet Kerns/ VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- Wincore /West Virginia Division of Culture and History/ VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- West Virginia Commission on the Arts/ VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- West Virginia Division of Culture and History/ VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- Carter Family Foundation/ VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- VH1 Save The Music Foundation
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FIVE QUESTIONS

WITH MUSICIAN KATHY MATTEA

ARTWORKS: Who is Captain Potato, and what can you tell me about her?

KATHY MATTEA: Well, if you say my name over and over again, and you let it get faster and faster ... and maybe you have a beer or two in there somewhere ...eventually it will turn into Captain Potato!

ARTWORKS: West Virginia is profoundly evident in your work, how does being from West Virginia impact your music?

KATHY MATTEA: Well, the flavor of the place you grow up can't help but permeate everything in your life. In my case, West Virginia has a very deep sense of place, and people, and music. But there was no one in my world when I was a kid to teach me traditional mountain music. So coming back and picking up that missing piece at this point in my life has been a sweet gift.

ARTWORKS: Why is art important?

KATHY MATTEA: Art reminds us of who we are. It tickles our souls. It engages our brain in a completely different way. It wakes us up to new possibilities, to new ways of thinking about the world, to new ways of

seeing and hearing. I think it's vital if we're going to remember our inherent interconnectedness, our shared humanity and community.

ARTWORKS: What is it about music that drives you to continue making it?

KATHY MATTEA: Well, "drives" is not the word I would use. It's more like "calls" ... It calls to me, still. It still feeds me, and feels powerful and effortless.

It's still the only thing that, when I'm doing it I know I'm where I'm supposed to be whether it's in someone's living room, a recording studio or a concert venue.

ARTWORKS: You share your talents through teaching, why do you feel it is important to share and educate?

KATHY MATTEA: Again, this feels more like a calling than something that I do because it's "important." It feeds me, and I can see that it contributes to others as well, there's a give-and-take, and I always learn when I teach. And I love passing on what was given to me, and watching light bulbs come on for people in all kinds of ways.



A LIFE IN THE



WEST VIRGINIA PLAYS A KEY ROLE

BY RENÉE MARGOCEE

As a child, Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith sang in the Mud River Baptist Church in Blue Sulphur, West Virginia. Singing in the choir gave him a tremendous feeling of joy and a sense of belonging. It was there, in that small town church, Reid-Smith realized singing was his passion. "I was lucky to have supportive parents who cared," he said. Though the household budget was tight, Reid-Smith's mother always found money for music lessons. "They were always there to support my interest in music," he remembers.

Reid-Smith credits growing up in West Virginia for making him a strong artist. "A successful artist must be dedicated, able to work through adversity and have a strong work ethic. These are characteristics West Virginians naturally embody," he said.

Throughout his public school education, Reid-Smith continued his pursuit of music. He studied oboe, saxophone and sang in a gospel quartet. In high school, he studied voice with Jane Shepherd at Marshall University. At her suggestion, Reid-Smith applied to and was accepted at the Conservatory of Cincinnati, later receiving a master's degree from The University of Indiana. "Studying with gifted mentors gave me an appreciation for the special talents educators must have to be effective," he said.

Though Reid-Smith's musical career took him away from West Virginia for 29 long years, he always wanted to come home. "Sharing my knowledge of music with others became my mission. Though I was a kid from Barboursville, my teachers had faith in my ability and helped me realize my dream. Now it is my turn to encourage our children in the arts and create opportunities for them to perform," he said.

In 2006, Reid-Smith was named commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. In

a relatively short period of time, he has established himself and the agency as an arts force. He has an impressive list of accomplishments.

Under his leadership, the West Virginia State Museum was completely renovated. It contains state-of-the-art displays honoring our heritage. "Our museum is a source of pride for all West Virginians," he said. He has quadrupled the number of exhibits at the Culture Center. Grave Creek Mound Archeological Complex and Museum in the Park in Logan have also hosted a variety of exhibits. "Providing space for West Virginia artists to display their work is very important to me," he said.

The West Virginia Culture Center, which houses the West Virginia State Archives, Library Commission, Arts and Historic Preservation Sections and the State Museum, "is a melting pot of art, history and heritage," Reid-Smith observes. "It is a place where West Virginians can learn more about their history and the importance of our contributions to the nation. The fundamentals of the arts transcends medium, and in this environment we can learn about and share our artistic heritage with all," Reid-Smith notes.

Much of the Commissioner's time is spent traveling throughout West Virginia, making contacts with constituents, local arts groups and the legislators who represent them. "West Virginians have a great sense of local pride. By traveling and meeting people in their communities, those who know the area best can both show and tell me all the things that bring them pride. This cannot be accomplished in an email or phone call."

"A successful artist must be dedicated, able to work through adversity and have a strong work ethic. These are characteristics West Virginians naturally embody."

In 2009, a legislative bill increased funding for the Competitive Arts Fund. This funding ensures cultural facility funding to preserve art venues so they can continue to be resources for communities across the state. "Preserving our state's treasures, such

as the Apollo Theater or Huntington's Keith-Albee Theater, while also creating new artistic venues for underserved populations, is of the utmost importance to me. Without a working relationship with the legislature, these opportunities would be missed," commented Reid-Smith.

Because he understands that the arts are not exclusive to one place, Reid-Smith has found ways to encourage community involvement. In 2010, he and the agency's Archives and History Section established the West Virginia History Bowl. Regional tournament winners come to the Culture Center for a day-long competition. "The students were enthusiastic and enjoyed the competition. We plan to expand the tournament so more students can participate," remarked Reid-Smith. He has also established a working relationship with the VH1 Save The Music Foundation, bringing community partners together to provide musical instruments for middle-school students statewide.

"Preserving our state's treasures, such as the Apollo Theater or Huntington's Keith-Albee, while also growing new artistic venues for underserved populations is of the utmost importance to me."

His tireless advocacy for the arts has put West Virginia in a unique category. While other states have experienced drastic cuts to their arts funding, West Virginia has been able to increase state arts funding. Thanks to strong support from our Legislature and governors, West Virginia is among the top 10 states to receive arts funding, according to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. In the past three years, the Division has seen a 47 percent increase in arts funding. Reid-Smith notes, "This support has allowed the Division to continue offering grants and professional development programs that improve community arts programs and enhance arts education programs in public schools."

Commissioner Reid-Smith is never without a project. His next initiative will involve growing new audiences. "It is important to foster a love for the arts in young children. We have so many talented artists here. As children grow, they need to know that an artistic path can lead to a successful future." Reid-Smith knows firsthand the importance of fostering artistic interest in young people. Through his travels and support, West Virginia school children will know, "We can do it!" and under his watchful eye, they will.



Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith. Photo by Tracy Toler

Legislative Leaders

REFLECT ON THE INFLUENCE OF THE ARTS



Senator Robert H. Plymale

Wayne County

As the Chair of the West Virginia Senate Committee on Education, I believe that the arts are an important tool for retaining and engaging our children. Giving students the experiences to enlarge their creative thought processes is a way to encourage budding innovators; the individuals who will drive our economy throughout the 21st century.

My interest in the theater began as a child, when I saw *West Side Story* and *The Sound of Music* at the Keith Albee Theater in Huntington, West Virginia.

Now, as an adult, I am the co-president of that same theater. In this capacity, I hope to continue to promote the education and enjoyment of children and adults alike in my home district, as well as throughout the state. I believe that promoting a robust mix of economic, educational and artistic opportunities is crucial to the health of our communities.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert H. Plymale".

Mankind has always left evidence of his existence through the medium of art. Art is more than color, texture, music or literature. Rather, it is the recorded history of civilizations that have existed throughout the ages. These artistic records provide a blueprint of the rise and fall of various cultures.

Our nation has been blessed with artists who have united our country in times of great tragedies and sorrows.

As a teacher, I learned the importance of students expressing their vision of the world around them through their creative talents. It is imperative that the national, state and local governments sustain programs to continue the arts in our communities and schools so all may enjoy the expression of thought.

This philosophy has led to my involvement with Beckley Art Group, Beckley Concert Association, Theatre West Virginia, West Virginia Dance Company and the Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia.



Delegate Linda Sumner

Raleigh County

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Sumner".



BASKETMAKER'S CONFERENCE BY CAROLYN ROSE GARCIA

One of our West Virginia's folk art alliances began with the dream of two women. In the late '90s, Becky Young of Ripley and Ruth Ann Stutler of Lost Creek wanted to form a basketmaking association in West Virginia. They and four of their friends met one summer at the City Park in Parkersburg to discuss the idea. On Aug. 2, 1997, the West Virginia Basketmaking association was founded "to stimulate an interest in and perpetuate the art of basketry." Now in its 14th year, the Association is holding a conference on Nov. 11-13 at Tamarack in Beckley, West Virginia. Gail Hutchinson, president of the West Virginia Basketmaking Association and co-coordinator of the conference with Western Weavers, provided *ArtWorks* with information about the conference, the Association, and its guilds.

What takes place at a basketmaking conference? The upcoming conference will feature four national basketmaking teachers: two from Michigan, one from Indiana, and one from Georgia. There will be about 50 weavers in attendance. Each teacher will have a class of about 12 to 15 students, whom he or she will work with over the three-day period. The Basketmakers Association has held more than 10 conferences since its first in the Bicentennial Motel in Buckhannon on April 18, 1998. Twenty-six members attended this initial conference, called the Weave-In.

The membership of the West Virginia Basketmakers Association continues to grow each year. According to its website, they now have more than 100 members from 10 states. Weavers from states that are close to West Virginia, such as Ohio, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania, often join the association. There are four Basketmakers Guilds in West Virginia: Homespun Basketweavers in Jackson County, Mid-Ohio Valley in Wood County, Mountain Heritage Basket Weavers in Barbour County

and North Central West Virginia in Harrison County. Since there is currently no guild in the southern part of the state, Hutchinson hopes that holding the convention at Tamarack will attract enough interested artisans from the area to start one. "You know the saying: 'If you build it, they will come!'" she says. "We're hoping that by being [at Tamarack] we'll pull some weavers out of the woodwork who want to join." Each guild holds monthly meetings to promote the art of basket weaving, as well as contests, where guild members encourage each other to weave more and try new techniques.

Hutchinson herself first became interested in basketmaking after a trip to Cherokee North Carolina. She saw some women from the Native American tribe there weaving baskets and thought she might like to try it herself. When she returned, a friend guided her through her first basket. After she became proficient, she started taking her work to shows, but then dropped all the shows she was involved in to teach. When asked why she sacrificed doing shows, she said, "Because I love teaching. I love to watch the reactions—like, 'Wow, I finally got that!' I'll hear back from people who say, 'I wove your basket [pattern] and I won first place at the county fair!'" Now, after almost 30 years of basketmaking, she travels the country to teach weaving, and she has done as many as 24 conferences a year.

If you are interested in basketmaking but are not quite ready to join a guild or attend a convention, Hutchinson teaches classes for beginning and intermediate weavers. The first of several she will be teaching in West Virginia, took place at Heritage Farm on Aug. 27. Contact Gail Hutchinson at (304) 743-5424 about basketmaking classes near you.



TUNE TRAVELERSTAKES STUDENTS AROUND THEMUSICAL WORLD

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DREW TANNER

This October, students in Pocahontas County schools will take a virtual trip abroad, encountering new musical styles and instruments through the Pocahontas County Opera House's Tune Travelers program.

Tune Travelers was the brainchild of Jennie Terman, who served as an AmeriCorps VISTA member with the Opera House from the spring of 2009 through 2010. Terman returned to the Opera House last fall to help with the fledgling music program.

During her time as a VISTA, Terman said she wanted to offer something to the youth of Pocahontas County through the Opera House. While the Opera House has brought in performers who give school performances, Terman wanted to offer a more developed educational program.

"I had just come from being a teacher with all kinds of young kids, and I missed them," she said.

For two years before becoming the Opera House VISTA, Terman taught English on a remote and sparsely populated island in Japan.

"I went there to teach English, but while there, I really got into teaching culture, specifically the music culture of the U.S.," she said.

"I play fiddle, and I took my fiddle to Japan with me," Terman explained. "I taught all my students old-time songs. They're all simple, and it's actually a really good tool for learning English."

But Terman's English students learned more than songs like *Cluck Old Hen*, *Old Joe Clark* and *Angeline Baker*.

"I also taught some square-dancing classes, and formed a jug band with my junior high school students," she said.

"These sorts of experiences can really open up kids' minds and eyes to things that they might not have ever thought about before"

"Through those experiences, they were able to use English a lot," Terman added. "I liked doing that more than teaching the rules of grammar."

Once at the Opera House, Terman said she started thinking of how to create a similar musical and cultural exchange for Pocahontas County students.

"I didn't know what kind of activity to do, and I was playing around with all kinds of different ideas, like having a youth choir or making instruments," she said.

Terman said she drew some inspiration from her own musical upbringing in Morgantown, where she was able to take advantage of the diversity of musical programs at West Virginia University.

"I was thinking about what kind of opportunities I had growing up in Morgantown, with the university there," she said. "I did all kinds of fun things through outreach programs at the university. I was in a steel [drum] band when I was little, and I did Japanese Taiko in junior high school."

Later, when she was in high school, the WVU African Drum Ensemble visited her school and offered activities.

When she looked around Pocahontas County while working at the Opera House, Terman saw that similar activities and interactions with different cultures were lacking.

"It's not like I want the kids here to do everything I did when I was little, but just that they could have more options," she said. "I know there are lots of sports opportunities with the schools, but some kids don't really mesh with that."

Terman said her familiarity with the WVU music department provided some immediate ideas for Tune Travelers. She reached out to Mike Vercelli, director of WVU's World Music Performance Center, to bring the center's Latin Jazz and Japanese Taiko Drum ensembles to Pocahontas County. Other musical groups that partnered with Tune Travelers included Bob Webb and Heidi Muller, the West Virginia Highland Dancers of Elkins, The Greenbrier Academy for Girls African Drum and Dance Ensemble from Pence Springs, and the Teal Steel Drum Band from Frankfort Middle School.

Terman worked diligently with the Opera House Foundation to secure funding for Tune Travelers through the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's Challenge America program, the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, and Plum Creek.

Through weekly after-school workshops and school-day performances, Pocahontas County students learned about the cultural context of each group's musical tradition, as well as getting some hands-on experience learning dances and picking up the instruments themselves.

"These sorts of experiences can really open up kids' minds and eyes to things that they might not have ever thought about before," Terman said. "Maybe it will inspire them to want to learn a different language or visit a different country, or just be more interested in music."

As the Opera House prepares for its second year of Tune Travelers activities, it is focusing on strengthening its relationship with Vercelli and the WVU World Music Performance Center. On October

21, the center's five world music ensembles will travel to Pocahontas County's five schools in Hillsboro, Marlinton, Dunmore and Green Bank for a day of performances and hands-on musical experiences for children in all grades.

A new component to this year's Tune Travelers will be a series of after-school art workshops conducted in partnership with the Pocahontas County Arts Council, High Rocks for Girls and Pocahontas County Parks and Recreation. Each workshop will tie into the particular cultural context of the ensemble visiting students' respective schools. Examples of these art projects will be on display at the culmination of the Tune Travelers program: a public performance by the WVU World Music Performance Center ensembles on Saturday, Oct.22 at 7:30 p.m.

"Tune Travelers enriches both the Pocahontas community and WVU students who make up the ensembles. The audience gains exposure to a variety of music seldom heard in the region, and Pocahontas County youth have the chance to interact personally with the ensemble players. The university students, in turn, act as 'cultural ambassadors' by sharing global music traditions with the audience. In this role, they gain a deepened experience of and appreciation for world music and cultures," says Dr. Mike Vercelli, director of the World Music Performance Center at West Virginia University. Vercelli believes that the Pocahontas community itself is a huge part of what has made this program successful. He credits those working for the Pocahontas County Opera House with making Tune Travelers happen, and the public's willingness to participate for allowing the program to thrive.

2012 WVCA Grant Awards

Berkeley County:		Mercer County:	
Sterling Smith	2,114	Fred M. Powers	500
Daniele Piasecki Burnett	2,500	Mercer County Board of Education	5,000
Carol Slovikosky	792	Charles Mathena II Foundation	41,607
Berkeley Arts Council	1,946		
Brooke County	90000	Mineral County:	
Brooke County Commission	'	Highland Arts Unlimited, Inc	18,375
Cabell County:	82,175	Mingo County:	15,290
Huntington Museum of Art		Tug Valley Arts Council	
Calhoun County:	2,186	Monongalia County:	2,500
William Howard Dobbins		Tracy Stucky	4,400
Grant County:	1,315	Fairmont Chamber Music Society	2,283
Grant County Arts Council		Erika Osborne	3,216
Greenbrier County:	11,873	Northern WV Dance Council	
Greenbrier County Schools	55,543	Monroe County:	1,500
WV Arts Presenters, Inc.	2,500	Monroe Arts Alliance	
Jessica Levine	16,670	Morgan County:	32,085
Trillum Performing Arts Collective	78,897	Morgan Arts Council	
Greenbrier Repertory Theatre Company	68,566	Nicholas County:	12,600
Carnegie Hall Inc.		Ivy & Stone, Council for the Arts	
Hampshire County:	4,440	Ohio County:	91,199
Hampshire County Arts Council		Oglebay Institute	70,227
Hancock County:	4,400	Wheeling Symphony Society	77,905
Weirton Area Civic Foundation		Wheeling-Ohio CVB	
Harrison County:	5,060	Pocahontas County:	2,500
Clarksburg Harrison Co. Cultural Foundation	3,850	Corey Bonasso	314
City of Bridgeport	10,000	Stephanie Lore	23,957
City of Shinnston		Pocahontas Co. Opera House Foundation	683
Jackson County:	99,995	Drew Tanner	
Jackson County Board of Education		Preston County:	852
Jefferson County:	12,760	Arthur Dale Heritage, Inc	848
Arts & Humanities Alliance of Jefferson	1,155	Natalie Sypolt	
American Conservation Film Festival, Inc	10,175	Raleigh County:	28,187
Shepherd University	9,845	WV Professional Dance Company	4,400
Friends of Music	4,290	Beckley Area Foundation	22,385
Contemporary American Theater Festival		Youth Museum of Southern WV	4,350
Kanawha County:	5,500	Stanaford Elementary School	5,600
Allied Artists of WV, Inc	2,200	Daniels Elementary	
River City Youth Ballet Ensemble	35,424	Randolph County:	25,353
Charleston Ballet	3,300	Augusta Heritage Center	32,259
WV Youth Symphony	3,850	Randolph County Community Arts	5,000
Charleston Chamber Music Society	10,800	Augusta Heritage Center	
FestivALL Charleston, WV, Inc.	91,891	Summers County:	1,875
WV Symphony Orchestra	101,619	Austin Persinger	
Clay Center for Arts and Sciences, WV	7,920	Tyler County:	2,103
Kanawha Valley FOOTMAD	16,462	Kitty Gorrell	
Charleston Stage Company	2,006	Wetzel County:	15,810
Christopher Rodgers	795	Artslink, Inc	
Sheila McEntee	4,174	Wood County:	2,453
City of Charleston		H.G. Young III	15,730
Logan County:	30,018	River Cities Symphony Orchestra	30,000
Aracoma Story		ArtsBridge, Inc (ORBI)	38,131
Marion County:	8,800	Parkersburg Art Center	23,900
Fairmont State University	749	Mid-Ohio Valley Symphony Society	28,636
Pamela Thompson		ArtsBridge, Inc.	7,700
Marshall County:	80,000	WVU at Parkersburg	
City of Glendale			

LEADiNg The Way In Accessibility

BY ROSE MCDONOUGH



Betty Siegel, director of VSA and Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., speaks at the L.E.A.D. conference. Photo by Robbyn McClain

In August of 2000, a small group of cultural arts administrators, all of whom were responsible for accessibility at their respective agencies, gathered in Washington, D.C., to discuss institutional cultural arts and disability issues. This initial group, now known as Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (L.E.A.D.), grew into a professional network focused on expanding the breadth and scope of accessibility services and programming across the country and around the world.

This year, the 11th Kennedy Center's L.E.A.D. conference was held at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in Louisville. As the Cultural Facilities & Accessibility Coordinator for the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, I was thrilled to meet arts administrators, artists, educators, advocates and many others from across the United States.

My goals for attending this conference were three-fold. I wanted to share West Virginia's arts agency's accessibility protocol, learn the most up to date information from the accessibility field and learn of resources to bring back to West Virginia's

constituents. The environment was very engaging. Participants were encouraged to take part in the conversation and share their approaches to accessibility issues.

I attended several sessions including, *Getting Started: Creating an ADA Plan*; *Changing Arts Organization to be more inclusive of people with disabilities*; *Universal Design*; *Access for under \$100*; *Autism: A Unique Museum and Theater Experience*; *Mediation Strategies and Conflict Resolution* and the *2010 ADA Regulations and Standards: What they mean for arts organizations*.

State arts agency representatives were also able to meet with the National Endowment for the Arts Director of the Office of Accessibility, Dr. Beth Biennu. Challenges the states face and how collaboration can help in meeting our goals was discussed.

The revised A.D.A. standards released by the Department of Justice in September 2010 were also addressed. Changes include the definition of service animals and policies on mobility devices and ticketing. An in-depth National Endowment for the Arts tip sheet can be found at: www.nea.gov/resources/Accessibility/pubs/index.html.

“Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.”

-Ron Mace, FAIA

ADIA
ARTS for ALL

A new resource section on the WVDCH/Arts website is will be in place by December 2011. We invite you to share resources that have been helpful to you and your organization. Please submit the information to rose.a.mcdonough@wv.gov

COMMUNITY ARTS NEWS

Arts Partners Expands General Operating Support For FY2013

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVDCH/WVCA) offer a new grant program, Arts Partners. Arts Partners will replace Major and Mid Size Institution Support and will expand to include a wider group of non-profit organizations in the general operating support category (GOS). Eligible organizations received information on the new program in September and a pre-application process began on October 1, 2011. The first Arts Partners application deadline is March 1, 2012.

The WVDC currently offers programming support in several ways:

- Community Arts Project Support offers support for eligible line items, mainly artist contract fees, for projects throughout the fiscal year.
- Arts in Education provides support for in-school and after-school projects that meet specific education criteria.
- Special National Endowment for the Arts Initiatives, such as Challenge America and American Masterpieces, provide support for focused projects meeting NEA goals.
- GOS provides a lump sum based on a formula that considers budget size and available funds for granting. GOS funding is not project specific and can be used as part of the operating budget for the successful completion of the organization's mission.

GOS funding is available only to the most successful and stable non-profit arts organizations.

The WVDCH/WVCA has been evaluating the general operating support (GOS) for more than three years to find the best way to serve stable, long-standing non-profit arts organizations that are providing quality arts experiences to the public. The Arts Partner grant program was developed through information gathered from statewide listening tours and a thorough analysis of the changes major and mid-size institutions have experienced.

Arts Partners will now provide GOS based on a tiered eligibility that now includes organizations with budget sizes from \$100,000 through \$4 million and above. Additional criteria for eligibility include IRS 501c3 designation; incorporation in the state of West Virginia for at least five years prior to application; clearly outlined performance expectations; at least three consecutive years of successful programmatic funding from the WVDCH; approved long range plans (updated annually); appropriate financial audits or reviews and year-round programming of which at least 75 percent is arts programming. Minimum annual award is \$10,000 and maximum is \$100,000. All awards must be matched with locally raised funds. Complete guidelines for the Arts Partners program are available from arts staff.

Peer Assistance Network Expands Pilot Program To Offer Year-Long Assistance

Peer Assistance Network (PAN) has been providing free peer-to-peer technical assistance to West Virginia non-profit arts organizations for more than 15 years. Trained advisers, all of whom are leaders in West Virginia non-profit arts organizations, provide facilitated technical assistance sessions to help make organizations stronger. The service is free to the applicant organization; all costs of the session are paid by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

Non-profit arts organizations are eligible for up to two sessions per fiscal year on a first-come, first-served basis until the fiscal year allocation is depleted. Technical assistance has included board assessment, strategic planning, marketing, fundraising, budget assistance, volunteer and board development, among other topics.

PAN is now introducing a new pilot program, which offers an expanded mentorship opportunity to organizational leadership. In the expanded role, PAN will commit to work with board of directors through an entire year, monitoring changes and

offering resources to assist in the organization's success. In FY2012, two organizations will be accepted into the pilot, with the Huntington Symphony Orchestra filling the first slot.

The expanded program offers one adviser who will perform a two-part assessment of the organization and provide a detailed report and suggestions on a strategy for moving forward. Once the board of directors, the Division of Culture and History staff and the adviser agree on the next steps, a contract will be developed for three additional facilitated sessions which will be spread over the remainder of the fiscal year. This expansion addresses the need for follow up, provides a mechanism for evaluation of the implemented strategies, and a touchstone for the board of directors when questions arise or changes occur.

For more information on the PAN or the Expanded Mentorship Program, please contact Debbie Haught, Community Arts coordinator at 304-558-0240 ext 714 or by email at debbie.r.haught@wv.gov.

what is happening in ARTS IN EDUCATION

New Guidelines for Arts in Education Grant Program

In response to the changing landscape of Arts in Education (AIE) and the demands of West Virginia's schools and artists, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) has approved restructuring the AIE Grant Program. Also, the WVCA voted to continue the Distressed County Incentive Program. If the project occurs in a county the Appalachian Regional Commission classifies as distressed, applicants can apply for 75 percent of eligible costs where they would normally be limited to 50 percent.

New Categories:

School-Based Projects

Description: For curriculum-based projects involving artists, teachers and students in the creative process in daily instruction.

Grant Program: 50 percent of artist, consultant, or specialist fees and materials.

Out of School Time Projects

Description: For new and ongoing projects that establish, expand, or advance school curriculum and/or arts education programming outside of regular school hours.


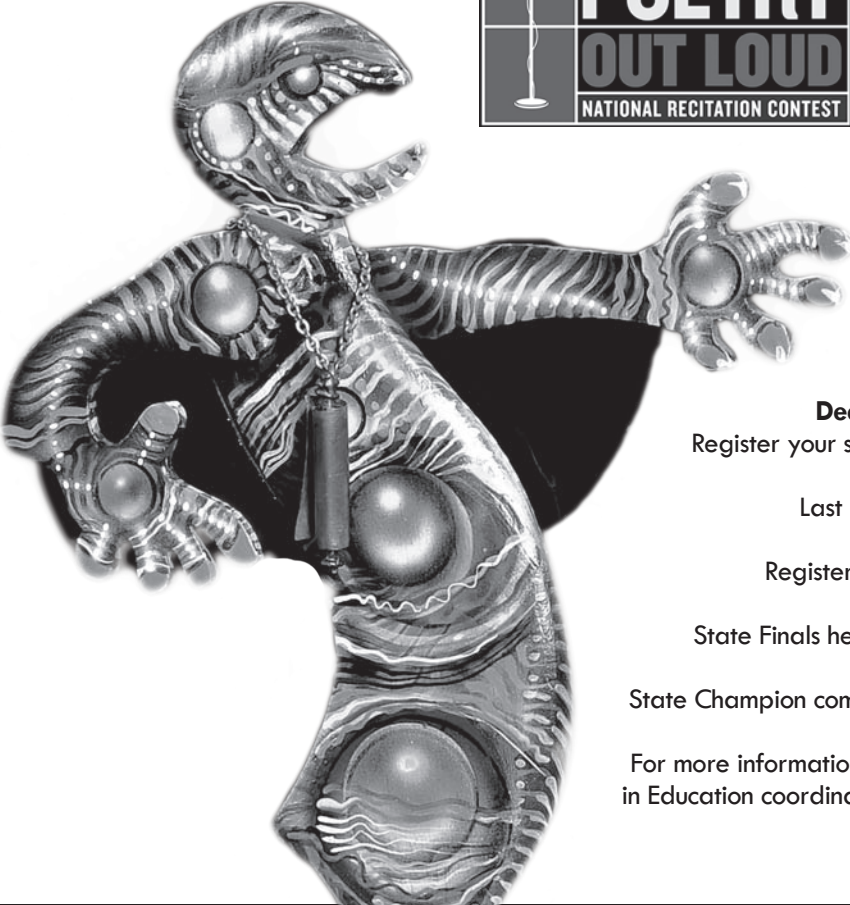
Grant Program: 50 percent of artist, consultant, or specialist fees and materials.

Arts-Exposure Projects

Description: For professional arts exposure experiences for young people including limited contact time with students outside of the performance or demonstration.

Grant Program: 50 percent of artist or company's contract fees.

For complete guidelines and how the changes affect you, your school, or your organization, contact the Arts in Education coordinator, Cicely Bosley at cicely.j.bosley@wv.gov or (304)558-0240.



Poetry Out Loud is a national contest in which high school students memorize and recite poetry for an audience. The competition begins on a school-wide level, with the winners at each school advancing to the statewide competition. The winners from each state and U.S. territory then compete at the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

Deadlines and Dates to Remember:

- Register your school with the Arts in Education Coordinator:
December 1, 2011
- Last day to hold school competitions
January 15, 2012
- Register the school competition winner
January 30, 2012
- State Finals held at the Culture Center in Charleston
March 2-3, 2012
- State Champion competes in National Finals in Washington, D.C.
May 13-15, 2012

For more information or to schedule a workshop contact the Arts in Education coordinator, Cicely Bosley at cicely.j.bosley@wv.gov (304)558-0240.

TAKE NOTE

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts will host "Arts Day at the State Capitol" at the State Capitol Complex, Charleston, on Monday, Feb. 27, 2012, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The event celebrates the vitality of the arts in West Virginia; the impact the arts has on cultural growth, economic development and education; and how the arts brings together artists, arts organizations and art enthusiasts from across the state.



This year's event will be held in the upper rotunda of the State Capitol and will consist of information booths representing arts from across the state. Individual artists and arts organizations are invited to participate.

Space is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration to participate is required. The deadline to register is Dec. 15, 2011. For more information about "Arts Day at the State Capitol" or to register to participate, contact Renee Margocee, individual artist coordinator for the Division, or Rose McDonough, cultural facilities and accessibility coordinator for the Division, at (304) 558-0240. They also may be reached by e-mail at renee.margocee@wv.gov or rose.a.mcdonough@wv.gov.

WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S *Arts* AWARDS

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts are seeking nominations for the 2012 Governor's Arts Awards. All West Virginians are encouraged to nominate individual artists, organizations and communities in five categories of awards.

The categories are: Arts in Education Award, to recognize efforts to strengthen arts education in West Virginia public schools and the overall impact on arts education in West Virginia; Distinguished Service to the Arts Award, to recognize individuals and/or organizations of exceptional talent and creativity that have contributed to the arts and have fostered growth and influenced trends and aesthetic practices on a state and national level; Leadership in the Arts Award, to recognize individuals and/or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and access to the arts throughout the state of West Virginia; Artist of the Year Award, to recognize an individual artist who has impacted the exposure to the arts in West Virginia through his/her work; and the Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement, for significant achievement in the arts for an individual and/or organization. A ceremony and gala to present the awards will be held in March at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex in Charleston. For more information contact Rose McDonough at (304) 558-0240, ext. 152, or e-mail her at rose.a.mcdonough@wv.gov.

SPECIAL CULTURAL FACILITIES AND ACCESSIBILITY GRANT

The deadline to apply for small Cultural Facilities and Accessibility projects is coming Feb. 1, 2012. Funding requests can be made for projects up to \$40,000 with a 50/50 match. Grant year will be April 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2012. Contact Rose McDonough at rose.a.mcdonough@wv.gov or at 304.558.0240 ext. 152 for application materials. Priority will be given to energy efficient projects, ADA repairs/upgrades and capital purchases to assist with programming.



Students performing at Doddridge County Middle School. Photo by Jeff Plerson



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