

WINTER 2021

WEST VIRGINIA **ArtWorks**



ArtWorks WEST VIRGINIA

FEATURES

1 Local Muralist Paints the Town

Artist Jenn Lockwood keeps herself and her neighbors busy by embellishing the buildings in her town of Capon Bridge.

4 Born Again: A Pendleton County Drive-In

A 69-year-old drive-in theater near Franklin gets a new lease on life as a cultural center for the community.

6 First Lady Thanks Artistree Participants

In 2020, artists donated their time and talents to create ornaments inspired by frontline healthcare professionals.

8 Professional Development and Fast Track Grants

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, along with the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, awarded \$47,307 in the second round of Professional Development for Artists and the Cultural Facilities and Capitol Resources Fast Track grants for Fiscal Year 2021.

9 Performing Arts Grants Awarded

With funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, WVDACH awarded grants to ten nonprofit arts organizations in West Virginia.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

8 Past Issues Available

10 Gallery 35

14 Grant Opportunities for Artists and Arts Organizations

ON THE COVER:

The Artistree, curated by First Lady Cathy Justice, graces the Great Hall of the Culture Center each winter. In 2020, the tree featured 70 handcrafted ornaments, including this one, *Star*, created by Cathy Katchman of Oak Hill, Fayette County.

WINTER 2021



State of West Virginia
Jim Justice, Governor



West Virginia Department of
ARTS, CULTURE
AND HISTORY

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All publications and application forms are
available in alternate formats.



Volunteers from ages 4 to 74 helped paint Jenn Lockwood's largest mural in Capon Bridge. Photo by Tim Reese.

Local Muralist Paints the Town

By Timothy Reese

Capon Bridge, West Virginia, isn't considered an arts mecca — at least not yet. But the tiny town of 453 people may soon be the place to visit and witness a vibrant arts community built in a rural setting.

Located in Hampshire County, Capon Bridge is home to The River House, an award-winning community arts and music venue; The Cat and The Fiddle, a traditional Appalachian music school; and thanks to the talents of Jenn Lockwood, mural art.

Lockwood graduated in 2015 with a master's degree in art therapy from Southwestern College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A West Virginian-by-choice, she was drawn to Capon Bridge by family and the rising collaborative art scene. She knew from an early age that art would

be the driving force in her life, both personally and professionally. Murals are the latest expression of her passion.

Three of her newest murals have enhanced and enlivened otherwise ordinary and drab masonry walls. Lockwood's first mural decorated the supporting columns under The River House, in a space deemed The Otter's Den. Capturing a flowing river theme, the process emboldened Lockwood to think of other canvasses for her work.

"I'm drawn to bright colors and crisp lines," states Lockwood. "And since I like to incorporate volunteers from the community, I design images that are bold and easy to paint-by-number."



Artist Jenn Lockwood at work on a mural dedicated to local frontline workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. Photo by Ibi Hinrichs.

“Art has the ability to transport someone out of their daily grind for a moment. Passing by a fresh and colorful mural inspires creativity, no matter the age.” — Jenn Lockwood

“Frontline Heroes” pays tribute to essential workers . Photo by Ibi Hinrichs.

On larger installations, she uses a projector to impose the images on the wall and then traces the outline at night. “It’s a simple and fun way to transfer my design onto a larger scale,” she says.

In 2019, Lockwood completed her largest mural on a two-story building across from Capon Bridge Elementary School. An inviting geometric design covers three sides of the structure. Almost 50 volunteers, from ages 4 to 74, participated in the one-day, paint-by-number event. Many days of planning and preparation went into this success.

“It takes extra consideration for me to organize a cooperative paint, ensuring we have the proper supplies and easy-to-follow directions,” Lockwood admits. “But painting alongside members of my community is extremely uplifting and much more fun than doing it solo. I love the fellowship created by these projects as people work together to enhance a piece of our town!”

Lockwood’s most recent mural, Frontline Heroes, is a tribute to those who have toiled throughout the



COVID-19 pandemic. It honors the grocery clerks, medical staff, farmers, public safety officers, construction and other essential workers who have showed up every day. The mural was sponsored by seven local businesses and graces a wall in front of the town's doctor's office.

Why does public art matter? In 2018, Americans for the Arts answered that question by stating "Public art directly influences how people see and connect with a place, providing access to aesthetics that support its identity and making residents feel appreciated and valued." In addition, the study reports that public art creates social cohesion and shared cultural identity -- traits sorely needed in these divisive times.

"Art has the ability to transport someone out of their daily grind for a moment. Passing by a fresh and colorful mural inspires creativity, no matter the age," said Lockwood. "Participants have a hand in creating something bigger than themselves -- something that lasts. They can point to a mural and say, 'Wow, I was part of that!'"



Community members of all ages help to complete a "paint-by-number" mural on the supporting columns of The River House. Photos by Jenn Lockwood.



Born Again, Better than Ever: A Pendleton County Drive-In

I first visited Warner's Drive-In and Cultural Resource Center while on a tour of the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources projects throughout the Eastern Panhandle with Curator Randall Reid-Smith. The organization had received a grant award to replace the roof on their snack bar and projection booth, and we were there to see the completed project.

The drive-in is located on a quiet stretch of road, just north of Franklin, WV. It would be easy to miss if you were not looking for it. However, once you enter the facility, it is a truly unique

Interview by Jenna Green

place managed by people with a passion for the arts, history, and their local community. Unlike most drive-in theaters, which have a simple wall to project on, it has an entire multi-story building attached to the screen. Originally intended to act as a residence for the property managers, this feature allows the drive-in to expand to be more than a facility for showing films.

Curator Randall Reid-Smith was so impressed with our visit that he returned to Warner's Drive-In and Cultural Resource Center to present their next grant award in person. That project, to replace the roof on the screen building and lighting on the entrance pillars, is underway.

Warner's Drive-In has been around for a long time. Give us the history of the facility and the organization that now owns it.

Charlie Warner and son, Harold, opened Warner's Drive-In in Franklin, WV in April of 1952. It quickly became a staple of fun and activity in the community. The drive-in was particularly popular among the community's families and youth, who would otherwise have to travel 40 miles one-way to an adjoining state

to see a movie. For many generations, Warner's Drive-In provided one of the few opportunities for gathering and entertainment in and around this part of eastern West Virginia and the Potomac Highlands.

The Drive-In operated successfully from 1952 until 2014. The conversion from film to digital formats required new and expensive digital projectors, a change many small, independently owned drive-in and community theaters couldn't afford. From an industry high of 4,000 drive-in theaters in the continental U.S., by 2013 there were only 368 operating drive-ins. One of those that closed was Warner's Drive-In. This was a significant blow to a community and region that depended on this local institution not just for movie entertainment but as a place for families and neighbors to socialize. After 62 years, Warner's Drive-in was at serious risk of being sold and torn down.

The community wasn't willing to let it go. In March of 2016 the Historic Warner's Drive-In & Cultural Resources Center was formed as a non-profit organization to preserve the drive-in as a center for entertainment, arts, and education.

The board, comprised of 15 volunteer community members, was tasked with leasing the property from the current owners, raising the funds to buy a new digital projector, and ultimately showing movies

again. Thanks to an outpouring of community support, within four months the organization was able to purchase and install a projector. On September 9, 2016, the newly reopened center showed its first movie, *Finding Dory*, to a packed drive-in crowd.

Tell us about your patrons. Are they from the local Franklin community or do you serve a larger area?

Most come from Pendleton and nearby Grant counties. We also see a lot of visitors from the West Virginia counties of Tucker, Randolph, and Pocahontas, as well as Rockingham and Highland counties in Virginia. Whenever we see an out-of-state license plate, we make a special effort to welcome these folks and ask where they are from and how they heard about us. We've even had visitors from Germany and Canada! Most are staying in local cabins and campgrounds and are looking for something fun. The drive-in has become an informal welcome center.

Many drive-in theaters saw renewed interest in 2020. Was that true for your organization? How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you?

We worked closely with our county's health department to set

The drive-in's parking lot, with socially distanced spacing, allows for safe community gatherings. Photos provided courtesy of Mike Mallow and Bob Davis.





up guidelines for limited operations in a safe environment. Showings were scaled down to once or twice a month with a limited number of cars, designated parking spots, and no snack bar. Our biggest decision was not to charge admission, instead asking only for donations. Overall, our revenue was down by 87%, but our donations were up an amazing 162%, which led to a breakeven season.

At a time when a lot of people were facing economic challenges, we wanted to offer a safe and free distraction from the challenges of social distancing. We may not have shown a lot of movies in 2020, but we did keep ourselves and our community going! In 2021, we plan to ramp operations up to as close to a regular season as we can. Our view is that the future of drive-ins is very good. While regular theaters are still impacted by the coronavirus, people can be much more protected and socially distanced at drive-ins.

In many ways, COVID-19 has shown benefits of the outdoor, drive-in movie theater and its advantages for all sorts of entertainment and safe public gatherings.

I understand you have a lot planned for just 2021. Can you tell us more about what you plan to accomplish?

We have great hopes and plans. As our season starts this spring, we will likely continue with social distancing and other precautions to keep everyone safe. We are eager to get back to our main business: showing movies and providing regular, affordable family entertainment in our community.

To complete our projects, we will need to raise around \$100,000. Our priority is to build a performance stage so we can host concerts, weddings, and live theater performances. With grant

support through the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History and local donations, we have been addressing critical infrastructure and maintenance needs of our historic snack bar and screen building. Now we are ready to begin the work of building the entertainment, arts, and educational center we have always envisioned.

The board of directors has big plans for the facility. Can you tell us more about your long-term plan?

We plan to keep the drive-in at the core of what we do, but we want to make this into a center for arts, culture, and education in our community and region. We want to create opportunities for music and entertainment that small communities like ours normally don't see. Our dream is to one day have the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra perform on our stage.

Our screen and projection equipment will be opportunities for student education, skill development and featuring local talent. We hope to have local schools use the stage for music, drama productions and visual arts by students. We also will contact local educators to offer film classes, using the drive-in's equipment.

A unique feature of Warner's Drive-In is that our screen is built into a four-story building that was originally designed to house rooms and living space. The idea is to turn this large area into a museum and space to host educational programs. The museum will house and showcase artifacts from the Warner's Drive-In as well as the unique performing arts culture of the surrounding region. We'd like to use one of the upper floors for a local Airbnb. Who wouldn't want to spend the night in the world's only drive-in bed and breakfast?

To learn more, follow along on Facebook at Warner's Drive-In or visit www.warnersdriveinwv.org.

First Lady Thanks Artistree Participants

A message from First Lady
Cathy Justice

Photos by Steve Brightwell

For the 2020 Artistree project, I asked artists throughout West Virginia to create an ornament in honor of a healthcare worker. The ornaments we received were a testament to the gratitude that West Virginians all over the state have for our healthcare heroes. While the holidays were different this year, it is always a pleasure for the Governor and I to continue the wonderful

holiday tradition of Artistree.

Last December, we received 70 ornaments and were so proud to display them in the Great Hall of the Culture Center. Each artist took time to create an ornament that was truly special. A leather ornament by Morgan Rhea dedicated to our West Virginia healthcare workers had the inscription "First to show, last to go", demonstrating what we all know... healthcare workers are always the first ones to respond in a time of crisis and the last to leave. We should each take time to truly be thankful for the skills and dedication that they bring to the job each day.

Governor Justice and I love seeing the unique ideas from the Artistree ornaments each year. We are so proud of you and thank you very much for participating in this project that brings so much joy. I hope that you will continue to make West Virginia shine with your creativity!



Ornaments on this page, top to bottom:

Michelle Beck, Submitted by Brooke County Commission

Tina Grogg, Bridgeport, Harrison County, *God Bless Them - Every One*

Morgan Rhea and Julia Fox-Murphy, South Charleston, Kanawha County, *Healthcare Heroes*

Ornaments on facing page, top row:

Gail Kessler, South Charleston, Kanawha County, *WV Nursing is a Work of Heart*

Diana Harvey, Keyser, Mineral County, *Nursing Teachers Create Essential Nurses*

Susan Pauley, St. Albans, Kanawha County, *Our Family Hero*

Bottom row:

Angela Carpenter, Sutton, Braxton County, *Katie Bear and Fred Red*

Patricia Mercer, Wheeling, Ohio County, *Those Who Serve*

Kathleen Strange Gross, Scott Depot, Putnam County, *Bright Star*

Below and opposite: Holiday decorations in the Great Hall of the Culture Center.





Over \$47,000 Awarded in Professional Development and Fast Track Funding

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, along with the West Virginia Commission on the Arts approved and awarded \$47,307 in the second round of Professional Development for Artists and the Cultural Facilities and Capitol Resources Fast Track grants for Fiscal Year 2021. Funding is provided by the West Virginia Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. The recipients were:

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: \$40,000.00

City of Buckhannon
Buckhannon, Upshur County
\$10,000 to assist with ADA-compliant restrooms and chair lifts at the Colonial Theatre.

Jackson County Public Library
Ravenswood, Jackson County
\$10,000 for roof repairs.

Keith Albee Performing Arts Center
Huntington, Cabell County
\$10,000 for plumbing repairs.

Warner Drive-In Cultural & Resource Center
Franklin, Pendleton County
\$10,000 to make repairs to the screen building, roof, and add safety lighting.

Professional Development
Provides support for professional and emerging artists to expand and improve their work or share their expertise.
Total: 7,307.00

Meredith Cornell
Huntington, Cabell County
\$1,275 to obtain American Ballet Theatre teacher certification.

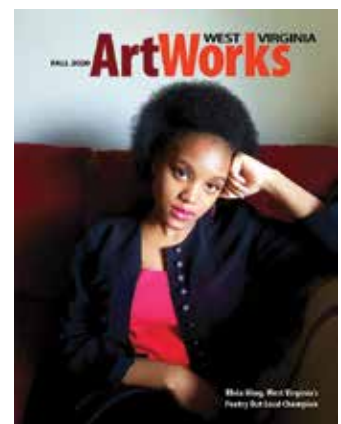
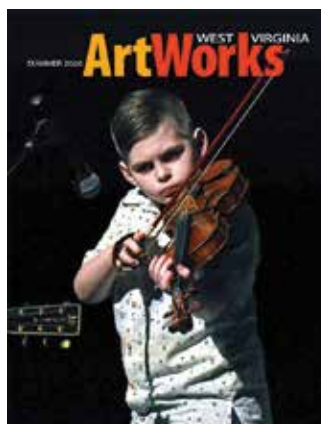
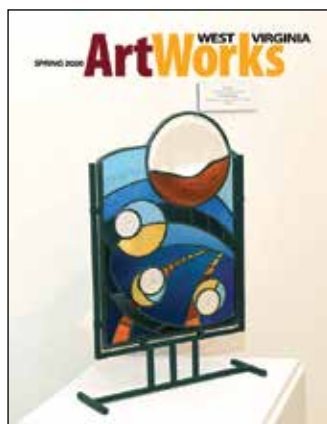
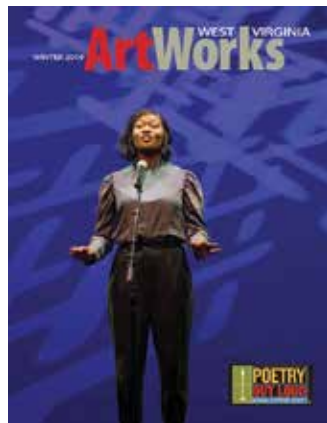
Sandra Reed
Huntington, Cabell County
\$1,657 to support travel and artist residency expenses in Wyoming.

Nevada Gail Tribble
Elkins, Randolph County
\$2,500 to help purchase a paper beater and for support associated with professional development and travel costs.

William Lloyd Waldeck
Huntington, Cabell County
\$1,875 to purchase a Skutt KM 1027 kiln.

Past Issues Available

Past issues of ArtWorks West Virginia are available for FREE upon request! Issues currently available include Winter, Summer and Fall 2019 and Spring, Summer and Fall 2020. Supplies are limited and given out on a first come, first served basis. For more information, contact the editor at Elizabeth.A.Yeager@wv.gov.



\$48,424 Awarded in Performing Arts Grants

Through CARES Act funding, appropriated by the United States Congress for emergency support for arts organizations through the National Endowment for the Arts, the WVDACH awarded ten arts organizations with Performing Art Project Support grants.

Non-for-profit organizations with an arts-related mission were eligible to apply. Eligible projects may be virtual or in-person performances, or a series of performances hosted safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2021.

CARES Act Performing Arts Project Support

VTC Legacy Fund
Clarksburg, Harrison County
\$5,000 for a video production of Macbeth

Black Box Youth Playhouse
Shepherdstown, Jefferson County
\$5,000 for student production of Songs of the North

Davis & Elkins College
Elkins, Randolph County
\$5,000 for a series of virtual music workshops and performances

Beckley Arts Group
Beckley, Raleigh County
\$5,000 for youth artist in residence to create social issues performance

Allegheny Echoes
Marlinton, Pocahontas County
\$5,000 for an outdoor folk music concert

Main Street Arts Collective
Buckhannon, Upshur County
\$4,460 for virtual poetry, storytelling, and musical performances

Hampshire County Arts Council
Romney, Hampshire County

\$5,000 for spring concert and workshop series

Children's Theatre of Charleston
Charleston, Kanawha County
\$3,964 for performance and recording of Christmas Shorts

Alchemy Theatre Troupe
Huntington, Cabell County
\$5,000 for virtual production of Hay Fever

Dream Big Music Education
Wellsburg, Brooke County
\$5,000 for virtual jazz workshops and performances



State Arts Office Welcomes New Staff Member

The State Arts Office is excited to welcome Cedrick L. Farmer to the team as the Community Arts Coordinator. Before joining the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, Cedrick worked for the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences. He is an award-winning singer, actor, and vocal coach. Cedrick has performed solo and with various groups, including The Randall Reid-Smith Vocal Studio, West Virginia State Philharmonic Orchestra, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Charleston Light Opera Guild, State Singers, American Choral Directors Association, West Virginia Music Educators Association, and more. He has sung for U.S. Senator Joe Manchin, NASA hero Katherine Johnson, Governor Jim Justice, and other notable citizens. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at West Virginia State University.

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 Elizabeth Yeager at Elizabeth.A.Yeager@wv.gov for complete submission guidelines. To ensure the best reproduction, photos of your work should be jpg images that measure 2400 pixels on the longest side, if possible.

Right:
Lee Ann Blevins
Kenova, Wayne County
Lavender
Oil on canvas



Above:
Dick Allowatt
St. Albans, Kanawha County
Automaton
Collage painting on canvas

Left:
Edward Rehbein
Beckley, Raleigh County
Lifted Up
Photography



Left:
Shaina Prince
Charleston, Kanawha County
Fermata
Acrylic

Below, left:
Machele Kindle
Montgomery, Fayette County
Meadow
Beaded embroidery

Below, right:
Susan L. Feller
Augusta, Hampshire County
Winter Along the New River in West Virginia
Hooked wool and embroidered cotton



Left:
Judith Bair
Sinks Grove, Monroe County
Who Doesn't Like a Red Painting?
Oil on canvas

Grant Opportunities for Artists and Organizations

Arts in Education

Deadline: April 1

Provides support for curriculum-based 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.

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.



Community Arts Mini Grants

Deadline: 6 weeks prior to project date

Provides support for projects that present artists in performances, workshops, and other projects with a specific arts focus.

Oops! Please forgive us...

The Fall 2020 edition of Gallery 35 incorrectly labeled artwork from Mark Tobin Moore. The title of his piece should have read, *(Patriots) Save Us From Ourselves*.



Peer Assistant Networks (PAN)

The West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) allows arts organizations two PAN sessions per year, free of charge. Sessions last an average of two to four hours and 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 entire board of directors or only a few staff members. The WVCA has a designated group of peer advisors that are paired to fit an organization in West Virginia and expertise in a range of fields. For more information about PAN, contact Cedrick Farmer at Cedrick.L.Farmer@wv.gov or (304) 558-0240.

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

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



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.

Barbie.J.Smoot@wv.gov



Cedrick Farmer is the Community Arts Coordinator. He oversees and provides technical assistance to the Arts Partners, Community Arts Project Support, and Community Arts Mini-Grant programs. He also manages the Peer Assistance Network.

Cedrick.L.Farmer@wv.gov



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

James.D.Wolfe@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



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.

Elizabeth.A.Yeager@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



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