

Art works

Winter 2004

Dance at West Virginia Wesleyan College *By Bess Park Reynolds*

The dance program at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon began four years ago and has rapidly grown to include more than 70 dancers enrolled in semester courses in contemporary dance, classical ballet, jazz, tap, choreography and improvisation. The growth over the past few years indicates there is a need in the region for a quality collegiate dance program. There is little else in the state that equals the programmatic and performance opportunities in dance offered through Wesleyan's program, which is offered as a minor in the theater arts and musical theater departments.

Inclusivity, as well as maintaining artistic excellence and standards, defines the philosophic approach to dance at this small liberal arts college. Dancers explore their art from a contemporary as well as a classical approach, and discover unique collaborative opportunities in a safe place to explore

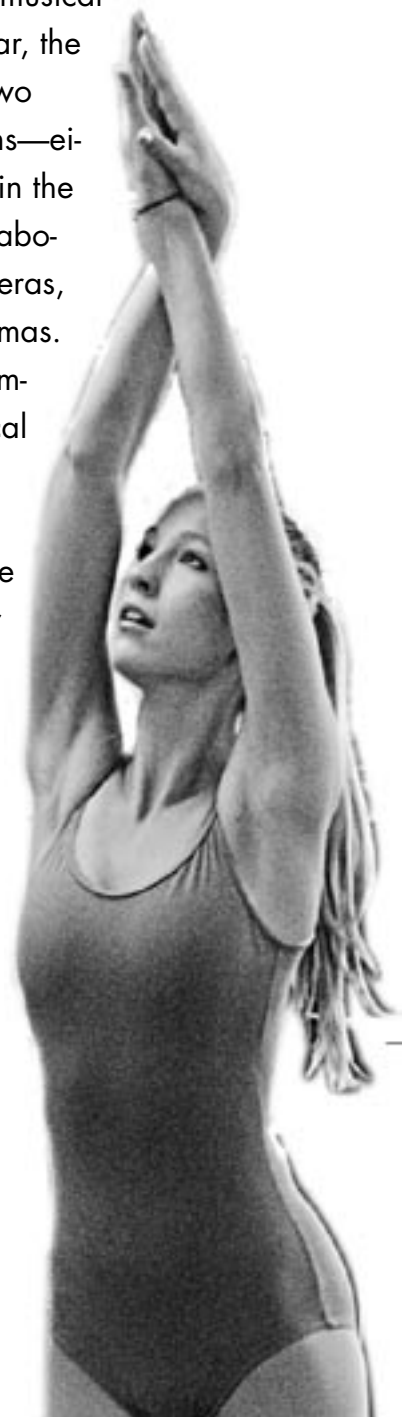


Bess Park Reynolds, wearing scarf at left, is the driving force behind West Virginia Wesleyan College's progressive dance and musical theater program. Here, she leads a dance class at the college.

their own creative energies. Jazz and tap are part of the curriculum, both as art forms and to support the college's fast-growing musical theater program. Each year, the school produces at least two musical theater productions—either on the main stage or in the experimental theater. Collaborations include one-act operas, oratorios and musical dramas. The theater program is committed to a study of physical theater that substantiates the importance of dance as a course of study for the actor. A student performer can participate even if he or she is not a theater major. Diversity, social issues and philosophic questioning draw a rich mixture of performers and artists together. The college encourages and supports these partnerships, valuing them as a part of studying the humanities.

Continued on page 2

Photographs by Michael Keller



Dance at Wesleyan...

Continued from page 1



A hands-on instructor, Reynolds puts her students through their paces as they prepare for an upcoming show. Performance opportunities are an integral part of Wesleyan's program.

**West Virginia
Dance Festival
April 29-May 1, 2005
Cultural Center,
State Capitol Complex,
Charleston**

Mozart ABC123," is specifically for grades K-3. Its goal is to introduce reading, math and language skills through dance. Additional tours are being developed for grades 4-8 and 9-12 in "Science in Motion" and "The Power of Rhythm."

Dance performance opportunities began with the first West Virginia Contemporary Dance Festival in January 2001 when I received a \$10,000 grant from Dance/USA for Mark Taylor from the Pittsburgh Dance Alloy to stage Swan Lake Act II, a modern dance conceptualization of the famous ballet act. The work was a major turning point in the development of the dance program and started our commitment to bringing in professional guest artists to regularly teach on our campus.

The festival is now in its fourth year and features professional dancers in modern and ballet, as well as arts in education, somatic modalities, production sup-

port and much more. As exposure to the program grows, our audiences grow. Each year there are at least four dance performances, six theater performances, four art exhibit openings and 10 musical concerts on campus. Additionally, the school has a dance touring company that regularly travels into the public school system. This year's tour, called "Mostly

port and much more. Approximately 200 students and professionals attend each year, with this year's guest artists hailing from Hubbard Street II in Chicago (presented in part by the West Virginia Commission on the Arts), Pittsburgh Ballet, Labco, James Madison University, Shenandoah University and Children's Dance Foundation. The festival will be held Jan. 27-30, 2005, at Wesleyan. We encourage studios and companies to apply to participate in the Saturday night Gala Dance Concert and the Sunday afternoon Works-in Progress/Emerging Artists Concert. Hubbard Street will be teaching master classes on Thursday night and Friday afternoon, and will perform a lecture/demo on Friday morning and a complete concert on Friday evening. More than 25 master classes will be taught in all dance forms. For more information about the festival, contact Bess Park Reynolds at (304) 473-8449 or (304) 629-3457 or email park-reynolds@wwvc.edu. ❄️

About the Author

Bess Park Reynolds is the artistic director of the West Virginia Contemporary Dance Festival and associate professor and director of musical theater and dance at West Virginia Wesleyan College.



Wesleyan's growing program offers students an opportunity to study both contemporary and classical dance.

The college encourages and supports these partnerships, valuing them as a part of studying the humanities.

A Secret Dream

By Rebecca Conrad

Karin Vingle sits at her desk, her mind brimming with ideas for her next column. Will it be about her daughter, Celeste, who is seven-going-on-twenty? Or should she write again about the spiders in her front doorway: Guido, who perches cockily on his web, and Harvey, who trembles in fright when she confronts them? Or maybe she should write something more serious this week, like when she wrote about people taking the whole family—including small children—into R-rated movies. Whatever the subject of her next column, it will entertain, delight, or prod her statewide readership.

Although Karin has been employed as a secretary at Charleston newspapers since 1987, for years few of her coworkers knew of her secret dream to be a writer. “I was working among professional writers, educated writers,” said Vingle in a speech given to the Webster Springs Women’s Club in May. “I envisioned them patting me on the head, like adults to a child playing dress-up, and saying, ‘How cute. The little secretary wants to write, too.’”

In 1997, her closely guarded secret was revealed when the *Gazette* received a press release listing the winners of the West Virginia Writers annual competition: Vingle’s name appeared as the first place winner in the fiction category. The *Gazette*’s managing editor Rosalie Earle called Vingle to ask if she wanted to write a column from a female’s perspective to act as a counterpoint to an existing column.

That year, Vingle became a lifestyle columnist for *The Sunday-Gazette Mail*, West Virginia’s largest newspaper, and every year since then has been recognized as one of West Virginia’s top columnists by the West Virginia Press Association. In addition, she has won more awards in the West Virginia Writers competition, received a 1998 Berea College Denny C. Plattner Award for Excellence in Writing, and served as feature columnist on Babynet, a parenting website, for four years.

Another of Vingle’s dreams came true in July 1997—she had a daughter, Celeste. In 2000, she became pregnant again, but it ended with a miscarriage. After two more miscarriages, she was diagnosed with Factor V Leiden, often referred to as FVL. FVL is a common blood-clotting disorder that’s believed to affect approximately five percent of the population and was the

cause of her miscarriages. When she became pregnant again in the fall of 2001, Vingle had to give herself daily abdominal injections of a blood thinner to maintain the pregnancy. It worked. Her second daughter Camille Gabriella was born June 1, 2002.

But tragedy loomed. In an excerpt taken from Vingle’s award-winning column, she wrote, “It was supposed to be a routine four-month check-up for our baby girl. We were supposed to find out her weight and length, supposed to stand there and cringe while she was given her immunizations. We were supposed to coddle her all evening and give her Tylenol and rub those chubby thighs made sore from the shots. The last thing we were supposed to do was find out she was dying.”

Just six weeks after being diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), Camille died November 26, 2002. Although Vingle’s world had fallen apart, she wrote, “Every time I went to the mail box, I would find a card or letter from my readers. Each message comforted me, and with their support and love, I began to heal.”

For her columns about Camille, Vingle was awarded first place by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Her story about Camille, called “Broken Wings,” placed second out of 10,000 entries in *Glamour* magazine’s “Story of My Life” essay contest.

I became friends with Vingle through an Internet writing group called West Virginia Writers Roundtable. Fay Thompson began the group soon after becoming the president of West Virginia Writers in 2001. Vingle offered to critique a few essays I’d written and I’ve learned much from her since. I’m awed by her clean-cut, straightforward style of writing and her amazing ability for humor.

Vingle has lived through more than most. She not only lost her baby, but a few months later, her husband of seven years moved out and filed for divorce. When the darkest time was over, she wrote about how she had thought about ending it all, but decided not to: “Since then, I’ve found a wealth of new sweetness in each passing day, and I’m noticing—and savoring—all the things I would have missed.”

We readers will be forever glad she didn’t give up. We cried with her when she lost Camille. We hurt for her when her marriage ended. We laughed with her about the new pets that brought back happiness. We smiled when she told us of meeting a new love at the West Virginia Writers conference last year. And we applauded when she shared the news that her love had gotten down on one knee at the writer’s conference this summer. (Her answer was “yes.”)

And as long as she keeps writing, we’ll never quit reading.

Vingle’s essays and short stories have appeared in such publications as *Woman’s World*, *Appalachian Heritage* and *Atlanta Parent*. *Momfoolery*, a collection of her newspaper columns, sold out of its first printing. An expanded version is being considered for publication in 2005. ❄️

Whatever the subject of her next column, it will entertain, delight, or prod her statewide readership.

About the Author

Rebecca Conrad’s work has been widely published on websites and in books and magazines. The recipient of a 2003 West Virginia Artist Fellowship Grant Award from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, she also has received an honorable mention in the West Virginia Writers annual writing competition.

Weaving The Web

By Maryann Franklin

Artists' Cooperative Enriches Lives and Community

Crafts abound in rural Hardy County and the community of Lost River, just two hours from the Washington, D.C., beltway and yet a world away. Lost River serves as home to a craft cooperative with a function similar in nature to Tamarack, only on a smaller scale. At the cooperative, artists from surrounding areas display and sell a wide variety of crafts including pottery, paintings, woodcraft, stained glass, iron work, jewelry, baskets, fiber arts and much more.

The Lost River Craft Cooperative, established 17 years ago, is housed in the upper story of an 1845 barn that also houses the Lost River Museum. The cooperative and museum draw artists, local residents and visitors, and provide an opportunity for participation in the artistic life and living history of this rural community.

Lost River is a cooperative in the true sense of the word. The cooperative and the museum share a board of directors—a diverse group of members, all of whom contribute their time and talents to make the store and museum shine.

"It's part of the co-op to perform certain tasks," said Rhonda Craven, a local jewelry artist. "We round up volunteers for meetings and potluck dinners and there are those of us that volunteer to man the store a certain number of hours."

"Culturally and geographically, we're very close to Virginia, so we have a lot of people who are from just over the line," continued Nancy Powell, who has been on the board for the last nine years and serves as the director of the museum. "The co-op includes a fair number of locals and we also have people from the D.C. area that have ties here. We find that our customers want stuff that is West Virginia. Some want real 'country' and some want things that are sophisticated with a country base. For example, our woodworkers offer fine products constructed of native woods. It's an interesting mix."

About the Cooperative

The board of Lost River Craft Cooperative appoints a jurying committee composed of members representing various crafts. The committee meets at designated times before the store opens for the season and monthly thereafter. The committee may invite additional members who have a particular expertise to help jury a particular item. The members judge submissions for five criteria: design, workmanship, materials, function and finish. Additionally, the jurying committee considers whether the cooperative is the right venue for selling the product. If a product is not satisfactory, the committee gives the producer constructive suggestions about how it might be improved.



The small town of Lost River in Hardy County features a hidden treasure—a progressive craft cooperative. The Lost River Craft Cooperative was founded 17 years ago and thrives in the rural community.

Powell, a retired school principal, and her husband Bill, a retired video journalist, have made Lost River their second home. They were instrumental in expanding the cooperative, acquiring the barn and establishing the museum.

The Lost River Educational Foundation, part of the cooperative, sponsors art activities in the schools.

"We just had a live performance of Shakespeare for the local high school. Otherwise, most of these kids would never see real performing arts," said Powell. "We also bring in some of the West Virginia Humanities Council 'History Alive' performing artists. Cooperative members donate time, visiting local schools to share and teach their skills. We hold student art shows, awarding art supplies as prizes. We also give art and arts-related scholarships as prizes. What we're trying to say to children here is that it is credible to pursue a career in the arts."

The cooperative, the foundation and the museum also jointly sponsor events. In 2004, they hosted a series of programs that featured an exhibit of heritage and contemporary quilts; lectures on quilt history and folk arts; demonstrations of spinning and weaving; a "Bee in" that featured quilting, embroidering, knitting, tatting and crocheting; and a heritage weekend with demonstrations by potters, wood turners, leather workers and blacksmiths. There also was Appalachian music, instrument making, storytelling and an art show.

The centerpiece of the museum is an 1886 loom that was owned and used by two local sisters. In the early 1970s, the Smithsonian Institution discovered the sisters and their exquisite coverlets, featuring them in an issue of the Smithsonian's magazine. The loom serves as a symbol of the cooperative's success—using who you are, what you have and where you are—to weave a web that encompasses the talents, contributions and interests of artists, ordinary people and a community.

For more information, visit www.LostRiverCraft.com after April 1 or call (304) 897-6893. ❄️



Photographs by Michael Keller

A variety of work from local artists is available at the cooperative, which is housed in a 160-year-old barn.

Davis Receives Distinguished Public Service Award

William Maxwell Davis, past chair of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, is the 2004 recipient of the Distinguished Public Service Award presented by the National Association for State Arts Agencies (NASAA). Serving as either chair or council member since 1967, Davis has always represented West Virginia with dignity. He is known for his commitment to making arts resources available to the state's large rural population. His devotion to the arts has truly been manifested in the form of public service; he believes that the life of every citizen should be graced by access to the arts, and he has fulfilled the Commission's mission by promoting that end.

Davis retired in 1979 as president of the Bank of West Virginia. He is currently a director for Kanawha Investment & Trust Company. As a retired bank president, his analytical mind and financial experience have proven invaluable to many organizations. Davis' most recent tenure as chair of the Commission ended in April 2004 and was distinguished by a substantial improvement in the quality of arts programming throughout the state, including the distribution of \$6.3 million for facilities improvements. In addition to continuing to serve as a member of the Commission, he is trustee emeritus and former chairman and acting president of the University of Charleston; president of Marshall University Graduate College

Foundation; Visiting Committee member of the West Virginia University College of Creative Arts; Visiting Committee member of the West Virginia University Library System; board member of the Library Foundation of Kanawha County; and board member of the Collectors Club of Sunrise Museum. Davis is a former board member of the Western Reserve Historical Society, Charleston Symphony Orchestra and Charleston Music Society. ❄️

About the Award

NASAA established the Distinguished Public Service Award in 2000 to recognize the contribution of volunteer leaders to the public arts support field.

About the Caricature

The caricature of William Maxwell Davis by artist Taylor Jones was commissioned by West Virginia Commission on the Arts Chair Susan Stevenson Landis and other members of the Commission.



Introducing the Commission Chair



Susan Stevenson Landis

Susan Stevenson Landis was born in Scranton, Pa., into a Navy family and spent her youth moving from one side of the country to the other. After graduating from high school, she attended the College of William and Mary, received a bachelor's degree in psychology, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Later

she attended Old Dominion University and the University of Virginia where she earned a master's degree in guidance and educational testing.

In 1977, Landis and her family moved to Beckley which she continues to call home. She began her long service of community involvement based upon the activities of her son, volunteering at his schools, the library, the local YWCA, and serving on the board of the Youth Museum of Southern West Vir-

ginia, among others. She also has been a member of the board of directors of the Beckley Concert Association for more than 20 years. Her interest in the arts is further demonstrated by her extended service on the board of Theatre West Virginia (TWC). In 1999, Landis was honored by TWC with the "Bravo Award" for support of the arts in West Virginia. She has served five years on the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and in June 2004, she was elected chair.

Landis is also the executive director of the Beckley Area Foundation Board which allows her to work with the many different community programs that have interested her over the years. She has received the "Outstanding Community Service Award" from the Beckley Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce, the "Spirit of Beckley Award," the "Cool Woman Award" from Charter Communications, and was recognized by President George W. Bush this year for her volunteer activities and for serving as a role model to those aspiring to reach the goal of the Freedom Corps which challenges all Americans to volunteer a total of 4,000 hours. ❄️

2005 Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grants Announced

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts have announced the recipients of the 2005 Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grants. The grant panel reviewed applications on August 19 and funding suggestions from the panel were forwarded to the West Virginia Commission on the Arts for review on September 14. Seventeen awards were made for a total of \$3,094,326.

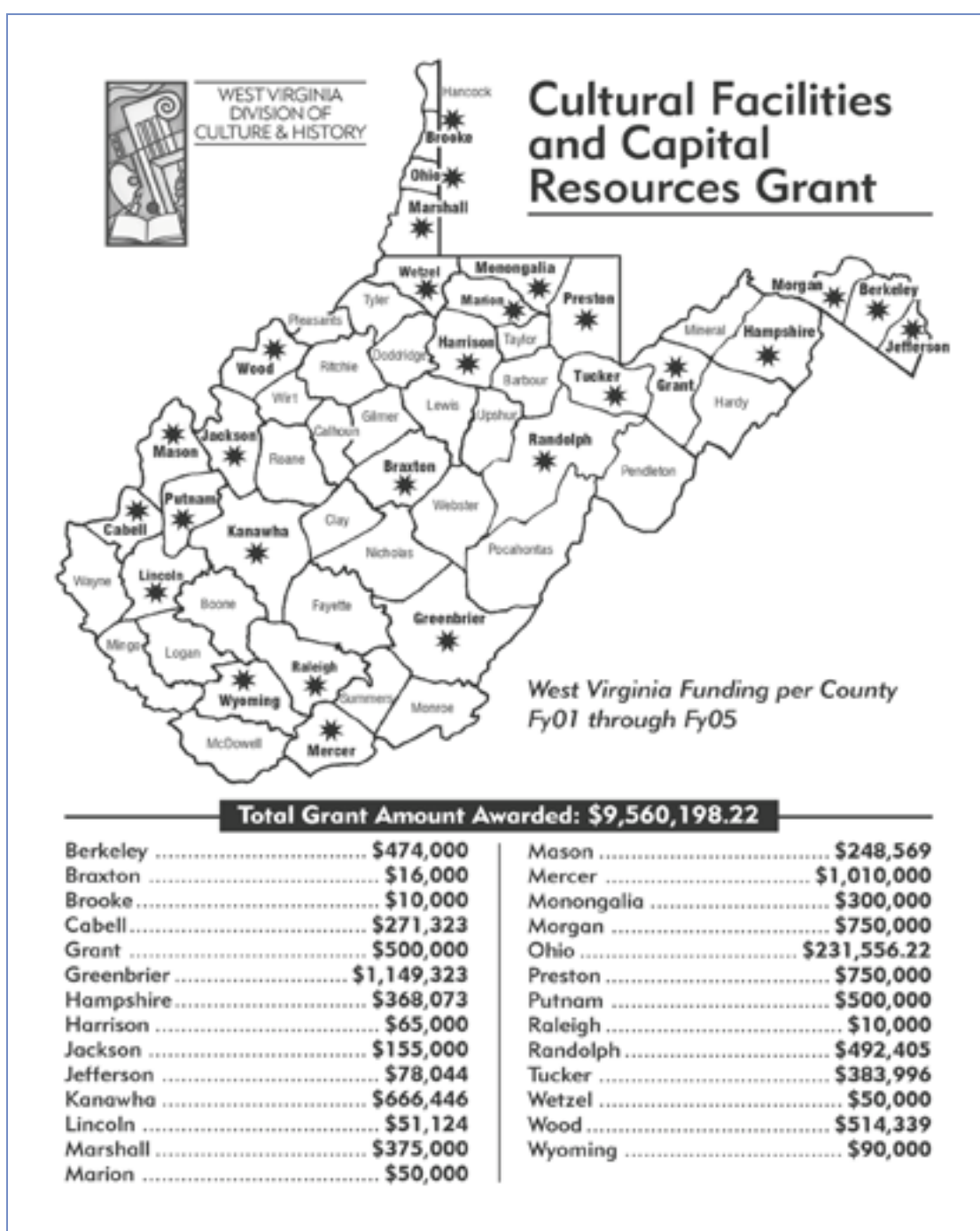
The 17 award recipients for 2005 include Artslink, Wetzel County, \$50,000 for renovation; The Aurora Project, Inc., Preston County, \$300,000 for renovation; Charles Mathena II Foundation, Mercer County, \$500,000 for acquisition and construction; City of Charleston, Kanawha County, \$34,147 for durable equipment; Grant County Public Library, \$250,000 for new construction; Greenbrier Historical Society, Greenbrier County, \$402,481 for renovations to the North House Museum; Hampshire County Historical/Arts Museum, \$358,073 for renovation; Harrison County Schools, \$35,000 for renovation; Historic Beverly Preservation, Randolph County, \$244,885 for renovation; Main Street Point Pleasant, Mason County, \$18,500 for durable equipment; Metropolitan Theatre Preservation Foundation, Monon-

galia County, \$100,000 for renovation; Morgan Arts Council, Morgan County, \$450,000 for renovation; Mountain Made Foundation, Tucker County, \$124,496 for renovation; Mountain Partners in Community Development for C-HOPE, Randolph County, \$72,620 for renovation; North Wheeling Community Youthbuild Center, Ohio County, \$63,000 for renovation. Pricketts Fort Memorial Foundation, Marion County, \$50,000 for renovation; and Step by Step, Lincoln County, \$41,124 for renovation.

The panelists who reviewed the applications were selected for their expertise in accessibility, theater, museums, finance and construction. Panel members included the following individuals: Frederick A. Lambert, Ed.D.LLC, president emeritus of Oglebay Institute and consultant from Wheeling; Kevin Sutton, AIA, an architect for the federal court system from Charlotte, N.C.; and Penney Hall, APR, state ADA coordinator from Charleston. Commission members Pete Holloway from Wheeling and Susan Stevenson Landis from Daniels also served on the panel.

The Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Grants program is an unusual program—one of very few in the country that offer grant opportunities for arts facility improvement and capital purchases. The goals of this program are to increase or assure public access to the arts, involve collaborations and partnerships that leverage additional public and private investment, to encourage projects that serve more than one county and to increase artistic excellence. Additional weight is given to projects that contribute to economic development; promote cultural development in rural, underserved and/or minority communities; address known health and safety deficiencies; create or improve access to facilities for working artists with disabilities; and improve, expand or rehabilitate existing buildings for physical accessibility. Secondary priority is given to history organizations. Grants are awarded for the acquisition of real property, renovation and/or construction of facilities, including alterations needed in order to comply with Section 504 of the 1974 Rehabilitation Act and the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, and for durable equipment.

Due to legislative changes in 2004, funds available for 2006 have been reduced. The deadline for applications is July 1, 2005. Applicants are encouraged to begin planning now for a 2006 application. Eligible applicants must be not-for-profit, tax-exempt West Virginia corporations or agencies of municipal or county governments, including county school boards. For more information or to request a complete set of guidelines and forms, contact Rose McDonough at (304) 558-0240, ext. 152, or e-mail rose.mcdonough@wvculture.org. ❄️



A PennPat Experience

By Bruce Ensinger

I guess one could say that the idea began in Princeton, N.J., when I was attending a Westminster Choir College class with Helen Kemp on developing a children's choir. The class provided us time to share ideas with others and to exchange literature. During one of these sharing times, another class member told us that her husband would be on campus Friday and would be happy to sing for the class. That day was the first time I heard John Goldsmith sing, and I will never forget the beauty of his voice as he performed an aria by Handel.

Twenty-five years later, I become involved with Arts-Link Inc. in New Martinsville. When we decided to start a concert series, I called on friends and local artists for help. After our successful first season, I decided to be more adventurous and program some unique artists for our second concert series. While attending a concert of the Pittsburgh Symphony last fall, John and Elaine Goldsmith were seated next to me. At intermission, they told me of their vocal ensemble, The Bellefield Singers. The more they told me, the more I knew the group would be a perfect choice for our concert series. The Goldsmiths told me they were on the PennPAT Roster and that I could obtain a grant to cover up to 50% of their fee. John took my mailing address and told me he would send some additional information.

A few days later, a folder arrived containing a photo, press release, biographical information for the ensemble and each artist, concert reviews, a description

of repertoire, types of programs, fee schedule, workshop options, technical information and a stage plot. A brochure with information about applying for a PennPAT grant also was included. In the cover letter, John offered any assistance necessary to bring his ensemble to be a part of our concert series. I went to the PennPAT website and found all the forms necessary for a grant. All of these forms can be saved on your computer as a Word document, and PennPAT provides a checklist and assistance in the grant-writing process.

PennPAT artists are selected through a rigorous panel review process, which considers artistic quality and touring readiness. Artists that meet the program's criteria provide everything needed to accommodate their performance. You do not have to contact them for a contract, a photo, a program or biographical information. You receive everything up front.

The Bellefield Singers' promotional material is the most thorough I have ever received. I look forward to their performance in April 2005 and share the view of Simon Carrington, founder and member of the King's Singers, who stated, "The Bellefield Singers is the most elegant, refined and musical small ensemble I have heard since settling in the U.S. Their interpretations of everything from Josquin to Judy Collins are stylish and highly engaging, their tone is always radiant, their blend impeccable and their range of colour remarkable." ❄️



PennPat Grant Deadlines

www.pennpat.org

Feb. 15, 2005:

Projects scheduled between June 1, 2005 and May 31, 2007

June 15, 2005:

Projects requesting \$1,500 or less scheduled between Sept. 1, 2005 and Aug. 31, 2006

Nominations Wanted For 2005 Governor's Arts Awards

All West Virginians have the opportunity to nominate individual artists, organizations and communities for the 2005 Governor's Arts Awards. Seven categories have been selected by the West Virginia Commission on the Arts to be awarded at a ceremony on Monday, April 4, 2005, at the Cultural Center.

"The arts in West Virginia provide both human and economic development for communities and individuals all over the state," said commissioner of Culture and History, Troy Body. "Artists and arts organizations have earned public and official respect. By honoring their invaluable contributions with these awards, we are celebrating the arts as a magnet for talent and business in West Virginia."

Jeanne Mozier, chair of the Arts Awards committee, outlined the process determining those to be honored. "All those selected for the honor will come from nominations made by the public. The nominations will be reviewed and rated by an objective process conducted by more than a dozen people both in and out of the state," said Mozier. "We need all parts of the arts community to help by making nominations. Your choice cannot be selected if you don't make the nomination," she said.

The award categories are:

- Distinguished Arts Award for lifetime achievement in the arts
- Arts Patron Award for individual or organization contributions of time, effort or financial resources to the arts
- Arts in Education or Service to Youth Award for individual or organization achievements
- Creative Community Spirit Award for a city, town or community-wide non-arts organization using the arts for community development or betterment
- Arts Leadership and Service Award for visionary individual or arts organization leadership and service in the arts
- Artistic Excellence Award for significant contributions to the arts in West Virginia by either an established or emerging artist
- Arts Innovator Award for an individual, group, organization or educator who has successfully executed innovative methods of involving the public in arts experiences ❄️

Nominating forms and directions are available by calling:

Debbie Rainey Haught at (304) 558-0240 or online at www.wvculture.org. The deadline for nominations is January 14, 2005.

Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability Conference

By Linda Buchanan

I attended the fourth annual Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) conference at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in August. I received funding to attend this conference from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts Training and Travel Fund and from the ADA Coalition of the National Institutes on Disability Rehabilitation and Research. I wanted to gather information about audio description training so our local community theater, the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, could pursue offering this service to our patrons. I left with a huge quantity of information on many topics that will be helpful to my organization's continuing efforts to increase accessibility to our facility and programs. The conference provided access to a national network of resources and people we can turn to for advice and assistance.

More than 130 people from across the country attended the three-day conference. Attendees came from an astounding variety of backgrounds representing museums, libraries, theaters, state and federal arts agencies, higher education, sign language interpretation and audio description services, architects and engineers. It was a diverse group with a unifying passion for the arts and dedication to the idea that the arts should be accessible to everyone.

Presentations and concurrent roundtable discussions included:

- The 504 Rehabilitation Act and key issues of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Universal design—designing for the widest spectrum of people and abilities
- Qualifications for interpreters in the performing arts and the special skills required to provide this service
- Working with the community to improve audience and visitor development activities through surveys and focus groups

- Advice on writing effective grant applications, focusing on funding for arts accessibility
 - Conducting a facilities assessment to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
 - Assistive listening systems and devices
- Immediate benefits of the conference for the Actors Guild include:
- Getting information about the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation. We already have submitted a grant to fund a collaboration in March between the Actors Guild and West Virginia University at Parkersburg.
 - Connections with experts to assist us in developing sign language interpretation and audio description programs

- Architectural advice and possible funding sources for upcoming accessibility renovation projects
- Contacts for sources for original plays addressing disability issues
- Suggestions about how to improve our youth theater program to better serve children with disabilities



This annual conference is valuable to anyone interested in including all members of their community as audience members, performers and employees. For more information, see the Kennedy Center website at www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility or contact the Center's Office for Accessibility at (202) 416-8727 (voice) or (202) 416-8728 (TTY). ❄️

About the Author

Linda Buchanan is the 504/ADA Coordinator for the Actors Guild in Parkersburg and has coordinated planning and projects since 2001. She has been an Actors Guild member since 1991 and served as president of the organization's board of directors for two terms.

To create one's own world in any of the arts takes courage.

– Georgia O'Keefe

Resources/Opportunities

Please see the West Virginia Division of Culture and History website at www.wvculture.org for updated Internet Resources and Opportunities/Events listings.

New Publications and Forms Available for WVCA Grants and Services

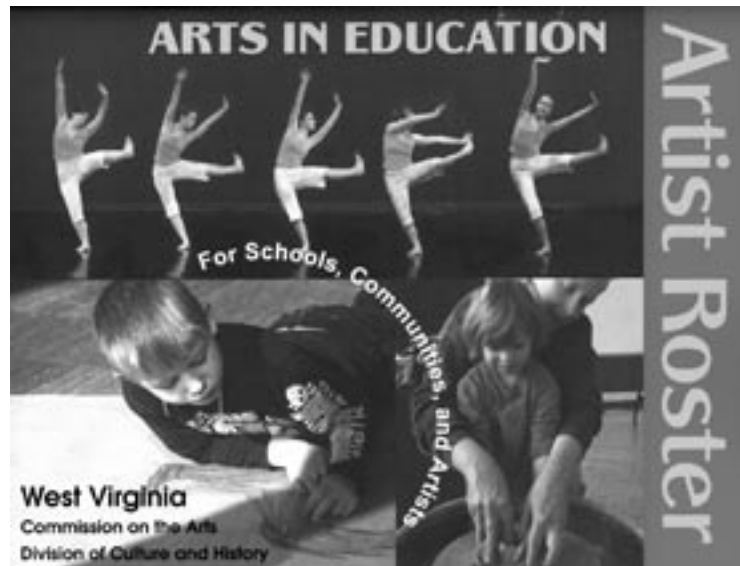
New publications and forms are now available for West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) grants and services. The new Grants and Services book describes all available services, resources and information for guiding arts programming planning. The updated Artist Roster provides resources for hiring teaching artists for Arts in Education (AIE) programs. New information is clearly indicated graphically in both publications so changes can be easily located, and the new books are being introduced in a series of workshops across the state.

Changes in the AIE application guidelines include a name change from Touring program to Artist Visit, and all non-school applicants must now provide an organizational operating budget (included in AIE Application Packet).

In addition, a new opportunity is being offered in the Accessibility Services program. Applicants can receive funding for items in their programming budgets that make sites and programs more accessible. Since planning for accessibility should be a key part of programming planning, requests for these funds are included in the programming application.

New forms also are available. The packets of forms include everything needed to apply for a particular grant program.

Some changes in the forms should be noted. The names of the grant areas have been changed. The Major and Mid-Size General Operating Support grant program now has its own application packet. What was once referred to as General Grants is now more accurately described as Community Arts Project Support. Arts in Education has its own grant packet,



as does Professional Development for Artists, which is now broken down into two areas, Individual Artist Application Packet and the Organizational Application Packet. Each grant application packet has its own checklist and scoring criteria included, helping the applicant understand more clearly what is expected of them.

There are two major changes in the way you apply to the WVCA:

- 1) Two singled-sided copies of each application must be submitted, complete with documentation and supplemental material.
- 2) For any applicant who is not fully ADA/504 compliant, a complete Arts Accessibility Checklist and Transition Plan must be submitted every three years, beginning with all February, March and July 1 applications in 2005 (FY2006). In the second and third years, interim transition plans must be provided. Subsequent years for full transition plans include 2008 and 2011. ❄️

For information or assistance, contact the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's arts staff at (304) 558-0240.



Upcoming Grant Deadlines

West Virginia Commission on the Arts

www.wvculture.org

Feb. 1, 2005: Professional Development

March 1, 2005: Arts in Education, Community Arts Project Support and General Operating Grants

Rolling Deadline: Minigrants

West Virginia Development Office

www.sbdcwv.org

Ongoing deadline for money for your small business website. Click on "Small Business Work Force Training Grant Application." For more information contact Kimberly Donahue at kdonahue@wvdo.org or at (304)558-2960/1-800-982-7232

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

www.midatlanticarts.org

Rolling Deadline: Tour Planning Program

Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour

www.pennpat.org

Feb. 15, 2005: Projects scheduled between June 1, 2005 and May 31, 2007

June 15, 2005: Projects requesting \$1,500 or less scheduled between Sept. 1, 2005 and Aug. 31, 2006

West Virginia Humanities Council

www.wvhumanities.org

Feb. 1, 2005: Major Grants, maximum award \$20,000, and Fellowships

Feb. 1, April 1 and June 1, 2005: Minigrants

National Endowment for the Arts

www.arts.endow.gov

Jan. 10, 2005: Literature Fellowships for prose translations

March 1, 2005: Literature Fellowships for fiction and creative nonfiction.

May 19, 2005: Save America's Treasures

West Virginia Arts Presenters

By Rachael Meads

Arts Staff

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Like many of my peers, I stumbled into a position when I became an arts presenter in 1995 at Shepherd College, now Shepherd University, in Shepherdstown. Armed only with a passion for the arts and a master's degree in English, I jumped into the job, deciding that I would learn by doing. Without a doubt, the most helpful resource to me that year was a consortium of fellow presenters from across the state—then known as the West Virginia Council of Cultural Coordinators. Made up of both new and experienced arts presenters from colleges, universities and community arts organizations from across the state, the consortium offered me a space to learn the basics of arts presentation from some wonderful mentors.

My introduction to that group of dedicated presenters was both pivotal to my development as an arts presenter and extremely beneficial to my organization and community. I learned how to develop residencies that would extend beyond the borders of our campus and into our community. By working cooperatively through block-booking, we were able to leverage our collective buying power and bring in artists whose fees would normally be far beyond our individual budgets. By planning together, we could develop better programs, stronger outreach activities and work to make art accessible to our audiences.

In 2002, with the support of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the core members

of the consortium, this group was reborn as the West Virginia Arts Presenters Inc. (WVAP). The group's mission is to assist non-profit arts presenters in their efforts to foster the growth of the performing arts and to advance the fields of professional touring and presenting by block-booking quality artists and programs. WVAP is committed to seeking matching funds for programs block-booked by its members; developing a statewide network for cooperative programming; providing technical production and marketing assistance through the sharing of professional expertise; and addressing common issues relative to the growth and development of the performing arts in West Virginia.

The immediate benefit of membership in WVAP is financial. By combining efforts with other presenters across the state, the WVAP has brought some of the greatest performing artists in the world to tour West Virginia. These artists have included Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Kodo, the Saint Petersburg Ballet, the National Theatre of the Deaf, Ballet Hispanico and more. The consortium also has provided a space where people can find mentors to teach them the fundamentals of arts presentation and grantwriting.

Non-profit arts organizations interested in learning more about the WVAP should contact Laura McCullough by calling the West Virginia State University Capitol Center at (304) 342-6522 or by e-mailing mccullla@wvstateu.edu. ❄️

Apprentice Program to Grow By Bob Simile

The apprentice program of the West Virginia Art and Craft Guild and the Mountain State Art and Craft Fair has been in existence since about the time the guild and the fair were founded. The program is designed to give people age 16 and up an opportunity to work with artists and craftspeople. The program pairs an aspiring artist/craftsperson with a seasoned mentor to work in a medium of interest to the apprentice.

Most apprentices are matched with a mentor before the fair begins in July and work with them throughout the four-day event. Some mentors invite their apprentices to join them even before the fair opens, to give them insight into the preparation that goes into their craft and the business side of life as an artist/craftsperson.

The benefits to the apprentices are abundant. They learn about the medium they have chosen, including the cost of materials and the time needed to produce the wares. Often, the artists/craftspeople will mentor apprentices by opening doors to not only their own studios, but to those of other exhibitors at the fair. The

apprentice also may spend time helping fair officials with tasks essential to operating such a large event.

The future of the apprentice program is bright, and the guild is working to continue to assist and broaden its scope. The goal is to offer an expanded program, in conjunction with the program at the fair, to provide financial assistance for an apprentice to work with a mentor for two or more weeks at any time during the year. The guild will seek grants and sponsorships, and will be working with other groups to develop this program. The financial assistance will help provide materials, housing and meals.

With time, opportunity and participation, the apprentice program will surely grow. And with it so will the number of new and successful artists/craftspeople who will keep West Virginia blossoming with beautiful handmade art and craft. ❄️



Accessibility Funding Available

Don't miss this opportunity to get up to \$500 toward making your programs accessible and welcoming to your community!

Thinking about accessibility issues should be part of your program planning process. Arts Accessibility Technical Assistance Funding is available from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and can be used to rent ramps and/or assistive listening equipment, for sign language interpreters or audio descriptors, and for creating alternate formats for materials.

Include your request for funding for these accessibility services with your grant application. Be sure to include it in the "Project Summary" section of the Individual Project Form. You should also list the service you are requesting funds for under "Other" on the Individual Project Budget "Expenses" section. ❄️

Annual Writing Competition Announced

West Virginia Writers Inc. (WVW) has announced its 2005 Annual Writing Competition. Established in 1982, the contest is the state's largest writing competition. More than \$105,000 in prizes has been awarded since its inception.

The contest is open to West Virginia residents and members of WVW, regardless of residency. Categories include Nonfiction, Novel, Script, Poetry, Short Story, Appalachia Theme, Humor, and Children's Picture Books and Full-length Books. Special categories are available for Emerging Writers and Young Writers (age 18 and under). Cash prizes will be awarded in every category—\$200 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$75 for third place.

Entries must be postmarked between Jan. 2 and March 15, 2005. Winners will announced at the WVW annual conference June 10-11, 2005, at Cedar Lakes in Ripley.

For complete contest information and an entry form, visit www.wvwriters.org, call (304) 295-4738 or e-mail patsypittman@citynet.net. ❄️

From the Director

By Richard H. Ressmeyer, Director of Arts

Do Well by Doing Good!

In the past 25 years there have been many changes to tax law that impact philanthropic decisions by individuals, and the opportunity for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations to include donations as part of their fiscal planning.

When one—happily temporary—change was made limiting the donation of "appreciated property" to the original cost, donations of art, equity instruments, and real estate to museums, colleges and hospitals nearly dried up. (Recently support has developed in the U.S. Congress to give to artists who contribute their original work the same advantage other citizens have to donate property and use the increased, "appreciated," value for a deduction.)

Some tax opportunities are little known and underutilized. The Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) increases charitable giving to local nonprofit organizations. The program allows 501(c)3 charitable organizations to apply for tax credit vouchers. The organizations then distribute the vouchers to contributing businesses and individuals. By donating to NIP organizations, contributors support their communities and earn credits to reduce certain state taxes.

Businesses and individuals that contribute to NIP-approved organizations are eligible to receive up to 50 percent of the contributed amount in the form of state tax credits. They can use the credits to reduce liability for the Corporate Net Income Tax, the Business Franchise tax or the Personal Income Tax. Contributions can be in the form of cash, personal property, real estate, stock and in-kind professional services.

The West Virginia Legislature sets aside \$2 million annually in state tax credits for the NIP. To participate, a 501(c)3 charitable organization must apply to the West Virginia Development Office. For more information, call (800) 982-3386 or (304) 558-2234 or visit www.wvdo.org/community. ❄️

ArtWorks is free!

If you would like to have your name added to the mailing list for *ArtWorks*, please call (304) 558-0240 or e-mail rose.mcdonough@wvculture.org.

ArtWorks
Winter 2004

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Kay Goodwin, Secretary

**Division of
Culture and History**
Troy Body, Commissioner
Richard Ressmeyer,
Director of Arts

**West Virginia
Commission on the Arts**

www.wvculture.org

ArtWorks welcomes proposals for non-fiction articles of 500-750 words. Articles should focus on West Virginia artists, arts organizations and the performing, visual or literary arts. Of special interest are unique and successful community arts projects and new trends in West Virginia's arts scene. Artist profiles must also reflect some activity of significance to West Virginia or some enlightening aspect of their work. Photographs and other illustrations may accompany submissions. For submission guidelines and terms of payment contact: ArtWorks, West Virginia Division of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25305-0300.

ArtWorks does not publish advertising for commercial services or businesses, but welcomes announcements which may be of interest to the state's arts community.

Winter 2004

ARTS WORKS

A free quarterly newsletter from the Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts



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