



Art does not belong to any particular sector of the population. The making of art is an **irrepressible force** that is true of everyone.

Gregory Sharrow / Folklorist, 1950-2018

Dear Friends of Vermont Arts,

Over the past twelve months, our staff and trustees have visited more than sixty-five towns and villages across Vermont. We toured museums, theaters, and community arts centers, visited artists in their studios, held grant seeker workshops, and listened to ideas and questions from the field. Thank you to all of the Vermont artists and arts organizations that continue to challenge and inspire us!

Here is a glimpse of the Council's work in FY2018:

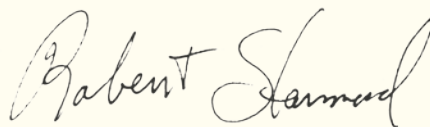
- We invested \$754,168 in grants and services that support individual artists, arts in education programs, and cultural organizations across Vermont.
- Creation Grants provided ten outstanding artists with the gift of time to imagine new works that include a dance collaboration, an ecological memoir, an album of original fiddle music, and a theatrical piece built around stories of female veterans.
- Teaching artists shared their skills and inspiration with students in forty classrooms and six Head Start Arts Integration Programs across the state.
- Sixteen cultural facilities received support for critical infrastructure improvements or for making their buildings welcoming to all patrons, particularly those with disabilities.
- Working with the NEK Collaborative, we launched a six-month study and a strategic action plan for the creative economy in the Northeast Kingdom. Our goal is to complete a statewide action plan in the coming year, designed to spark investment in Vermont's vital creative enterprises.

The quote from Greg Sharrow that opens this report reminds us that art belongs to us all—a sentiment that seems more important with each passing day. We are grateful to each of you for your passion, support, and partnership.

With thanks,



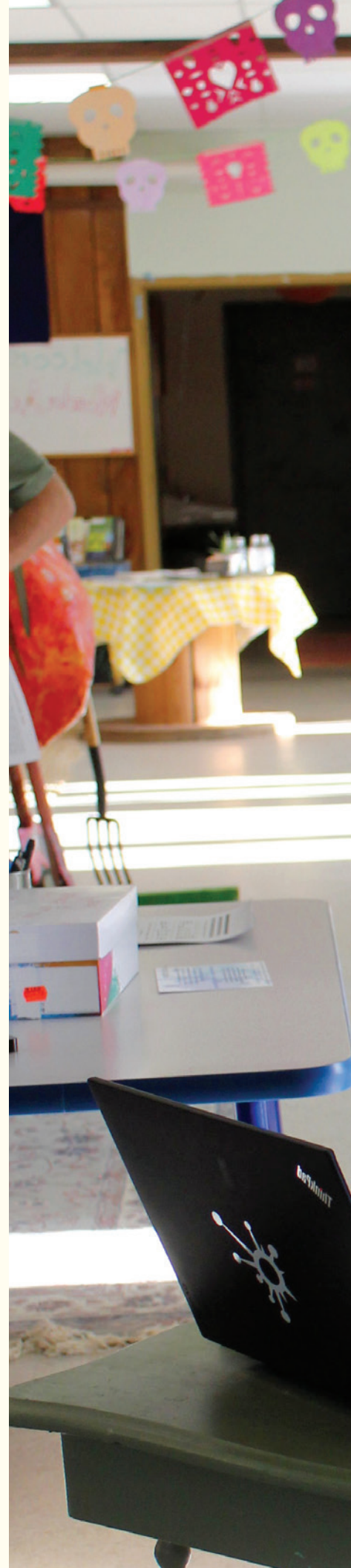
Karen Mittelman, Executive Director



Bob Stannard, Chair

COVER: Greg Sharrow, folklorist, educator, and documentarian, dedicated his professional life to tapping the expertise and authority of others so that he, in some small way, could come to understand how they saw the world. Photo: Levitt AMP concert at Dog Mountain in St. Johnsbury presented by Catamount Arts.

FACING PAGE: Spark is a community-driven hub and collaborative work space in Greensboro. Photo by Beana Bern.





Collaboration

Sharing values and resources creates robust, inclusive outcomes

Reflection

Ongoing planning and evaluation improve effectiveness

Integrity

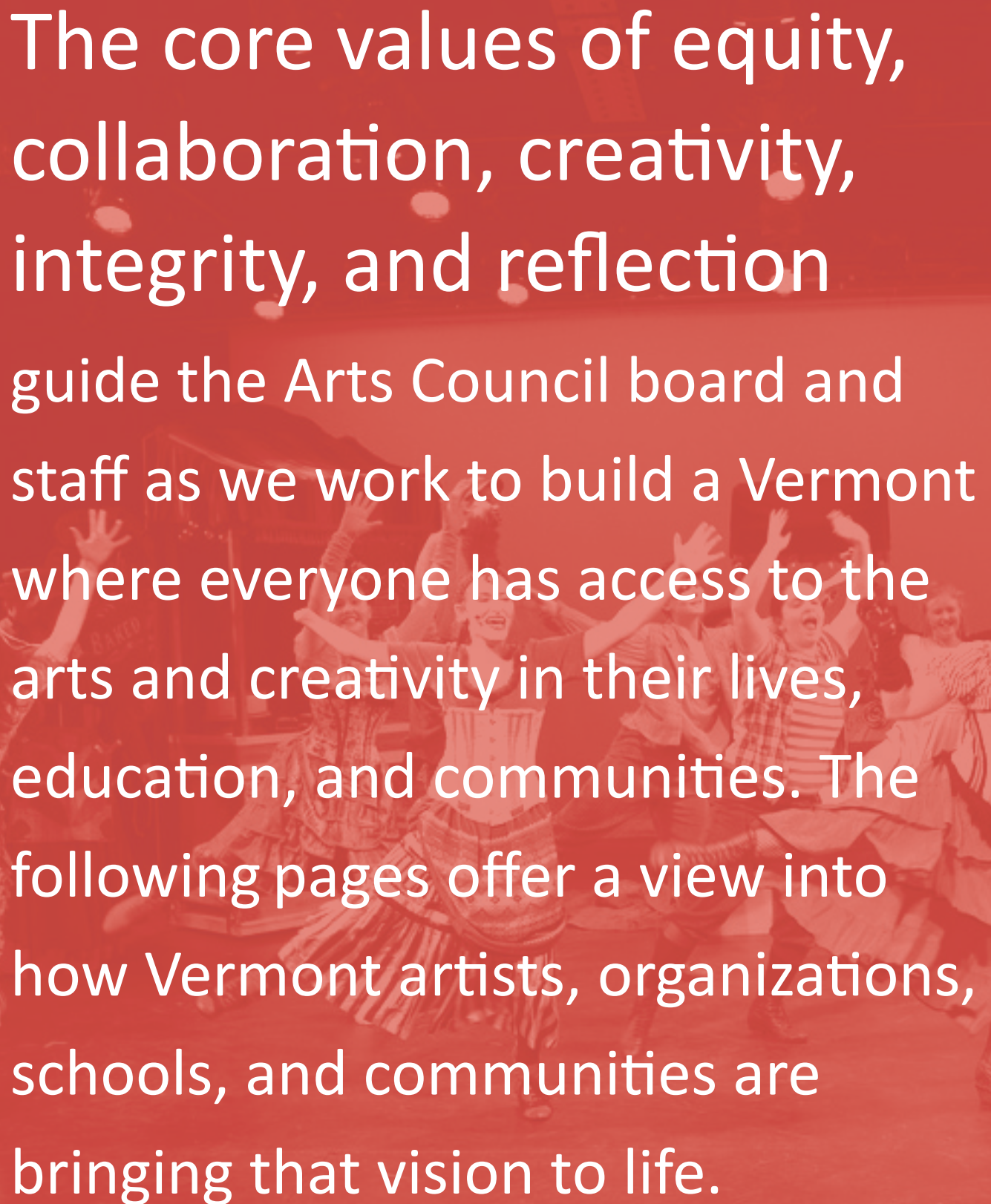
Vision, responsiveness, and transparency foster trust

Creativity

Arts and culture open avenues to imagination and innovation

Equity

Removing barriers invites access and participation

A group of young performers in period costumes are dancing on a stage. They have their arms raised in the air, and some are smiling. The background is dark, and there are some lights visible. The overall scene is festive and energetic.

The core values of equity, collaboration, creativity, integrity, and reflection guide the Arts Council board and staff as we work to build a Vermont where everyone has access to the arts and creativity in their lives, education, and communities. The following pages offer a view into how Vermont artists, organizations, schools, and communities are bringing that vision to life.

Empowering Young People through the arts

More than ten thousand children across the state of Vermont learned the art of puppetry, designed wind sculptures, or expressed themselves through dance, painting, or theater, thanks to Arts Council programs. These programs develop the creative and innovative thinkers of tomorrow, helping young people to grow academically, socially, and civically through the arts.

Young children gain vital skills as they experience the joy of creativity through **Head Start Arts Integration Programs** across the state.

The Artists in Schools Program brings highly skilled teaching artists into Vermont schools. Designed as collaborations between artists and classroom teachers, these intensive residencies offer students new ways to learn and provide tools for teachers to embed the arts into the curriculum.

Arts Partnership and Arts Impact Grants support community arts organizations that bring children into inspiring spaces through classes, camps, and after-school programs. For example, Music-COMP pairs professional musicians with young composers as they create original music; and the In-Sight Photography Project offers photography classes to Brattleboro area youth, regardless of their ability to pay.



James Keefley

Vera Escaja-Heiss reciting at the Poetry Out Loud national competition in Washington, D.C.

In 2018, more than five thousand Vermont high school students took part in **Poetry Out Loud**, a national competition created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Through Poetry Out Loud, students explore, memorize, and recite great works of poetry from Robert Frost to Tato Laviera. We are proud that Vera Escaja-Heiss, the Vermont state champion, competed at the national level in Washington, D.C., and was named one of nine finalists.



Stop-motion animation residency with teaching artist Kristen M. Watson at River Rock School.



Richmond Elementary School students at an artists-in-schools residency with Jeh Kulu Dance and Theater.

Enriching public spaces

Vermont's Art in State Buildings (AISB) program has been bringing public spaces to life through art since the program began in 1988.

In addition to enhancing Vermont's landscape, AISB projects offer Vermont artists challenging opportunities to create new and often large-scale work that will be viewed by thousands. These works of art deepen the meaning and history of a place, transform the built environment, and create vibrant public spaces that distinguish Vermont towns and communities.

In 2018, AISB enabled the creation of *Honor*, a monumental bronze sculpture for the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph Center. Artist Karen Petersen considered the important historical role of horses in the military, as well as the local connection to the Morgan breed, which was developed on a farm in Randolph. In



Troy Hickman

Honor at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph Center.

producing the work, Karen collaborated with a number of craftspeople, including a local foundry, welders, and landscapers.

Honor now stands in a place of reflection, offering peace and comfort to visitors for generations.



Karen Petersen at work in her studio in Braintree.

Bob Eddy

Boosting the creative economy

When it comes to the creative economy in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK), Jody Fried knows his numbers.

Without hesitation, the Catamount Arts executive director can tell you that in 2017, the creative economy was responsible for 9.4 percent of all the jobs in the NEK—an impressive 31 percent above the national average.

These statistics are backed by an in-depth creative economy study and action plan commissioned by the Vermont Arts Council in 2018. Supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Vermont Community Foundation, this project is providing both the data and the specific action steps required to tap the NEK's creative and entrepreneurial energies and to promote economic growth in the region.

Jody and his team are eager to move from the planning stage to action. “The NEK has a wealth of cultural assets with significant untapped potential. We know we can harness the energies of organizations and individuals throughout the NEK to benefit the economy and improve the quality of life for all NEK residents.”

The Vermont Creative Network, an initiative of the Vermont Arts Council, is using this project to inform and inspire the next step forward—a statewide creative sector study and action plan that will begin in 2019.



Sign at Spark collaborative work space in Greensboro.

“The NEK has a wealth of cultural assets with significant untapped potential.”

Exploring connections through movement

Christal Brown wears many hats. She is the chair of the dance program at Middlebury College; founder of INSPIRIT, a dance company; director of Middlebury Dance Company; a dancer; and a choreographer.

The thread connecting all of these roles is a passion for the power of movement as a force for change. Christal received a Creation Grant to support the development of *What We Ask of Flesh*, a collaboration with poet Remica Bingham. In developing her proposal, Christal expressed her hope “that the work becomes a catalyst for dialogue about difference, expectation, and human capacity.” The grant enabled her to focus on expanding the work from a solo to an ensemble piece, which she plans to tour in 2019.



Top: Christal Brown. Photo: Alan Kimara Dixon
Bottom: Frame captures from *What We Ask of Flesh*

Grantees

Art in State Buildings Awards support and promote the work of Vermont artists and preserve and enrich the state's cultural landscape.

Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Randolph Center

Karen Petersen, Randolph, \$18,000

Vermont Agriculture and Environmental Lab, Randolph Center

Heather Ritchie, Barre, \$500

Jim Sardonis, Randolph, \$2,000

Oliver Schemm, Saxtons River, \$500

Dan Snow, Dummerston, \$500

Artists in Schools Grants help schools develop in-class residency relationships with Vermont artists.

Academy School, Brattleboro, \$2,500

Baird School, Burlington, \$2,500

Barnard Academy, Barnard, \$1,500

Barnet School, Barnet, \$1,500

Bingham Memorial School, Cornwall, \$2,500

Burke Town School, West Burke, \$1,750

Burlington High School, Burlington, \$1,500

Camel's Hump Middle School, Richmond, \$1,250

Capstone Community Action, Barre, \$2,500

Cavendish Town Elementary School, Proctorsville, \$2,250

Danville School, Danville, \$1,500

The Dover School, East Dover, \$1,500

Essex Elementary School, Essex Junction, \$1,250

Essex Middle School, Essex Junction, \$2,500

Green Street School, Brattleboro, \$1,500

Harwood Union Middle and High School, Moretown, \$2,500

Integrated Arts Academy at H.O. Wheeler, Burlington, \$2,000

Jamaica Village School, Jamaica, \$1,500

Lincoln Community School, Lincoln, \$850

Main Street Middle School, Montpelier, \$1,000

Newton School, South Strafford, \$1,250

Richmond Elementary School, Richmond, \$1,000

Ripton Elementary School, Ripton, \$1,250

River Rock School, Montpelier, \$1,750

Rumney Memorial School, Middlesex, \$2,500

The Schoolhouse, South Burlington, \$2,500

Shelburne Community School, Shelburne, \$2,500

Vermont Commons School, South Burlington, \$2,500

Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, Brattleboro, \$1,500

Winooski School District, Winooski, \$1,000

Arts Impact Grants boost the efforts of nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and schools to add vibrancy to Vermont communities by providing equal and abundant access to the arts.

The Ambrose Classical Play, Burlington, \$2,400

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes, Vergennes, \$1,182

Brattleboro Literary Festival, Brattleboro, \$2,850

BrattRock, Brattleboro, \$3,000

Focus on Film, Montpelier, \$2,850

Green Mountain Youth Symphony, Montpelier, \$2,850

Heartbeat Lifesharing, Hardwick, \$682

Kingdom County Productions, Barnet, \$3,000

Leach Public Library, Irasburg, \$2,899

Middlebury Studio School, Leicester, \$1,900

Montpelier Chamber Orchestra Society, Montpelier, \$3,000

Music-COMP, Essex Junction, \$3,000

Now Playing Newport, Newport, \$2,000

Sandglass Center for Puppetry and Theater Research, Putney, \$3,000

Sara Holbrook Community Center, Burlington, \$2,850

Seven Stars Arts Center, Sharon, \$1,750

Sherburne Memorial Library, Killington, \$1,600

Swanton Arts Council, Swanton, \$500

Arts Partnership Grants support the annual operations of Vermont arts organizations through three-year grants.

Burlington City Arts, Burlington, \$6,000

The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, West Rutland, \$6,000

Catamount Film and Arts Center, St. Johnsbury, \$7,000

Circus Smirkus, Greensboro, \$7,000

Community Engagement Lab, Montpelier, \$6,000

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington, \$7,000

Friends of the Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro, \$5,100

Grass Roots Art and Community Effort, Hardwick, \$5,100

Helen Day Art Center, Stowe, \$6,000

The In-Sight Photography Project, Brattleboro, \$5,100

Lost Nation Theater, Montpelier, \$5,100

Main Street Arts, Saxtons River, \$6,000

New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro, \$5,100

Northern Stage, White River Junction, \$6,000

River Arts of Morrisville, Morrisville, \$5,100

Shelburne Craft School, Shelburne, \$5,100

Town Hall Theater, Middlebury, \$6,000

Vermont Arts Exchange, North Bennington, \$5,100

Vermont International Film Foundation, Burlington, \$6,000

Vermont Performance Lab, Guilford, \$6,000

Vermont Performing Arts League, Burlington, \$5,100

Vermont Stage Company, Burlington, \$6,000

Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, Colchester, \$5,100

VSA Vermont, Essex Junction, \$7,000

Grantees

Weston Playhouse Theatre Company,
Weston, \$6,000

WonderArts Vermont, Greensboro, \$7,000
Yellow Barn, Putney, \$6,000

Creation Grants support the development of new work by Vermont artists.

Christal Brown, Middlebury, \$3,000
Jay Craven, Barnet, \$3,000
Nancy Hayden, Jeffersonville, \$3,000
Tito Heiderer, Burlington, \$3,000
Eddie Merma, Waitsfield, \$3,000
Madsen Minax, Burlington, \$3,000
Cass Morgan, Saxtons River, \$3,000
Nicola Smith, Tunbridge, \$3,000
Eric Wright, North Pomfret, \$3,000
Corrine Yonce, Burlington, \$3,000

Cultural Facilities Grants enable nonprofit organizations and municipalities to enhance, create, or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural activities for the public.

Aldrich Memorial Association, Calais, \$8,500
American Museum of Fly Fishing,
Manchester, \$13,345
Barre Opera House, Barre, \$27,852
Brattleboro Museum & Art Center,
Brattleboro, \$7,460
The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center,
West Rutland, \$15,600
Fairfield Community Center Association,
East Fairfield, \$30,000
Friends of the Brandon Town Hall, Brandon,
\$14,250
Friends of the Morrill Homestead, Strafford,
\$7,001
Grass Roots Art and Community Effort,
Hardwick, \$1,321
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum at Basin
Harbor, Vergennes, \$5,000
Latchis Arts, Brattleboro, \$12,375
Poultney Historical Society, East Poultney,
\$12,325
Town of Huntington, Huntington, \$13,500
Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier,
\$30,000
Waitsfield United Church of Christ,
Waitsfield, \$5,994
Walter S. Burnham Foundation,
Lincoln, \$763

Head Start Arts Integration Grants bring arts-integrated experiences to young learners and teachers in Head Start classrooms.

Brattleboro Museum and Art Center,
Brattleboro, \$4,000
Burlington Children's Space, Burlington,
\$4,000
Burlington City Arts, Burlington, \$4,000
Catamount Film and Arts Center, St.
Johnsbury, \$1,500

*Bird Man on Church
Street by Paul B.*



Flynn Center for the Performing Arts,
Burlington, \$4,000
Vermont Arts Exchange, North Bennington,
\$4,000

Special Project Grants provide statewide services or are awarded at the discretion of the Council's executive director.

Catamount Film and Arts Center,
St. Johnsbury, \$1,000
Circus Smirkus, Greensboro, \$1,000
Cradle to Grave Arts, Chelsea, \$5,000
Governor's Institute on the Arts, South
Burlington, \$8,500
New England Foundation for the Arts,
Boston, \$16,000
Northern Stage, White River Junction,
\$1,000
Vermont Crafts Council, Montpelier, \$3,000
Vermont Arts Exchange, North Bennington,
\$6,000
Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury, \$6,000

Technical Assistance Grants help Vermont arts organizations strengthen their capacity to serve constituents.

Big Heavy World Foundation,
Burlington, \$700
Brattleboro Museum & Art Center,
Brattleboro, \$1,500
Next Stage Arts Project, Putney, \$1,500
WonderArts Vermont, Greensboro, \$772



Zachary Stephens

The In-Sight-Photography Project's Nature Photo Explorers class.

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Steve Perkins

Poetry Out Loud Program

Teaching Artists

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Lizzy Fox
Geof Hewitt
Morgan Irons

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Rick Agran
Emily Bernard
Chard deNiord
Trish Denton
Jarvis Green
Morgan Irons
John Killacky
Eric Love
Peter Money



School tour of the *Reclamation* exhibit at the Helen Day Art Center in Stowe.

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(\$5,000 and above)

Anonymous

National Endowment for the Arts

State of Vermont

United States Department of Agriculture

Vermont Community Foundation

Community Builders

(\$2,500-\$4,499)

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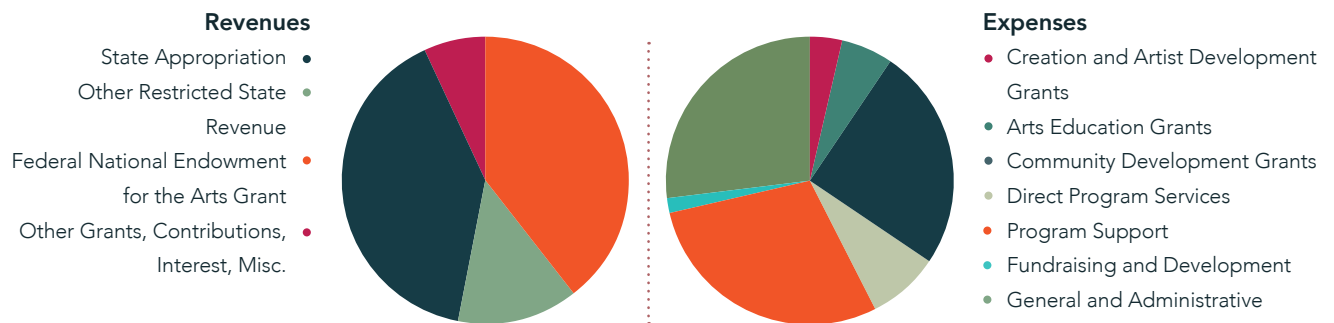
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Cabot Creamery
Danforth Pewter Company
Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks



Statement of Activities FY2018

	FY2017	FY2018
Revenues		
State Appropriation	675,307	675,307
Other Restricted State Revenue	296,405	232,952
Federal National Endowment for the Arts Grant	683,650	687,842
Other Grants, Contributions, Interest, Misc.	139,225	114,359
Total Revenue	1,794,587	1,740,460
Expenses		
Creation and Artist Development Grants	94,409	67,067
Arts Education Grants	127,283	98,368
Community Development Grants	465,282	432,097
Direct Program Services	185,214	140,962
Program Support	571,035	498,926
Fundraising and Development	5,467	31,285
General and Administrative	460,185	464,490
Total Expenses	1,908,875	1,733,195
Change in net assets from operations	(113,900)	7,265
Total change in net assets		
Total Net Assets Beginning of Fiscal Year	875,112	760,824
Total Net Assets End of Fiscal Year	760,824	768,089





Production of Jesus Christ Superstar at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River.

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136 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-6001
vermontartscouncil.org



Levitt AMP concert at Dog Mountain in St. Johnsbury, presented by Catamount Arts.

Printing: Leahy Press, Montpelier

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This publication is available in large print or alternative format upon request.