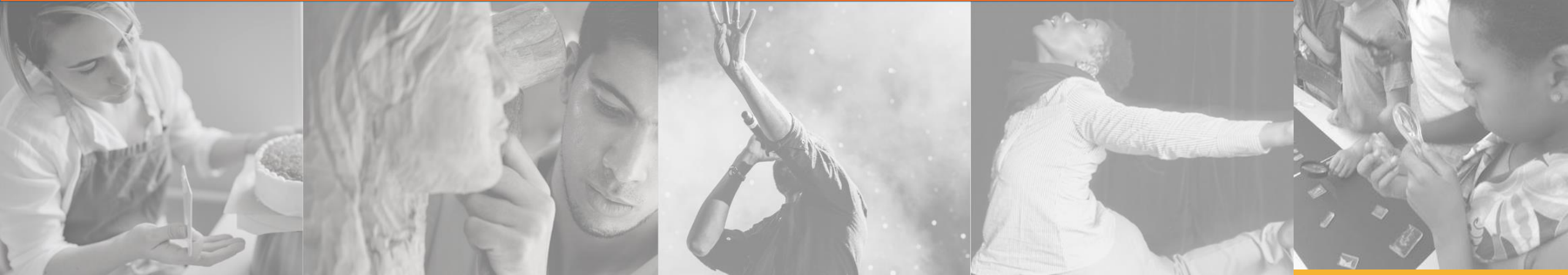


Vermont Creative Network & Creative Futures Program

February 15, 2023



Vermont Arts Council

vermontartscouncil.org

Vermont Arts Council is an independent nonprofit with a mission to cultivate and advance the arts and creativity throughout Vermont. It is the state's primary provider of funding, advocacy, and information for the arts.

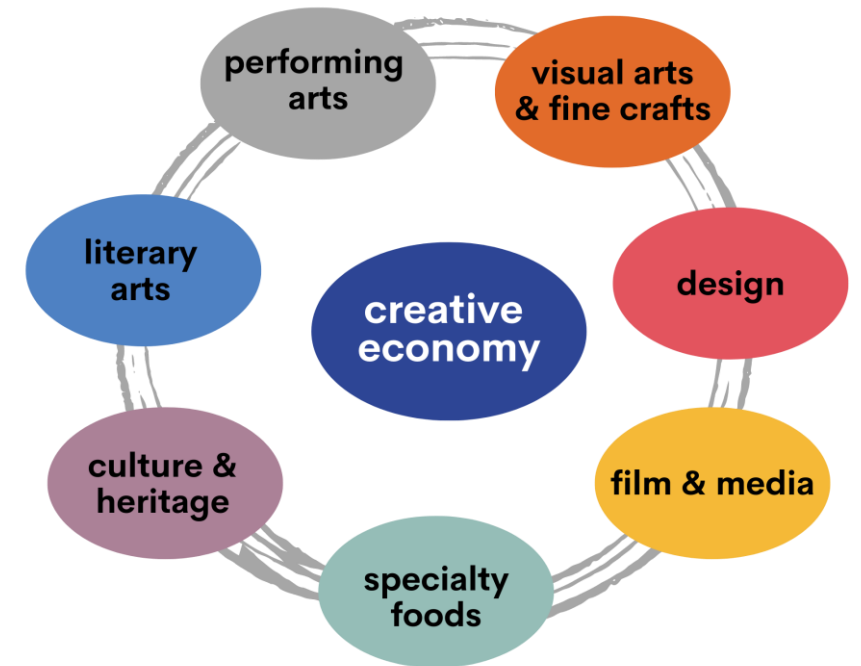


*New World Festival in Randolph.
Photo by Robert Eddy.*

Vermont Creative Network (VCN)

vermontcreativenetwork.org

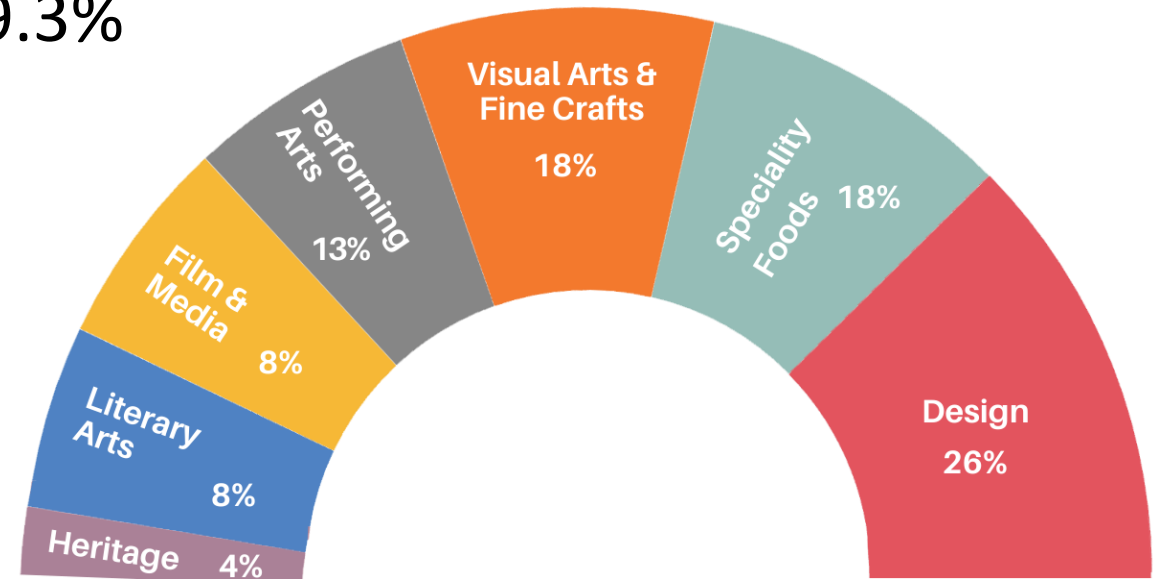
The Vermont Creative Network is a broad collective of organizations, businesses, and individuals working to advance Vermont's creative sector. Authorized by the Vermont Legislature in 2016, the VCN is a program of the Vermont Arts Council.



The seven creative segments of Vermont's creative economy

Who Are Vermont Creatives?

- Vermont's creative sector generates 9.3% of jobs, higher than the US average.
- Nearly 50% are self-employed or freelance (compared to 40% US).
- In 2019, arts and culture industries contributed \$1.1B to VT economy.



The seven creative segments of Vermont's creative economy

Creative Futures



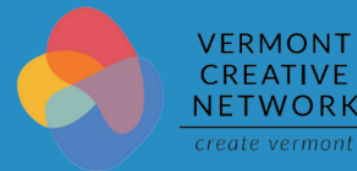
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Creative Futures Grant Program

- A grant program to support the recovery of Vermont's creative sector from the Covid-19 pandemic and to set a path for growth
- A grant from the State of Vermont through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Economic Development
- A one-time program



Act 183

*"The amount of \$9,000,000.00 is appropriated to the Vermont Arts Council to **provide grants for monthly operating costs, including rent, mortgage, utilities, and insurance, to creative economy businesses and nonprofits that have sustained substantial losses due to the pandemic.**"*

Eligibility Requirements

"creative economy businesses and nonprofits that have sustained substantial losses due to the pandemic"

- Nonprofit organizations and for-profit businesses, including sole proprietorships, which are part of the Vermont's creative sector
- Experiencing continued economic harm due to the pandemic
- Located in Vermont
- Fewer than 500 employees
- In operation or had taken steps toward becoming operational as of 3/13/2020
- Created as a new creative sector business after 3/13/2020 due to pandemic changes and has documented income from qualifying creative sector work

Creative Economy

- **Culture & Heritage** – Historical societies, museums, libraries, independent curators, and exhibit designers
- **Design** – Product, interior, graphic, architecture, and fashion design firms and designers
- **Film & Media** – Creators of film, video, animation, digital games, including technicians, costumers, editors
- **Literary Arts & Publishing** – Print or electronic publishing businesses and content creators, editors, and writers
- **Performing Arts** – Producers, venues, studios, sound and light technicians, set designers, and performers
- **Specialty Foods** – Specialty and artisanal food producers.
- **Visual Arts & Crafts** – Galleries, artists, artisans, craftspeople, culture bearers, and makers
- See accompanying list of NAICS codes to further define

Eligible Businesses and Organizations

- C Corporation
- Cooperative Association
- S Corporation
- Limited Liability Corp
- Limited Liability Partnership
- Sole Proprietorship
- Nonprofit
- Unincorporated nonprofit using a fiscal agent

Use of Funds

These funds are for **regular operating expenses**, including but not limited to:

- Payroll and benefits
- Utilities
- Rent
- Mortgage
- Insurance

Award Amounts

For most **businesses and nonprofits**, grant amounts will be based on 2019 operating revenue. (pre-pandemic)

- Awards based on a tiered system
- Awards will be about 10% of 2019 operating revenue
- Maximum grant of \$200,000

Award Levels for Organizations

2019 Operating Revenue	Award Amount
over \$2M	\$200,000
over \$1.75 M - up to \$2 M	\$187,500
over \$1.5 M - up to \$1.75 M	\$162,500
over \$1.25M - up to \$1.5 M	\$137,500
over \$1M - up to \$1.250	\$112,500
\$900,001 - \$1,000,000	\$95,000
\$800,001 - \$900,000	\$85,000
\$700,001 - \$800,000	\$75,000
\$600,001 - \$700,000	\$65,000
\$500,001 - \$600,000	\$55,000
\$400,001 - \$500,000	\$45,000
\$300,001 - \$400,000	\$35,000
\$200,001 - \$300,000	\$25,000
\$100,001 - \$200,000	\$15,000
\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$7,500
up to \$50,000	\$5,000

Grant Timeline

~~Round 1: open **Sept. 15 – Nov. 1**; notifications by mid-December *~~

Round 2: open **Jan. 5 – Feb. 28, 2023**; notifications by mid-April

Round 3: open **May 1 – June 30, 2023**; notifications by mid-August

*All applicants who meet eligibility criteria who are not funded in the first round will be considered in the second and third rounds. Applicants will need to review their applications to ensure all information is still accurate and make any necessary updates.

Evaluation Criteria

Severity of Pandemic Harm

financial insecurity; decreased revenue; increased costs; challenges meeting payroll; and other operating costs

Community and Cultural Impact

mission; cultural significance; and communities served

Economic Impact

role in local economic recovery; ability to retain or rehire jobs; unique products or services provide; likelihood of post-pandemic resilience

- **Special Consideration Groups**

organizations owned by, led by, centering members of communities traditionally under-resourced

Required Financial Documents

1. Federal Business Tax Returns for Years 2019, 2020, 2021
2. Management-prepared financial statements for year-to-date of the current fiscal year (and any prior year for which a tax return is not yet filed)
3. Other financial documents and information as required

Past and Pending Pandemic Funding

Past funding

- SBA Loan – Payroll Protection Program
- SBA Loan – Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)
- SBA Grant – EIDL Emergency Grant
- Vermont Economic Recovery Grant
- Vermont Economic Recovery Grant – Supplemental
- Shuttered Venue Operators Grant
- VT Cultural Relief Grant Program through Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Humanities (2020)

- VT Cultural Recovery Grant Program through Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Humanities (2021)
- NEA Direct ARPA Grant
- NEH Direct SHARP Grant

Current/Pending

- VEDA Forgivable Loan Program
- Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant

Review Process

- Internal screening of each application for accuracy and completeness assessed an initial “severity of pandemic harm” score.
- 44 external reviewers submitted scores and comments
- Slate of awardees approved by VAC Executive Committee.

Round 1 Results

- 146 eligible applications requesting \$6,290,000
- 49 Creative Futures awards made December 15 totaling \$3,692,500
- Awardees represent 12 counties, all seven creative segments, non-profit, and for-profit entities, and entities large and small.
- Those not funded in Round 1 are automatically moved into Round 2

Recipient Impact



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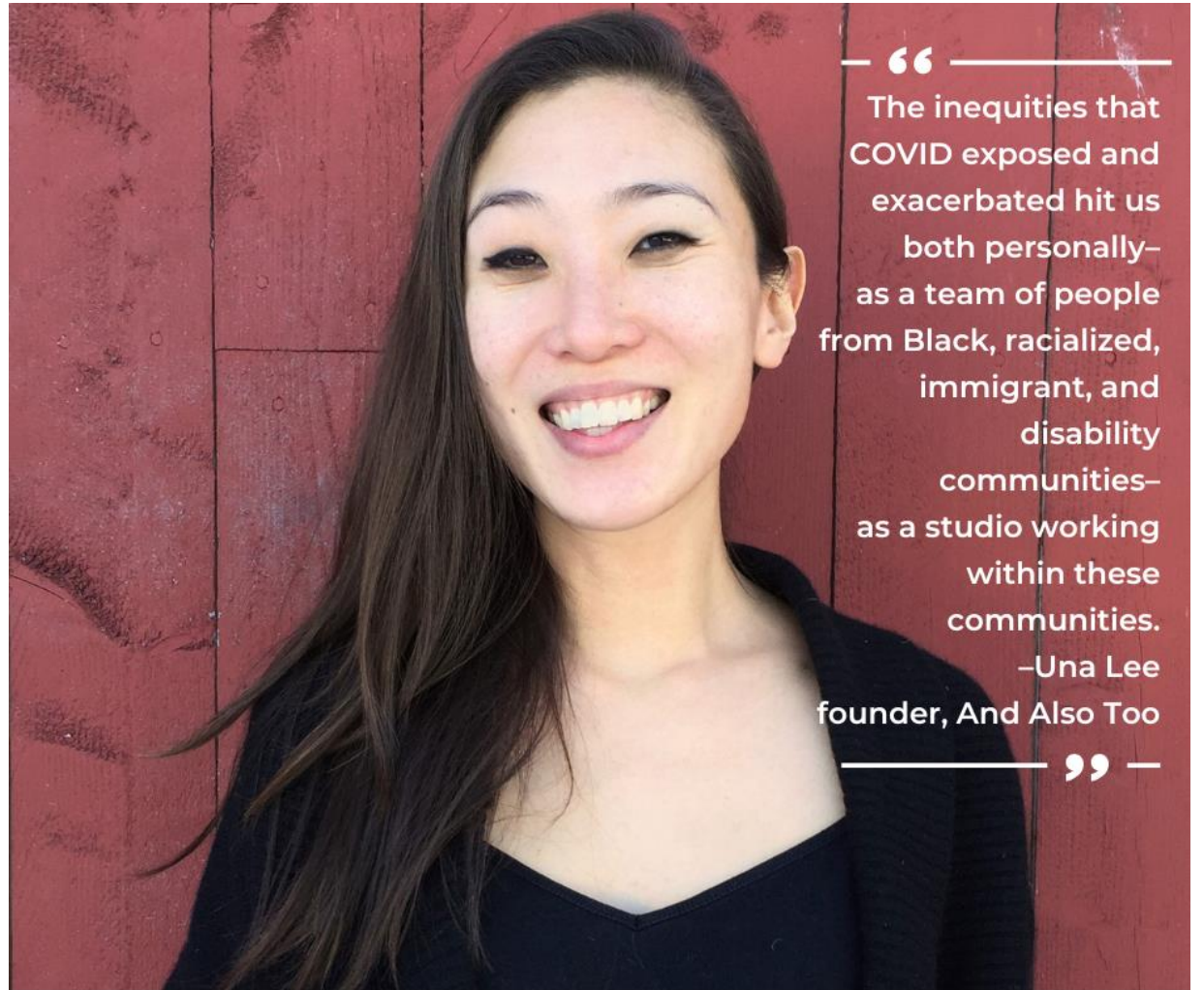


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Recipient Stories

Una Lee, Founder, And Also Too

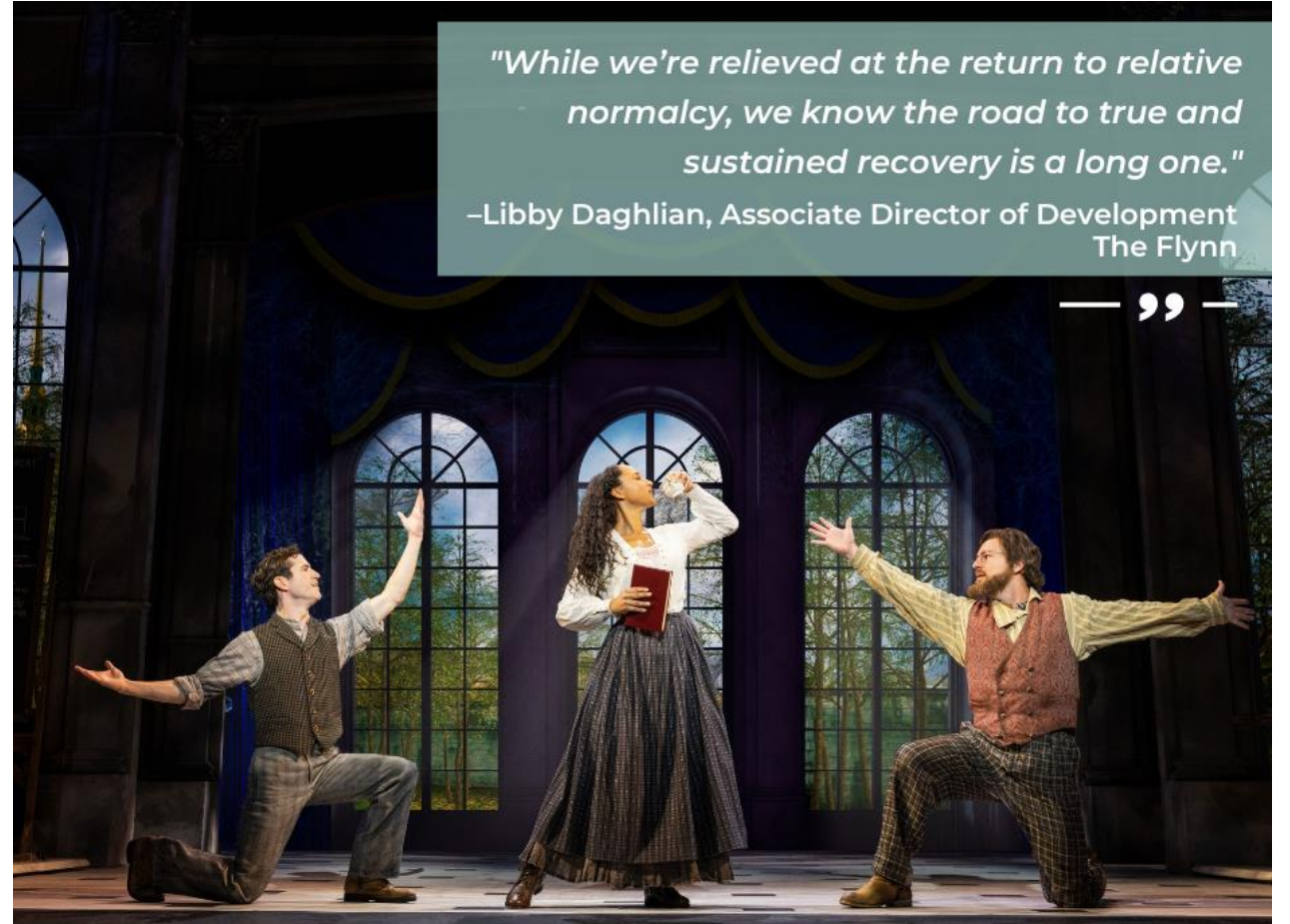
And Also Too is a design studio based in Johnson, VT that works in social movements and grassroots communities to co-create media for liberation. Begun in Toronto in 2012, And Also Too opened a studio in Vermont in 2016.



Recipient Stories

The Flynn Burlington

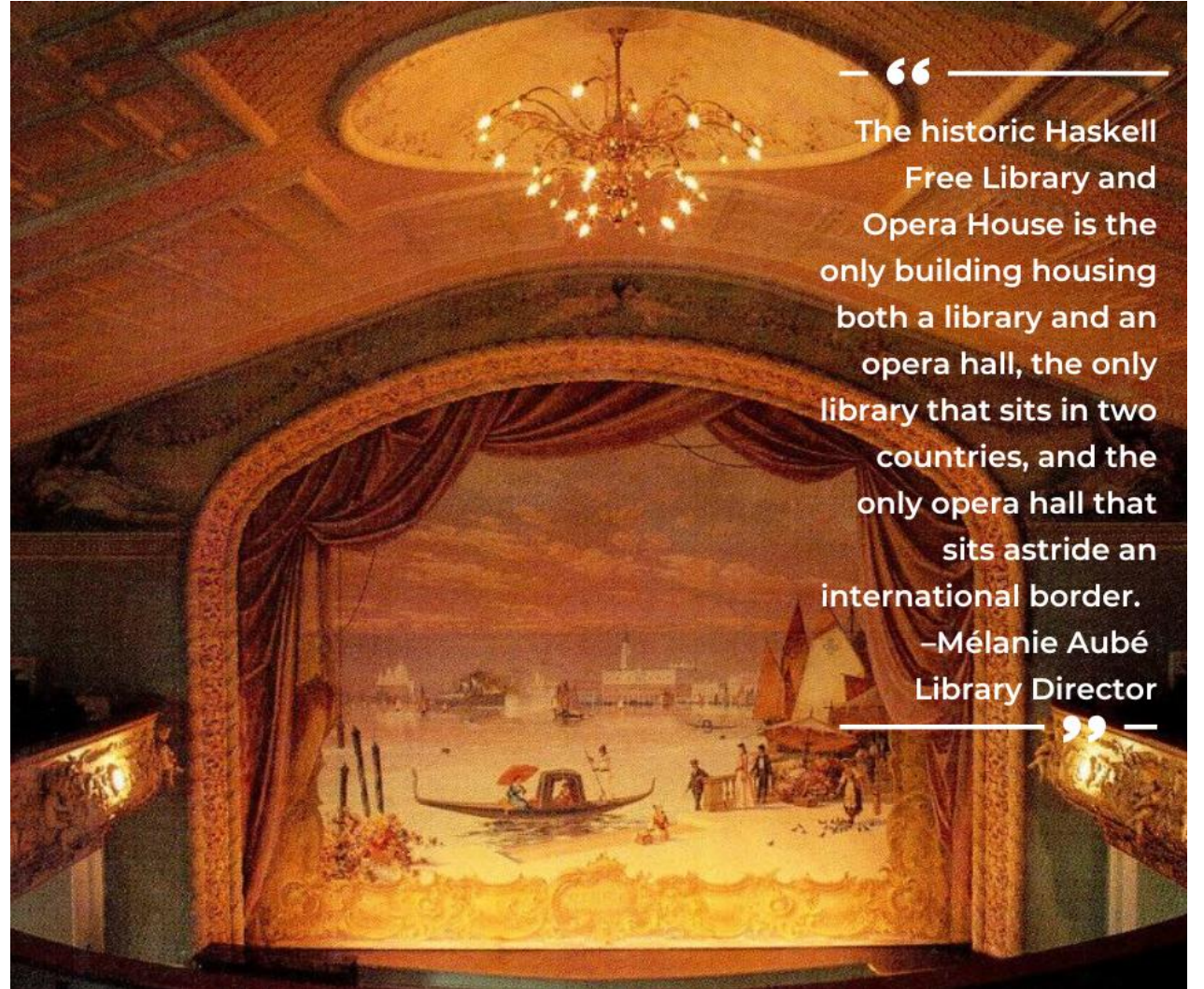
The reopening phase was marked by continued unpredictability and changed audience behaviors. Shows and tours weren't booking as far out, and costs of production rose across the board.



Recipient Stories

Haskell Free Library & Opera House Derby Line

While other Quebec libraries were open to Canadians, and other Vermont libraries were open to US citizens, the Haskell was not permitted to reopen. Canadians can only access the library through an entrance in the US. Vermonters were not permitted in the library because many staff members were Canadian.



“
The historic Haskell Free Library and Opera House is the only building housing both a library and an opera hall, the only library that sits in two countries, and the only opera hall that sits astride an international border.
—Mélanie Aubé
Library Director

Recipient Stories

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum strives to connect all people with Lake Champlain through learning experiences, exhibits and collections at its 3-acre waterfront campus in Vergennes, digital engagement, boat building, underwater archaeology research projects, and more.



— “ —
The pandemic forced Lake Champlain Maritime Museum to think deeply about our work, our impact, and the role we want to play in our community....The grant will allow the Museum to build for the future and focus on what sustainability looks like after Covid-19.
—Susan McClure
Executive Director
” —

Recipient Stories

Raq-On Dance, White River Junction

The funds have been an incredible help in our reboot. We will use the funds for rebuilding and creating an infrastructure to survive in this new arts world.



Many of even our smallest communities have venues that offer art shows, music and concerts — and in addition to enticing locals out for an evening, these events also draw tourists, and their wallets, to our state.

And the arts employ Vermonters as, among other things, artists, promoters and employees at venues.

Like all businesses, the arts were hard-hit by the COVID pandemic. Venues closed, events were canceled, artists were sidelined in their work. We the public were starved for cultural experience.

It is appropriate that ARPA dollars are now being used to restore and strengthen this important sector of our economy.

**Bennington Banner editorial
*Our View: Why the Arts Matter, January 11, 2023***

Vermont Arts Council

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Interim Executive Director

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