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ON THE COVER:
Four Moons Ago, a sculpture by Jo Perez, was among the artworks in the 21st Biennial West Virginia Juried Exhibition.
Let's start with a quick overview of you and your career.

I practically grew up in the theater because it's where my mother worked when I was young. I always knew that the theater was a place I wanted to be. Even bigger — my family believed that the arts were essential in one's life and our communities so it never occurred to me that I should pursue any other calling.

I majored in theater in college at West Virginia University and then went on to get my M.F.A. from the University of Texas in theatrical design. After school I started freelancing and teaching. I started teaching at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and freelancing anywhere and everywhere I was offered work. I became the Resident Designer for the Jean Cocteau Repertory in New York City and really learned to be a designer and a theater artist at that theater working with truly extraordinary artists.

My freelance career has led to design gigs in Germany, Brazil, Scotland and China. My teaching career led to London and Rome and eventually to WVU where I became Chair of the Division of Theater and Dance. Now having been the Associate Producing Director at CATF for 14 years I have found a place that enables me to combine leadership and art — that challenges me every day to be a better collaborator, communicator and storyteller through my management and design skills.

How did you get into designing?

I watched my mother design scenery and costumes and just felt like it was inherent in the way I thought. I participated in "behind the scenes" work and on-stage as an actor.
Please Stop... and Touch the Textures

Above: McKowen encourages visitors to stop and touch the fabrics used to create a character’s ensemble.
Below: A close up of a costume from A Welcome Guest: A Psychotic Fairy Tale.

throughout junior high and high school. I designed my first set for a local community theater when I was in junior high.

Did you always know designing was something you would want to do?

Yes. Designing just felt more like the perspective from which the audience experienced the play – that I was sitting in the audience creating from the position that the audience would ultimately be, and I liked that feeling better than any other aspect of the theater. I also like having the ability to really shape the world of the play the characters and the mood. In addition, a designer, especially a costume designer really touches all the people in the process of making the play and that’s cool too.

When did you know?

I probably consciously made that decision in high school, but I think I was born that way.

Explain/describe the High Drama exhibit.

The exhibition is a combination of process and product from the theatrical designers of CATF. The works shows, research, preliminary sketches, final drawings, drafting, and models that illuminate the way the world of a play is created. Many of the pieces are the results of that process including furnishings, props and costumes – costumes that show wigs, shoes, jewelry and every detail that an actor may have worn on stage. Since the mission of CATF is to produce new plays I tried to include a brief synopsis of all the plays so the pieces would have some story context. Finally, there is a little section of the exhibition where guests can touch various textures, pick up swatches and samples and “touch” materials used in many of the pieces.

How did you pick which pieces to include in High Drama?
I tried to pick pieces that represented “period” clothing or items that guests would immediately identify as costumes and then tried to include costumes that were particularly unique or unusual – ones that would prompt guests to really look more deeply at the creative process of theatrical designers. I hope that guests will begin to see that costumes, or scenery or props come from a real creative thinking and visualizing endeavor in addition to patterning, sewing and building.

**When making costumes in general, where do you find your inspiration?**

Research! It is important to truly examine what people wear and then allow color, texture and line to reshape what one has learned from the research. In designing new plays inspiration often comes when you work with the playwright to fine-tune a character or with an actor who is detailing the life of that character in rehearsal.

**If you could design for anyone and/or any show, who/what would it be and what would you do?**

I choose the plays that I design based on the people working on the project and the potential for creative interpretation in the project. Sometimes I just want to do a big pretty, period show but mostly I want to do something a “little out of the box” with collaborators that inspire and challenge me. And, okay, yes, I’d do a season of *The Masked Singer* if I could.

**You were named the Artist of the Year at the 2018 Governor’s Arts Awards. Did this come as a surprise?**

Yes! Honestly it did. I wondered if people would really look at the work of a costume designer and consider it ‘art’. So, I must say I was very honored and humbled that I was considered an artist by folks outside of the theater.

**What have you learned in your years of designing? Do you have any experiences/highs/lows that had a significant impact on your career?**

This is a funny time for me now. On the one hand I’m receiving more recognition as a designer and artist but unfortunately on the other hand designing less. I’d like to ramp up my design opportunities a bit because I am just now feeling like I know how to design, and I want to do more. The thing I have learned the most is to pay attention and to listen to all the artists in the process and that nothing is truly precious about what we create until shared and experienced with an audience.

**What advice do you have for young designers?**

Work – just work. In the beginning I took almost every gig I could get, and I learned so much from every show I did even if it wasn’t ultimately my best work or the best situation. Plus, I met many collaborators along the way that have become my favorite people to work with regardless of the project or the theater.

**What are your hopes/plans/goals for the future?**

I think I’ll take my own advice. I’d just like to keep working – to keep creating and to keep getting better.
More than $1.5 million in FY20 Grants Awarded for WV Artists and Organizations

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, along with the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, approved and awarded $1,567,768.00 in the first cycle of grant funding for Fiscal Year 2020. Individual artists, nonprofit arts and community organizations, public educational institutions, school boards, local and county government agencies, and colleges and universities are eligible for these funds, which are approved by the West Virginia Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. The first round of FY20 recipients were:

**Arts in Education**

Provides funding for in-school and out-of-school curriculum-based arts education projects, and projects that expose students in pre-K through 12th grade to professional performing, literary and visual arts experiences. Total: $105,038

- **ArtsBank, Inc.**
  Elkins, Randolph County
  $5,000 for contracted artist/professional fees and supplies, enabling teaching artists to collaborate with classroom teachers to provide integrated arts curriculum in three rural elementary schools.

- **Charles T. “Chuck” Mathena II Foundation**
  Princeton, Mercer County
  $4,400 for contracted artist/professional fees, in support of a series of literature-based theatrical performances for PK-5 students in a seven-county area.

- **Greenbrier County Schools**
  Lewisburg, Greenbrier County
  $15,643 for contracted artist/professional fees and supplies in support of Carnegie Classrooms, providing multi-disciplinary artist-led workshops in 163 classrooms.

- **High Rocks Educational Corporation**
  Hillsboro, Pocahontas County
  $9,998 for contracted artist/professional fees and supplies in support of arts education at Camp Steele and New Beginnings, two summer camp programs for girls.

- **Kanawha County Schools**
  Charleston, Kanawha County
  $14,250 for contracted artist/professional fees, in support of dance performances and arts integration workshops in 12 county schools.

- **Kanawha Valley FOOTMAD**
  Charleston, Kanawha County
  $5,100 for contracted artist/professional fees and travel expenses supporting Dance of Hope, a one-week residency at Stonewall Jackson Middle School.

- **Mid-Ohio Valley Symphony Society**
  Vienna, Wood County
  $7,700 for contracted artist/professional fees, in support of Young People’s Concerts performed by the WV Symphony and OhioBrass Quintet in Wood County elementary schools.

- **Ruffner Elementary School**
  Charleston, Kanawha County
  $4,125 for contracted artist/professional fees and supplies, supporting an eight-week teaching artist residency exploring the music and dance of Africa and Appalachia.

- **Upshur County Schools**
  Buckhannon, Upshur County
  $12,000 for contracted artist/professional fees, in support of 9 dance performances and 12 arts integration workshops for elementary, middle and secondary students.

- **West Virginia Professional Dance Company**
  Beckley, Raleigh County
  $15,000 for contracted artist/professional fees, in support of a 12-school tour featuring dance performances and arts-integrated workshops for K-12 students.

- **West Virginia Youth Symphony**
  Charleston, Kanawha County
  $5,490 for contracted artist/professional fees and supplies, supporting professional musicians coaching and teaching student musicians in ensemble performance skills.

- **Yew Mountain Center**
  Hillsboro, Pocahontas County
  $3,178 for contracted artist/professional fees and supplies, supporting a summer arts camp combining classical and folk styles for young string musicians.

**Arts Partners**

Provides general operating support to long-standing, stable arts organizations. Total: $520,922.00
development projects that strengthen West Virginia arts organizations.
Total: $255,935.00

Appalachian South Folklife Center
Pipestem, Summers County
$4,894.00 for public performances at the Culturefest World Music and Arts Festival.

Arts & Humanities Alliance of Jefferson Co.
Shepherdstown, Jefferson County
$5,000.00 for the Teaching Arts Creatively regranting program.

Arts Monongahela, Inc.
Morgantown, Monongalia County
$10,500.00 for staffing support.

ArtsLink, Inc.
New Martinsville, Wetzel County
$10,997.00 for a regranting program; a series of public performances; and educational concerts.

Charles T. “Chuck” Mathena II Foundation, Inc.
Princeton, Mercer County
$20,000.00 for Missoula Children’s Theatre, a production of A Christmas Carol; and a series of musical performances.

Charleston Chamber Music Society
Charleston, Kanawha County
$3,749.00 for a series of public performances.

Children’s Theatre of Charleston
Charleston, Kanawha County
$13,631.00 for staffing support and production of three performances.

Contemporary American Theater Festival
Shepherdstown, Jefferson County
$20,000.00 for production of a series of new plays.

Davis & Elkins College, Inc.
Elkins, Randolph County
$20,000.00 for programming and instruction in traditional cultures, music, dance, crafts, and folklore.

Fairmont Chamber Music Society
Fairmont, Marion County
$5,225.00 for a series of public performances.

Festiv-ALL Charleston, WV Inc.
Charleston, Kanawha County
$4,290.00 for a public performance by Airplay during FestivALL 2020.

Friends of the Alban Arts & Conference Center
Saint Albans, Kanawha County
$7,744.00 for four productions.

Friends of Music
Shepherdstown, Jefferson County
$13,841.00 for a series of public performances.

Highland Arts Unlimited, Inc.
Keyser, Mineral County
$8,288.00 for a series of public performances.

Kanawha Valley FOOTMAD
Charleston, Kanawha County
$7,900.00 for a series of public performances.

Mid-Ohio Valley Symphony Society
Vienna, Wood County
$9,000.00 for a series of public performances.

Old Opera House Theatre Company, Inc.
Charles Town, Jefferson County
$15,000.00 for staffing support.
Pocahontas Co. Opera House Foundation, Inc.
Marlinton, Pocahontas County
$11,775.00 for Missoula Children’s Theatre and a series of public performances.

The River House, Inc.
Capon Bridge, Hampshire County
$2,505.00 for a summer and fall performing arts series; and community chorus.

Trillium Collective LTD
Lewisburg, Greenbrier County
$11,475.00 for a public performance series and performing youth program.

WV Arts Presenters, Inc.
New Martinsville, Wetzel County
$15,000.00 for two touring productions to perform around the state.

WV Foundation for Architecture
Charleston, Kanawha County
$2,741.00 for production of a film documenting Bauhaus architecture of the mid-20th century in West Virginia.

WV Professional Dance Company
Beckley, Raleigh County
$12,400.00 for production of two new works to be incorporated in public performances.

Youth Museum of Southern WV
Beckley, Raleigh County
$20,000.00 for two educational exhibits.

Cultural Facilities and Capitol Resources
Provides support for the acquisition, construction and renovation of arts venues, accessibility improvements and capital purchases of durable equipment.
Total: $649,750.00

Carnegie Hall, Inc.
Lewisburg, Greenbrier County
$219,404.00 for auditorium seat replacement.

Valley High School
Pine Grove, Wetzel County
$20,853.00 for curtain replacement and projector upgrades.

City of Mannington
Mannington, Marion County
$60,000.00 for construction of a new amphitheater.

WV Museum of American Glass
Weston, Lewis County
$7,500.00 for floor replacement.

WV Museum of American Glass
Weston, Lewis County
$7,500.00 for floor replacement.

Friends of Ashby’s Fort
Fort Ashby, Mineral County
$57,400.00 for creation of a visitors center.

Charles T. “Chuck” Mathena Foundation, Inc.
Princeton, Mercer County
$83,585.00 for theater equipment upgrades.

City of Buckhannon
Buckhannon, Upshur County
$67,000.00 for Colonial Theater renovation.

Old Opera House Theatre Company
Charles Town, Jefferson County
$34,272.00 for renovation of administrative space.

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: $12,000.00

Adaland Mansion Development
Philippi, Barbour County
$325 for presentation of Vintage Theatre Company/Rustic Mechanicals.

Almost Heaven BBQ Bash
Roanoke, Lewis County
$1,000 for presentation of musicians at BBQ Festival.

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc.
Elkins, Randolph County
$350 for presentation of musicians at
Tunes on the Tracks Old-Time Music Showcase.

Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.
Arthurdale, Preston County
$775 for presentation of musicians at New Deal Festival.

ArtSpring, Inc.
Thomas, Tucker County
$1,000 for presentation of musicians at ArtSpring Festival.

Boone County Community & Economic Development Corp.
Madison, Boone County
$375 for presentation of “Coal Camp Memories” theatrical performance.

Charleston WV Blues Society
Charleston, Kanawha County
$650 for presentation of musicians at Chandler Alternative Learning Center.

Cougar Vision Alliance for Students
Baker, Hardy County
$1,000 for presentation of dance performances at East Hardy Early/Middle and High Schools.

Elkins Main Street, Inc.
Elkins, Randolph County
$1,000 for presentation of ten jazz artists at the Elkins Jazz Walk.

Hampshire County Arts Council
Romney, Hampshire County
$625 for presentation of musicians at the Hampshire Highlands Arts & Music Festival

Hodgesville Elementary School
Hodgesville, Upshur County
$187 for presentation of Adam Booth storytelling performance.

Holly River State Park Foundation
Hacker Valley, Webster County
$600 for presentation of musicians at the Holly River Festival.

Pocahontas County Arts Council
Green Bank, Pocahontas County
$1,000 for artist workshops and community-based arts classes.

Rock Cave Elementary School
Rock Cave, Upshur County
$187 for presentation of Adam Booth storytelling performance.

St. Francis De Sales School
Beckley, Raleigh County
$1,000 for presentation of dance performance and arts-integrated workshop

Webster Springs Main Street
Webster Springs, Webster County
$250 for presentation of musicians at Burgoo Down Home Days

Professional Development for Artists & Artisans
Provides support for professional and emerging artists to expand or improve their work or share their expertise.
Total: $5,665.00

Adam Booth
Shepherdstown, Jefferson County
$1,287.00 to cover travel and lodging expenses while researching archives and visiting keepers of the oral tradition across the state in order to learn ballads and singing styles.

Fred Powers
Bluefield, Mercer County
$384.00 to assist with expenses associated with storytelling workshops at Wild Acres Retreat in North Carolina.

Denise Roberts
Albright, Preston County
$2,494.00 to purchase fabric and dyes for a solo exhibition.

Training and Travel for Individual Artists
Provides travel support to artists, arts administrators and arts educators for conferences, workshops, seminars and showcases outside of West Virginia.
Total: $1,370.00

Cynthia Dearborn
Milton, Cabell County
$200.00 to attend the 2019 National Docent Symposium.

Brian Fencl
Wheeling, Ohio County
$270.00 to attend the Cuttyhunk Island Artists’ Residency’s Fall Artist Residency Program.

Renée Margocee
Charleston, Kanawha County
$300.00 to attend the 2019 Haystack Summer Conference.

Jonas Thoms
Morgantown, Monongalia County
$300.00 to attend the 51st International Horn Symposium

Jennifer Weingardt
Huntington, Cabell County
$300 to attend the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Maryland/Delaware/West Virginia Fall Focus Retreat at the Beach 2019.
Christopher M. Rodgers of Charleston, Robert Villamagna of Wheeling, and Thomas Warton of Wheeling took home the top awards as the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) announced the winners of the 21st biennial West Virginia Juried Exhibition in October. One hundred one West Virginia artists, of which 18 were awarded monetary prizes, were selected for the exhibit. It featured 131 pieces, including painting, drawing, mixed media, craft, photography, digital art, sculpture and print. All were on display at the Culture Center in Charleston.

“The West Virginia Juried Exhibition has continued its tradition of presenting the best mixture of our state’s well-known and emerging artists,” said WVDACH Curator Randall Reid-Smith. “We were pleased to open this year’s exhibit back in Charleston. It was the first time since the 2005 Juried Exhibition that the Culture Center has been the host of the opening exhibit.” In past years, the exhibition has been in Beckley, Martinsburg, Wheeling, Huntington, Parkersburg and Morgantown.

The department presented $33,000 in awards for the exhibition. The awards are made available through the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the WVDACH through funds appropriated by the West Virginia Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. Awards included three $5,000 Governor’s Awards (purchase awards), seven $2,000 Awards of Excellence (purchase awards) and eight $500 Merit Awards (non-purchase awards). Works receiving Purchase Awards become part of the West Virginia State Museum’s permanent art collection. A complete list of winners follows.

Winners Named in 21st Biennial WV Juried Exhibition

Robert Villamagna’s Siblings was honored with a Governor’s Award and the Gene D. Jordon Memorial Award. Villamagna lives and works in Wheeling.
Winners

Governor's Awards
Christopher M. Rogers
Charleston, Kanawha County
*Untitled (Collection)* - Sculpture

Robert Villamagna
Wheeling, Ohio County
*Siblings* - Mixed Media
D. Gene Jordon Memorial Award
Thomas Wharton
Wheeling, Ohio County
*A Sunny Disposition* - Painting

Awards of Excellence
Alex Brand
Lewisburg, Greenbrier County
*Rainbow Platter* - Crafts

Betsy Cox
Glen Dale, Marshall County
*Ghost Cactus Form* - Crafts

Clayborn Dotson
Williamson, Mingo County
*King Strut* - Crafts

Donald Earley
Greenville, Monroe County
*Rocking Horse* - Drawing/Painting

Barrie Kaufman
Charleston, Kanawha County
*Paradox* - Sculpture

Martyna Matusiak
Wheeling, Ohio County
*Soft at the Edges* - Mixed Media

Naijun Zhang
Morgantown, Monongalia County
*Woman Holding A Rag* - Painting

Merit Awards
Madison Cochran
Marmet, Kanawha County
*Monsters Under the Bed (Part 1)* - Mixed Media

Chuck Conner
Spencer, Roane County
*Mother Jude* - Photography

Mike Danko
Parkersburg, Wood County
*Bridge at Cedar Lakes* - Crafts

Alison Helm
Morgantown, Monongalia County
*Landscape Disrupted* - Sculpture

Suzan Morgan
Buckhannon, Upshur County
*Who Will Be Next?* - Crafts

Nicole Suptic
White Oak, Raleigh County
*Country Roads Series; Sunset* - Drawing

Neval Tribble
Elkins, Randolph County
*Gaudineer Knob from Memory* - Sculpture

Shea Wells
Fayetteville, Fayette County
*Homage to Mondrian* - Crafts

The following artists, by county, were also featured in the exhibition:

Barbour
Leah Seaman, Moatsville - Mixed Media
Jeni Stewart, Philippi - Mixed Media

Berkeley
Dennis Clarke, Martinsburg - Painting

Braxton
Steve Balcourt, Exchange - Photography

Brooke
James Haizlett, Wellsburg - Sculpture
Herb Weaver, Bethany - Mixed Media

Cabell
Larry Keith Brumfield, Barboursville - Painting
Vernon F. Howell, Barboursville - Mixed Media
Anthony Kelly, Milton - Sculpture
Sandra Reed, Huntington - Print
Jesse Thornton, Huntington - Photography

Clay
Brian Michael Reed, Ivydale - Painting

Fayette
Ginger Danz, Fayetteville - Painting
Machele Kindle, Montgomery - Crafts

Greenbrier
Adrienne Belafonte Biesemeyer, Alderson - Mixed Media
Jo Perez, Alderson – Sculpture/Crafts

Hampshire
Susan L. Feller, Augusta - Crafts

Harrison
Stacey Oxley, Clarksburg - Mixed Media

Jackson
Larry Weese, Jr., Ravenswood - Crafts

Jefferson
Bruce Fransen, Harpers Ferry - Sculpture
Patricia Perry, Shenandoah Junction - Painting
Diana Suttenfield, Shepherdstown – Painting

Kanawha
Dick Allowatt, St. Albans - Mixed Media
Canyon K. Beary, Sissonville - Photography
Laurie Chapman, Elkview - Painting
Joyce Waltz Daniels, Charleston - Mixed Media
Chris Dutch, Charleston - Crafts
Ross Estep, South Charleston - Crafts
Tonie Garrett, Saint Albans - Painting
Frank Gourley, Charleston - Crafts
Michael Keller, Saint Albans - Photography
Thorney Lieberman, Charleston - Photography
Bennett Life, Charleston - Crafts
Ric MacDowell, Charleston - Photography
Betty McMullen, Charleston - Painting
Jennifer Mullins, Charleston - Crafts
Tori Myres, Charleston - Digital Art
Janet Parker, Charleston - Painting
Taylor W. Raab, Charleston - Photography
Steven Wayne Rotsch, Charleston - Photography
Ellie Schaul, Charleston - Painting
Clayton E. Spangler II, Charleston - Photography
Regina Swim, Charleston - Crafts
Cynthia Walton, Charleston - Painting
Donna Wood, Charleston - Painting

Lewis
Todd Turner, Weston - Crafts

Lincoln
Eddie Austin, Hamlin - Crafts
Jim Probst, Hamlin - Crafts
More winners of Governor’s Awards in the West Virginia Juried Exhibition. Left; A Sunny Disposition, a painting by Wheeling artist Thomas Wharton. Right: Untitled (Collection), sculpture by Christopher M. Rodgers of Charleston.
On January 8, women in white blouses, floor-length black skirts, and fancy hats gathered in the Great Hall of the Culture Center. They came to kick off West Virginia’s year-long centennial commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which in 1920 established women’s voting rights in the United States.

Designating 2020 as “the year of the woman,” West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner saluted the costumed suffragettes, read a proclamation from Governor Justice, and unveiled an official logo to mark West Virginia’s celebration of the centennial.

West Virginians are marking the anniversary with a number of events during the year, including the following:

During February and March, West Virginia Public Broadcasting network featured “100 Years: A Celebration of Women’s Suffrage,” a series of two-minute remembrances of the fight for voting rights. The essays are now available for streaming at wvpublic.org.

On June 17, the Kanawha Valley chapter of the National Organization for Women will present an original play, Inalienable Rights: West Virginia Women Battle for the Vote. Written by Dan Kehde and produced by Mariette Clinton, the two-act play dramatizes the fight for the vote between 1848 and 1920 in many quick vignettes. Music and background photos will add to the drama onstage. The play takes place in Walker Theater at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences, in Charleston.

Funding for a number of the public events is provided by the West Virginia Humanities Council, the Charles and Mary Fayne Glotfelty Foundation, Mike Kelly Law, Henson and Kinney PLLC, and Ray, Winton and Kelly PLLC.

A growing list of other celebratory events throughout the state — documentary films, lectures, teas, an art exhibition, an opera, and voter registration drives — may be found at the Secretary of State’s website. On Facebook, search “West Virginia Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment” for more information.
In December, the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation named Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia, as one of 20 small to mid-sized towns and cities across America to win a Levitt AMP Grant Award of $25K in matching funds to present a free concert series at the AMP at Sam Michaels Park. Jefferson County Parks and Recreation submitted the Levitt AMP proposal.

In July 2019, the Levitt Foundation invited nonprofits to submit proposals that would reflect the three goals of the Levitt AMP awards: Amplify community pride and the city’s unique character; enrich lives through the power of free, live Music; and illustrate the importance of vibrant public Places. Nonprofits that received a previous Levitt AMP grant were eligible to reapply. To inspire and engage communities across the country around the power of creative placemaking, the Levitt Foundation opened the selection process to the public to choose the top 25 finalists. The public voted on the submitted proposals over a three-week period in November, selecting their favorite projects online.

“We are thrilled to announce the 2020 Levitt AMP Grant Awards winners, and express our appreciation to everyone who voted online to choose the finalists,” says Sharon Yazowski, executive director of the Levitt Foundation. “The first Levitt AMP Shenandoah Junction Music Series, presented by Jefferson County Parks and Recreation, will spotlight community pride in this historically significant area while bringing new energy to the AMP at Sam Michaels Park.”

The 2020 Levitt AMP winners include 5 new and 15 returning grantees from a broad range of communities: rural towns with populations of less than 5,000 like Shenandoah Junction, W.Va.; Houston, Miss.; and Soldotna, Alaska; mid-sized cities like Carson City, Nev.; Stevens Point, Wis.; and Woonsocket, R.I.; and larger cities with populations of 80,000 to 115,000 like Merced, Calif.; Fort Smith, Ark.; and Springfield, Ill. Each winner will present 10 free concerts featuring a diverse lineup of high-caliber entertainment as part of the Levitt AMP Music Series, for a total of 200 free Levitt AMP concerts across the U.S. in 2020.

The Levitt AMP Shenandoah Junction Music Series presented by Jefferson County Parks and Recreation at “The Amp” marks the next chapter in the decades-long journey to create a vibrant, music-filled community gathering place in the 130-acre Sam Michaels Park. The Levitt AMP Music Series will elevate and expand the amphitheater’s existing concert series, bringing together people from throughout the area to enjoy world-class music while building community.
NASAA Elects New 2020 Board Chair, Directors

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) announced the election of a new chair and five new members to its board of directors. As part of a rigorous national nomination process, state arts agencies elected these exemplary leaders at the NASAA 2019 Leadership Institute in Providence, Rhode Island. The new chair, Suzanne Wise, executive director of the Nebraska Arts Council, will serve a two-year term. Three new members drawn from the state arts agency field will each serve a three-year term: Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Executive Director Karl Blischke, ArtsWA Executive Director Karen Hanan, and Louisiana State Arts Council Member Gene Meneray. Mary V. Bordeux, First Peoples Fund Vice President of Programs and MUSE Research Principal Ivonne Chand O’Neal, both new at-large members will each serve a two-year term.

In addition to these new directors, Amber Sharples, executive director of the Oklahoma Arts Council, was elected to a second three-year term. “We are delighted that the membership has elected Suzanne as our chair,” said NASAA President and CEO Pam Breaux. “We heartily welcome Karl, Mary, Karen, Gene and Ivonne to the NASAA board and are pleased that Amber will continue her service. These experienced leaders bring a breadth of knowledge, strong commitments to serving the public and a sincere passion for the arts. We are eager to work with this new team and we welcome their expertise and guidance.”

Per NASAA’s bylaws, the board elected these officers:
1st Vice Chair: Omari Rush, Chair, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs
2nd Vice Chair: Amber Sharples, Executive Director, Oklahoma Arts Council
Secretary: Stephanie Conner, Council Member, Tennessee Arts Commission
Treasurer: Karen Paty, Executive Director, Georgia Council for the Arts

“The 2020 NASAA board represents strong and committed leadership from state arts agencies and the wider arts and culture field,” said NASAA Chair Suzanne Wise. “I am excited to work with these outstanding leaders as we advance NASAA’s mission to strengthen state arts agencies and continue to advocate for the value of the arts across all communities.” For more information on NASAA’s board members, visit www.nasaa.org.

WV Poet Laureate Wins Poetry Center Award

Marc Harshman, poet laureate of West Virginia, has been named the co-winner of the 2019 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards for his poem “Poet in the Schools.” He shares the first-place spot with Francesca Maxime of Brooklyn, NY.

In February of 2020, Harshman and Maxime recited their respective winning poems at The Poetry Center’s home base, the historic Hamilton Club Building, located on the Paterson campus of Passaic County Community College (PCCC). Their poems will be published in Issue #48 of the Paterson Literary Review.

The Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards aims to honor Ginsberg’s contributions to American literature and his Paterson, NJ upbringing. This award comes from The Poetry Center based at PCCC. The center was founded in 1980 by award-winning poet and executive director Maria Mazzotti Gillan.

Through the years it has hosted a multitude of poets including poet laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, and poets of national and international recognition. Readings at the center have included Allen Ginsberg, Amiri Baraka, Lucille Clifton, Stanley Kunitz, Ruth Stone, Marge Piercy, Billy Collins, Richard Blanco, Patricia Smith and many others.

Appointed in 2012, Harshman is the seventh poet laureate of West Virginia. He has won many awards for his poetry including the more recent Weatherford Award and the 2017 Blue Lynx Prize. Harshman has published poetry collections and children’s books, been published in periodicals, and had his poems anthologized by Kent State University, University of Iowa, University of Georgia, and University of Arizona. He resides in Wheeling, Ohio County.
Gallery 35

Galley 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 Jack O’Hearn at Jack.J.Ohearn@wv.gov for complete submission guidelines. To assure the best reproduction, photos of your work should be jpg images that measure 2400 pixels on the longest side, if possible.
Opposite page, clockwise from top:

Jeff Greenham - Morgantown, Monongalia County - *Cone Vase*, Glazed Porcelain
Jo Perez - Alderson, Greenbrier County - *Cherry Blossom Andon*, Stained glass and wood
Kimberly Joy - Thomas, Tucker County - *Variation #7*, Reclaimed leather remnants
John D'Amico - Romney, Hampshire County - *Blue Bell Morning Sparkle*, Sherman Williams Exterior Latex Paint

This page, clockwise from top left:

Brian Fencl - Wheeling, Ohio County
*View of Canapitsit Channel (Cuttyhunk Island)*, Oil on panel

Eric Pardue - Milton, Cabell County
*Wounded*
Earthenware with glaze, slips, commercial and artist made decals

Steve Konya II - Fairmont, Marion County
*Elkins Snow and Fog*, Photograph
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.

Mini Grants
**Deadline: 6 weeks prior to project date**
Provides support for schools, nonprofit organizations or other nonprofit sponsors that do not present a season of events.

EZ Arts Access
**Deadline: April 1/October 1**
Provides support for small communities and organizations with small budgets. This is a simplified application process with the opportunity for application two times per year, allowing for special opportunities that occur after other WVCA deadlines have passed.

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.

Submit to ArtWorks!

Does your arts organization deserve to be in the spotlight? Are you an artist who attended a good conference or workshop? Do you have an idea for a great story? Whatever it is, email it to elizabeth.a.yeager@wv.gov with the subject “ArtWorks Submission” and your idea could be published in an upcoming issue of ArtWorks.

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 can 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 whole board of directors or only one to two staff members. The WVCA has a designated group of peer advisors that are paired to fit an organization’s needs. These advisors have experience in the arts community in West Virginia and expertise in a range of fields. For more information about the Peer Assistance Network, contact Jack O’Hearn at Jack.J.OHearn@wv.gov or by calling (304) 558-0240.
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. She also manages the Peer Assistance Network. Barbie.J.Smoot@wv.gov

Jim Wolfe is the Arts in Education Coordinator. He administers the Arts in Education and Mini-Grant programs, and is the state coordinator for Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest for high school students. He is also the host of the monthly television show, ArtWorks. James.D.Wolfe@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

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

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

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

Jack O’Hearn is the Community Arts Coordinator. He oversees and proved technical assistance to the Arts Partners, Community Arts Project Support, and EZ Arts Access grant programs. Jack.J.Ohearn@wv.gov

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THANK YOU

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