OUR MISSION AND HISTORY: CREATING A COMMUNITY WHERE ACCESS TO THE ARTS IS NOT A LUXURY

The Arts Center at Duck Creek's mission is to honor the spirit of John Little and his fellow abstract expressionists by developing and operating free, innovative fine arts programming for the benefit of the community. We see our role as a dual one: to provide all members of our community with access to contemporary arts programming, and to support and nurture our participating musicians and visual artists. From May until November, we present a broad spectrum of free art exhibitions, music concerts and lectures on the Duck Creek Farm Historic Site.

All of our concerts and lectures are professionally recorded and accessible free of charge on our website and YouTube channel. Since 2020, we have expanded our digital offerings to include virtual 3D tours of all of our visual arts exhibitions online to compensate for COVID related attendance restrictions.

We are constantly finding new opportunities for collaboration with other East End organizations and cultural institutions, including the Pollock Krasner House and Study Center and Project Most.

The Duck Creek Farm Historic Site is an 18th century homestead including a barn and a farmhouse originally occupied by the Edwards family, original settlers of the Maidstone Colony now known as East Hampton. In the 1950s, the abstract expressionist John Little used this space as a studio and meeting place for artists in the then burgeoning art colony. The property was purchased by the Town of East Hampton with Community Preservation Funds in 2006. A group of local residents spearheaded the restoration and adaptation of the John Little Barn as The Arts Center at Duck Creek, incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2018.
OUR EXPANDING PROGRAM OFFERINGS: ALL FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

From May through September, we offer a wide range of visual arts, music and education programming. We also offer a limited number of spring and fall music concerts and winter art exhibits. In 2021, we have been expanding our offerings across all genres.

VISUAL ART

We stage visual art exhibitions across a wide range of disciplines, including painting, drawing and sculpture, in the John Little Barn and on the Duck Creek grounds.

As part of our focus on nurturing new artistic talent, we have added The Little Gallery, an additional exhibition space.

MUSIC

What began as a Jazz Series in 2019 expanded to include a broader view of this genre in 2020. In 2021, we launched a new classical music series, highlighting young musicians who push the boundaries of the genre.

In 2022, we plan to widen our audience by expanding the music program even further, offering an even more diverse range of new music.

EDUCATION + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In addition to our established Pollock-Krasner Lichtenstein lecture series, we are building our youth audience through the launch of a free summer and after school partnership with Project Most.
OUR SEASON BY THE AUDIENCE NUMBERS

In keeping with our belief that our programs should be free and open to all, all of our live performances are recorded and presented on our website and YouTube channel. This has taken on a new significance with the advent of COVID-19.

In 2021, our **ONLINE PRESENCE** continued to grow, with **182K+** views on our YouTube channel.

In 2021, our **ONSITE AUDIENCE FOR ART EXHIBITIONS AND MUSIC CONCERTS DOUBLED**. The majority of our music concerts audiences reached our 150 person capacity.
OUR SEASON BY THE BUDGET NUMBERS

Our programming is all free and open to all.
But our programs are not free to produce.

COST PER CONCERT, EXHIBITION, LECTURE

MUSIC
2021 season: 12 concerts
Cost per Concert: $900-$6,000

EDUCATION
Cost per Activity: $500-$800

VISUAL ART
2021 season: 8 exhibitions
Cost per Exhibition: $1,000-$3,000

2021 PROGRAMMING COST PER SERIES

Music - $41,000
Education - $4,000
Visual Art - $31,000
FOCUS ON FUNDING DIVERSIFICATION

As we continue to expand our programming, we are actively seeking to diversify our sources of funding to ensure continued future growth.

Our primary need is operations funding. This will allow us to consolidate our operations infrastructure, expand our program offerings and increase our ability to act as an incubator for emerging artists.

2021 FUNDING SOURCES

- Government Agencies
- HiLo Foundation
- Willem de Kooning Foundation
- Other Private Foundations
- Individual Donors
JULIAN SCHNABEL (2021 Exhibition Curator): In the welcoming rustic barn and landscape of Duck Creek Farm, a light has been switched on that says “join this community of joy and talent and newness, and be surprised to see what you wouldn't have seen otherwise.”

JEANNE SILVERTHORNE (2021 Artist): Most striking in my experience with doing an exhibition at Duck Creek was the beauty of the space itself….each time I re-entered the building I was taken over by its proportions, its lovely smell, the harmony of its natural elements….The Duck Creek barn is somehow a friendly, companion piece of art in which the artist and the space are having a lovely conversation.

ELIZABETH HAZAN (2021 Artist): Duck Creek’s evening performances feel like an antidote to the overhyped and crowded parts of the Hamptons and offer a connection to its history. Sitting there listening to innovative contemporary musicians, one could as easily be at the kind of gathering held in the 1970s as today. It is this quality that makes Duck Creek so essential to the area.

BRIAN PETUCH (2021 Composer): Previewing Portrait and a Dream out at Duck Creek was one of the most meaningful artistic experiences I’ve had…It was one of those concerts that makes one remember why they make music to begin with. Being able to preview the opera out where so much of it took place was truly a magical experience.

AURELIO QUINONES (2021 Community Member): I sometimes describe what is going on at Duck Creek as legendary and I feel it is not an exaggeration. Legendary because the performers are excellent, curious, energetic, and at a stage in their careers where one day you may find yourself saying, “Yeah I once heard them at Duck Creek, hungry, full of heart, and so full of talent, you wouldn’t believe.”