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Lucy Rosenthal
MESSAGE

The year 2020 was the proving ground for organizational resiliency, collaboration and creative thinking. What we learned throughout this past year is all of us at Arts Mid-Hudson -- our staff, board, members and community -- are able to rise and continue with work that fulfills our mission: to provide vision and leadership to support thriving and diverse arts in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Together We Create
Our tagline says it all. We can look back on a year like no other and agree Arts Mid-Hudson’s accomplishments were many because we worked together. In many cases, our staff discovered new ways of working to ensure grant making, arts education, advocacy, folk arts programs, workshops and arts/cultural events continued successfully.

A significant event in Dutchess County was the launch of the inaugural Hudson Valley Gospel Festival. Arts Mid-Hudson applauds the work of Dutchess County Poet Laureate Raphael Kosek who served her second year expanding the reach of poetry throughout Dutchess County. Following in the steps of Poet Gold Wilkerson, 2017-2018 Dutchess County Poet Laureate, Ms. Kosek has presented poetry readings and workshops with Dutchess County community groups.

The 34th Annual Dutchess County Executive’s Arts Awards continued, but in a virtual format this year celebrating the eight awardees who have positively contributed to the arts in Dutchess County. Guest MC (Grace) Angela Henry kept the evening festive and the celebrity balloon poppers added to the fun.

Keeping the party going on both sides of the Hudson River, the 8th Annual Ulster County Arts Awards was another spectacular virtual event, recognizing the work of eight individuals and organizations.

Art Walk Kingston continued in its fifth year. To continue to showcase the work of local artists, the event was a collaboration with several lead arts organizations, businesses and galleries.

In Orange County, 2020 was the seventh year Arts Mid-Hudson administered the New York State Council on the Arts regranting program.

The geography we serve covers 2,825 square miles, much of which is rural, creating a need Arts Mid-Hudson fulfills through increasing web-based information and programming. During 2021, we will continue to build on the relationships we have forged and establish new ones through our arts education initiatives, workshops, events and outreach. Our accomplishments of 2020 make our members, board of directors and dedicated staff excited about supporting thriving and diverse arts in the Mid-Hudson Valley, because Together We Create.
**Highlights of 2020**

**JAN**

Starting off the year with an incredible performance by **Sisters in Spirit** at the 2020 Annual Meeting in the Arts Mid-Hudson Poughkeepsie office with over 75 people in attendance.

**FEB**

With over 100 people in attendance, the **Hudson Valley Gospel Festival** welcomed 6 groups to perform at the Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center. In the Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, the celebration of Black History Month continued with **Reflections**, which can still be viewed in the AMH Virtual Gallery.

**MAR**

As the world was thrusted into a new normal, Arts Mid-Hudson launched **Postcards from my Studio**, highlighting a member artist each day on social media followed by a recap at the end of every week to flood our digital airways with the exceptional artists of the Hudson Valley.

**APR**

During the month of April, we embarked on the first **Arts Mid-Hudson Poetry Challenge**, spreading the beautiful art of poetry through social media. This partnered with our **Poets Respond to Art** exhibit that has been viewed on our YouTube Channel over 1,500 times.

**MAY**

May 20, 2020 marked this year's **Hudson Valley Gives Day**. This was an opportunity to unite the community around causes that they truly believe in and help nonprofits connect to a larger community. In 2020, we raised **$4,900** with the "**It Starts with the Arts**" campaign.

**JUNE**

Livening up our social media feeds, **Virtual Folk Arts Weeks** ran for over 19 weeks connecting our followers with fun-filled topics spanning food, traditions, artwork, fairytales and more.
We envision a community where **all artists** are valued, **all communities** have access to the arts, and **everyone** has resources to create their own vision. In July, the Arts Mid-Hudson staff and Board of Directors confirmed a living Diversity, Equity & Inclusion statement. Full statement can be found artsmidhudson.org/dei

The **8th Annual Ulster County Executive’s Arts Awards** (virtual) was a fantastic night celebrating 8 incredible awardees, live musical performances, balloon popping fun, and a live creation of a masterpiece by Individual Artist Awardee, Marker Snyder.

Throughout the summer and fall, the Arts Mid-Hudson grants team reviewed 36 drafts for the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Grant Program along with **671 grant and technical assistant calls and email correspondence.**

The **34th Annual Dutchess County Executive’s Arts Awards** highlighted 8 magnificent awardees who have contributed to our Dutchess County artscene. With special guest M.C. (Grace) Angela Henry, the balloon popping madness and gift card giveaways were a sensational success.

The second annual **THRIVE: Making a Career in the Arts** changed to an online event where 120 youth went into one of four breakout rooms and were able to have one-on-one discussions before coming back together for a panel discussion. Community partnerships ensured that the event was accessible to all students.

With the holidays fast approaching, the **Dutchess Handmade Pop-Up Shop** welcomed over 300 visitors to the Poughkeepsie Trolley Barn over one weekend encouraging social distancing and shopping local by supporting 50 Hudson Valley artists.
ADVOCACY & PUBLIC AWARENESS

Arts Mid-Hudson’s work advocates for the arts across the region through branding and support for local marketing initiatives – a few organizations that have taken advantage of this include: Barrett Art Center, Cunneen Hackett for PoughETRY Festival, The Art Effect’s Reel Exposure Film Festival, and ‘T’ Space.

Through the Arts Mid-Hudson newsletter, web calendar, and social media, events from arts and cultural organizations are promoted throughout the Mid-Hudson region and beyond. For instance, bi-monthly articles on arts events and exhibits are featured in the Poughkeepsie Journal and Arts Mid-Hudson curates bi-monthly articles written by local artists to raise public awareness of the myriad of regional artists. ArtsCast, the quarterly video overview produced by Arts Mid-Hudson featuring arts events across the region, celebrated its third year. Grant workshops were also made available on YouTube to more broadly distribute information.

“This past year reinforced the importance that the arts contribute to our communities. As we became more isolated to ensure health safety, it was clear that all of us in the arts must find new ways to engage with our community. AMH quickly changed in-person events, meetings, and workshops to a virtual format to continue mission-aligned programs.”

FOLK ARTS PROGRAM

The AMH Folk Arts Program encourages the enduring traditional practices of the cultural communities of the Mid-Hudson region and sharing those practices with one another through interactive educational public programming such as festivals and workshops. Cultural communities are the best interpreters of their cultural expressions. AMH provides networking, fieldwork, research assistance, and resource development to aid communities in this endeavor. Public programs presented in collaboration with community organizations aim to expand awareness of and appreciation for our region’s rich cultural heritage. The Folk Arts Program is funded primarily by New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and Dutchess County, with additional support this year from Stewart’s Shops, Humanities New York and the Robert R. Chapman Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.

“The year 2020 pushed the Folk Arts Program to think creatively about engaging audiences online. In what ways could our programs stand out amongst the myriad distanced offerings.”

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING

Arts Mid-Hudson provides essential support to artists and arts organizations in our region. In 2020, we worked closely with grantees to support innovative ways to present arts programming. The AMH Grants team continues to assist a wide variety of constituents in applying to our funding programs. In 2020 we served over 200 people in grant Q & A sessions, and held over 670 individual technical assistance sessions. This assistance allows applicants to brainstorm ideas, review a draft of their proposal, and seek feedback based on review panel comments. Grant support by Arts Mid-Hudson has allowed many grantees to leverage additional funds from other sources. Through the grants and awards programs, Arts Mid-Hudson makes available county and state arts funding to every part of our region, making possible an extraordinary array of cultural activities.

“In 2020 we worked extremely hard to support artists and arts organizations in reimagining how to present arts programming. We are thrilled with the innovative ideas and new tools that have been identified this year and look forward to integrating what we learned in 2020 going forward.”
Partnering with Dutchess Tourism, Arts Mid-Hudson launched the inaugural Hudson Valley Gospel Festival in February 2020 featuring the Hudson Valley Gospel Festival Choir, Just Voices, the West Point Gospel Choir, the Livingstone College Gospel Choir, Everett Drake, and Edwrin Sutton.

The Arts Mid-Hudson gallery featured the “Reflection” exhibit in our physical gallery before the COVID pandemic. AMH staff immediately switched future exhibits to a virtual gallery presenting “Look Back in Wonder” curated by Elisa Pritzker and Greg Slick and the Arts Mid-Hudson members exhibit “Hope and Ambition.” We learned that the virtual gallery allowed for greater participation from interested people outside of our region. Through the virtual gallery AMH was able to extend the exhibition times for artists participating in 2020 Art Walk Kingston and Millbrook Vineyards & Winery Art in the Loft annual exhibition.

2020 was the second annual THRIVE: Making a Career in the Arts. Arts Mid-Hudson continues to promote Arts & Action meet-ups in Poughkeepsie and Kingston to cultivate partnerships between artists and the communities in which they live.

“\textit{In 2020, we created new ways to complete certain tasks while maintaining proper protocols for finances, grant contracts and donor acknowledgments. Although challenging, thank goodness we have the technology to make it all happen!}”

Arts Mid-Hudson was pleased to add a new staff member during 2020 through generous funding from a New York State Regional Economic Development grant and the County of Dutchess. The Arts Education Coordinator position was created to facilitate and create collaborative art education events, advocate and legislate for integrated arts education programs for all educational institutions in the Mid-Hudson region, and provide workshops and on-going and updated information regarding advancement opportunities for artists and other art opportunities for the community.

Accomplishments during 2020 included:

- Develop AMH Arts Alliance with supporting Outreach and Communications Committees that provide assistance and advocacy to local art teachers during and post COVID.
- Formation of a Dual Credit Committee: AMH in partnership with The Art Effect, BOCES in Dutchess, Ulster and Orange Counties, Dutchess Community College, local PTAs, and high schools, formed a Dual Credit Committee that creates new pathways for youths to attain both high school and college credit when interning with local artists.
- Second Annual THRIVE: Making a Career in the Arts: AMH partnered with The Art Effect, Adriance Library and Barrett Art Center in a virtual event that included 13 professional artists on a panel discussion to guide the 120 youth and emerging artists with career connections in the arts.
- Develop art-based virtual workshops, updated job listings, calls for artists, and workshops offered in the community.

“\textit{Gratefully we had the technology that allowed us to communicate, build relationships and initiate collaborations in 2020 and into 2021. Our ability and willingness to utilize various technologies enabled attendees from a larger geographical location to attend our events, share their insights, and benefit from our new and on-going initiatives.}”
**VIRTUAL GALLERY**

**200 LOCAL ARTISTS**

**$11,386**

*Artists Received*

**$12K**

*Dutchess Handmade*

**$3.9K**

*Annual Pop-Up Shop Gross Sales*

**2,782 Followers**

**4,889 Followers**

**3,295 Views**

**76.6K Impressions**

**9,267 Subscribers**

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**GRANTS & FUNDING**

**DECENTRALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM**

- **56 Funded Programs**
- **$123,685 Awarded**

**DUTCHESS PARTNERS IN THE ARTS**

- **27 Funded Programs**
- **$85,000 Awarded**

**ULSTER COUNTY CULTURAL SERVICES & PROMOTION FUND**

- **13 Funded Programs**
- **$37,500 Awarded**

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**INCOME**

- Public Support: $556,306
- Individual & Corporate Support: $36,451
- Foundation Support: $70,132
- Events & Earned Income: $36,110

- **80%**
- **5%**
- **5%**
- **10%**

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**EXPENSES**

- **39%**
- **58%**
- **3%**

- Fundraising: $20,262
- Administration & Art Services: * $405,250
- Funded Programs in Dutchess, Orange, & Ulster Counties: $275,892

*34% of administrative costs funded through grants & contacts.
$275,000+
New York State Council on the Arts

$220,000+
Dutchess Tourism, Inc. and
County of Dutchess

$60,000+
County of Ulster

$30,000+
The Dyson Foundation

$15,000+
The Cowles Charitable Trust

$10,000+
Community Foundations of the
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$5,000+
Millbrook Tribute Garden

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Fall Kill Creative Works
Fleet Feet
Herzog’s
Hoody Crescent
Hudson Beach Glass
Hudson River Housing/Upcycle
Hudson River Maritime Museum
Ilene Goldman
Judith Muir
Kaele Brittin Shaw
Karl J. Volk
Karl Schmitz
Karmabee
Kim Steinard
Lagustas Luscious
Lorraine Jackson Wearable Art
Madeline Friedman
Marianne’s Floral Garden
Mary Flad
Michael Lalicki
Millbrook Vineyard & Winery
Nana’s Creative Café
North River Roasters
Ollie’s Pizza
On Location Studios
Pam Krimsky
Patricia Collins-Broun
PC’s Paddock Restaurant
PK Brown Woodworking
R&F Paints
Raimundo C. Gaby, Jr.
Rhinebeck Antique Emporium
Rough Draft Books Bookstore & Bar
Simplicity Consignment
South Side Wine & Spirits
Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits
Stone Window Gallery
Tarryl Gabel
The Cakery Fishkill
The Falcon*
The Green Cottage
The Tomato Café
Tony’s Pizza
Tracy Leavitt
TRT Bicycles
Unshattered Boutique
Vic’s Wine & Liquor
Williams Lumber
Yvonne Laube

In Kind
Content Media
Cornell Creative Arts Center
The Fuller Building (Scott Dutton)
Hudson Valley Magazine
Jerome Martin
On Location Studios
Prime Print Shop
R&C Cleaning

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