Together We Create has been the theme for 2018 as we proudly look at all that has been accomplished during the past year. It was an exciting and productive year fulfilling our mission to provide vision and leadership to support thriving and diverse arts in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Together We Create embodies the work Arts Mid-Hudson does across multiple areas: grantmaking, arts advocacy, folk arts programs, workshops, and arts/cultural events. These three words convey the essence of our efforts in a way that will resonate with our members, supporters, and regional community.

Arts Mid-Hudson applauds the work of Poet Gold Wilkerson, who served as the 2017-2018 Dutchess County Poet Laureate. With Poet Gold’s influence, poetry has taken root and grown in Dutchess County with her numerous collaborative performances, launch of a poetry festival, and mentoring youth.

The 32nd Annual Dutchess County Executive’s Arts Awards gala attracted an astonishing number of artists and appreciators who outdid themselves and outbid each other on the silent auction, raising dollars to support artists and arts organizations countywide. Out of dozens of nominees, eleven awardees were recognized for their work in Dutchess County. Past awardees were there to cheer them on, and we are proud to honor the growing number of people that make a difference in Dutchess County.

Keeping the party going on both sides of the Hudson River, the 6th Annual Ulster County Executive’s Arts Awards was another spectacular event, recognizing the work of ten individuals and organizations across Ulster County. An example of Arts Mid-Hudson fulfilling its mission in Ulster County was serving as the lead partner in organizing the 3rd Annual Art Walk Kingston, now the largest open studio event in the Hudson River Valley. With over 130 participating artists, this weekend event drew local visitors as well as tourists from New York City, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

In Orange County, 2018 was the fifth year that Arts Mid-Hudson administered the New York State Council on the Arts regranting program. One great example of the positive impact this funding has for the community can be seen with the 2018 Hudson Valley Jazz Festival. Area musicians performed in 15 locations on multiples stages in libraries, restaurants, and parks, introducing over 2,000 attendees to local jazz.

The geography we serve covers 2,825 square miles, much of which is rural, creating a challenge for our limited staff to be on location in each community. During 2019 we will continue to build on the relationships we have forged and establish new ones through our myriad workshops, events, and outreach. Our accomplishments of 2018 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.

Cathy Schmitz, Chair, Board of Directors
Linda Marston-Reid, Executive Director
The Folk Arts Program collaborates with cultural, ethnic, occupational, and religious communities in the Mid-Hudson Valley through ethnographic documentation and partnerships to present educational, interactive public programs. The staff folklorist provides technical assistance to organizations and individuals in these communities working to enhance cross-cultural understanding. 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.

**2018**

- **9** Programs
- **680** People Served
- **20** Cultural Community Collaborations
- **150** Latino Cultural Study

A key arts service during 2018 included the Gateway Mural Project (seen on the front cover of this report) by Poughkeepsie artist, Boogie. This two-year project involved collaborations with the Poughkeepsie Alliance, O+ Festivals and other community organizations to create a stunning mural on the Route 9 Underpass on Poughkeepsie’s Main Street. We are proud of the work that showcases a local artist and provides a positive and memorable entrance to the City of Poughkeepsie that residents and visitors will notice.

In the Arts Mid-Hudson gallery six exhibits featured a variety of work including Highlights: an Exhibit Featuring NYSCA Decentralization Grantees, and the Here & There exhibit, featuring the first awardees from the Under-Recognized Artists program. All exhibits featured artist discussions on their work through Art Brunch and other programing related to the exhibit, such as a poetry reading for Artists Respond to Poetry. Arts Mid-Hudson expands exhibit opportunities for local artists by curating six community galleries with rotating exhibits throughout the year.

New arts initiatives in 2018 across the region included the launch of a Newburgh Arts & Community Action monthly meet up; the first in September drew over 50 attendees. 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.

Arts Mid-Hudson provides essential support to artists and arts organizations in our region. Sharpening our focus on accessibility to a wide variety of constituents, in 2018 we served over 245 people in grant information seminars, and held over 550 individual technical assistance sessions, confirming that this is a much needed and utilized service.

Through the following 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.

### 2018

**Total People Served**

- **245,910** by all funding streams

#### Decentralization Grant Program:
- **$115,135** awarded
- **65** projects

#### Dutchess County Partners in the Arts:
- **$35,000** awarded
- **11** organizations

#### Dutchess County Special Funding for Performing Arts:
- **$47,998** awarded
- **4** organizations

#### Ulster County Cultural Services & Promotion Fund:
- **$51,000** awarded
- **18** organizations
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• Josephine Green
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• Barbara Lynch
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• Brendan Burke
• Laura Kandel
• Susie Linn
• Christina Osburn
• Nancy Tierney
2018 INCOME

- Public Support: $526,473
- Individual & Corporate Support: $50,683
- Foundation Support: $66,500
- Events & Earned Income: $84,442

2018 EXPENSES

- Administration & Arts Services: * $414,505
- Funded Programs in Dutchess, Orange, & Ulster Counties: $290,638
- Fundraising: $27,000

* 64% of administrative costs funded through grants & contracts.

$240,000 +
New York State Council on the Arts

$187,000 +
Dutchess Tourism, Inc. & Dutchess County

$77,500 +
Ulster County

$30,000+
Dyson Foundation

$10,000+
Cowles Charitable Trust
Millbrook Tribute Garden

$5,000+
Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley

$3,000+
Stewarts Shops

$2,500+
Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

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Individual & Corporate Support: $50,683

Foundation Support: $66,500

Events & Earned Income: $84,442

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6th Annual Ulster County Executive’s Arts Awards  
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Nana’s Creative Café  
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Organic Hudson Valley  
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Williams Lumber  
Women’s Studio Workshop  
Joan Zammitt  
Zephyr Float  
Ilga Ziemins-Kurens  
Zimmer Brothers  
Zoe’s Ice Cream Barn  

[Image 24x677 to 157x768]
“As I approached the final days of 2018, I reflected on my journey the past two years as Dutchess County’s Poet Laureate. It has been an honor to be a steward of such an important artistic expression and to shine a light on the potency of poetry and how it can serve to heal, challenge an ideal, uplift and inspire. The Poet is not merely someone writing beautiful and/or volatile words on to a page and most times is not self-serving. The Poet is a vessel through which stories travel – messages of hope, despair, love, and triumph. The Poet, whether he or she is aware of it, is an activist of the heart.

I believe in the power of words. Words can hurt, or they can build bonds. We must choose our words wisely even when we differ. I am grateful for the trust, the past support and the continued support. Through poetry and the arts, I will forward on and touch as many lives as possible in understanding we are all on one land and to remember to Be the Poem. Thank you.”

[Signature]

696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
845-454-3222
www.ArtsMidHudson.org

Cover Photo: Poughkeepsie Gateway Mural - BoogieREZ
Back Photo: Poet Gold at Self Employment in the Arts Conference