# **STORES Mid-Hudson** 2017 Annual Report















www.ArtsMidHudson.org

## MESSAGE

We hear it all the time: "How do you do it all?!" and 2017 was no exception. It was an exciting and productive year fulfilling the mission of providing vision and leadership to support thriving and diverse arts in the Mid-Hudson Valley. This year we wanted a tagline that would reflect that and the work Arts Mid-Hudson does across multiple areas: grantmaking, arts advocacy, folk arts programs, workshops, and arts/cultural events. We found a way to convey the essence of our efforts in a simple sentence that would resonate with our members, supporters, and regional community: "together we create."

This past year Arts Mid-Hudson introduced two new programs: a new source of funding: The Under-Recognized Artist funding program generously funded by the Pollock-Krasner Foundation; and an online artist registry to showcase artists working in the Mid-Hudson region. Five artists residing in Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange Counties were awarded grants from the Under-Recognized Artist program, and the artist registry has 94 listings and is growing steadily.

Arts Mid-Hudson administered the public call for nominations and the jury panel that resulted in the appointment of Poet Gold Wilkerson as the 2017 Dutchess County Poet Laureate. We held a Dutchess County Poetic Party in April, coinciding with National Poetry Month events nationwide, where Poet Gold was joined by all the nominees in a festival of poetic spoken word.

The 31st 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 organization countywide. Out of dozens of nominees, 11 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.

In Orange County, 2017 was the fourth year that Arts Mid-Hudson administered the New York State Council on the Arts regranting program. As only one great example of the positive impact this funding has for the community can be seen with The Warwick Summer Arts Festival. Their grant funded a lively mix of poetry, a film festival, live music, and dance performances that brought over 1,500 attendees to Warwick and introduced new performers and artists to the audience through engaging exhibits and live performances.

An example of Arts Mid-Hudson fulfilling its mission in Ulster County was serving as the lead partner in organizing the 2nd Annual Art Walk Kingston, now the largest open studio event in the Hudson River Valley. With over 100 participating artists, this weekend event drew local visitors as well as tourists from New York City, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Keeping the party going on both sides of the Hudson River, the 5th Annual Ulster County Executive's Arts Awards was another spectacular event, recognizing the work of nine individuals and organizations across Ulster County.

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. How will we "do it all in" 2018? We will continue to build on the relationships we have forged and establish new ones through our myriad of workshops, events, and outreach. Our accomplishments of 2017 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.

(Grace) Angela Henry, Chair, Board of Directors

Linda Marston-Reid, Executive Director

## **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: Shadowland Stages, O+ Festival, County Players, Tangent Theatre, and Pawling Concert Series. Through the Arts Mid-Hudson newsletter, social media, and print distribution, 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.

## FOLK ARTS PROGRAM

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.

Arts Mid-Hudson began supporting folk arts research and programming in 1991, and since 1998 has hosted a permanent staff folklorist. 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 CNY.

## **CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT & ARTS SERVICES**

2017 began with a three-year strategic plan in place. Arts Mid-Hudson continues as the preeminent arts service organization for Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties distributing the New York State Council on the Arts funding, along with partnerships with Dutchess and Ulster Counties for arts funding. The board and staff confirmed a new focus on mission-aligned earned income from educational/experiential workshops and partnerships with other arts and community organizations. Dutchess Handmade, a bi-annual pop-up shop, returned in 2017 and was stocked with locally-made artisan products for collecting and holiday sales. During 2017, the shop grossed \$22,000, benefitting local artists and Arts-Mid-Hudson.

New arts initiatives in 2017 included staff outreach with "Meet with Merritt," getting the Grants and Funding Manager out in the field to work across the region and ArtsCast which was launched in August as a monthly video overview of arts events across the region.

Poet Gold Wilkerson was appointed the second Dutchess County Poet Laureate and presented her poetry at the State of the County opening address, as well as being active in Dutchess County and beyond as a "poetic ambassador" during the year.

## **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING**

Arts Mid-Hudson awarded more than \$281,000 for arts organizations programming in our region during 2017. This funding provided essential support to over 90 organizations (up 8.4%), artists, libraries, community groups and collectives offering a variety of arts and cultural activities throughout Dutchess, Orange and Ulster Counties. Arts Mid-Hudson's funding programs also provide technical assistance and professional development to artists and groups in our region. Sharpening our focus on accessibility to a wide variety of constituents, in 2017 we served over 200 people in grant information seminars, and saw an increase again in our technical assistance calls/meetings from the previous year, confirming that this is a much needed and utilized service. All of this contributed to an overall increase of 5% in grants and awards from 2016.

Through the following grants and awards programs, Arts Mid-Hudson makes available county and state cultural dollars to every part of our region, making possible an extraordinary array of cultural activities.

All funding decisions are determined based on criteria such as: artistic merit, clarity and feasibility of proposal, locations served, and community benefit. In 2017, 49 volunteers reviewed over 205 applications, and made funding recommendations which were then approved by the Arts Mid-Hudson Board of Directors.

The Decentralization **Program** is a re-grant program from NYSCA; the primary goal is to support emerging initiatives of excellent artistic merit that directly engage local communities. Priority is given to artists/ organizations proven to be effective and fiscally responsible. In 2017 AMH awarded \$111,285 to 59 projects that served 25,000+ people in our region.

The Dutchess County Partners in the Arts program provides support to organizations that enrich the vibrant arts scene in Dutchess County. In 2017, 17 organizations (up 18% from last year) were funded for programming that reached residents and tourists in Dutchess County. Funding for this program is provided by Dutchess County Tourism.

The Dutchess County Special Funding for Performing Arts continued in 2017 providing support for increased marketing and small capital projects to four performing arts venues/organizations. Funding provided by Dutchess County. The Ulster County **Cultural Services and Promotion Fund** is designed to provide organizations with the resources to build capacity, grow long-term support and visibility, produce special projects and unique partnerships, and broaden public participation in the arts. In 2017, 11 organizations received awards through this initiative. Funding provided by the Ulster County Legislature.

New in 2017 was the Under Recognized Artist Program funded by the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. This program is designed to help early-career artists in the Mid-Hudson region with unrestricted funding and much needed marketing and networking resources. 94 artists applied and 5 were awarded grants.

## arts **Mid**·Hudson together we create



Dutchess County Executive's Arts Awards



Judith Brush's Farewell Party



## www.ArtsMidHudson.org

## Leadership & Staff

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Vice Chair **Iudith Brush** 

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Chris Cantele

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## 2017 STAFF Photos by On Location Studios



Linda

Barash

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**Grants & Funding** 



Director, Administration

Lisa Fiorese

McKann



Marketing & Development Coordinator

Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas



**Grants & Program** 

Pérez

## **2017 Ulster County Executive's Arts Awards Committee**

- Marybeth Bannon + Linda Barash •DI Brumfield
- •Sara Beames
- •Brendan Burke
- Stacev Jarit
- Susie Linn
- Keith Neito
- Laura Kandel Scott Marston-Reid

Fern Franke

- Christina Osburn

Elinor Levv

Folk Arts Program Manager

## 2017 Dutchess County Executive's **Arts Awards Committee**

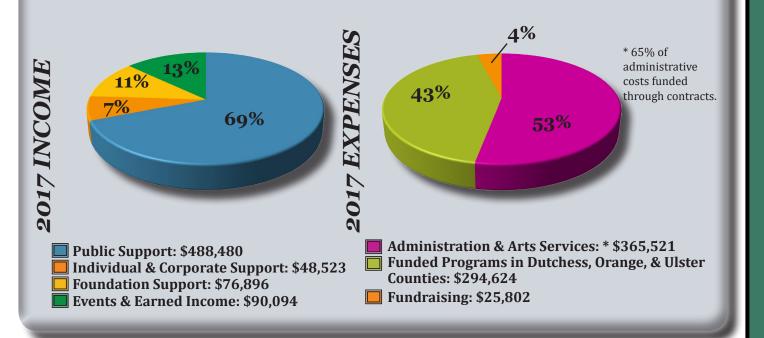
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- Kathy McLaughlin John Nelson

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## Arts Mid-Hudson Friends & Supporters

## 2017 Year End Income & Expense Statement



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

**\$170,000+** Dutchess Tourism, Inc. & Dutchess County

- **\$70,000+** Ulster County
- \$32,500+ Dyson Foundation

**\$10,000+** Cowles Charitable Trust Millbrook Tribute Gardens

**\$4,000+** CNY Arts

**\$2,500+** Stewarts Shops

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## \$50+ Basic

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## **arts** Mid-Hudson together we create

Gardiner Open Studio Tours





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## Zoe's Ice Cream Barn



Bettina "Poet Gold" Wilkerson

## **2017 Dutchess County Poet Laureate**

"I believe each one of us has something good to give, something that is uniquely one's -a single expression of the spirit love. We each want, in some small, yet significant way, to share this good. For me, this good comes through poetry. I am on a quest to inspire individuals to write and find their voice through poetry and to empower citizens to Be the Poem in their life.

As I continue to serve as Dutchess County Poet Laureate through 2018, my hope is to leave an imprint, an annual PoughEtry Festival to be held in Poughkeepsie, NY, welcoming the expression of diverse voices in our communities and elevating the art of poetry and the spoken word in the Hudson Valley for years to come. "







