



## Chart Your Adventures

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is ringing in the New Year with a lineup of artful adventures to engage the curious and the creative spirit. The Arts Alive 2016 Series, “Fine Art: Curating, Collecting & Creating,” will explore the passion for fine art from the perspectives of a curator, an artist, and a collector within the intimacy of the artist’s studio and the collector’s home. For both the emerging and skilled arts professionals, there is a spring arts expo, Young at Art, and an eclectic series of professional development seminars. The Arts Council will continue to drive momentum for greater inclusion through Arts & Access, the yearlong celebration of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act through the lens of the arts. In addition, a panoply of performances, exhibitions, and classes are listed in our *Arts Calendar* and remind you to put more art in your life in 2016.

### ARTS ALIVE 2016 SERIES

**February 21, 2016: *An Artist Rediscovered.*** Art historian and curator Dr. Christine I. Oaklander will lead visitors on an excursion into the life and art of nineteenth-century artist Henry Grant Plumb. An international artist, Plumb was born in 1847 in Sherburne, New York, and maintained a studio in New York City until his death in 1930. In the spring of 2014, Oaklander discovered a treasure trove of Plumb’s works on paper, oil paintings, letters, photo albums, awards, and personal belongings—all jam-packed under a dealer’s table at the Great Eastern Paper Show in Allentown. Her discovery has prompted a personal quest to revive Plumb’s reputation by arranging scholarly exhibitions and writing a catalog.

**April 10, 2016: *Portraiture: The Artist Within.*** Guests will visit the Allentown studio of figurative painter Dan Van Horn, who will speak about the fascinating challenge to capture the reality and personality of his subjects. Dana received an M.F.A. from Yale University and is on the faculty of the Baum School and Moravian College. His work is featured in various museum and private collections.

**June 25, 2016: *The Personality of a Collection.*** The series finale features art enthusiasts Bruce and Pamela Loch, who will lead a private tour of their fine art collection and

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## Experience Arts & Access

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council and the Disability-Friendly Community are pleased to announce Experience Arts & Access, which will take place on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, from 2:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Banana Factory in south Bethlehem. This mid-winter gathering celebrates the achievements of Arts & Access midway through a year of offering greater accessibility.

Arts & Access launched last July to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Currently, thirty arts organizations have teamed up with social service agencies to offer more than fifty events through June 2016; these events are designed to reach people with disabilities and their families and friends. The programming includes live theatre performances that are audio described and open captioned for people with visual and hearing loss; sensory-friendly performances for children with autism; and a dance workshop for Parkinson’s patients and their caregivers. “Cultural access is really about customer service,” says Executive Director Randall Forte. “It’s about making your customers feel welcome and comfortable.”

Experience Arts & Access seeks to raise awareness of the needs and the abilities of persons with disabilities. Visitors to the event will be able to explore an arts experience through the simulated reality of a person with a physical, sensory, or cognitive limitation. Guests will be encouraged to test the different technologies that are available, such as audio description and open captioning, voice-activated wheel chairs, and a tactile exploration of a 3-D image of a painting. Featured artist and National Storytelling Champion Anne Thomas will perform autobiographical stories crafted with a mix of dark humor, high energy, and rare common sense. She speaks not only to survivors



Anne Thomas

*continued on page 2*

## Chart Your Adventures *(continued)*

share stories about a few favorites. The collection spans a twenty-year history of accumulating more than eighty, 2-D and 3-D works from around the country. In 2013, the Lochs built a one-story, Bauhaus-style home in Lower Macungie Township; designed by well-known architect Larry Berman, the house showcases a collection of oil paintings, watercolors, prints, and bronze and glass sculptures.

Attendance is limited for these behind-the-scenes cultural tours to only twenty-five visitors at each event, so reserve your tickets soon at [LVArtsBoxOffice.org](http://LVArtsBoxOffice.org). All three events occur from 10:30 a.m. to noon; all three locations are in Allentown, and your tickets will provide the directions to each venue. Light refreshments will be served. Fees for each event are \$15 for Arts Council members, \$25 for non-members. Enjoy a special \$10 discount if you purchase a series ticket to all three events.

**Inside the Arts** is a bimonthly publication of the Lehigh Valley Arts Council, 840 Hamilton St., Suite 201, Allentown, PA 18101.

Editor-in-Chief: Randall Forte

Call for submission guidelines. News items must be received by the fifth of the month preceding publication.

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### **Our Mission:**

To promote the arts; to encourage and support artists and their development; to assist arts organizations; and to facilitate communication and cooperation among artists, arts organizations, and the community.



The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is a Pennsylvania Partner in the Arts, a program of the PCA.

## **YOUNG AT ART**

**March 12, 2016: Young at Art**, an expo of arts camps and schools to assist parents in selecting the appropriate summer classes for their children. This inaugural event will feature thirty exhibitors who offer lessons in the performing, literary, media, and visual arts. Families with children (ages four to eighteen) will enjoy meeting the various exhibitors and learning about the artistic opportunities for their aspiring creatives. The day's festivities will showcase an arts demonstration or performance every twenty-five minutes, so children will have a chance "to try on what kind of artist" they want to be this summer. The expo will be held at Penn State Lehigh Valley from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and free admission to the public is provided.

A limited number of exhibition spaces are still available; the rental for a 10 ft. x 10 ft. space is \$250 for Arts Council members, \$350 for nonmembers.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES**

**January 19, 2016: Digital Storytelling: Put Your Best Story Forward.** Presenters Caroline Savage, program director of the PA Council on the Arts, and Ken Unangst, owner and founder of Digital Feast, specialize in working with arts organizations and arts businesses, assisting them with communicating through visuals and technology. Location: Butz Corporate Center, Second Floor Conference Room, Ninth and Hamilton Streets, Allentown. Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fees: \$25 for Arts Council members; \$45 for nonmembers.

**May 21, 2016: An Introduction to 3-D Printing.** Attendees will learn how to design and print their own creations. Presenter: Brian Slocum, managing director, Design Labs, Lehigh University. Location: Lehigh University, Wilbur Powerhouse Prototyping Lab, Bethlehem. Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fees: \$75 for Arts Council members; \$100 for nonmembers. Limited class size.

**July 12, 2016: Call for Artists: Are You Ready to Answer?** This seminar will explore the components of a successful submission, including the right marketing materials and contractual requirements. Presenters: Daniel Kainz, sculptor; Nicole J. O'Hara, Esq., Gross McGinley. Location: Butz Corporate Center, Second Floor Conference Room, Ninth and Hamilton Streets, Allentown. Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fees: \$25 for Arts Council members; \$45 for nonmembers.

## **Experience Arts & Access *(cont.)***

of disability, illness, and tragedy, but also to everyone who has a body, a dream, obstacles, hope, and determination.

Experience Arts & Access is free and open to everyone, particularly someone with a disability. Please RSVP your intention to attend at [info@lvartscouncil.org](mailto:info@lvartscouncil.org) or 610-437-5915. Light refreshments will be provided.

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**THE INSIDE TRACK**

Congratulations to Allentown Symphony Orchestra Music Director and Conductor

Diane Wittry, who has been selected by *Musical America's* editors as one of "America's Top 30 Influencers for 2015." She is profiled in the organization's special report on professionals of the year.

Congratulations to Dr. Sweetie Jain and the Medical Home Project at the **Lehigh Valley Health Network** on their nomination for the Inglis Awards for Continuing Excellence. The award honors the outstanding performance of not-for-profit organizations that provide direct services, products, and/or advocacy for people with physical disabilities.

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**ONE LAST THOUGHT**

**Reflections on Arts & Access**

We are nearing the midway point in the year-long celebration of Arts & Access, and it has been a remarkable journey thus far. After nearly eighteen months in development and six months of programming, more than thirty cultural organizations have teamed up with social service agencies to create a schedule of more than fifty events to intentionally reach people with disabilities and their families and friends.

Arts & Access is much broader in scope than I first imagined. It is too soon to assess the entire impact of the program, but the feedback from the participants has been very positive and gratifying. Listening to a mother passionately speak about her Down syndrome child's love of art, or to the friend of a Parkinson's patient, who signed up for a dance workshop to learn more about how to support his friend's condition—from them I learned that access to the arts is about the health and wellness of an entire community. Their stories are about connecting to people they love, and isn't that what community is about?

*Randall Forte*

Inside the Arts

CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE AT [WWW.LVARTSCOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.LVARTSCOUNCIL.ORG).