



Ignite Your Imagination

Dragon sightings are on the rise in the Lehigh Valley and that is exciting news for our arts community. On the big screen, movie-goers are enjoying the performance of Allentown child actor Oakes Fegley in the title role of *Pete's Dragon*. Another fire-breathing beast greets visitors at the entrance of the new manufacturing facilities of Smooth-On, Inc., in East Texas. Dragons are powerful, mythological creatures that epitomize courage, vigor, and unbridled imagination—vital attributes for risk-takers like artists. In homage to the dragons in our midst, the Lehigh Valley Arts Council invites you to ignite your imagination at ARTS COUNT 2016,

the annual arts rally and grant awards ceremony. The magic happens on October 19, 2016, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Smooth-On, 1725 Willow Lane, East Texas.

“We are very grateful to Smooth-On for hosting this event,” says Randall Forte, executive director of the Lehigh Valley Arts Council. “This international arts business is a giant in the realm of special effects.” Smooth-On’s technologies and materials have been used to make movie figures and props for *Star Wars*, *The Hobbit Trilogy*, *Harry Potter*, *The Walking Dead*, and many other films and TV shows.

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Second Annual Young at Art Expo

Choosing an educational arts program for your child can feel overwhelming. Will my daughter enjoy a dance class—which one—ballet or tap? Would she rather try a painting class? I think she has musical talent, but how do we decide what instrument is best for her? Where can we find a theatre program that will utilize my son’s rambunctious, dramatic skills?

Oftentimes, parents would ask these questions, turning to the Arts Council as a resource in their search for extra-curricular instruction. There was an obvious need to connect families to the variety of arts and cultural groups in the region, and the Arts Council saw an opportunity to make that happen.

Young at Art was created to instill a love for the arts in young people, while also providing a way for organizations to promote their unique educational programs. Last March was the inaugural event, which drew more than 300 attendees and twenty-three arts businesses and community groups for a fun



Doug Roysdon of Mock Turtle Marionette Theatre engages youngsters at last year’s Young at Art Expo.

day of arts exploration and entertainment.

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is pleased to announce that back by popular demand, the second annual Young at Art Expo will take place on Saturday, March 11, 2017. Held at Penn State Lehigh Valley from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., this expo invites families with children of all ages to enjoy an entertaining and creative day—FREE to the entire community!

The day will be jam-packed with hands-on activities and performances by the participating groups,

from dance routines and theatre workshops to arts demonstrations and craft projects. Kids of every age and ability can sample the arts in various disciplines, while parents can gather information about classes and summer camps.

The Arts Council will begin accepting applications for vendors and advertisers in October. For more information, visit lvarsouncil.org/young-at-art.

ARTS COUNCIL MATTERS

Ignite Your Imagination *(continued)*

ARTS COUNT also serves as the occasion for the Lehigh Valley Arts Council to distribute grant awards to the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) Project Stream recipients in Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton counties. The Project Stream is open to individual artists and community groups who apply for support of an arts-related project with strong public impact. More than \$34,000 in state funds will be awarded to twenty-two applicants for activities held from September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2017.

“ARTS COUNT celebrates the public/private partnerships that fuel the arts in our region,” says Forte, “and features local business and foundation leaders giving testimony on the value and impact of the arts.” Locally elected officials are invited to present checks to the grant recipients from their districts. In keeping with the spirit of fellowship, Arts Council members are encouraged to bring a guest and rally for the arts.

The October reception is free to Arts Council members and grant recipients; the cost to guests and nonmembers is \$10. Refreshments will be served. R.S.V.P. to 610-437-5915.

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

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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.

2016–17 PPA GRANT AWARDEES

Allentown Public Theatre
Anthony Smith
Arts Academy Charter School
Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission
Buchanan Elementary School
Concord Chamber Singers
DanceLink
Emmaus Recreation & Entertainment Commission
Fairfield Duo
Friends of the Allentown Parks
Jennie Gilrain
Jim Thorpe Film Festival
Lehigh Valley Dance Exchange
Marilyn Hazelton
Moravian College
Pennsylvania Jazz Collective
Puertorrican Cultural Preservation
Sarah Steele
Summit Hill Heritage Center
Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation
WDIY 88.1 FM
West Park Civic Association

For more information about the PPA grant application, contact PA Partners in the Arts Coordinator Zach Kleemeyer at ppa@LVArtsCouncil.org.

Audio-Description Workshop

On November 4 and 5, 2016, the Lehigh Valley Arts Council, in cooperation with Muhlenberg College Theatre & Dance, will present a two-day workshop, “Audio Description for the Theatre,” from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. As an introduction to the training, an audio-described performance of *Pirates of Penzance* will be shown to the attendees on Thursday evening, November 3, at 8:00 p.m. in the Trexler Pavilion.

Audio description assists patrons who are blind/low-vision to access the visual elements of stage productions through narration provided by trained describers. Patrons use headsets to hear the audio description.

The Arts Council has contracted Mimi Smith, former executive director of VSA Pennsylvania, and her husband Steve Smith to provide the training. Both of them have been describers for more than two decades and were cofounders of Amaryliss Theatre Co., a professional Philadelphia theatre that regularly hired theatre artists with disabilities. They will introduce the class to the foundational skills—observation, analysis, and communication—necessary to audio-describe stage productions.

The workshop costs \$35 for members, \$50 for nonmembers. For additional information on location and registration, visit LVArtsCouncil.org.

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THE INSIDE TRACK

Welcome to the new marketing personnel at the following arts organizations:
Renee James,

Marketing Director at the **Bach Choir of Bethlehem**; Glenn Koehler, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator at the recently opened **National Museum of Industrial History**; and Alan Raisman, Marketing Director at **Civic Theatre of Allentown**.

Allentown Public Theatre will perform the world premiere of *Then Athena* at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival from September 9 to 11. The play is a theatrical fantasia performed by four women voyaging into American myths of gender and valor.

For a listing of disability-friendly events, visit ARTSandACCESS.org.

NEW MEMBERS

Individual

Cindy Ace
Kathleen Conn
Elizabeth Egan
Edward Eidelman

Barbara Greco-Potash
Deborah Hamsho
Tina Lebrecht
Patricia Price
Mary Joy Reinartz

Kathleen Rich
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ONE LAST THOUGHT

ARTS COUNT is one of my favorite events to host for many reasons. First of all, I enjoy discovering a new arts venue to introduce to the arts community. And you are sure to love visiting Smooth-On, Inc., because it is a creative playground for the whole family to enjoy. (As a special treat, its

staff will be on hand to give you scars, bruises, and bloody gashes.)

As a membership event, ARTS COUNT is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new colleagues. Networking fuels the creative process.

We also present checks to the winning PPA Project Stream applicants, and everyone listens a little more closely when you hand out money. More important, we all get a chance to learn about what exciting arts projects are coming soon to a county near you.

Join us! Be a part of the count.

Randall Forte