



Accessing the Cultural Community: A Celebration of Vision

The 2015 spring membership reception, *Art is a Verb—Let's All Do It*, embraces the excitement and promise of greater cultural accessibility in the Lehigh Valley. On Tuesday, June 9, 2015, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the Lehigh Valley Arts Council will introduce the community-wide plans for the upcoming Arts & Access Celebration, which commemorates the twenty-fifth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act through the lens of the arts.

We are pleased to announce that President and CEO John Kristel, MBA, MPT, of Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital, is our host for our annual membership event. Join us for a reception at Good Shepherd's Health & Technology Center and learn more about the cultural organizations and individuals who have signed on to participate in Arts & Access. The membership reception is a popular occasion for members to renew their connection to the arts and to each other.

Three prominent cultural leaders will be celebrated for their vision in expanding cultural accessibility: Jessica Bien, General Manager at Muhlenberg College Theater & Dance Department; Nora Suggs, Executive Director of Satori; and Ricardo Viera, Director/Curator of Lehigh University Galleries and Museums. "We chose to recognize these members in the arts community for their leadership in reaching out and accommodating people with various disabilities," says Randall

Forte, Executive Director. "Their commitment to greater inclusion is about being proactive, not reactive—there is much we can learn from them!"

Festivities will include the creation of a "Word Cloud," in which arts professionals, patrons, and guests collaborate to visualize the future of the arts in our community. Members and their guests will also enjoy a tour of the Health & Technology Center.

Generously underwritten by PPL, light food will be provided. Members attend for free; nonmembers pay \$10. Reservations are encouraged, so please call the Arts Council at 610-437-5915 or register online at LVArtsCouncil.org. Parking is available in the garage located at 850 South Fifth Street, Allentown. Access to the Health & Technology Center is via the third floor of the parking garage.

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is the region's central voice for the arts, promoting arts awareness and advocating its value while strengthening access to the arts for all citizens in our community. The Arts Council's mission is 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. Services include arts research and advocacy, professional development seminars, publications, and cooperative regional marketing initiatives.

Audio Description for the Visual Arts

On April 24 and 25, 2015, the Lehigh Valley Arts Council, in partnership with the Allentown Art Museum of the Lehigh Valley, will present a two-day workshop, "Audio Description for the Visual Arts," from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Allentown Art Museum. Audio description assists patrons who are blind or low-vision to access the visual elements of

two- and three-dimensional works of art in the gallery or museum setting through narration provided by trained describers. More and more, museums in larger cities are offering to people with disabilities accommodations that include audio description and staff training to help visitors with vision loss feel welcome.

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ARTS COUNCIL MATTERS

Audio Description *(continued)*

The Arts Council has contracted Mimi Smith, Executive Director of VSA Pennsylvania, to provide the training over the course of two days. She has been a describer for more than two decades and is a founder of Amaryllis Theatre Co., a professional Philadelphia theatre that regularly includes artists with disabilities. She will introduce the class to the foundational skills—*Observe, Analyze, and Communicate*—necessary to audio describe artwork. Additionally, Street Thoma, Accessible Programs Manager at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, will attend and discuss the evolution of that museum's program.

Typically, this workshop would cost \$590. Thanks to the underwriting support of an anonymous donor, the Arts Council is able to offer it at a very reasonable price: \$50 per person. Please purchase your tickets at LVArtsBoxOffice.org.

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

Grant Cycle Begins

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council announces the beginning of the grant cycle for the 2015–16 Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) Project Stream Grant. As one of thirteen state partners, the Lehigh Valley Arts Council administers these grant in Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon counties on behalf of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. We are excited to announce that \$34,600, representing a nearly 25% increase, will be awarded in our region to fund a variety of local and community arts activities. The deadline for submission is June 20, 2015.

The PPA Project Stream Grant provides grants of up to \$2,500 to eligible individuals, community groups, and nonprofit organizations to conduct arts activities that have a significant public component. In the past, the Arts Council has accepted project applications from as many as sixty applicants; last year twenty-four projects were funded. Applications are reviewed by a panel of community leaders and arts professionals.

To be included in future grant alerts and updates for Project Stream from the Lehigh Valley Arts Council, e-mail ppa@lvartscouncil.org. Include your organization's or artist's name, preferred contact information, and a brief description of the project you are considering. Applicants are also encouraged to attend one of our planning workshops in May 2015; location and times will be announced on the website, LVArtsCouncil.org, by March 15. New and returning applicants have found these sessions critical to their success. At the sessions, PPA Coordinator Marilyn Roberts reviews your eligibility, answers questions, and discusses the application process with you.

DON'T FORGET OUR ARTS ALIVE EVENTS THAT ALLOW PARTICIPANTS TO RUB SHOULDERS WITH THE CREATIVE PROCESS!

A Joyous Rehearsal with
the Bach Choir of Bethlehem
Monday, April 20th, 2015, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
2344 Center Street, Bethlehem

Wood & Steel: A Studio Tour with
Designer & Craftsman Bill Kreider
Saturday, June 20, 2015, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
William Kreider Woodworking Studio
127 North Lumber Street, Allentown

LVAC Members: \$15; Nonmembers: \$20

Promoting the Value and Impact of the Arts in the Lehigh Valley

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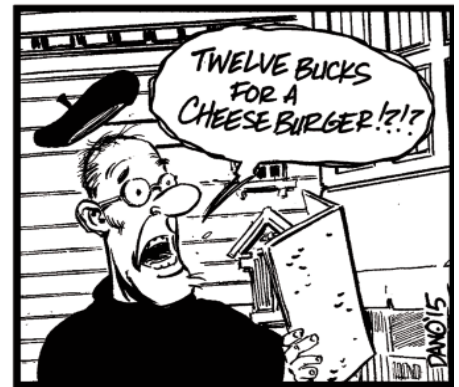
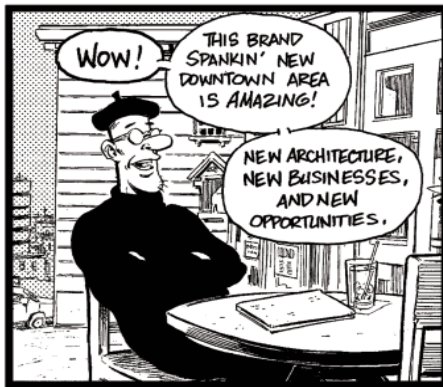
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THE INSIDE TRACK

Photographer Michael Reese Much has an image of an amphipod—a microscopic

crustacean—in the 2015 Royal Microscopical Society calendar. This is the fourth time he has been featured in the calendar.

SPARK recently changed its name to **Lehigh Mining & Navigation**, highlighting its evolution into a full-service ad agency.

Dr. Nora Suggs, SATORI's artistic director and flutist, has received the prestigious Shihan (master) license, recognizing her performance ability, teaching skills, and ongoing activity as a shakuhachi performer and instructor. Dr. Suggs is currently the only Shihan-level shakuhachi performer and teacher in Pennsylvania.

Touchstone Theatre received a \$20,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation for the completion of its two-year community project *Journey from the East*, which concludes with a free, large-scale, outdoor theatrical production in April.

NEW MEMBERS

Student
Miriam Vazquez

Vanessa Moore
Marta Whistler

Nonprofit
Lehigh Valley
Photography
Club

Business
Folkwerks
Art Studio

Individual
Andrew Bartos
Karen Collins
Alice Gillespie

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Dan Fehlig &
Ian Humphreys

ONE LAST THOUGHT

This issue ushers in a much awaited spring—and with the warming temperatures come a renewed vitality and spirit. It's time to get your hands dirty with paint, earth, words, movement, or song, and give expression to that pent-up energy. Take advantage of the many opportunities before you: one of the workshops or classes listed in the *Arts Calendar*; a chance to create that special arts project you have been mulling over for years; or just reconnecting with your colleagues in the arts community at the spring membership reception. Art is a verb! You be the noun—and do it!

Randall Forte