



## Arts-in-Education Study Under Way

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council has begun collecting data on the state of arts-in-education in grades K–12 in the Lehigh Valley. All faculty and principals in twenty-two districts in Lehigh, Carbon, and Northampton counties are being asked to take part in a research study to measure the extent that the arts are implemented and taught in K–12 schools in the region. Surveys are administered through Survey Monkey and include questions about arts-in-education curriculum and arts-engagement within the school’s community.

Six years ago, the Arts Council surveyed more than nine hundred faculty and principals in twenty-two districts, and established a baseline to measure growth of the arts in our schools. The data that was collected was analyzed in the aggregate, and no individuals, schools, or districts were cited in the study results. Similarly, the Arts Council will once again respect the proprietary nature of any data we collect.

The data will be analyzed and a report will be shared at a public forum to address the trends that the study reveals. The Arts Council believes that the arts are an essential component of a high-quality, well-rounded education for every citizen. The arts provide a forum for the free expression of ideas through the exhibition and performance of student work. By working together, the arts and educational sectors can help to secure the next generation of engaged citizens.

More information can be found at [LVArtsCouncil.org/education/default.html](http://LVArtsCouncil.org/education/default.html).

## Writer Shane Burcaw to Kick Off Arts & Access Event

Attracting individuals with disabilities to participate in the arts is the subject of a yearlong program designed by the Lehigh Valley Arts Council and the Lehigh Valley Partnership for a Disability Friendly Community. They will cohost an “Arts & Access Expo” from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on November 10 at the Lehigh Valley Health Network office, 2100 Mack Boulevard, Allentown.

The expo will feature writer Shane Burcaw speaking about his newly published memoir, *Laughing at My Nightmare*, and about the importance of building accessibility across the community. Now 21-years-old, Burcaw writes humorously about his life with the spinal muscular atrophy that has confined him to a wheelchair but not to silence. He blogs at

[laughingatmynightmare.tumblr.com](http://laughingatmynightmare.tumblr.com) and writes an occasional *Morning Call* column about his experiences.

The event is the first of several programs celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. “Cultural groups need to remove barriers and open their doors to persons with disabilities,” says Randall Forte, executive director of LVAC. “Through the expo we hope to unite the community around expanding access to arts programs throughout the Valley.”

According to 2012 U.S. Census data, 81,000 persons or nearly 13 percent of the Valley’s population consists of non-institutionalized people with disabilities, who offer a potential



Shane Burcaw

new audience for arts activities. The expo will explore ways that arts groups can make their programs more accessible to those with a wide range of disabilities. “This is both a challenge and an opportunity for the arts to build their audiences,” Forte says.

With support from Just Born Quality Confections and Lehigh Valley Health Network, the expo is free and open to the public. Exhibitors from local social service agencies and cultural organizations will promote the consumer services that they provide.

Two panels will discuss collaborations between the cultural and disability communities; these collaborations include extending access to the vision-impaired and to children with autism; legal, practical, and human considerations regarding people with disabilities; and audio-description and open-captioning.

# ARTS COUNCIL MATTERS

## Celebrate and Advocate

On October 14, members, friends, and grant awardees gathered at the offices of one of our corporate sponsors, Capital BLUE of the Lehigh Valley, and with the support of Embassy Bank and PPL, we hosted Arts Count 2014. In a boisterous, eclectic crowd of over 75 attendees, we introduced artists, members, and friends to each other and offered them an evening of congratulations and encouragement, healthy refreshments and unexpected reunions, networking and exploring.

The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts 2014–15 grant recipients in the Lehigh Valley area are:

Allentown Art Museum	\$31,170
The Allentown Band	\$3,600
Allentown Music Festivals, Inc.	\$2,103
Allentown Public Theatre	\$1,240
Allentown Shakespeare in the Park	\$1,161
Allentown Symphony Association, Inc.	\$18,865
Anne Hills / <i>The Morningtime of Now</i>	\$412
Arts Community of Easton	\$2,103
ArtsQuest	\$78,196
Bach and Handel Chorale, Inc.	\$2,103

Bach Choir of Bethlehem	\$15,219
Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley	\$2,885
The Baum School of Art	\$15,469
Camerata Singers	\$1,400
Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem	\$2,103
Chestnut Hill Church	\$1,185
Civic Theatre of Allentown	\$12,030
Community Music School	\$558
Dance Consortium	\$4,757
DanceLink	\$494
Ed Courier	\$961
Fairfield Duo	\$880
Friends of the Allentown Parks	\$904
Godfrey Daniels	\$3,549
Grupo Folklorico Mexicano Xochiquetzal	\$5,000
Historic Bethlehem Partnership	\$598
James Carroll	\$789
Lafayette Art Galleries and EPI	\$4,373
Lafayette College Performance Series	\$9,946
Lehigh University Art Galleries—Museum Operation	\$5,464
Lehigh Valley Arts Council, Inc.	\$3,114
Lehigh Valley Dance Exchange	\$945
Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum	\$1,207
Lehigh Valley Storytelling Guild	\$2,103
Lydia Panas	\$899
Marine Band	\$721
Mary Wright	\$1,218
Mayfair, Inc.	\$5,871
Mock Turtle Marionette Theater	\$2,000
Moravian College Music Institute	\$1,196
Muhlenberg College / Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre	\$4,810
Nazareth Center for the Arts	\$871
Northampton County Genealogical Society	\$1,267
Nurture Nature Center	\$2,000
Penn State Lehigh Valley	\$975
Pennsylvania Jazz Collective	\$1,161
Pennsylvania Presenters	\$2,254
Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival at DeSales University	\$19,742
Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra	\$4,055
Pennsylvania Youth Theatre	\$8,446
Pioneer Band	\$498
Repertory Dance Theatre	\$4,022
Rick Smith	\$1,176
Sally Wiener Grotta	\$1,130
SATORI	\$2,103
2nd Story Blues Alliance	\$1,161
SouthSide Film Institute	\$2,103
State Theatre Center for the Arts, Inc.	\$28,236
Totts Gap Arts Institute	\$1,107
Touchstone Theatre	\$7,867
Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation	\$1,107
Valley Contra Dance Society	\$765
Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley	\$2,103
Zoellner Arts Center	\$20,594

**TOTAL: \$368,344**

**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.

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

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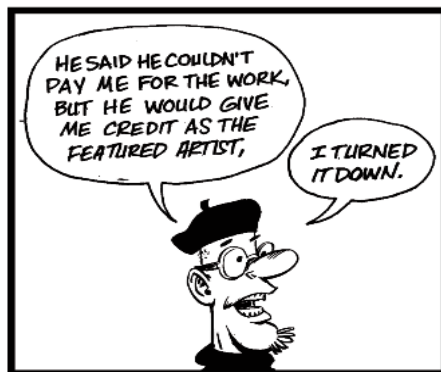
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**THE INSIDE TRACK**

Allentown Symphony Orchestra Music Director Diane Wittry has been chosen

as the 2014 winner of the American Prize in Orchestral Performance, Professional Orchestra Division.

Norman Sarachek's *After RS/2*, a camera-less chemigram, was included in *Altered Views*, An International Exhibition of Alternative Process Photography at the Lightbox Photographic Gallery in Astoria, Oregon, this fall.

Kutztown University is now home to the largest collection of rare xylophones, marimbas, and vibraphones in the nation. U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Dana Kimble, retired percussion instructor at West Point Military Academy, has chosen the university to be the permanent home for his collection of rare instruments.

Loretta Tryon's sculptural jewelry will be displayed this winter in the exhibition *A Decade of Design* at the galleries of the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.

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**ONE LAST THOUGHT**

**The Value of Service**

This issue provides a snapshot of a few of the services that the Lehigh Valley Arts Council is currently undertaking: conducting arts research to measure the state of arts-in-education in the region; increasing access to cultural events for people with disabilities; granting more than \$65,000 annually to arts programs and projects that reach underserved audiences.

Each of these activities supports a vision to 1) unite the community around a shared value that the arts are essential to the economic vitality and quality of life in the region; and 2) ensure that everyone has access to a rich, diverse arts culture.

Our new board president, Danielle Kulnis, Vice President of Private Banking, National Penn Bank, reaffirms the valuable role the Arts Council plays in the community when she states, "We are by turns a resource, mentor, advisor, and advocate for the arts."

*Randall Forte*