

INSIDE THE



Advocacy is Better Together

On Tuesday, October 15, 2019, the Lehigh Valley Arts Council presents the 15th annual ArtsCOUNT, a regional arts rally highlighting the membership and the new recipients of the PA Partners in the Arts (PPA) Project Stream Grant. The festivities will be held **from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Sigal Museum** / Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, 342 Northampton Street in Easton.

“This annual gathering is a popular advocacy event.” says Executive Director Randall Forte. “Once a year, stakeholders come together to renew acquaintances with friends and colleagues and unite around a shared belief that the arts are a valuable asset of the Lehigh Valley.”

ArtsCOUNT recognizes the public/private partnership that fuels the nonprofit arts sector and makes it a \$186 million industry in our region. State legislators will present checks to the grant recipients from their districts, and local foundation and corporate representatives will offer testimony on the value and impact of the arts. Featured guests include Sharon Post, Vice-President, Corporate Compliance at B Braun Medical Inc.

October is National Arts & Humanities Month, and ArtsCOUNT is an ideal occasion to applaud artists and arts patronage in the Lehigh Valley. Americans for the Arts launched National Arts & Humanities Month more than 30 years ago to raise public awareness about the value the arts and humanities.

(ArtsCOUNT...continued on page 2)

Access Rising Slowly

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council has been tracking the numbers and types of disability-friendly arts events since the Arts & Access Always Program launched in 2015. Through surveys and calendar submissions, the Arts Council was able to glean the impact of providing accommodations for segments of the population with sensory and cognitive disabilities. The 2014 data provided a baseline for comparison to the 2019 figures.

(Access...continued on page 2)

2019-2020 PPA Grant Recipients

Lehigh Valley Dance Exchange	\$1,665
Appalachian Fiddle and Bluegrass Association	\$1,656
Mikayla's Voice	\$1,656
Jim Thorpe Independent Film Festival	\$1,637
Ayana Kersey-McMullen	\$1,607
Lehigh Art Alliance	\$1,607
Saucon Valley Conservancy	\$1,607
Easton Book Festival	\$1,595
Interlace Cultural y Desarrollo Intergral de Lehigh Valley	\$1,581
Cedar Crest College	\$1,253
Borough of Emmaus	\$1,539
Lehigh Valley Children's Center Inc.	\$1,509
Adriana Santos	\$1,485
Sarah Carlson	\$1,485
Bethlehem Area School District	\$1,485
Waldheim Park	\$1,468
YWCA Bethlehem	\$855
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center	\$1,436
Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission	\$1,141
Penn State Lehigh Valley	\$1,412
JCC of the Lehigh Valley	\$1,370
Puertorrican Culture Preservation Inc.	\$1,342
Black Ties and Pearls	\$1,338
Ukrainian American Heritage Center	\$1,338
Nora Suggs	\$1,272
Greater Lehigh Valley Writer's Group	\$1,017
Nigerian International Association of PA	\$1,191
Cleveland Wall	\$1,167
	\$39,709

Ways to celebrate and get involved.

- Join the post-a-day Instagram challenge in October. #ShowYourArt2019.
- Attend ArtsCOUNT and contribute to a community weaving activity.
- Art is better together. Bring a friend!
- Add your voice to The Power of Story library.

“Together, let’s recognize the artists who enrich our lives and our community,” says Arts Council Board President Danielle Kulnis, “and thank our patrons and supporters for giving them the opportunity.” (see the suggestion box)

PPA, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, is intended to widen the circle of funding opportunities in support of arts activities throughout the Commonwealth. This year, grant activities will reach a wide range of constituents, from young children to senior citizens, and engage audiences in projects that include Latin and African cultural festivals; multidisciplinary endeavors in dance, music, and film; public arts events, classes, and exhibits in libraries, sculpture gardens and heritage centers.

This year, nearly \$40,000 in state funds will be awarded to 28 applicants for activities taking place in Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton counties from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020. For more information about this grant opportunity, contact the PPA Manager Zach Kleemeyer at ppa@lvartscouncil.org.

The October reception is graciously hosted by the Sigal Museum and is free to members of the Arts Council and to grant recipients; the cost to guests and nonmembers is \$10. Refreshment will be served. **R.S.V.P. to 610-437-5915 or lvartscouncil.charityproud.org/EventRegistration/Index/2535 to attend.**

(Access continued from page 1)





The largest growth has occurred with programming for children and young adults with autism. In 2014, the Arts Council was unable to identify any theatre performance providing a sensory environment. There are now five performing arts groups who offer at least one relaxed performance every season.

Moreover, social service agencies have been developing arts programming for their consumers, which generates more awareness and a larger market. For the past few years, the Creative Abilities Group, young adults at the Autism Society in the Lehigh Valley, have participated in a variety of visual arts workshops that has resulted in exhibitions at The Art Establishment and C. Leslie Smith. Currently, they are the recipients of an Accessible Engagement Grant from the Lehigh Valley Arts Council to create a mural that will be permanently installed in the Lehigh Valley Health Network, at 17th and Chew Streets in Allentown.

Additionally, accommodations for the visually and hearing impaired are also on the rise, as you can see from the chart above. This data represents Audio Description for both the performing and visual arts. By providing Audio Description and Open Captioning training and accessible equipment, the Arts Council continues to make a positive contribution to serving this subsection of the population.

According to the 2016 Census estimates, however, there are

87,000 persons with disabilities, or 13% of the region’s population. In 2018, it is estimated that 465 people with disabilities attended disability-friendly events. Obviously, there still remains a significant need to build more awareness among the cultural community about removing barriers and gaining understanding of the challenges faced by this underserved community.

Accommodations	2019	2014
Open captioning 	13%	6%
Sign Language Interpreters 	31%	12%
Audio description 	18%	12%
Assistive listening devices	30%	29%
Large Print brochures/handouts	17%	16%
Braille printed materials	13%	6%
Sensory friendly 	26%	0%

If you are looking for a disability-friendly event to attend in the Lehigh Valley, check out the online calendar at ArtsandAccess.org.

Open Captioning provides the audience an electronic text display to the side of the stage, displaying lyrics, dialogue, and sound effects in real time.

Audio Description is a form of audio-visual translation, using natural pauses to insert narrative that translates the visual image into an audible form. Patrons use headsets to hear the description.

Promoting the Value & Impact of the Arts

Champions (\$2,500+)

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Abram Haupt
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Chmielewski
Elizabeth Keptner
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Appalachian Fiddle &
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Our Mission:

To promote the value of the arts, foster collaboration in the community, and encourage arts engagement for all people in the Lehigh Valley.

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

Phone: (610) 437-5915

Fax: (610) 437-5259

Email: info@LVArtsCouncil.org

Website: LVArtsCouncil.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **Randall Forte**

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

Supported in part by Harry C. Trexler Trust, PA Council on the Arts, and the County of Lehigh.

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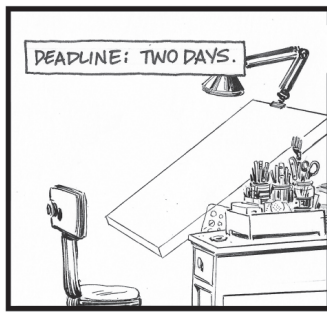
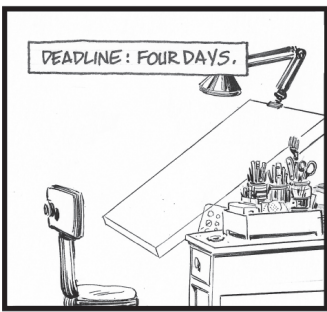
BE A VOICE FOR THE ARTS

“I started with the open reading at Godfrey Daniels. I read two poems, as a blind writer reading from Braille. I didn’t die. Later, I got the call asking me to feature-read. That launched my career as a poet AND an advocate.

Now, 750 career bylines later, I’ve worked with local newspapers, WDIY and mainstream and disability publications in audio and print to laugh and more importantly think about difference and connection and artistic courage.

Nancy Scott,
Easton, PA

Your story, no matter how big or small, provides evidence that the Arts are essential. **Add to our online library, *The Power of Story*, and help us strengthen arts advocacy.**



THE INSIDE TRACK

Zoellner Arts Center’s Artistic Director **Deborah Sacarakis**, who has worked for Lehigh University for over 44 years, retired on August 30, 2019.

J. Andrew Cassano, Zoellner’s Administrative Director, is the temporary Artistic Director until a formal replacement occurs.

ONE LAST THOUGHT

One of the most immediate and tangible ways to celebrate National Arts & Humanities Month this October is to volunteer with your Lehigh Valley Council. We need your skills for a variety of tasks, including:

- Event planning (*ArtsCOUNT*, October 15, 2019, *Young at Art*, March 15, 2020, & *Champions of Inclusion*, July 2020)
- Clerical work
- Mailings
- Distribution
- Writing (blog posts, membership profiles)
- Community outreach, public forums, and surveying

In return, we offer you opportunities to interact with the arts community, become a voice for the arts and a member of a passionate team of arts advocates. Together, we help shape the future of the arts in the Lehigh Valley.

Randall Forte

NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL:

- Joe Mayer
- Roland Kushner
- Randall Schneider
- Bruce Knoll
- Robin Harmony
- Helen Cherewaty

HOUSEHOLD:

- Lynn German Long & Joseph Christopher

NONPROFIT:

- Between the Lines Studio Theatre
- WLVT TV/PBS 39

GET INSPIRED

“Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change.”

~ Brené Brown