

Letter from the Board President

Greetings!

Have you been to Old Rock School lately? 2024 saw major renovations to the building and it is beautiful! Despite the construction and dust, we were able to present a full slate of exhibitions last year. We exhibited the work of seven regional artists and four group shows. Our own RSAF Open Studio kicked things off in January. This group meets regularly on Thursdays in Studio 101 to work in their own media and styles, feeding on the creative energy of the group.

In conjunction with the renovation, Rock School Arts Founda-tion installed an art hanging system in the hallways outside of Galleries 1 & 2. This will allow us to present even more art throughout the year! Hickory-based artist Stephen Brooks’ work christened these new art gallery walls in January. I hope you were blown away by it as much as I was.

Do you know little ones who like to tap into their creativity? Consider giving them the gift of art! Be on the lookout for RSAF’s afterschool art classes and summer art camps for el-ementary students. As art instruction becomes less available in public schools, it is crucial that affordable art classes be offered in our community.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you for your con-tinued support of Rock School Arts Foundation. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming receptions, exhibitions, events and classes!

Kristina Anthony, Board President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristina Anthony, *President*

Brenda Lyday, *Vice President*

Helen Tueffel, *Secretary* Alan Griffin, *Treasurer*

Linda Harvey Jana Farris Jamie Hall

Kathi Yarnall Jenna Hazlett

Ann Mullis Leslie Rostan

The Rock School Arts Foundation’s mission is to offer new and excit-ing exhibitions, programs and art education for adults and children; to serve as a cultural destination for tourists and visitors; and a resource for our local art communities. PLEASE renew your member-ship or become a member today!

The RSAF Endowment Fund is a permanent fund established with the Community Foundation of Burke County (CFBC), which makes quarterly grants to RSAF in support of our Mission. Please consider contributing generously to the CFBC fund and be sure to write “for benefit of RSAF” on the memo line.

Letter from the Executive Director

While I sit here remembering what a wonderful year we had in 2024 and thinking about how amazing it is going to be to watch 2025 unfold, I find myself feeling grateful and thankful.

I love the space Rock School Arts Foundation occupies in the Old Rock School. What a beautiful and greatly utilized building! Watching the transformation during the renovations was thrilling. And dear friends, the Foundation benefited from the renovations by being given space for a third gallery.

As we set our sights on 2025, one of our primary objectives is to enhance the attendance and participation in artist exhibitions, receptions, and all events sponsored by the Foundation. These events are a big part of our cultural outreach and serve as a vital way for artists to showcase their work and for the community to engage with their artwork. The introduction of the new Hallway Gallery is a step in that direction.

2024 allowed me to:

Engage with artists, providing me an opportunity to witness the evolution of their creative journeys. Helping to prepare each exhibition was very much like creating a piece of art. The placement of each piece leads to the finished product, a beautiful and inviting gallery. This along with interacting with visitors, both long-time supporters and first-time attendees, added a special dimension to each experience. Deepening my appreciation for the creative community.

Drop by Open Studio to visit the artists that come out to create works and relationships on Thursdays was a nice way to stay connected to this fun group headed by Helen Tueffel.

Attend Afterschool Art Classes for Kindergarten through Fifth Graders. It is heartwarming and fun to see the artwork as it was being created and hear the art related information given to the students.

Oversee the Annual Open Art Competition/Exhibition and Artists in the Waldensian Room. So many talented artists and wonderful entries. Many entering for the first-time. Being on hand to witness visitors taking time to view the artwork, vote for the Peoples’ Choice Award, engage with artists, purchase artwork and taking part in the Waldensian Festival made it a day of pure enjoyment.

Help put together the Valdese Plein Air Fest together was another treat in my year. Spending time with the artists participating, seeing them utilize the beautiful town of Valdese for inspiration, and watching that particular type of talent was incredible. The reception was a time of seeing art friends and enjoying good food. As well as witnessing the choosing and awarding of prizes.

Before I close, I must relate to you a couple things I have been told about the Foundation and the Old Rock School from visitors, “I love your galler-ies.” And “I wish I had a building like this where I live to showcase the arts”.

In closing, I cordially invite you to come to the Old Rock School and see what Rock School Arts Foundation is doing.

May 2025 be good to you in many ways,
Sharon Bowman, Executive Director, RSAF

Rock School Arts Foundation - 2024 Supporting Members

<u>Individual</u>		<u>Family</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Patron</u>	<u>Corporate/Club</u>
Andrew Atkin	Frank Mosca	Huldah Bewley	Anonymous	Chip & Tammy Black	Brinkley Insurance Agency Inc. Heritage Funeral Service & Crematory, Inc Pilot Club of Valdese NC
Morris Baker	Lonny McSherley	Jewell Bounous	Anonymous	Doris Burris	
Jane Best	Kathy Sabbath Oravec	Randy Clontz	Anonymous	Alan & Lu Griffin	
Robin Bias	Julie Stephan	Dan & Linda Huffman	Connie Tosky	Jimmy Jacumin	
Richard Bush	Judy Rider	Margery Johnson	Ann & Hugh Blackwell	Laura & Jon Levinson	<u>Grants</u> Burke Arts Council Grassroots Grant Town of Valdese The Community Foundation of Burke County
Nancy Clausen	Ellen Schwarzbek	Beau & Brenda Lyday	Claudia Bujold	Steve & Ann Mullis	
Helen Gibbs	Tommy Stine	Rose & Will Mueller	Charles & Loretta Clark	Marsha Riddle	
Linda M. Greenfield	Carol Turner	Susan & David Pollpeter	Allen & Barry Huffman	Melissa & Randy Smith	
Mark Hickman	Sandra West	Jim & Maria Register	Anonymous	Patsye Thompson	<u>Sustainer</u> Merideth B. Bleynat Paul Deaton Judy Keever Stephan J. Ohnesorge Kathi Yarnall
Marcia Hill	Elsie M. Whisenant	Betty Ann & Dan Winters	Phyllis G Jacumin	Helen Tueffel	
Commodore George Horak	Judy Whitener		Meredith Janseen	<u>Benefactor</u>	
Marti Kardol	Alan Whitener		Stephan J. & Rosemary E. Ohnesorge	Paul Deaton	
Mark Kastner	Joann Wilfong		John Sherrill	James & Elizabeth Furr	<u>Memorial</u> Jackie Steele
Kathy Kmonicek	Karen Yost		Robert & Susan Stevenson	Glenn & Linda Harvey	
			Eugenia Welch	Robert Mild & Chris Lavorata	
			Kathi Yarnall	James & Linda Rostan	
				John & Janice Rosatn	
				Mark & Leslie Rostan	
				Dianne Searcy	

Please review the Foundation’s Mission & Endowment Fund on the front cover & consider donating generously to support our 2021 programs.

Membership Rates

Individual.....\$20
Family.....\$35
Sponsor.....\$50
Patron.....\$100
Sustainer.....\$250
Benefactor.....\$500 & up

___ Yes, I would like to become a RSAF member

___ Yes, I would like to contribute \$___ to the RSAF Endowment Fund

Please provide the following information and return your contribution to:

ROCK SCHOOL ARTS FOUNDATION, P.O. Box 837, Valdese, NC 28690

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

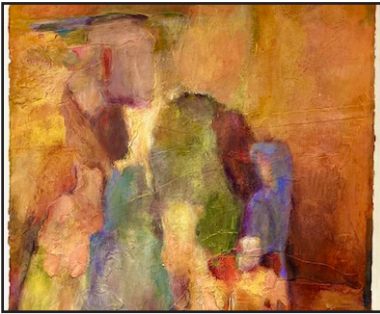
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: _____

2024 OPEN ART COMPETITION - Thank you to OAC Judge Bella Sollosi - An award winning artist & preparator for the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts



First Prize: Kate Worm
Dark Hair Light Hair



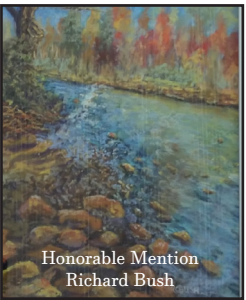
Second Prize: Karen Yost
Recollection



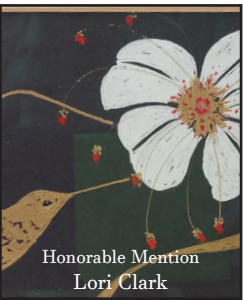
Third Prize: Brenda Lyday
Flowers for the Pulpit



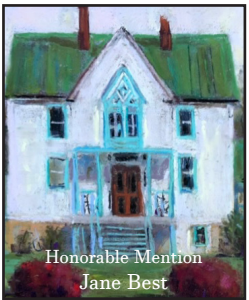
People's: Kathy Kmonicek
Linville Gorge Autumn



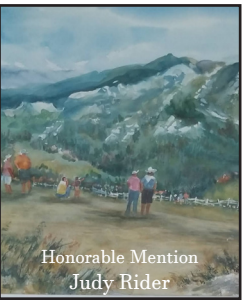
Honorable Mention
Richard Bush



Honorable Mention
Lori Clark



Honorable Mention
Jane Best



Honorable Mention
Judy Rider



Honorable Mention
Jim Furr



Honorable Mention
Mark Hickman

2024 CHILDREN'S OPERA

Rock School Arts Foundation is happy to report that we brought two live performances of a Children's Opera to the Rock School Auditorium in 2024. Opera Carolina Express with their highly trained singers delighted the students of Valdese Elementary School with "The Coyotes and The Rabbits" and "A Busy Bee". A Q&A session followed each performance. For many students this was their first exposure to opera. This event was made possible by our loyal RSAF supporters and the Grassroots Art Program Subgrant/Burke Art Council.



Winner: Kathy Sabbath Oravec
Holy Water

PLEIN AIR FEST

In partnership with the Town of Valdese & Friends of the Valdese Rec, the Foundation welcomed numerous artists from near and far to paint the picture perfect Lakeside Park and McGalliard Falls Park. The event was a success, concluding with a public reception & wet sale.



Artists in the Waldensian Room

Seven local artists participated in a demonstration and sale during the 2024 Waldensian Festival. Artistic techniques included painting, jewelry, pottery, woodworking and sculpture.

CAMPS & CLASSES

Eight weeks of after school Art Classes for Kindergarten through Fifth Graders. Instructors Betty Ann Winters, Katherine Alexanter, and Mandy Sherrill welcomed close to 30 students.



OPEN STUDIO

Open Studio is a time the Foundation offers the public. Rock School Arts Foundation's Studio 101 is open to anyone wanting a place to bring your supplies to create and enjoy other artists' company. Open Studio is held on Thursdays from 11am to 3pm.



WORKSHOPS

The Foundation provided a Valentine's Day Card Workshop, Fun & Fanciful Artist Books, Beginning Knitting, and Plein Air Workshops during 2024. Each workshop was attended and enjoyed by all participants.

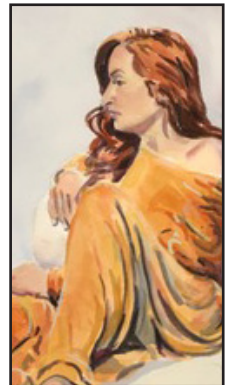
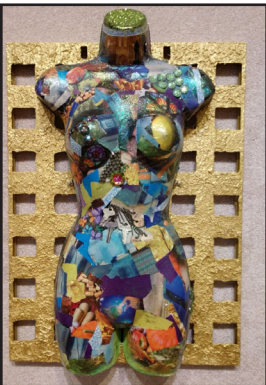


2024 ARTISTS' EXHIBITIONS



January 12 – February 9

Rock School Arts Foundation Open Studio



March 1 – March 29

Chris Georgalas & Jeri Boerger

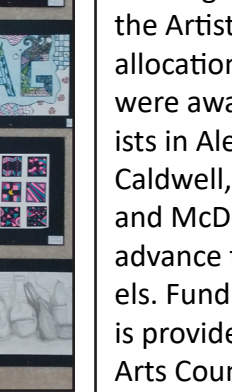
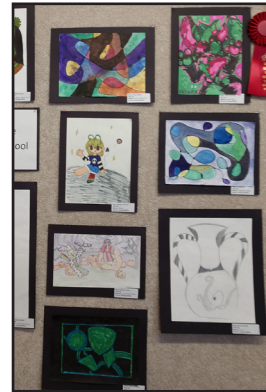
April 19 - May 17

Melissa Smith | Stacey Heffner | Maria Campagna



October 4 - November 1

Sean Kammerlohr | Janice Harris



November 15 - December 31

RSAF Middle & High School Exhibition Competition

ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT

RSAF again participated in the Artist Support Grant allocation process. Grants were awarded to artists in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Iredell and McDowell Counties to advance their artistic levels. Funding for the grants is provided by Regional Arts Councils and the RSAF, with funds from the NC Arts Council.