

Enriching lives and building community through the Arts!











2020 Annual Report

Message from the Chair!

Collaborating with arts organizations and creative individuals in our region, and with the help and energy or our dedicated volunteers, the Center for the Arts continued to offer a full array of exhibits, performances, and events, both live and virtual.

Arts With the health and safety of our community in mind and COVID-19 restrictions, we looked at our services in new ways. Knowing the importance of the arts, particularly at times like these, the Center for the Arts was determined to continue bringing the Arts to our community in new and creative formats. From our first virtual program in April, which

was initiated to bring our community together during these unprecedented days, "The Lake Sunapee Music Fest... From our Home to Yours!", to our final YouTube and Zoom presentation of the "Highlights of the Messiah" this past December, we were able to provide a continued stream of arts programming to our region and beyond. This challenge was met by the hard-working Board members and volunteers who themselves learned new ways of creating, producing, and providing services to our members, our students and our community at large.

While working remotely we were able to expand our vision for delivering Arts Education by developing a new set of online opportunities for Elementary, Middle and High School Students, as well as develop new virtual events with authors, poets, artists, students and directors, virtual gallery exhibits, concerts, and theater programs.

In addition, two successful summer art shows were held live under strict COVID guidelines, scholarships were awarded to eight talented students, teacher grants supported the productions of the KRSD virtual Memorial Day program and the Zoom Shakespeare program, and the Arts and Business Alliance began creating an Arts Destination Map of the Lake Sunapee Region.

Although our funding was significantly impacted by the change in programming and our inability to raise funds through our annual fundraisers, we were able to continue servicing our community with the generous support of our volunteers, members, and business sponsors, and by significantly reducing expenses wherever possible. With a strong end to the year, we are able to look forward to 2021 with renewed hope: presenting both virtual and live arts programming, hiring much needed staff, and looking ahead to the establishment of a permanent physical "Center" once again.

The Lake Sunapee region is filled with creative individuals and we are honored to provide them a platform to showcase their talent, whether live or virtual, while also being able to serve our residents, visitors, and students throughout the year, with free and low-cost programs. With the support of individuals, businesses, and town officials, the arts continue to have a home in the Lake Sunapee Region!

Thank you to all who participated in and supported our many events throughout the year! Together we "Enrich lives and build community through the Arts!

Who We Are

The Center for the Arts is a non-profit organization supporting the creative organizations and individuals in our midst and bringing the arts to our community for the benefit of our residents and visitors. We believe the arts enhance the quality of life of our residents and build a stronger sense of community. We strive to provide opportunities to recognize the valuable resources in our region, to support those artists and arts organizations who enrich our community, and to showcase them at events throughout the year. We partner with existing cultural organizations, artists, writers, performers, schools, and businesses to provide new arts and education programs and act as a centralized source of information for regional cultural events. We offer free and low-cost programs and events for adults, children, and seniors. We also offer opportunities and scholarships to deserving students in our region, to further their arts education, and grants to teachers for arts enrichment projects.

Free First Fridays in 2020!

In 2020 the CFA hosted twelve free programs on the First Friday of each month, both live and virtually, featuring the New London Barn Playhouse, the Literary Arts Guild Poets, the Visual Arts Guild Artists, Northern Stage Theater, the North Country Chordsmen, the Kearsarge Conservatory of the Performing Arts, The Freese Brothers Big Band, the New London Barn Junior Interns, our CFA Scholarship recipients, as well as many local artists, musicians, poets and writers creating exciting and unique free cultural events for the public.

The 2021 First Friday schedule will continue this tradition of bringing the best of local arts FREE to our community.





Free First Fridays in 2021... Virtual and Live

January 3rd 7:00 First Fridays! Stars of Tomorrow!Dance, Music, Theater, and Art: Performances by our 2020 Scholarship Recipients at Warner Town Hall

February 5th 5:30 First Fridays! Gallery Night Zoom with the Artists Exhibits all in New London,
The New London Inn, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Blue
Loon Bakery, and Tatewell Gallery

March 5th 7:00 First Fridays! Virtual Winter Dance Performance Kearsarge Conservatory of the Performing Arts presents "Passion Prevails Pandemic"

April 2nd 5:30 First Fridays! Poetry Night! "Native American Beauty is Diversity" Zoom

May 7th 5:30 First Fridays! Gallery Night! New exhibits at our MicroGalleries: The New London Inn, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Blue Loon Bakery, and Tatewell Gallery, all in New London

June 4th 5:30 First Fridays! New London Barn Playhouse Open Rehearsal See what's new at the New London Barn Playhouse this year!

July 2nd 6:15 First Fridays! Music on the Green!Concert at the New London Bandstand Plus...the 2021
CFA Scholarship Announcements!

August 6th First Fridays! "Youth Talent Show" All ages! All talent! Music, Dance, Theater Performances... Vote for your favorite! Followed by the NL Barn Jr. Intern Performers.

September 3rd 5:30 First Fridays! Gallery Night! New Exhibits all in New London, The New London Inn, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Blue Loon Bakery, Whipple Hall, and Tatewell Gallery.

October 1st First Fridays! Northern Stage Presents! Northern Stage Theater presents a preview of their 2021-2022 Season.

November 5th 5:30 First Fridays! Gallery Night! New Exhibits all in New London, The New London Inn, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Blue Loon Bakery, Whipple Hall, and Tatewell Gallery, all in New London.

December 3rd **First Fridays! Holiday Concert!** Enjoy the sounds of the season with us tonight! Community Sing A Long too!

2020-2021 **Board of Directors:**

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Angela Tarleton Performing Arts-Warner

Kevin Tarleton Performing Arts-Warner

*Elizabeth Tine Volunteer Coordinator-New London

Thomas Tuthill Performing Arts-Newport

*term expired 2020

Other 2020 Projects included:

Visual Arts Exhibits and Shows included our Micro Galleries, all in New London: The New London Inn, Bar Harbor Bank and Trust, Blue Loon Bakery, Whipple Hall, and Tatewell Gallery, showcasing local and regional artists live for most of the year with rotating exhibits, as part of the First Friday program, and this year, going virtual as well.

Although **Open Studios** was cancelled, the Ninth Annual **Arts on the Green**, exhibiting the works of 15 juried artists, and the Third Annual Naturally New **England** show featuring the works of over 50 artists, were held in Sunapee Harbor. These shows were held under strict COVID guidelines and were welcomed by many this past summer as most programs and exhibits had been cancelled. The Shows will open on July 17th in 2021.

The **Performing Arts Series** featured Michael T Brown II in an historical theater production of "Over the Presidents Shoulder", and an evening of Jazz with the Nancy Tripp Quartet. The Final production in the series, St Patrick comes to New London", was postponed to March 2022.

The Literary Arts Series "Snapshots in Time" featured speaker events with five noted writers: Ken Tentarelli, Amy Makechnie, Marie Harris, Phyllis Curott, and Ernest Hebert, and the publication of Visual Verse III: A collection of poetry and historical photographs from the Lake Sunapee Region.

The CFA continued to send out our free bi-monthly e-Calendar of cultural events, keeping over 1800 subscribers informed, and maintained their website www.CenterForTheArtsNH.org visited by over 30,000 times in 2020.

And the CFA **Scholarship Program** provided support to eight local students to pursue their education in the arts, at various cultural institutions, and two Teacher Grants which were awarded for The Shakespeare Project and The Memorial Day Celebration, both virtual.



Fundraising 2020!

Although looking very different this year, we were able to hold modified versions of our two important fundraisers:

Lake Sunapee's Got Talent, which began as a community wide fundraiser to be held live in May, became a free online production with voting and prizes awarded to talented individuals and students.

The "GALA for Arts Education" scheduled for October was postponed until the Summer of 2021, however the annual Art Auction portion was held online on a much smaller scale.

Fiscal sustainability during COVID and Beyond

Because of the uncertainty of revenue from events and fundraising, the CFA postponed the hire of a replacement staff member and our search for a physical "Center", and also reduced expenses wherever possible, enabling us to end the year fiscally sound.

As we enter 2021, we are poised to welcome our new Program Manager, Sharon Paquette, helping us to maintain our strong programming throughout the year, and will re-establish our search for a physical "Center" once again.

Thank You!

The Center for the Arts depends upon the generosity of its members, donors, sponsors, and the money raised through fundraising efforts such as these, to continue providing free and low-cost cultural programs throughout the year.

Thank you to those who have supported our programs this past year. We welcome input from the community, new volunteers, and business partners, and hope to expand our programs by collaborating with others in the coming year.

For more information about volunteering, becoming a member, or becoming a business partner, please contact us at

PO Box 872 New London, NH 03257, at info@CenterForTheArtsNH.org, or visit our website at www.centerfortheartsnh.org www.cfanh.org

Respectfully Submitted by Jean Cronin Connolly Chair, Center for the Arts: Lake Sunapee Region









2020 MEMBERS, DONORS AND SPONSORS

The Center for the Arts warmly thanks the individuals and businesses below for their contributions last year. These contributions enable Center for the Arts to offer varied and exciting programming, for people of all ages and incomes, throughout the Lake Sunapee region. No contribution is too small, and every one is important. This list is intended to include all contributions made and support given from January 1 through December 31, 2020. If we have missed your donation, gift, or your membership, we apologize and request that you bring this oversight to our attention so that it may be corrected in the next update of the contributors' list.

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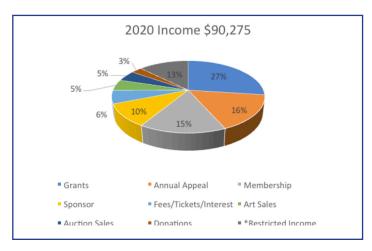
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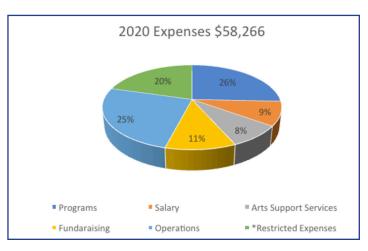
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2020 **Grants**

NH State Council for the Arts Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation

With the help of relief grants and reduced spending, the Center for the Arts was very fortunate to end 2020 financially sound, ensuring that we will be able to proceed with our pre-Covid plans for the betterment of the organization and the community in 2021. Generous support from grants and personal gifts enables the CFA to invest to build capacity toward future growth and sustainability.





^{*}Restricted Funds include the CFA Scholarship Fund and the Barnard Literary Fund