Fiscal year 2017 was a milestone year at The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes. The launch of The Evelyn Peeler Peacock Gallery, born from an idea hatched over a cup of coffee with art lover, Meleny Peacock, brought to fruition several years of work and planning. The mission of The Peeler Peacock is to provide a supportive environment that assists emerging artists as they grow professionally and explore their media. Two jury-selected solo shows a year are offered and the selected artists are connected with established artists as mentors. This was just one of the many accomplishments of The ARTS Council during fiscal year 2017. The ARTS Council was also involved in distributing a regional survey verifying the need for affordable apartments and studio space for artists. Furthermore, The ARTS Council worked closely with Corning’s Gaffer District to bring the first Glassfest Featured Artist to the festival. The program placed work in five locations on Market Street and featured a walking tour of each installation.

All of this occurred while the usual work of The ARTS Council continued, including programs such as Poets in Play, Writer’s Block, Business of Art and a professional development program in collaboration with the New York Council on the Arts and Creative Capital. The Folk Arts program at The ARTS Council presented traditional artists at events like Folk Arts at the Market and the Old Time Fiddlers Gathering, as well as programs exploring the folkways of the Jewish community in Elmira. In addition to programming, The ARTS Council continues to administer grants that support the work of individual artists, cultural organizations and arts-in-education programs. The ARTS Council’s commitment to the role of arts in community building is stronger than ever!

Dr. Connie Sullivan-Blum, Executive Director

Cover Photo: Chris Walters

Photo: Chris Walters
The ARTS Council works on projects or boards that promote the arts in our region, often collaborating with local government and other partners to enhance quality of life. These were our regional projects in Fiscal Year 2017:

- New York Folklore Society Board
- ArtSpace
- Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau
- Corning Public Art Committee
- Refresh Elmira Focus Group
- Urban Arts Crawl

* For a full list of partners visit www.earts.org/annual-reports/fiscal-year-2017-annual-report/

In addition to our other work, we provide support to individual artists, writers, musicians, and other creators with our Artist Membership. We also provide services to cultural organizations with our Cultural Partnership. To learn more about the benefits of joining or to see a full list of our members, visit us online at www.earts.org/annual-reports/fiscal-year-2017-annual-report/

Through the generosity of donor Meleny Peacock, we launched The Evelyn Peeler Peacock Gallery. We were honored to name our gallery for Evelyn Peeler Peacock, a shining example of the power of art to lift lives out of turmoil and transform them.

This gallery, and the resulting solo show program, serves as a primary resource for artistic and professional growth for emerging artists in the Southern Finger Lakes. Providing a supportive environment that assists artists as they grow professionally and explore their media, the gallery features a wide range of shows throughout the year including solo, member, and regional juried exhibitions. A variety of two and three dimensional media, including glass, wood, fiber-arts, clay, photography, painting, drawing, literary arts, jewelry, video, music, and more are on display.

Photo: Chris Walters
Endless, Jessi Moore Solo Exhibit.
In Fiscal Year 2017, The ARTS Council awarded more than $150,754 in funds from both the New York State Council on the Arts and the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes. $100,154 of the funds went to support public programming and individual artists in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, and Tioga counties. We also distributed the state-wide Electronic Media and Film Grant and piloted a Professional Development Program for 10 regional artists.

Where did our grants go?

In Fiscal Year 2017, we granted $23,476 to artists and organizations in Chemung County, a nearly 60% increase from Fiscal Year 2016. Our grants are small, but make an important impact in creating a vibrant and dynamic local community. For example, in 2017, Friends of the Chemung River Watershed received a grant to commission a local artist, Diane M. Brownell, to develop a map of the Chemung River. Featuring the entire 45 mile river, the map was printed on wearable bandanas and not only highlights the river’s cultural significance to the region, but it contains important information on river access points and water safety. The grant funding helped pay for the artist’s fee and the production of over 300 bandanas that were given to users free of charge. This grant is just one example of the way The ARTS Council is making arts and culture accessible to all.
Community

We administered several grants that supported arts and cultural projects focused on our local communities. QuickARTS grants provided up to $500 for short-term activities while Community Arts grants supported up to $5,000 for activities in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, and Tioga counties. Finally, we awarded Presentation Funds grants statewide for non-profits to host presentations by electronic media and film artists.

Artists

We supported individual artists through a variety of grant programs. Artist Development grants provided up to $500 for professional development opportunities. Artist Crossroads grants of up to $2,500 supported the creation of community driven public art projects. We awarded Finishing Funds grants statewide of up to $2,500 to support the completion of experimental multi-media work. Finally, the Professional Development Program provided 10 regional artists with a career enhancement program.

School

We administered the Public School Teaching Artist grant program that supported arts education projects in schools. This grant provided up to $5,000 for non-profits and individuals to bring artists into public schools for special projects. Subjects focused on the exploration of art and the artistic process through a series of sequential learning activities. Emphasis was placed on the depth and quality of the creative process.
Finger Lakes Fruit Heritage Project documented the history and creativity of cider making, orchards, fruit, u-pick, cider mills, festivals, foodways, fermentation, preserving, grafting, old varieties, migrant labor, landscapes, artists, agriculturalists, musicians, and more! Input was welcome from the community and an essential part of the success of this project.
Folk Arts at the Market: Outreach and Education

Folk Arts at the Market brought the Folk Arts Program at The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes to local Farmers Markets in our region. It presented local traditional artists performing or demonstrating their work. With this project, visitors were able to learn about our ongoing folk arts programs and upcoming events, and ask our staff folklorist questions.

Folk Arts Workshops Jewish Heritage:

The ARTS Council hosted a series of workshops in collaboration with the Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers and Congregation Kol Ami in Elmira. These workshops encouraged people to share experiences of their own heritage and offered tools for documenting memories, traditions, and objects that tell the stories of a community.

Old Time Fiddlers Gathering Old Time Fiddle Music & Nordic Music and Folk Arts

Our annual festival continued to expand to feature more local folk arts and music. Saturday featured Old Time performers and workshops in a variety of styles, and Sunday featured music and traditions from communities and people of Nordic heritage in our region with participation from the Finger Lakes Finns community group.

Photo: Chris Walters

Ron Christensen and Rick Biesanz play at the Corning Farmer’s Market for Folk Arts at the Market.

Suzanne Hesselson leading community participants in a hands-on Jewish baking workshop.

Finnish American band, TOiVO, plays on stage at Old Time Fiddlers Gathering.

Photo: Chris Walters
In March 2017, The ARTS Council organized the region’s National Youth Art Month (NYAM) events. NYAM is a month of celebration, awareness, and advocacy for art in our schools and excellent art education for our youth! The bright colors and eclectic designs of student artwork transformed businesses and organizations throughout Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties. The exhibits were a real testament to the work and dedication put forth by the students and teachers in our region! NYAM acts as a catalyst to explore the importance of art in our daily lives, from cognitive development to creative problem solving.
The Writers Block launched in April 2016 at the Turtle Leaf Café in Elmira. It featured a reading by a published author followed by a Q&A session and then an opportunity for our local writers to read aloud in our Flash Fiction segment. This year, The Writers Block has gained a successful following of writers, fostering an environment of creative community for local authors.

Poets in Play is Corning’s poetry series; a gathering of poets to hear poetry, speak poetry, and enjoy camaraderie and good coffee. A featured poet is followed by an open mic where everyone is encouraged to read aloud. Poets in Play promoted community and sparked creativity for new and veteran wordsmiths alike in Fiscal Year 2017.

(Re) Create It challenges artists to come up with something new and creative out of upcycled items found at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. A collaboration between The ARTS Council, the ReStore, and the Southeast Steuben County Library, this competition encourages creativity, upcycling, and having fun for a good cause! All projects are auctioned off to support the ReStore.
Running the Numbers
The Arts Council’s Finances

The ARTS Council’s finances are stable thanks to steady support from the New York State Council on the Arts, the Corning Incorporated Foundation, the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes and our many generous donors and supporters.

Expenses: $613,076
Income: $601,776

10% Fundraising & Events
5% Events & Programs
13% Admin & Overhead
14% Folk Arts
20% Programs
43% GRANT PROGRAMS
12% Donations
27% Private Foundation
52% Government

2017 Recycled Runway
Our Annual Fundraiser

SILENT AUCTION
30 ARTISTS
29 BUSINESSES
334 TICKETS
23 SPONSORS  42 DESIGNERS
ONE AMAZING SHOW!

Photo: Chris Walters
Thank you to all of our amazing donors and their support of The ARTS Council!
Who We Are

Staff
Dr. Connie Sullivan-Blum
Executive Director
Christina Johnson
Member Services Assistant
Dr. Maria Kennedy
Folk Arts Coordinator
Casey Winston
Programs & Outreach Manager
Chris Walters
Grants Manager & Gallery Curator

Interns
Victor Bouveron
Valorie Christenson
Devyn Butler
Sarah Hughson

Board
Board President: Leslie Mauro
Co-Vice President: David Hertel
Co-Vice President: Erin McMurrough
Secretary: Karen Epstein
Treasurer: Hedy Hou
Immediate Past President: Steve Kettelle
Vani Akula
Allison DeDominick
Paul Dressen
James Galbraith
Michael Joseph
Beth Manwaring
Christy Nicholas
Joy Perry
Cynthia Raj
Andy Rochester

Volunteers
Julie Thurber
Monica Tojek
2017 Recycled Runway Committee & Volunteers *
2017 Fiddlers Volunteers *
2017 NYAM Volunteers *
2017 Arts & Rec Volunteers *

* For a full list visit us online at www.earts.org/annual-reports/fiscal-year-2017-annual-report/

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