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culturecount
NEW ENGLAND'S
CULTURAL DATABASE

Grantees

PUBLIC ART: NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND GRANTEES FUND FOR THE ARTS GRANTEES

PUBLIC ART: NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND GRANTEES

Community Organization: Burlington City Arts (Grant Amount: \$10,000)

Site Location: Main Street, Burlington, VT

Project Description: This project will focus on the creation of a performance parade that takes its inspiration from "Le Defilé" that is staged as part of the Biennale de la Danse in Lyon, France. Le Defilé de Champlain - Legends of the Future, will result from community-based arts residencies in Burlington and across Vermont working with people of all ages and abilities toward the creation of an event that will bring thousands of people to Burlington on July 11, 2009, as part of Vermont's commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the region's first contact by a European (French explorer Samuel de Champlain). This special Champlain Quadricentennial link has prompted us to seek participation by French and Quebec artists. French choreographer Heddy Maalem will be involved as an associate artistic director. Quebec Abenaki choreographer and dancer Maria-Claude Rodrigue is also expected to participate. The culminating performance parade is intended to generate a spirit of poetry, invention, sharing, humor, and an exploration of the participants' sense of place. It should also explore open-ended ideas and metaphors linked to Champlain Quadricentennial themes like first encounter, discovery, border crossings, identity, and more.

Artist: Eric Bass (Putney, VT)

As a creator and performer since 1982 with Vermont's Sandglass Theater, Eric Bass of Putney, VT, has numerous international theater direction credits and over a dozen awards for his work. His productions for Sandglass have appeared at 22 international festivals and at prestigious sites including the Brooklyn Academy of Music Next Wave Festival, Jim Henson Festival at Joseph Papp Public Theater, and at PS 122 in New York

Growing Fence
Feature!



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City. "This project inspires wonderful possibilities for bringing together communities of artists, residents, and cultures," remarked Bass. "I work to present art in a way that serves both artist and community."

Community Organization: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (Grant Amount: \$10,000)

Site Location: Medical Center campus, Lebanon, NH

Project Description: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC), together with the expertise of selected artists, will identify locations throughout the DHMC campus where future collaborative public art projects--both permanent and temporary--can best be realized. Beyond suggesting public art projects ideally suited for the selected locations, the DHMC Public Art Project Plan will be utilized as a primary fundraising tool to help underwrite the projects contained therein.

As a leading medical institution, DHMC has created a unique environment that unites humanity, wilderness, science and technology where approximately 6,500 employees serve the needs of 470,000 patients a year onsite. The spaces found throughout the DHMC buildings and grounds are as diverse and dynamic as the populations that move through them. Starting with the DHMC Arts Program Coordinator, the artist(s) will engage DHMC employees and patients in a cooperative manner that will cross race, class, and employment boundaries in order to create the DHMC Public Art Project Plan. This project, like the installations for which it paves the way, will help create a greater sense of community within the institution while simultaneously beautifying it--ultimately increasing patient comfort, employee satisfaction, and the overall quality of care that patients receive.

Artists: Dan Gottsegen (Woodstock, VT); Terry Boyle (Burlington, VT)

The artist team of Dan Gottsegen of Woodstock, VT, and Terry Boyle of Burlington, VT, combine their experience as a visual artist and landscape architect, respectively, in the DHMC project. Most recently, the pair collaborated to create the City Center Gateway in South Burlington, VT, working with community input. Gottsegen's solo work has appeared around the nation, while Boyle's work in landscape architecture has a long history in the northern New England area. "We have a creative process based upon our shared values for public art – that it be responsible to the community, its aspirations and needs, and that it enrich and enliven the experience of both visitors and regular inhabitants," said the team.

Community Organization: Fitchburg Cultural Alliance (Grant Amount: \$10,000)

Site Location: Water Street Bridge, downtown

Fitchburg, MA

Project Description: This public art project is one of a three-pronged cultural economic initiative developed by the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance in partnership with the Fitchburg Economic Development Office and Fitchburg State College. The partners are committed to the vitality of arts and culture as a catalyst in their downtown revitalization plan. The vision of the public art is to create a “sense of place” at the entrance to downtown via the Water Street Bridge.

The site—on the median of the Water Street Bridge—builds upon the transformation of the Central Plaza shopping center and the newly-reclaimed Riverfront Park. In time, public art will line all of the bridge’s median; capturing the curiosity and sparking the imagination of anyone who walks or drives over it. The visual impact will be so memorable we hope people will direct others to downtown Fitchburg by saying “once you cross the bridge of art, you will know you are there.”

Artist: Gillian Christy (Providence, RI)
Through her work, Providence, RI, based artist Gillian Christy strives to create meaningful stories. Ms. Christy has several significant commissions in Providence, including the Smokestack Project at The Plant, a pedestrian bridge, and a piece at T.F. Green Airport. In 2008, she was selected as a recipient of Americans for the Arts Public Art Network “America’s Best Public Art” for the Smokestack Project. “I have worked with committees creating work for the public realm remaining responsive and open to opinions, thoughts and concerns,” said Christy. “By working within a partnership, a conversation can evolve.”

Community Organization: Littleton Area Senior Center (Grant Amount: \$10,000)

Site Location: Littleton River Walk Trail, Littleton, NH

Project Description: The Littleton Area Senior Center (LASC) in partnership with the Littleton High School (LHS), and Common Ground, a nonprofit provider of behavioral and developmental services, is undertaking a permanent site-specific art installation for the Littleton River Walk Trail, a 1.5 mile walking trail located in the center of the town of Littleton, NH. The community objectives for this intergenerational project are to give seniors, students, and the community at large the opportunity to work with a professional artist(s) on a public work of art from conception to fabrication. This work will give participants a vehicle to relate their histories, engage in the creative process, deepen their appreciation and understanding for the art-making, and find a common ground through art.

The trail follows the Ammonoosuc River and is

connected by two bridges, one of them a covered bridge built in 2004. The trail is situated near local eateries, a book store, a working gristmill built in 1797, and the LASC. The site was chosen because it is utilized by a wide array of community members, but underutilized aesthetically. The site has enormous potential to have a significant visual, informational, and emotional impact on the community.

Artist: Linda Hoffman (Harvard, MA)

Linda Hoffman of Harvard, MA, combines an international education in the arts with a strong sense of local environment and ecology. As a sculptor and curator for many local exhibitions, both permanent and temporary, her recent works have focused on attracting new audiences, including those with limited exposure to the arts. "I love the natural world, work with it, and believe that art can lead us to appreciate and care for the earth in new and valuable ways...For every project I have done, I always enjoy listening and responding to the individual site," said Hoffman.

Community Organization: Railroad Street Youth Project (Grant Amount: \$10,000)

Site Location: Great Barrington Skate Park, Housatonic River, Great Barrington, MA

Project Description: The River Walk Sculpture Garden will be a component of the Housatonic River Walk, a volunteer-driven restoration project which rehabilitates and develops walking trails along a half-mile of the Housatonic River running through Great Barrington in the Berkshire Mountains of Western Massachusetts. The site, along the Housatonic River, forms the eastern boundary of a mixed-use public space abutting the Memorial Baseball Field, the town's skate park, and the Schneider Youth Building. This area is a hub of year-round recreation, particularly by teenagers and young adults.

This project will be part of a 200-foot new section of the River Walk. It will be comprised of a footpath, seating area, and permanent and "ephemeral" natural art works. Invasive species will be removed, and edible, useful, and native plants established as part of the project, which will also publicly showcase artwork utilizing on-site, recycled, living, and renewable materials. Green technology, such as solar-powered artwork, will be used wherever feasible. An unveiling ceremony at Railroad Street Youth Project's 2009 Summer Solstice celebration will raise awareness and generate community buy-in and support for the maintenance and evolution of the space. This project will be a model of community collaboration that leverages the arts for sustainability.

Artists: Will Machin (Washington, VT); Howie Sneider

(Providence, RI)

The team of Will Machin (Washington, VT) and Howie Sneider (Providence, RI) each bring experience as designers, collaborators, sculptors, and lead artists to a myriad of environmental and community focused public art projects in the New England region. "In keeping with our artistic and personal values, we work with site-specific recycled materials when we can, transforming their function and meaning often until they are unrecognizable, bringing new life to a site. By soliciting input and support, we will encourage multiple constituencies to take ownership of the site," said the team.

Community Organization: Waterville Main Street
(Grant Amount: \$10,000)

Site Location: "Head of Falls" along the Kennebec River, Waterville, ME

Project Description: Located on the banks of the Kennebec River, Waterville has long served as an important cultural, commercial and community center for Central Maine. Like many downtowns throughout the country, however, Downtown Waterville has suffered as a result of the development of the highway, strip malls, and big box stores combined with the gradual loss of traditional manufacturing jobs. Waterville Main Street, the City of Waterville, and other area nonprofits see the long-neglected waterfront as a tremendous asset in downtown and community revitalization efforts.

The site is a 12-acre, city-owned parcel of riverfront land called Head of Falls, which historically developed as the site of several textile mills and dozens of homes occupied primarily by Lebanese and French-Canadian mill workers. As the mills closed, Head of Falls became one of the most blighted areas in the City. Until recently, the City of Waterville turned its back on this property and lost its connection to the very river that played such a significant role in its history. In collaboration with the community organizations, the artist will develop a public art project that will acknowledge and pay respect to our industrial past while helping the community to reconnect to the riverfront and embrace its potential as a key piece of the city's revitalization efforts.

Artist: Tim Gaudreau (Portsmouth, NH)

An interdisciplinary eco-artist, Tim Gaudreau of Portsmouth, NH, has been involved in a variety of public art projects. Often collaborating with schools, the NH State Council on the Arts and the NH Department of Environmental Service, his projects draw in the community in an interactive manner, whether through sculpture, poetry, performance or photography. "Artists have responsibility as cultural instigators to ask

questions, raise issues, and inspire new perspectives...this project has the potential to enrich and build community while activating a greater appreciation of the local environment," said Gaudreau.

FUND FOR THE ARTS GRANTEES

FY 2009

Midway Shutters Project

Artists: Michael Tyrell, Sandra Vieira (TVaBoston)

Organization: Fort Point Cultural Coalition (Boston, MA)

Amount awarded: \$12,600

TVaBoston and the Fort Point Cultural Coalition received a Fund for the Arts planning grant of \$12,600 to examine, study, design and initiate a call for artists for the site-specific installation of decorative window shutters along the back elevations of the Midway Studio Building at 15 Channel Center Street, South Boston. Midway Studios was developed to help preserve the artistic community in the Fort Point Neighborhood by providing live/work residences for artists.

Mozart Park Public Art Project

Artist: Douglas Kornfield

Organization: Hyde Square Task Force (Jamaica Plain, MA)

Amount awarded: \$22,500

Hyde Square Task force has received a \$22,500 Fund for the Arts implementation grant to complete the fabrication and installation of a stainless steel sculpture in Mozart Park, conceived by artist Douglas Kornfield. Mozart Park is a highly visible and well used community park that is the epicenter Hyde-Jackson Square neighborhood. Kornfield engaged the Hyde Square Task Force's Community Development Artist youth team and other neighborhood groups to learn about the diverse community that inspired this work.

LynnArts Mural Project

Artists: David Fitcher, Yetti Frenkel, and Joshua Winer

Organization: Lynn Arts, Inc. (Lynn, MA)

Amount awarded: \$6,000

LynnArts received a \$6,000 planning grant from Fund for the Arts for the second stage in the design development of a three story mural for the façade of the LynnArts Community Art Center in Lynn's Central Square. The first planning stage was completed through a Fund for the Arts grant that fostered community engagement and resulted in the selection of the artist team. The mural will be a highly visible addition to the downtown Lynn business district.

Our Garden Community Garden Project

Artist: Gretchen Schneider

Organization: Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) (East Boston, MA)

Amount Awarded: \$30,000

The *Our Garden* project has received a \$30,000 Fund for the Arts Implementation Grant. This grant will enable NOAH, working with East Boston artist Gretchen Schneider, to construct a gateway community garden linking the Eagle Hill Neighborhood to the Mario Umana Middle School Academy. This is an active passageway that hundreds of residents use daily, but currently it is unsafe and in disrepair. Creating a neighborhood greenspace filled with color, light, and texture will provide a pocket park that can be used as an outdoor classroom, community garden, and restful retreat for residents.

Engaging Communities Mural Project

Artists: Tova Speter and Anyahlee Canas

Organization: The Art Connection (Chinatown, Roxbury and Malden, MA)

Amount awarded: \$8,400

The \$8,400 Fund for the Arts Planning Grant will support The Art Connection in creating artist lead workshops in three identified communities: Chinatown, Roxbury, and Malden. The workshops will actively engage community residents from partnering organizations in the process of creating public art. The artists will be encouraged participants to 'get their hands dirty' in the process, and collaborate, discuss issues, and define an aesthetic that represents their community. The process will culminate with a unique painted mural in each community.

FY 2008

Our Garden

Artist: TBD

Organization: Neighborhood of Affordable Housing

Amount awarded: \$10,500

The Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) received a Fund for the Arts grant of \$10,500 towards artist selection, community engagement and design development for a permanent artistic fence around a community garden in East Boston. The garden, between Border and Meridian Streets, is a youth-led garden coordinated by NOAH and NOAH's Environmental Chelsea Creek Crew. The planning process will engage local youth and community members.

Steam Engine Public Art Project

Artist: Jerry Beck, Yary Livan, Sharron Penicaud, others
TBD

Organization: Revolving Museum

Amount awarded: \$10,000

The Revolving Museum received a Fund for the Arts planning grant of \$10,000 for the artistic transformation of an antique steam engine into a permanent public artwork in Lowell. The steam engine once generated electricity for Lowell's historic Appleton Mills. The mill area, known as the Hamilton Canal District, is being redeveloped into residential lofts and community space. The artwork will be sited within this new neighborhood and will build on Lowell's heritage while connecting to the present day and beyond.

South Bay Harbor Trail

Artist: Michael Tyrrell

Organization: Save the Harbor Save the Bay

Amount awarded: \$8,000

Save the Harbor Save the Bay has been awarded a Fund for the Arts grant of \$8,000 for Michael Tyrrell's engagement with the trails design team. The South Bay Harbor Trail design includes a wayfinding element to help connect neighborhoods to the harbor. Tyrrell's collaboration will provide historical context to the wayfinding as well as the design of interpretive elements to be integrated into the master plan.

Filament/Firmament

Artist: Ellen Driscoll

Organization: Cambridge Arts Council

Amount awarded: \$20,000

The Cambridge Arts Council has received a Fund for the Arts grant of \$20,000 for the fabrication and installation of the Filament/Firmament public artwork in the main branch of the Cambridge Public Library. Filament/Firmament is a public artwork and living memorial that honors the contributions of women to civic life in Cambridge. The piece explores the theme of weaving, a universal activity that links together women of every culture, and will be sited between the new and old library buildings.

Concord River Greenway: Bridges and Gateways

Artist: Jay Hungate, Peter Andruchow and James Montgomery

Organization: Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust

Amount awarded: \$20,000

The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust has been awarded a Fund for the Arts grant of \$20,000 for fabrication of public art elements designed by Wopo Holup on the Concord River Greenway. The grant will fund granite and limestone carving by Lowell artist, Jay Hungate, fence lettering and fabrication by East Boston artist, Peter Andruchow, and cast iron bird bollards by Chelsea artist, James Montgomery. Public art elements are integrated into the design of the trail, which construction will begin on this summer.

Roslindale Traffic: Kinetic Sculpture at Crossroads

Artist: George Greenamyre

Organization: Roslindale Village Main Street

Amount awarded: \$20,000

The Roslindale Village Main Street has been awarded a Fund for the Arts grant of \$20,000 for the fabrication and installation of a public artwork on a traffic island in Roslindale Village. The site-specific piece is a wind-powered kinetic sculpture depicting colorful cars and trucks with drivers "stuck in traffic". The piece humorously reflects on the 35,000 cars that travel daily through the area while serving as a gateway and landmark for Roslindale Village.

Sleeping Moon

Artist: Joseph Wheelwright

Organization: Dorchester Arts Collaborative and St. Marks Area Main Street

Amount awarded: \$30,000

The Dorchester Arts Collaborative has been awarded a Fund for the Arts grant of \$30,000 for the fabrication and installation of a sculpture in Peabody Square. The public artwork coincides with a major initiative to improve traffic flow and reconfigure Peabody Square to enhance pedestrian safety. The piece will be fully integrated into the final design of the square and will highlight the character of the square while reflecting the diversity of the community.

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