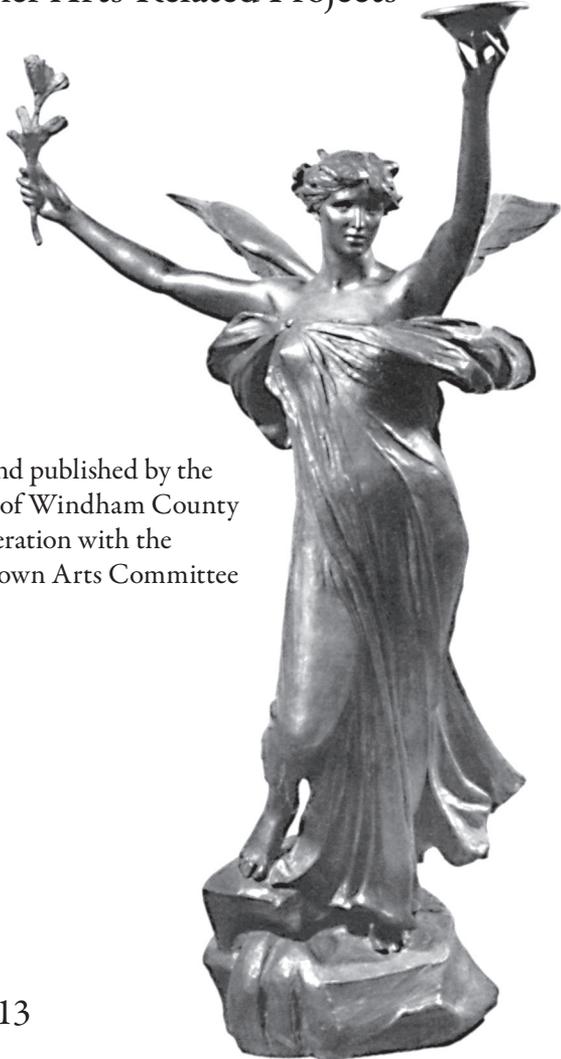


Brattleboro Arts Compendium

A Listing of Brattleboro Arts Organizations
& Other Arts-Related Projects



Compiled and published by the
Arts Council of Windham County
in cooperation with the
Brattleboro Town Arts Committee

APRIL 2013

ARTS COMPENDIUM

Brattleboro Arts Organizations & Other Arts-Related Projects

ABENE AFRICAN DANCE FESTIVAL provides weekly classes and an annual festival to expand awareness, understanding, and enjoyment of African dance and/or drumming; most events at the Stone Church, 210 Main St., Brattleboro. Contact: Naomi Lindenfeld, naomilin@sover.net

ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS (AFTA) is an informal monthly meeting of arts organizations and event planners to discuss common issues, collaborate, and work toward common goals in the arts community. AFTA is a project of the Arts Council of Windham County. Contact: Jacob Roberts, coordinator, yesjake@gmail.com

ARTS COUNCIL OF WINDHAM COUNTY (ACWC) works to “strengthen the environment for Artists and Arts Organizations in Windham County” through communications, support, and advocacy. It also serves as fiscal agent and catalyst to emerging artists and arts organizations. Contact: Doug Cox, President, dcox@sover.net, 802-257-1024, www.acwc.us

ASIAN CULTURAL CENTER OF VERMONT (ACCVT) is an educational resources organization dedicated to connecting people through the arts and cultures of Asia by offering festivals, films, forums, exhibitions, presentations, and other community learning/sharing opportunities. Location: 814 Western Ave., Brattleboro. Contact: Adam Silver, Executive Director, adamilvervt@gmail.com, <http://accvt.org>

BRATTLEBORO CLAYWORKS seeks to increase access to ceramic media for the SE Vermont, NW Massachusetts, and SW New Hampshire communities. Founded in 1983, it provides and maintains professional studio space and equipment for members and renters, offers classes and workshops, a retail gallery, and a commitment to community outreach, including an annual “Empty Bowls Dinner” to support the Brattleboro Area Drop In Center. Location: 532 Putney Rd., Brattleboro. Contact: info@brattleboroclayworks.com, www.brattleboroclayworks.com

BRATTLEBORO COMMUNITY TELEVISION (BCTV) is a community access media center that trains and equips those interested in producing their own video programs for Channels 8 and 10 on local cable systems. Location: Brattleboro Municipal Office Building, 230 Main St., Ste. 201. Contact: Cor Trowbridge, cor@brattleborotv.org, www.brattleborotv.org

BRATTLEBORO CONTRA DANCE is a grassroots-run dance event at 7 p.m. in the Stone Church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month. Open

to all, the music is live, dances are called, and performers vary week to week. The music is influenced by traditional American and Celtic fiddle traditions, and some of the best-known traditional fiddlers from New England and around the world play regularly. Contact: Peter Siegel, peterasiegel@gmail.com, www.brattcontra.org

BRATTLEBORO DAWN DANCE COMMITTEE (BDDC) continues a more than 30-year tradition of all-night New England contra dancing on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends at the Gibson-Aiken Center in Brattleboro. This nonprofit educational and community organization also encourages and supports the practice and knowledge of traditional folk dance and music in the Brattleboro area, assists groups starting up new dances, and helps dance organizers get educational training. Contact: Mary Lea, info@dawndance.org, www.dawndance.org

BRATTLEBORO FILM FESTIVAL (BFF) presents films from the USA and around the world that inform, challenge, entertain, and inspire, emphasizing viewpoints and characters often unseen in mainstream media. Partnering with local organizations, the festival creates educational initiatives and special events spotlighting issues that raise awareness, facilitate dialogue, and increase audience diversity through community participation. Contact: Merry Elder, brattfilmfest@gmail.com, www.brattleborofilmfestival.org

BRATTLEBORO LITERARY FESTIVAL is a three-day celebration of those who read books, those who write books, and of the books themselves. The Festival includes readings, panel discussions, and special events featuring emerging and established authors. Contact: Sandy Rouse, bookcell@svcable.net, www.brattleboroliteraryfestival.org

BRATTLEBORO MUSEUM & ART CENTER (BMAC), founded in 1972, presents art and ideas in ways that inspire, educate, and engage people of all ages. Housed in Brattleboro's historic Union Station, the Museum presents 12-15 contemporary visual art exhibits per year, complemented by a wide range of public programs and educational activities that serve thousands of adults and children throughout southern Vermont and beyond. Location: 10 Vernon St., Brattleboro. Contact: Danny Lichtenfeld, danny@brattleboromuseum.org, www.brattleboromuseum.org

BRATTLEBORO MUSIC CENTER (BMC), founded in 1952, enriches the lives of thousands of children and adults with educational, participation, and performance opportunities designed for the community's diverse musical interests. Programs include a community music school, the Windham Orchestra, Blanche Moyses Chorale, Brattleboro Concert Choir, Chamber Music Series,

and Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. Location: 38 Walnut St., Brattleboro. Contact: Pam Lierle, pam@bmcvt.org, www.bmcvt.org

BRATTLEBORO SCHOOL OF DANCE (BSD), founded in 1976 by Kathleen Keller, offers dance instruction and performance opportunities in a variety of dance styles to adults and children at all levels. Voted the best dance studio in the area for 10 years running, BSD is home to the Windham Regional Career Center's Dance Program for high school students. Location: 22 High St., Brattleboro. Contact: Jennifer Moyses, Director, jennifer@brattleboroschoolofdance.com, 802-254-6884, www.brattleboroschoolofdance.com

BRATTLEBORO TOWN ARTS COMMITTEE (TAC) is a Town-appointed advisory committee to improve communications between the arts community and town government, and to help make town resources available to artists, and artists available to the Town. Contact: Barbara Sondag, Town Manager, bsondag@brattleboro.org, www.brattleboro.org

BRATTLEBORO-WEST ARTS (BWA) is an association of artists and craftspeople working in West Brattleboro and Marlboro, supporting the artistic and economic growth of its members and community. BWA artists and artisans work in painting, pottery, sculpture, furniture, musical instruments, textiles, poetry, garden arts, culinary arts, video, and more, practicing at a professional level of creativity, innovation, and technical standards. Opportunities are provided for artistic and business peer support, as well as access to expertise and shared marketing ventures. Contact: Walter Slowinski, orchardstreetpottery@gmail.com, www.brattleboro-west-arts.com

BRATTLEBORO WOMEN'S CHORUS is a nonprofit multigenerational community chorus for women and girls ages 10 and up. Women from all walks of life meet weekly to enjoy making music and harmonizing together. Financial aid is available to make singing accessible to women of all backgrounds and levels of musical experience. The chorus presents two concert weekends each year, offers Singing Valentines in February, sings for occasional community events, and has an outreach chorus, "Singabout." Contact: Becky Graber, ragtime@sover.net, 802-254-8994, www.brattleborowomenschorus.com

BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY houses an extensive permanent art collection, including works by Daniel Chester French, Larkin Mead, and William Morris Hunt, among others. Descriptions and locations for all 467 objects are accessible through the online catalog. Visitors are invited to take a self-guided fine arts walking tour to enjoy some of the gems of the collection; tour pamphlets are available on both floors. The Library also offers changing exhibits throughout the year, featuring work by local artists on the main floor and work

by children's book illustrators in the exhibit cases outside the Children's Room on the second floor. Location: 224 Main St., Brattleboro. Contact: *info@brookslibraryvt.org*, 802-254-5290, <http://brookslibraryvt.org>

CENTER FOR DIGITAL ART is a nonprofit organization providing educational resources in film and media arts to the Brattleboro community. Location: 74 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro. Contact: Michel Moyses, *mjmoyse@gmail.com*, work: 802-254-7390, home: 802-257-7605, <http://centerfordigitalart.com>

ESTEY ORGAN MUSEUM (EOM) is a project to build a history and heritage center in the historic slate-sided factory buildings on Birge Street in Brattleboro. Currently the Engine House serves as a preview gallery and home to the museum project. Location: 108 Birge St., Brattleboro. Contact: Chris Grotke, *grotke@musearts.com*, www.esteyorganmuseum.org

EQUILIBRIUM is a cooperatively run space for food, healing, art, and performance, with a retail arts and crafts market, café, and performance space all under one roof. Location: 14 Elm St., Brattleboro. Contact: Jacob Roberts, *yesjake@gmail.com*, <http://eqvermont.com>

FIREKEEPER PRODUCTIONS is a contemporary dance and theater company using the timeless and universal appeal of folktales to create socially relevant works. Company members are committed to a collaborative process, seamlessly weaving a diversity of dance, circus, musical theater, and visual arts mediums. Their performances breathe new life into the ancient art of storytelling for contemporary audiences. Contact: Radha Newsom, *radha.newsom@gmail.com*, www.firekeeperproductions.com

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT GUILFORD (FOMAG), founded in 1966, is a community-based presenter of concerts and stage music projects, often featuring underperformed repertoire by classical masters and new works by regional composers; an annual benefit gala celebrates women composers. One special mission is to preserve, and present concerts on, a c. 1897 tracker organ in a rural Guilford barn. The annual Community Messiah Sing in Brattleboro benefit two area agencies serving the homeless at holiday time. Outreach programs serve elementary school students and Windham County seniors. Contact: Joy Wallens-Penford, *office@fomag.org*, 802-254-3600, www.fomag.org

FULCRUM ARTS, LLC (FA) is a collaborative effort by glassblower Randi Solin and ceramic artist Natalie Blake, who provide ongoing classes, workshops, private tutoring, and gallery talks in their glass and ceramic studios as well as a public arena to view glassblowing and the creation of ceramic art during the day and evening. Fundamental to their mission is making fine crafts accessible

to a wide range of people. Location: 74 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro. Contact: Randi Solin, solinglass@hotmail.com; Natalie Blake, info@natalieblakestudios.com; www.solinglass.com, www.natalieblakestudios.net

THEFUTURECOLLECTIVE, a not-for-profit, self-organized group of Brattleboro young people, was founded in January 2012. The group has hosted all-ages music and art shows, and plans to build a not-for-profit community and arts center in Brattleboro as an outlet for new local music and art. Contact: Tess Lindsay, snowflakecandy@gmail.com, ThefuturecollectiveBrattleboro@gmail.com, <http://thefuturecollective.tumblr.com>

GALLERY WALK, founded in 1995, is Brattleboro's monthly first-Friday celebration of the arts. Forty or more art venues in downtown Brattleboro, and within a few minutes' drive, coordinate their exhibit openings; many include meet-the-artist receptions, and several offer live music or other performances. Contact: Joy Wallens-Penford, Promotional Coordinator, info@gallerywalk.org, www.GalleryWalk.org

GREEN MOUNTAIN CREATIVE DANCE CENTER is a nonprofit founded to celebrate and promote dance as an activity to be enjoyed by all people and to cultivate the language of movement as a universal means of communication and creative expression. Contact: Griff Goehring, griff@creative-dancecenter.org, 802-380-0068, P.O. Box 6053, Brattleboro, VT 05302, www.creativedancecenter.org

HOOKER-DUNHAM THEATER & GALLERY hosts a variety of events across the full spectrum of the arts, including acoustic music, independent film, lectures, performance art, and more. Monthly exhibits in the Gallery spotlight local and regional artists, political causes, photography, architecture, and other visual media. Location: 139 Main St., Brattleboro, down the alley and downstairs. Contact: Barry Stockwell, Director, hdtandg@sover.net, www.hookerdunham.org

IN-SIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT teaches photography to Windham County youth ages 11-18, regardless of their ability to pay. Students are offered the opportunity to experience different cultures by traveling to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota as part of the summer Exposures Program. Location: 45 Flat St., Ste. 1, Brattleboro. Contact: Program Director, info@insight-photography.org, www.insight-photography.org

LATCHIS ARTS believes culture creates community. Latchis Arts fosters the renovation, restoration, and community building potential of the Latchis Hotel and Theatre, while reaching out into the community to provide leadership and advocacy for the arts. Location: 50 Main St., Brattleboro. Contact: Gail

Nunziata, gail@latchisarts.org, www.latchisarts.org

MAHALO ART CENTER provides professional and therapeutic training for leaders, teachers, and healers interested in facilitating personal and communal wellness via both ancient and modern, nature-connected healing and expressive arts, including visual arts, dance, theatre, music, and writing. The Center also hosts programs for children, teens, and adults interested in living more conscious and fulfilling lives. Location: 972 Western Ave., Brattleboro. Contact: Luz Elena Morey, luzelenamorey@gmail.com, www.mahaloartcenter.com

NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR CIRCUS ARTS (NECCA) offers people of all ages and abilities a unique opportunity to experience the magical and captivating world of circus arts. In a welcoming, safe environment, recreational and professional students alike can explore the charms and challenges of circus arts and gain a solid foundation of techniques and skills through community classes, special needs and outreach classes, professional-level training programs, and performances. Location: 74 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro. Contact: info@necenterforcircusarts.org, 802-254-9780, www.necenterforcircusarts.org

NEW ENGLAND YOUTH THEATRE (NEYT) is a nonprofit that educates the hearts, minds, bodies, and voices of youth of all abilities through the dramatic arts. The professional staff guides students to be engaged in their community in healthy and artistic ways, empowering their independent creativity in a range of fall and winter classes, and summer programs. This inspiring work is seen in at least 18 fully produced plays, musicals, or cabarets each year. Location: 100 Flat St., Brattleboro. Contact: Michelle Meima, neyt@sover.net, www.neyt.org

NIMBLE ARTS, LLC is a circus production company featuring renowned aerialists Elsie Smith and Serenity Smith Forchion. Instructional workshops and DVDs, equipment building (“by aerialists, for aerialists”), and choreography expertise are offered for circuses, aerial dance companies, and special event planners. See listing above for NECCA; www.nimblearts.org

OPEN MUSIC COLLECTIVE is a group of local, regional, and national artists who come together to perform, teach, and appreciate music. Mentoring programs include master-classes, workshops, private lessons, ensemble courses, and jam sessions. Everyone is welcome at this gathering place for musicians of all styles and all levels. Location: 74 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro. Contact: James MacDonald, jmacdbass@gmail.com, <http://openmusiccollective.org>

RIVER GALLERY SCHOOL has been providing in-depth arts education for children and adults since 1976. RGS emphasizes individual process and creativity, employing a variety of media and techniques, and is a community resource

and a center for the visual arts. Location: 32 Main St., Brattleboro. Contact: Donna Hawes, rgsart@sover.net, <http://rivergalleryschool.org>

SHALL WE DANCE'S BRATTLEBORO BALLROOM offers Latin, Ballroom, and Country Dancing lessons (individual lessons and classes) and public dance sessions preceded by a group lesson. The space is also available for rental by other dance and movement groups, as well as for dance parties. Location: Stone Church, 210 Main St., Brattleboro. Contact: Ray Warren, ray@shallwedance.biz, 802-579-9990, www.shallwedance.biz

SOBO STUDIO (formerly Luminz) is a dance and movement arts center serving mostly adults from beginner to professional levels. Instruction is offered in classical and contemporary dance, yoga, and fitness with a focus on health and wellness, creative and technical development, and accessibility. Studio space is available for rehearsals, performances, and community events. Location: 74 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro. Contact: Cyndal Ellis, Manager, sobodance@gmail.com, 802-258-7378, www.facebook.com/SoboStudio (website tba)

STROLLING OF THE HEIFERS (SOTH) supports and sustains family farms by connecting people with healthy local food through the events of Strolling of the Heifers Weekend at the beginning of June, including a Parade and Slow Living Expo, as well as through the Slow Living Summit, Farm/Food Business Plan Competition, Locavore Index, Farm Art Exhibit, and other efforts. Contact: Martin Langeveld, strollingheifers@gmail.com; Orly Munzing, orlymunzing@gmail.com; www.strollingoftheheifers.com

STRONG COFFEE STAGE (SCS) is a professional theater company dedicated to creating compelling theater for local and international audiences. Productions combine movement, music, vulnerability, virtuosity, and humor to engage and enrich the audience. SCS also facilitates periodic master classes in physical theatre, clowning, improvisation, and acting, and brings master teachers and performers to the Southern Vermont community. Contact: Bronwyn Sims, bronwynsims@yahoo.com, www.strongcoffeestage.com

VERMONT CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY promotes the photographic arts through exhibitions and education, and stimulates dialogue, encourages inquiry, and communicates ideas using the photographic medium as its focus. In addition to hosting a new featured exhibit each month, VCP offers ongoing workshops, professional darkroom rental, exhibiting artist talks, and monthly portfolio critiques, among other regularly scheduled events. Location: 49 Flat St., Brattleboro. Contact: Joshua Farr, info@vcphoto.org, www.vcphoto.org

VERMONT FRINGE FEST, "A Live Arts Festival in Downtown Brattleboro," supports new and innovative performing artists by showcasing their

creative works in a scenic, fun, and professional environment. Contact: Jack Golden, jack@garbageismybag.com, 413-774-3563

VERMONT JAZZ CENTER (VJC), founded by Attila Zoller in 1974, is an internationally recognized organization dedicated to the promotion, creation, and preservation of jazz music using a three-pronged approach: a strong jazz educational program, the production of high quality jazz concerts, and community building involving weekly jam sessions, an active community big band, and collaborations with businesses and other arts organizations. Location: 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222, Brattleboro. Contact: Eugene Uman, Director, eugene@vtjazz.org, 802-254-9088, www.vtjazz.org

VERMONT PERFORMANCE LAB (VPL) is a laboratory for creative research and community engagement. Since 2006, VPL has brought artists of regional, national, and international stature to the grange halls, studios, and classrooms of rural Vermont through its innovative artist residency program. Community and education programs serve students, families, and seniors in Windham County through workshops, informal performances, and art-making experiences. VPL often partners with other arts, social, and educational organizations to host such residencies and create meaningful connections between artists and communities. Contact: Sara Coffey, Director, info@vermontperformancelab.org, 802-257-3360; www.vermontperformancelab.org

VERMONT THEATRE COMPANY produces community theater performances year-round at affordable prices, offering plays to entertain and excite the imagination of the area's diverse and discriminating audience. VTC is recognized regionally for its high-quality Shakespeare in the Park productions at the end of each June. Contact: Jessica Gelter, vttheatreco@gmail.com, www.vermonttheatrecompany.com

WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL (WFF) is an annual week-long fundraising event for the Women's Freedom Center of Windham County. Held in March, which is Women's History Month, WFF features the best of films made by women about women, including award-winning documentaries, shorts, and feature films. www.womensfilmfestival.org

WRITE ACTION is a nonprofit organization formed to strengthen a community of writers in the Brattleboro area and to nurture, encourage, and promote the literary arts in the at-large community. An e-newsletter posting literary events and opportunities goes out weekly. Contact: Arlene Distler, arlenedistler.com, info@writeaction.org, www.writeaction.org

The nature of a vital arts community is that it is ever changing. The information contained here is subject to change, and while attempting to be comprehensive, it is certain this listing has missed some of the artistic richness of our community. Updated content will be posted at www.acwc.us and www.brattleboro.org.

Please send corrections or additions to
Doug Cox, ACWC President:

dcox@sover.net

Our thanks to all the folks now and in the past who have built the organizations listed in this guide. Our thanks also to Joy Wallens-Penford for assistance with editing and graphic design of the publication, and to the C&S Wholesale Grocers print shop for its production.

Image on cover:

*“Spirit of Life” by Daniel Chester French, 1914,
a bronze sculpture originally part of the
water fountain in Plaza Park; now in the fine arts
collection at Brooks Memorial Library, Brattleboro*