

# Mayor's Council on the Arts

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ality of a city. The Council strives to contribute to the cultural enrichment and unique character of our City by providing exciting programs for residents and visitors of all ages. The following is a sampling of arts events produced or co-produced by the Arts Council:

## Battery Park Concerts

From the Jazz Co. dancers to the music of Kilimanjaro, these free concerts in the park have become a Thursday night tradition for many residents of Chittenden County. The concerts highlight the artistic talents of local as well as regional and national dancers and musicians.

## Discover Jazz Festival

This City-wide festival reaches into outlying areas of Burlington with jazz musicians, (play-

For the past four years the Mayor's Council on the Arts has been presenting arts events and exciting cultural programs in the City of Burlington. For two of these years we were an all-volunteer organization, and we are now very proud to be receiving partial funding from the City. It is a very positive step forward for the arts. This commitment by the administration has had a great impact on the thinking of many other cities, both in Vermont and around the United States. It also reflects an understanding of the importance of art and culture to the vitality and spirit of a city. Burlington has experienced an explosion of cultural activity in the last few years, unique in the Northeast for a city of its size. We are all proud of the great talent that abounds here in Burlington and throughout the state. Still, continued progress is necessary in order to develop and challenge new audiences and to provide access for all our citizens, especially those whose economic restraints limit their access to the arts.

The arts help to establish the collective person-





ing in unexpected places: buses, ferries, restaurants, on the streets, at the airport, and in the parks) found throughout the City all weekend. The Festival achieves its underlying purpose — to allow people to discover the sounds of jazz.

### Neighborhood Festivals

Each year the Arts Council organizes smaller festivals in neighborhoods throughout the City — fairs which draw the local community together in a day of music, dance, food, and children's activities right in their own neighborhood.

### Senior Citizen Arts Program

This year, the Arts Council has organized a series of activities which occurred in many senior centers, as well as larger centralized locations. Through this program, films, lectures, musicians, and other performers bring more art into the lives of the elderly, many of whom normally have limited access to the arts.

### Burlington Winter Festival

Occurring in mid-February, just when cabin fever is setting in, this City-wide festival is a revitalization of the old tradition of the 1800s, when winter carnivals were an annual event.





The 1985 festival has expanded its scope from the waterfront to City Hall to Memorial Auditorium and Church and College streets. Winter sports and art entertainment at its best are enjoyed by thousands of citizens every year at this celebration of the spirit of Burlington.

### **Community Arts Program**

The Arts Council puts out a call to artists for grant proposals each year, and through a selection process, grants awards to low-income or underemployed artists whose projects reach out at a community level.

### **Nashfull Bash Country Music Festival**

This celebration of country music takes place in beautiful Oakledge Park in July. A colorful collection of antique cars form an eye-catching parade which weaves its way through the City and out to Oakledge Park. The Festival is a showcase for local and regional performers, gathered on a stage surrounded by food booths and a host of children's activities as well as square dancers. A shuttle bus from downtown provides access to the park, and the celebration of country music.

### **City Hall Auditorium**

Performances of all shapes and sizes take place in this centralized location, from the



Bread & Puppet Theater to local theatre, dance, and musical groups.

### Municipal Art Gallery

Ongoing exhibits are displayed in the City Hall gallery, in a location which allows people to see art work who would not ordinarily enter a "gallery." Art work of national, regional and local artists is displayed on a year-round basis.

Our emphasis upon community involvement and cooperation contributes to the spirit of a

shared cultural enrichment of the City of Burlington. We have involved local artists in nearly all of our programs and have improved the climate for their own art-making activities.

Promotion of Burlington as a cultural center also contributes to the economic growth of our City. Local government, arts organizations, businesses, corporations and individuals are creating a strong partnership which will continue to provide a dynamic cultural life for us all.



## Mayor's Council on Women

**T**he Mayor's Council on Women convenes women's organizations city-wide to work for equal status for Burlington women. The Council raises awareness of women's issues through sponsorship of special projects, program development aimed at changing public attitudes about women's roles, and as an information and referral source on a range of women's issues.

The Mayor's Council on Women includes

delegates representing 21 women's organizations, and several at-large members. The Council is currently the only local organization acting as a coalition of all major women's groups.

There were several continuing and new projects over the past year. Among them were the WhistleSTOP program, the Self-Defense Project, formation of the Women for Economic Justice Committee, the War and Militarism Weekend and two Open Houses.

### WhistleSTOP Program

WhistleSTOP is a neighborhood safety program geared toward preventing crime, improving community-police relations and fostering a new sense of community spirit. It has been started successfully in over 100 communities nationwide and has been found to reduce crime significantly in those communities. The program is based on the use of whistles to signal trouble, thus alerting neighbors and the police.

This past year over 1000 whistles were distri-