

Mayor's Council on the Arts

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The Mayor's Council on the Arts was established in June 1981 as a result of recommendations by the Mayor's Task Force that the arts be made more accessible to all segments of the population. As a result, the Council's Statement of Purpose is:

"To contribute to the cultural enrichment of the citizens of Burlington and the state of Vermont by making the arts available to all, especially those whose social or economic restraints limit their access to the arts."

This purpose is carried out by: (a) directly involving all sectors of the community in the arts process (creation, production, organization, publicity, etc.) as well as in its finished products (plays, exhibits, concerts, etc.); (b) creating a complete spectrum of arts programming of the highest artistic quality at the lowest possible price to our audiences; (c) providing community access to the arts by offering technical assistance as well as performance, gallery and rehearsal space, and (d) creating direct links between the business, educational, artistic and governmental communities by forming partnerships in the production of cultural events.

Since July 1983, the Arts Council has received partial funding from the City which constitutes approximately 20 percent of its annual operating budget. Both the financial and philosophical support provided by the administration reflects the desire of Burlingtonians to express their vitality and spirit through the arts. The impact of the City's commitment to the arts has spread to many other cities in Vermont and throughout the country, and has provided a model for other cities to follow. Mayor Sanders and the Mayor's Council on the Arts have been awarded national recognition by the United States Conference of Mayors for their outstanding work in providing arts to the community, thereby contributing to the "livability" of our city.

The following statistics from the 1984-1985 fiscal year give an overview of the Council's recent accomplishments:

- 213 arts events were produced (either wholly or in part) by the Arts Council



which served approximately 39,000 people.

- \$75,000 in programming funds (approximately 80 percent of the Council's annual operating budget) was raised from 250 sources, including business contributions and grants.
- Over 300 volunteers from the Burlington area offered their time and energy to Arts Council projects.
- Work was completed enabling the Council to offer the Memorial Auditorium Loft to local artists on a full time basis for rehearsals, performances and classes.
- 49 free arts events were produced or co-produced by the Council.
- 15 businesses, four educational organizations, 14 city agencies/departments, six community groups, and six arts organiza-



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Richie Havens at Battery Park Summer Concert Series.

tions worked in partnership with the Council in the actual organization, production and/or promotion of 33 arts events.

- As a member of the Greater Burlington Performing Arts Council, the Council on the Arts joined in the coordination of programming with other presenters from the Burlington area, and together we are planning a television series on the performing arts which will be aired during the Fall of 1985.

The following is a partial listing of arts events produced (either wholly or in part) by the Council on the Arts during the 1984-1985 season.

Contois Auditorium, City Hall

(29 events, serving approximately 3,000 people)

The Mayor's Arts Council keeps the auditorium alive with performances of all types. Below is a sampling of events from the 1984-85 season:

The Vermont Saxophone Ensemble Christmas Concert; **Handy Dandy**, a play by William Gibson about the right of trespass; Ewan MacColl & Peggy Seeger, an evening of folk songs, co-sponsored by the Champlain Folklore Cooperative; **The Door**, world premiere of a play by Bread and Puppet Theatre; **Fingertalk in Concert**, a local jazz ensemble; Galway Kinnel, Vermont Pulitzer Prize winner, read from his works; Lisa Nelson/Andrew Harwood, dance

performance; **Le Soiree Du Bon Vieux Temps**, French-Canadian step dancing; **Animated Films** by Mihai Badica and his Rumanian colleagues.

Fourth Annual Battery Park Summer Concert Series

(1984 season: seven events, serving approximately 3,400 people).

This series is free and open to the public. Events included:

Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass and Woodwind Ensembles; UVM Choral Union; Rick Norcross and the Nashfull Ramblers/Nancy Cox-Johnson, country music; The Jazz Co./Fingertalk, live jazz and jazz dance; The Spin Outs/The Throbulators, a cappella and rock and roll; Kilimanjaro, fusion jazz; Rachel Bissex, Dan Gerlach and Jon Gailmor, folk songs and more.

Memorial Auditorium

(Five events, serving approximately 1,500 people)

The Arts Council usually presents several special events in Memorial Auditorium throughout the year such as:

The Second Annual Burlington Jugglers Festival, a three-day event co-sponsored by The Jugglers from Mars; The Youth Goodwill Performance Mission, young performers from Taiwan; Queen Ida and the Bontemps Zydeco Band.

CITY-WIDE FESTIVALS

(Three events, serving approximately 20,000 people)

The 1984-85 season produced three major festivals for the second consecutive year. We plan to continue these as annual events. All three festivals were conceived by residents and brought about with the help of the Arts Council.

Burlington Winter Festival — Sponsored by Council on the Arts and WQCR Radio in association with Burlington Parks and Recreation Department. This three day festival occurs in February and recalls the days when winter carnivals were an annual event. The 1985 Festival featured:

Dragon Dance Theatre, large puppet performance — Contois Auditorium; 20th Anniversary of the Byrds Concert — Memorial Auditorium; Alpine Ski Races — College Street Hill; Exhibits of Work by Local Artists — Church Street Marketplace and local restaurants; Fashion Show on Ice, period winter wear from 1800-1980 — Perkins Pier and Leddy Park Rink; Ricky Skaggs in Concert — Memorial Auditorium; Winter Dancers '85; Ice Diving Demonstration — Lake Champlain; First Annual Winter Triathlon (in association with the Ski Rack) — city streets and Lake Champlain; Artists at Work, craftspeople demonstrating their work — Burlington Square Mall; Bennington Puppets — Contois Auditorium; Sculpture Unveiling, Terry Berkowitz's permanent sculpture in the King Street Youth Center.



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Lionel Hampton at the Discover Jazz Festival.

Discover Jazz Festival Sponsored by the Council on the Arts and the Flynn Theatre for the Performing Arts. This event demonstrates the powerful results of the collaboration of two very different arts organizations together with local jazz lovers and musicians. The dream became a reality!

This four day event reaches into all areas of the city with live jazz played in unexpected places. Highlights include: The History of Jazz, lecture by Larry McCrorey — Flynn Theatre; Lionel Hampton in Concert with Carmen Lundy (vocalist) — Flynn Theatre; Jazz Parade — through city streets; Jazz Picnic, live jazz in City Hall Park; Saturday Night Dancehall, outdoor dance — Church Street Marketplace; Jazz Worship Service — First Congregational Church; Delois Barrett Campbell & the Barrett Sisters (gospel)/Gamal Buhaina with Jazz on Ice.

Nashfull Bash Country Music Festival sponsored in association with Burlington Parks and Recreation Department. This festival culminated in a complete day of country music and an amazing display of antique cars at magnificent Oakledge Park. Some highlights include: Rick Norcross and the Nashfull Ramblers — Battery Park; Swing Sisters in Concert — Church Street Marketplace; Performances at Oakledge Park included Banjo Dan and the

Midnite Plowboys, Coco and the Lonesome Road Band, The Isaacsons, Jon Gailmor; Antique Car Parade — through downtown Burlington; Concert on The Spirit of Ethan Allen Paddleboat; *The Dixie Dewdrop*, world premiere performance of R. Santinelli's play about Uncle Dave Macon — Contois Auditorium.



Lou Andrews and Rachel Bissex

NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVALS

(Four events, serving approximately 1,500 people)

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. Festivals included: Old North End Heritage Day; Franklin Square Festival; Riverside Festival; Northgate Festival.

SENIOR ARTS PROGRAM

(19 events, serving approximately 1,500 people)

This series occurs 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 have limited access to the arts. Some highlights of the program include:

Vermont Barbershoppers Association Concert; Art Classes by Jane Horner; Art Exhibit in the Municipal Art Gallery, Jane Horner's students' work; Bi-weekly Video Movie Presentation on Current Films; Writing Workshops at Fern Hill; Silvertones Concert — part of the Burlington Winter Festival; Seniors Day in the

Park, featuring Banjo Dan and the Midnite Plowboys and Gould & Stearns — co-sponsored by Burlington Parks and Recreation Department and Burlington Housing Authority; Tommy Dorsey Band — complementary tickets were given to seniors by Memorial Auditorium Management.

MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY

(14 exhibits, serving approximately 4,000 people)

Our gallery is located in the lobby of City Hall and is a showplace for artists of local, regional and national significance. The gallery provides a variety of exhibits to passers-by, many of whom may not have previously experienced a range of visual arts displays. Highlights included:

International Work Camp Exhibit — work by young people from many countries; Time Frame — a rock and roll photography exhibit by Rick Norcross; Faces of the Revolution — photography exhibit by Daniel Suman; Watercolors by Anne Bemis; Art Education Exhibit — students of Nancy Walsh from Howard Mental Health Center's Adult Education Program and from the Visiting Nurse Association's Get Up and Go Program; Vain Laments — charcoal and ink drawings by Max Schumann; Ribbon of Peace — part of a national peace art project, coordinated locally by Suki Lilienthal.

COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS

(15 projects, serving approximately 3,000 people)

The Mayor's Arts Council awarded 15 grants to low-income or under-employed artists whose projects involved the community. A few highlights follow:

Both management and staff of Burlington's Employment and Training, Social Services, Unemployment, and Refugee and Resettlement offices worked with their claimants under the direction of Marcia Rhodes (grant recipient). Skeptical employees and surprised claimants drafted a "wish list" of what the ideal setting for their interactions might be, then designed strategies for implementing these wishes. The results included murals which enlivened the waiting areas, stress reduction classes, a puppet theatre for the children's corner, display units, and creation of Cambodian New Year decorations by refugee groups.

Performance/workshops for school children (ages 5-12 years) were conducted by the "Stree-

CHRIS GEE

teen Dancers" (ages 11-16 years) under the direction of Cece Gable (grant recipient).

Francis Giles introduced photography to adults suffering from pre-senile dementia. The photographic process increased their remaining awareness and provided these people with an avenue for self expression.

FUTURE PLANS

(A partial listing)

- To produce for the third consecutive year our annual city-wide festivals: The Burlington Winter Festival; The Discover Jazz Festival; The Nashfull Bash Country Music Festival.
- To produce for the sixth consecutive year the Battery Park Free Summer Concert and Dance Series.
- Ongoing programming of performing arts events in Contois Auditorium and in other sites.

- To combine our Senior Arts Program with the Fletcher Free Library's Travelling Book Collection Program, which will add literary arts to the visual and performing arts presently offered to senior citizens.
- Ongoing exhibits in the Municipal Art Gallery in City Hall.
- To focus public attention on the essential contribution of the arts to the growth of Burlington through television advertisements to this effect.

The Mayor's Council on the Arts is proud of the support we have received from the greater Burlington community, and would like to take this opportunity to thank our supporters for making this year such a success.

We encourage your participation in creating, implementing, and enjoying the arts. Please call us with your thoughts.

Burlington Women's Council

This year the Mayor's Council on Women formally changed its name to the Burlington Women's Council. While the Council is grateful for and wishes to acknowledge the support it has received from the present administration, members felt the new name was reflective of our desire



PETER LETZELTER-SMITH