



MAINE ARTS
COMMISSION

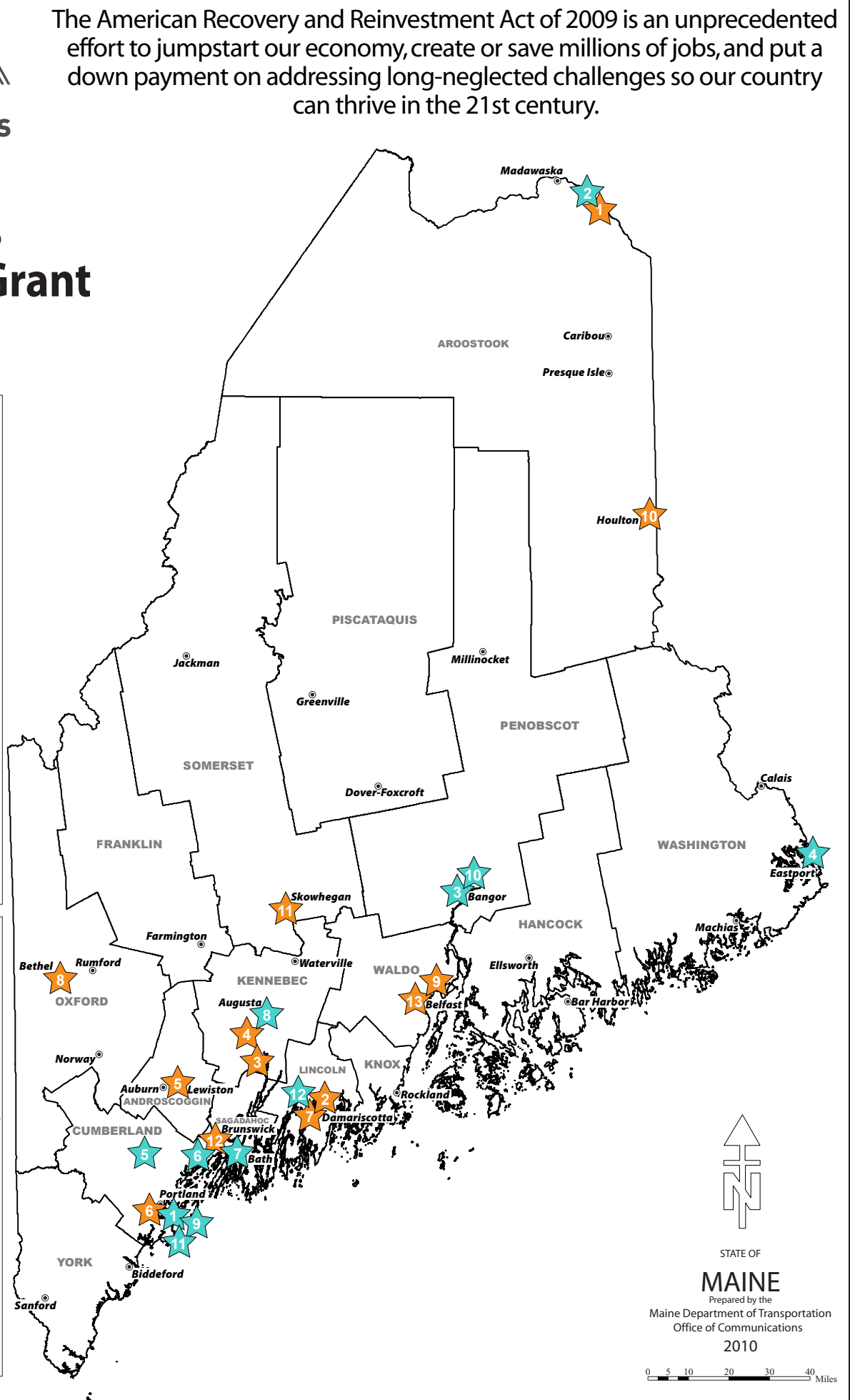
Maine Arts Recovery Grant Recipients

★ ROUND I

1. Association culturelle et historique du Mont-Carmel (Lille) - \$10,000
2. DaPonte String Quartet (Damariscotta) - \$10,000
3. Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center (Gardiner) - \$10,000
4. Kennebec Valley Art Association (Hallowell) - \$10,000
5. L/A Arts (Lewiston) - \$10,000
6. LARK Society for Chamber Music (Portland) - \$6,000
7. Lincoln County Community Theater & Orchestra (Damariscotta) - \$10,000
8. Mahoosuc Arts Council (Bethel) - \$9,000
9. Penobscot Marine Museum (Searsport) - \$10,000
10. Southern Aroostook Cultural Arts Project (Houlton) - \$10,000
11. Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture (Skowhegan) - \$10,000
12. VSA Arts of Maine (Brunswick) - \$10,000
13. Waterfall Arts (Belfast) - \$10,000

★ ROUND II

1. A Company of Girls (Portland) - \$10,000
2. Association culturelle et historique du Mont-Carmel (Lille) - \$10,000
3. Bangor Symphony Orchestra (Bangor) - \$12,802.50
4. Eastport Arts Center (Eastport) - \$10,000
5. Fiddlehead Center for the Arts - Gray Village (Gray) - \$10,000
6. Figures of Speech Theatre (Freeport) - \$12,802.50
7. Five Rivers Arts Alliance (Brunswick) - \$10,000
8. Maine Alliance for Arts Education (Augusta) - \$10,000
9. Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance (Portland) - \$10,000
10. Penobscot Theatre Company (Bangor) - \$12,802.50
11. Portland Stage Company (Portland) - \$12,802.50
12. Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts (Newcastle) - \$8,890



Mont-Carmel

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Museum
LOCATION: Lille
GRANT AMOUNT: \$20,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Technical and Artistic
TITLE: Historic Preservation
Restoration Specialist and Development Specialist

The Historic Restoration Specialist is responsible for general carpentry using original materials and carpentry methods as well as general maintenance of the building and removal of non-original finishes.



The exterior of the Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel in Lille.

The Cultural Development Consultant is responsible for gathering information about the creative economy in the region, developing a final report about the findings, facilitating a regional alliance to advance aspects of the creative economy plan, and holding discussions with key stakeholders and partners in the creative economy.

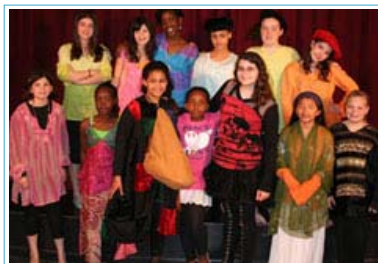
"This grant has been an incredible help to us. We have replaced the roof on our new gallery/exhibition space as well as demolished four apartments upstairs to make space for the installation and interpretation of our permanent collection of Acadian material culture. The downstairs gallery will be used for contemporary art and special exhibitions." -Don Cyr, President

*L'association culturelle et historique du Mont Carmel was the only organization to receive funding in both the First and Second Rounds of the Maine Arts Recovery Grant.

A Company of Girls

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Art Organization
LOCATION: Portland
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Executive Director

The Executive Director of A Company of Girls is the chief administrator for the organization and is responsible for grant writing, fiscal oversight and its requisite paperwork, community outreach, board work, fundraising, event coordination, contact and communication with parents and girls in the program.



A Company of Girls actors in costume.

The Executive Director is also the artistic vision and main service provider for A Company of Girls and responsible for developing interdisciplinary curriculum, choosing, directing and producing three productions a year, fostering collaborative relationships with other arts organizations, fostering strong relationships with schools, community leaders and social service organizations, and working to strengthen and empower girls and their families through the arts.

"The Maine Arts Recovery Funds are making it possible for A Company of Girls to continue to bring quality arts programming to under served youth in the Portland community. This funding is also supporting the long term sustainability of an organization that has been serving the Portland community for 14 years by securing the position of the Executive Director for the next year."

-Odelle Bowman, Executive Director

For more information about A Company of Girls, please visit <http://www.acompanyofgirls.org>

Bangor Symphony Orchestra

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Art Organization
LOCATION: Portland
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Orchestra Manager/
Librarian

The Orchestra Manager and Librarian manages orchestra operations, musical personnel, and library functions. Specifically, these three rolls involve maintaining the best possible environment for musicians, guest artists, technical crews, and other orchestra personnel to rehearse and perform in;



Bangor Symphony Orchestra Manager and Librarian John Lawson working on The Nutcracker with Guest Conductor Jacomo Rafael Bairos.

maintaining the scores, parts, and other necessary materials for all performances, including acquisition, bowing, copyright law adherence, distribution, retrieval, and return; and overseeing musician payroll, auditions, and scheduling. In addition, the Orchestra Manager and Librarian handles annual auditions to the BSO as well as any inquiries that come from prospective musicians throughout the year.

"The position of Orchestra Manager and Librarian directly supports the Bangor Symphony Orchestra's commitment to providing its patrons with powerful, enriching, and diverse musical experiences through the highest quality live concert performances and education programs. This position provides the oversight, organization, planning, and attention to detail that are integral to the execution of the BSO's mission. In addition, having this position served by a BSO musician provides an important connection between the administrative staff and orchestra members. Additional financial support for this position will preserve an essential job in a 113-year-old arts organization that has already taken dramatic steps to position itself to face the challenges of today's economic climate." -David Whitehill, Executive Director

For more information about the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, please visit
<http://www.bangorsymphony.org/>.

Eastport Arts Center

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Arts Center
LOCATION: Eastport
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Facility Manager

The Facility Manager is responsible for maintaining the building through her own skill, scheduling repairs through subcontractors, supervising contractors, cleaning the facility and managing other portions of our property, lawn and parking lot.



Eastport Strings Youth String Ensemble, one of the seven constituent programs at the Eastport Arts Center.

It is the Facility Manager's responsibility to ensure that the building is suitable for patrons, volunteers, board and other staff members. This part-time position helps with the management of day-to-day activities and evening performances. Also, part of the Facility Manager's position is to work with the constituent programs to schedule times for building use. This includes our seven constituent programs, but also community groups who would like to use the building.

"Without a facility manager, this 9,200 sq. ft. space would be extremely difficult to manage on volunteer commitment alone. The Eastport Arts Center helped save the building from demolition in late 2004 and it is out vision to have this building as a year round performing arts and exhibition space of the community. Without the help of key staff people, such as the facility manager, many building repairs would go unnoticed." -Shelby E.H. Greene, Executive Director

For more information about Eastport Arts Center, please visit <http://eastportartscenter.com/>.

Fiddlehead Center for the Arts

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Art Organization
LOCATION: Gray
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Registrar



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For more information about Fiddlehead Center for the Arts, please visit
<http://www.fiddleheadcenter.org>

Figures of Speech Theatre

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Performing Group
LOCATION: Freeport
GRANT AMOUNT: \$12,802.50
TYPE OF POSITION: Artistic
TITLE: Co-Director

Co-Director John Farrell is variously employed at Figures of Speech Theatre as a performer, puppet designer and builder, bookkeeper, mask maker, photographer, archivist, technical director, grant writer and teen mentor. Often all in one day. The ARRA grant has focused on supporting John's artistic contributions to the company.



John Farrell working on the hand of the Spirit of Christmas Future puppet for the Portland Symphony's adaptation of A Christmas Carol.

"We're hugely relieved to re-instate the Co-Directorship held by John Farrell to full time status. John wears many hats, from sculptor and mechanical engineer when we're building puppets, to handling our IT issues, accounting, etc. Figures of Speech wouldn't last long if we could only compensate him to wear half of his hats!" -Carol Farrell, Co-Director

For more information about Figures of Speech Theatre, please visit <http://www.figures.org/>.

Five Rivers Arts Alliance

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Arts Council
LOCATION: Brunswick
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Executive Director
Publicity Intern

The Executive Director is the person primarily responsible for the organization: its programming planning & execution; publicity, marketing and communications; membership, fundraising and financial management. MAR grant funding supported the retention of annual programs of Five Rivers, their planning, execution and promotion:



Second Friday ArtWalk at the Bayview Gallery in Brunswick.

Arts Downtown & All Around, ArtWalks (13 annually), Member Meetings (6 annually), Pecha Kucha Nights (2 annually) and expansion of ArtWalks in Bath from 4 to 6 annually (This year has seen the addition of numerous new sites in ArtWalks in Bath and in Brunswick/Topsham), development of ArtWalk Maine project (a collaborative effort to promote ArtWalks across the state and strengthen the state's arts & cultural tourism brand), work with economic development offices (especially through "Midcoast Council of Governments Working Group") artists and organizations to heighten visibility of the arts & cultural sector as an important attractor for visitors, businesses and re-locators.

The Membership/Publicity Intern position is an essential adjunct position, maintaining membership records, handling communications with members, and assisting with publicity and other projects/tasks as needed. Work in Summer 2010 included Five Rivers Arts Alliance membership development & outreach, strengthening collaborative relationships in our communities, coordinating & promoting community-wide programming (Art Walks in Bath and Brunswick-Topsham, the Family Arts Festival), web and social media outreach (FB, GoogleMap, slideshow, video installation and updates), as well as documentation: photograph and interview artists and events.

"Finding from Maine Arts Recovery grant has been essential funding during a difficult time of recession and BNAS base closure. It has provided support that has enabled Five Rivers staff, board and volunteers to build a stronger organization. We have strengthened our programming, publicity, member benefits and outreach all at a time when community members and visitors are valuing the arts more and more as an essential part of their lives." Harriet Mosher, Executive Director

"I interned this summer with Five Rivers Arts Alliance through a Community Action fellowship from Bowdoin College's McKeen Center for the Common Good. I spent much of my internship helping with summer programming, for the summer ArtWalks in particular... I visited many local studios and galleries, meeting artists and art-supporters in the area, getting to know the southern Midcoast arts community that is so vital to the region's prosperity. As an art student and art-lover myself, it has been a truly valuable experience to work with an organization that is so dedicated to making the local arts scene not only visible, but also a fundamental asset of the community. It is easy for people to dismiss "the arts" as unimportant, but Five Rivers knows that art brings character and vitality to a place, and uses that principle to help strengthen the region." -Rachel McDonald, Membership/Publicity Intern (Bowdoin College, Class of 2010, Visual Arts & Art History Major)

For more information about Five Rivers Arts Alliance, please visit
<http://www.fiveriversartsalliance.org/>.

Friends of the DaPonte String Quartet

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Performing Group
LOCATION: Damariscotta
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Artistic
TITLE: 1 Cellist
1 Violist
2 Violinists

The DaPonte String Quartet was formed in Philadelphia in 1991 and came to Maine in 1995 on a Rural Residency Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and Chamber Music America. At the end of the grant period, unlike most groups sent to enrich rural communities,



(from left) Ferdinand 'Dino' Liva, violin; Kirsten Monke, viola; Myles Jordan, cello; Lydia Forbes, violin.

The four musicians and their families decided to put down personal and professional roots in Maine and to build their careers from here. The Quartet's standard repertoire is extensive, from the works of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, to Debussy, Bartók, and Shostakovich. So is the Quartet's commitment to commissioning and performing new music from composers like David Del Tredici, Gia Comolli and Tom Myron. The Quartet's commitment to developing a love of music in young people is expressed through many In-School performances in Maine and on tour.

"[The Recovery Act funding] made a huge difference to the DaPonte Quartet last year and helped us close the gap in our funding shortfall. I'm not sure if we could have made it through the year otherwise. It definitely gave us the boost we needed so that we could refuel our fundraising efforts, build on our local audiences and move forward. I relocated here just over a year ago, proudly joining what seemed to be a healthy organization, but as you well know, the economy wreaked havoc on just about all the Arts nationwide. Last year I kept wondering whether I'd made the right move or whether I'd soon be looking for a new career, but having weathered 2009 I certainly feel much more optimistic about the future of our organization." -Kristen Moke, Violist

For more information about the DaPonte String Quartet, please visit <http://www.daponte.org/>.

Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Arts Center
LOCATION: Gardiner
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Artistic
TITLE: Artistic Director

As Artistic Director, Denise suggests the program offerings, makes contact with and negotiates with the artists, remains their main contact and MCs the shows. She also offers creative input about marketing and renovations.



Denise hosting the Sounds Good! Music Live at Johnson Hall series.

"Denise (the Artistic Consultant) handles all negotiations with the performers, attends and hosts the shows, and helps with stage managing tasks. At the Stand-Up Comedy how, we had a power outage for over an hour. Denise convinced the comics to perform without a P.A. system and with an improvised spotlight (a large flashlight). She talked with the audience, who took it all as a grand adventure. Everyone stayed. We use flashlights and table candles, and the show went on! Power returned after intermission, and all went very well. [Denise's position] is key to our lively presence in the community and to bringing in a large amount of other dollars from tickets and tuitions, businesses, individuals, foundations and City government." -Judy Lloyd, Executive Director

For more information about Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center, please visit

<http://www.johnsonhall.org/>.

Kennebec Valley Art Association

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Art Association
LOCATION: Hallowell
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Assistant Director

As Assistant Director, Nancy Barron is responsible for most of the day-to-day gallery administration and programming and also serves as volunteer coordinator. She is on duty for most of the open hours, and interacts daily with members, volunteers, interns, exhibiting artists and gallery visitors. This position represents, on average, 50% of total staff hours per month.



Nancy Barron, assistant director, in the newly renovated office space at the Harlow Gallery.

The creation of the Assistant Directorship position in 2007 has allowed the part-time Executive Director to focus on publicity and public relations, grant writing and development, working with a new treasurer and bookkeeper to improve financial systems, and on strategic planning and board & staff development. The fact that we now have more than one individual responsible for administration has been crucial in that it allows for cross training and mutual support, flexibility in scheduling, enhanced ability to retain organizational knowledge and the potential for advancement within the organization.

"When you look at the recovery funding currently being reported online at recovery.org for Kennebec County, you find projects amounting to millions of dollars for infrastructure improvements, mainly for roads and highways. Here in Hallowell well over a million dollars is going to repair a tiny bridge over a railroad crossing. It's creating jobs, sure, and its necessary work but... when visitors and supporters of our nonprofit gallery learn that the Kennebec Valley Art Association received \$10,000 in arts recovery money to ensure the continuation of a key staff position, they get excited. They are delighted, they feel empowered even, by the fact that some of those huge sums being talked about are trickling down to support the arts, right here in central Maine. They are gratified by the fact that this funding is ensuring continuation of a real job held by someone they know and respect as a professional arts administrator. The fact that the person happens to be a working mom with three young children, and professional artist, just makes the story all the more satisfying on a very human level. Though Kennebec Valley Art Association is busier than ever, with lots going on at the Harlow this year, sales at the Harlow Gallery are about 50% under our budget projections. The board and staff of the Harlow Gallery and the KVAA are very thankful that we have Recovery funding support of Nancy Barron's position to help us through the uncertain economy of 2010. " -Deborah Fahy, Executive Director

For more information about the Kennebec Valley Art Association, please visit <http://www.harlowgallery.org/>.

L/A Arts

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Local Arts Agency
LOCATION: Lewiston
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Educational
TITLE: Arts in Education Coordinator

As Arts-in-Education Coordinator, Bess Welden oversees all planning, implementation, and evaluation for L/A Arts' Artist Residency Program, a collaboration with Lewiston and Auburn public schools. We serve all fourteen of Lewiston and Auburn's elementary and middle schools through residencies with professional Maine artists.



Orchid Ensemble performing at Longley Elementary School to introduce students to traditional Chinese melodies, instruments and languages.

The AIE Coordinator works directly with school administration and classroom teachers as well as teaching artists to create unique programs that allow students to explore their curriculum in new and creative ways. The AIE Coordinator also helps design professional development workshops for educators to help them learn from artists how to integrate various arts disciplines into their classrooms.

"We have used the Maine Arts Recovery funds to maintain our Arts-in-Education Coordinator position. This position is crucial to continuing our strong partnership with all of Lewiston and Auburn's public schools, in particular, through our Artist Residency program. Our first programs of the school year will take place at three Lewiston elementary schools in early November. The entire student populations of the Longley and Farwell schools will explore traditional Eastern music through on-site concerts by Canada's award-winning The Orchid Ensemble, and the Martel school's 4th grade will write original songs with the guidance of Maine singer/songwriter Martin Swinger. Over the course of the academic year the AIE Coordinator will create opportunities for Lewiston and Auburn students to engage with professional artists in their schools to create/perform artwork across every discipline. Other school-based programs currently in the works include creative writing/poetry, songwriting and recording, three dimensional illustration, museum visits, and puppetry." -Bess Welden, Arts-in-Education Coordinator

For more information about L/A Arts, please visit <http://www.laarts.org/>.

Lark Society for Chamber Music

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Performing Group
LOCATION: Portland
GRANT AMOUNT: \$6,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Manager

In the past year, the manager designed and launched a website (which the organization did not previously have), developed a bi-annual newsletter using Constant Contact for distribution, and reviewed all of marketing materials and approaches to develop a more modern strategy using current technologies.



Portland String Quartet (Clockwise from the left):
Paul Ross, cellist; Ronald Lantz, violinist; Julia
Adams, violist; Stephen Kecskemethy, violinist.

This allowed the LARK Society for Chamber music to reduce the cost of its marketing/publicity budget significantly through the use of email marketing and revised printed material and to present a new, fresh image/look to their audience and supporters.

"The LARK Society for Chamber Music is a small non-profit based in Portland, promoting chamber music and music education throughout the State. The Executive Director is the sole staff position for the organization, and over the past couple of years, due to a slow erosion in revenues, the funding for the part-time position was cut. Thanks to funding from the Maine Arts Recovery grant, we were able to restore the position almost to the original level of staffing. This has allowed us to apply a strong effort towards revamping our marketing/publicity and the way we use technology." -Nina K. Oatley, Manager

For more information about the Lark Society for Chamber Music and the Portland String Quartet, please visit <http://www.larksociety.org/>.

Lincoln County Community Theater

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Community Group
LOCATION: Damariscotta
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Administrator

The Lincoln County Community Theater Administrator does everything and/or anything to assist the volunteers and Board of Trustees of this organization and to support the Board to fulfill its governance function.



A Lincoln County Community Theatre production.

This includes design, promotion, and delivery of programs and services for LCCT (i.e. website, constant contact e-mail promotion, database of membership) and, with regards to community/public relations, implementing LCCT's mission programs by assuring products and services are consistently presented in a strong, positive image to relevant LCCT guests (TIX reservations, voice mails, emails etc.). Other responsibilities include overseeing fundraising/financial records and documentations for MET, NT LIVE, LIVE PRODUCTION, SHOWS, and MOVIES, ordering of LCCT's concessions, office, and cleaning supplies, preparing and printing programs, cleaning, painting and decorating and assisting house managers, directors, producers, musical directors for various productions and functions at LCCT.

"Michelle's excellent work in our box office has kept us in business and her assistance with everyday chores of managing and organizing an otherwise volunteer organization has kept us sane. The grant was a godsend." -Rory Craib, Treasurer

For more information about the Lincoln County Community Theater, please visit <http://www.lcct.org/>.

Mahoosuc Arts Council

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Art Council
LOCATION: Bethel
GRANT AMOUNT: \$9,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Executive Director

The executive director (ED) of the Mahoosuc Arts Council is responsible for implementing the fundraising strategy, including directing all fundraising events such as the Bethel Art Fair and ARTirondack Auction.



Dozens of fourth and fifth-grade students in Bethel worked on ceramic relief murals with Artist Randy Fein as part of the Mahoosuc Arts Council's annual Artist-In-Residence Program.

The ED researches, negotiates, contracts and directs all visual and performing arts programming such as the Annual Mahoosuc Arts Council Performing Arts Series, the Bethel Bandstand Concert Series and the SAD#44 artist-in-residence programs. The ED performs all marketing functions for the Council including public relations and represents the council with various groups including the Bethel Area Nonprofit Collaborative. The ED oversees the day-to-day operations of the office and all book keeping - maintaining financial records, receiving income and paying all expenses.

"Securing the position of Executive Director was fundamental in allowing the Council to seize a rare opportunity in taking over the administration of a prestigious 20-year-old visual arts event. This ambitious endeavor now allows the Council to completely fulfill its mission of supporting the advancement of the arts and humanities, with the addition of the largest and farthest reaching visual arts event in the Council's history. Stabilizing the position of ED has also allowed the council to be more bold in its vision of what kinds of arts to bring the community. Organizational strength was reinforced and improved with the security of the ED position, by allowing the Council to commit to hosting an arts administration major from the University of Maine at Farmington for a year-long internship. Our intern's work has stepped up administrative efficiency which has afforded the ED time to focus expanding arts educational programming, improving community relations as well as strengthening marketing and communications strategies. In addition, the ED has had the additional time during this period to work on developing a strong and visible position in the academic community on the arts as critical curriculum necessary for balanced brain development, in relation to preparing American students to enter the global workforce which is transitioning from the Information to the Conceptual Age. The stabilizing effect of this grant has made significant impact in another area: participation in a large-scale community nonprofit collaborative. Knowing the ED position was secure, the Council was able to accept an offer to become a charter member in the Bethel Area Nonprofit Collaborative." -Aranka Matolcsy, Executive Director

For more information about the Mahoosuc Arts Council, please visit <http://www.mahoosucarts.org/Home.html>.

Maine Alliance for Arts Education

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Service Organization
LOCATION: Augusta
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Executive Director

The executive director oversees and coordinates all work done by the organization, keeping the organization running and handling key responsibilities which address MAAE's mission to strengthen education in all of the arts for all Maine students.



A recent training session for teachers on integrating the arts with other content areas through the use of technology.

Some of these responsibilities include: leading the Arts are Basic Coalition (ABC), Maine's foremost arts education advocacy group composed of presidents of arts teachers' professional organizations; providing oversight and coordination for direct service programs for students and educators: Building Community Through the Arts, LINC—Arts, and professional development for teachers; leading Arts Education Connections, Maine's statewide network of education personnel in arts and cultural organizations; coordinating Maine's Imagination Intensive Communities project to identify, study, and celebrate Maine's communities that provide outstanding educational opportunities for students both in-school and out; and collaborating with the Maine Arts Commission and Maine's Department of Education.

"As a result of ARRA funding, MAAE's Executive Director Carol Trimble recently convened 2010's first meeting of Arts Education Connections (AEC), a network of education personnel in Maine's arts and cultural organizations which is facilitated by MAAE. The highly productive gathering included sharing information about the education activities of organizations around the state, and lively discussion and planning for 2010-11 meetings/collaborations/as well as addressing common challenges. The discussions set the stage for work AEC members will accomplish during 2010-11, including a joint webpage showing the educational offerings of each organization."

-Carol Trimble, Executive Director

For more information about the Maine Alliance for Arts education, please visit

<http://www.maineartsed.org/>.

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Art Organization
LOCATION: Portland
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Executive Director

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance (MWPA) is a thirty-five year old nonprofit whose mission is to enrich the cultural life of Maine by supporting writers and the literary arts. The MWPA is led by an executive director and the Maine Arts

Commission's Arts Recovery grant funded the final days of Shonna Milliken Humphrey's tenure and the commencement of current executive director Joshua Bodwell's.

The executive director is responsible for all aspects of the MWPA, including: program development and assessment; event planning; marketing; systems design and implementation; member and partnership cultivation; production of Maine in Print, the MWPA's literary trade publication; grant writing and fundraising initiatives with federal, state, and private sources. The executive director supervises a small staff of employees and volunteers, and reports to the MWPA's eleven-member board of trustees, as well as the organization's 800+ members.

"This grant supports Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance in its efforts to provide services to writers throughout the state. The grant also allows us to breathe easy while we assess the current economic situation." -Shonna Milliken Humphrey, Former Executive Director

For more information about the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, please visit <http://www.mainewriters.org/>.



Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance executive director Joshua Bodwell with his grandfather's circa-1920 Royal Typewriter.

Penobscot Marine Museum

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Museum
LOCATION: Searsport
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Technical
TITLE: Photo Archivist

The photo archivist is in charge of overseeing more than 100,000 historic photographic images which include photographic prints, slides, film negatives and glass plate negatives. The Penobscot Marine Museum has one of the largest photographic collections in the state if not New England and they have made it their mission to make these images available



Photo of Kevin Johnson holding glass plate negative from the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Co. Collection.

to the general public by digitizing them with the ultimate goal of making them available on their website.

The photo archivist oversees 6 volunteers and 3 part time employees who are doing the scanning and database entry. The photo archivist produces or helps to produce exhibits both for the museum and other institutions with images from the collections, travels to different communities around the state giving slide shows and talks about the collections, and produce prints from the collections that the museum sells in its store (the proceeds of which benefit the museum).

"By retaining my position (which was in jeopardy before we awarded the stimulus grant by the Maine Arts Commission) I was able to further advance the cataloging and digitization of our photography collections which now includes more than 100,000 photographic negatives and prints that make up a significant piece of Maine's history. I was also able to continue the museum's outreach program by giving more than a dozen slideshows and lectures to a variety of audiences around the state. One of these slideshows was attended by the heirs of a storied collection of glass plate negatives made by James E. Perkins, a steamboat pilot on the Kennebec River. They were so impressed with what we were doing with our photography collections that they decided to donate the collection to the museum. I was also able to complete our photography collections website that went online in late summer that allows the interested public to learn about or photography collections and explore our holdings from afar. It was a monumental task that would not have been accomplished if I was not here. Please check out our new photography collections website at: <http://www.penobscotmarinemuseum.org/photo-collections/index.html>" -Kevin Johnson, Photo Archivist

For more information about the Penobscot Marine Museum, please visit <http://www.penobscotmarinemuseum.org/>.

Penobscot Theatre Company

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Art Organization
LOCATION: Bangor
GRANT AMOUNT: \$12,802.50
TYPE OF POSITION: Educational
TITLE: Director of Education

"Receiving stimulus recovery funding will not only ensure that our education programming is sustained and able to continue to grow, but allows the entire organization to feel that the federal government recognizes the importance of out work in Northern and Eastern Maine nationally." -Scott Levy, Producing Artistic Director



Young actors as Oompa Loompas in Penobscot Theatre Company's production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

For more information about the Penobscot Theatre Company, please visit <http://www.penobscottheatre.org/>.

Portland Stage Company

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Art Organization
LOCATION: Portland
GRANT AMOUNT: \$12,802.50
TYPE OF POSITION: Artistic, Administrative
TITLE: Artistic Director
Marketing Director
Managing Director

Support from the Maine Arts Recovery Grant helped Portland Stage retain three jobs as year round full time positions—the Executive & Artistic Director, the Managing Director and the Marketing Director.



Marketing Director Carole Harris working on a photo shoot with the cast of Master Harold... and the Boys.

Anita Stewart, E & A Director is responsible for producing high quality productions and programs on a financially sustainable basis.

Stewart's job ranges from planning seasons to painting scenery—doing whatever is needed to get a show up. Camy Barrantes, Managing Director is the primary creator of PSC's budgets and has a real eye for data analysis. On a daily basis, Barrantes can be found crunching numbers or dealing with HVAC or drainage issues in our owned facility. Carole Harris, Marketing Director, gets Portland Stage noticed through her first rate marketing talents. Whether creating a beautiful brochure or working trades with local papers, Harris is focused on filling the house and making the audience experience top notch.

"Portland Stage was thrilled to receive support to keep key staff in place through the Maine Arts Commission Recovery Program. This support will truly help us to continue to bring high quality theater to people in Maine. In these trying economic times, it is difficult especially for not for profit arts organizations to make ends meet. To balance our budget, Portland Stage found it necessary to cut back on the positions of three senior staff members. The generous support from the Maine Arts Commission is helping Portland Stage to retain those three senior staff positions as full time positions. While the cuts were essential to our short term ability to survive, Portland Stage had serious reservations that cutting back these three key positions would undermine efforts to build and retain audiences and donors; as well as impact the quality of our productions. As we plan for our future, we need our senior staff involved in determining the directions that will help us grow in the future, not just playing catch up with the work of the moment." -Anita Stewart, Executive & Artistic Director

For more information about Portland Stage Company, please visit <http://www.portlandstage.org/>.

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Art Organization
LOCATION: Skowhegan
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Technical
Educational
TITLE: Media Associate
Fresco Instructor

The Media Lab Associate manages maintenance of and access to the campus Media Lab; video cameras; and audio equipment.



Fresco instructor Daniel Bozhkov leading a fresco workshop at Skowhegan.

The Media Lab Associate also leads general workshops and provides technical assistance to participants working on projects.

She also supervises monitors who staff the Lab and make video and audio tape documentation of all lectures.

"Media Lab Associate Lilly McElroy first came to Skowhegan as a participant in 2006. She joined our Media Lab staff this year, working under Media Lab Manager Christopher Carroll. Lilly has been a very engaged member of the community, working as a liaison for all of the technical operations on campus (beyond the walls of the media lab) and a skilled instructor.

Skowhegan serves many artists working in digital and new media, including video artists, photographers, sound artists, and those working in performance. All participants come to campus with a varying amount of technical skill and ability. Over the past few years, we have noticed a trend that those who work primarily in these areas often do not need our equipment or the assistance of our media lab staff. However, the Media Lab staff has been increasingly busy as those who work traditionally in the areas of painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, etc., are beginning to experiment with new media.

Along with Chris, Lilly has spent a great deal of time this summer encouraging opportunities for peer instruction by seeking out participants who are skilled in running software like Final Cut Pro and Maya to teach afternoon seminars to those who are new to the media. Much of Lilly's role in these workshops is teaching the participants how to teach. It broadens their capabilities as well as facilitates the learning process. Additionally, she spends a good deal of time working one-on-one with participants showing them how to use our equipment to its highest capacity.

Lilly and Chris are constantly helping the participants expand their practices in new ways. One of the bigger challenges has been to instruct the international students in converting the resolution of their images a pixel-per-inch format. They have also spent a considerable amount of time working with a very accomplished photographer who is making a transition into video work. It can be a challenge to help an artist who has perfected the technical aspects of one form of one medium accept the learning curve that comes with adopting a new technology or media, and Lilly and Chris are both gifted in this kind of teaching. They have also spent a considerable amount of time providing project-based assistance—helping to figure out complicated and inventive photo printing projects and assisting in video shoots and broadcasts." —Kate Haw, Executive Director, Development & Administration

South Aroostook Cultural Arts Project

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Community Group
LOCATION: Houlton
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Executive Director

The Executive Director is responsible for the sustainability of the agency, basic agency management and administration, and program development. The Director builds and develops collaborative relationships with community groups, individuals, and artists to expand and strengthen agency services, implements agency procedures, and updates agency documents.



Southern Aroostook Cultural Arts Project

The Maine Arts Recovery grant enabled the agency to better define the role of the director so that the agency could determine the most effective way in which to proceed with growth and expansion.

"The funding enabled SACAP to strengthen its administrative capacity and become more business minded. The agency has gained a more firm grip on day to day management and work being done on a consistent and continual basis. The work has been done by multiple volunteers and consistency wasn't what it needed to be. The agency has also come into line with more business standards under the Better Business Bureau practices. The agency has worked with local business and other agencies to strengthen community partnerships. Without the grant, the agency would have continued to struggle to find the ability to move forward. The funds helped the agency to grow, organize and create a well managed internal program." -Barbara Sutton, Executive Director

For more information about the Southern Aroostook Cultural Arts Project, please visit <http://www.sacap.us/>.

VSA Arts of Maine

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Service Organization
LOCATION: Brunswick
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Artistic
TITLE: Curator

The first A Matter of Perception exhibit was organized fourteen years ago by VSA Maine. It was then, and still is the only traveling art exhibit of work by artists with disabilities in Maine. The exhibit follows a two-year cycle. The first year a Call for Art is sent out. Typically VSA Maine receives between 200 – 400 pieces of art.



A work of art from A Matter of Perception exhibit, a woodblock print titled "Self-Portrait" by Anna Simmons.

During the first year (even years) every single piece submitted is exhibited at least once across the state of Maine. From each showing of the exhibit, two pieces are juried into the second year. The second year (odd years) is a juried show that once again travels around the state. During VSA Maine's Call for Art for our 2010/2011 cycle, over 300 pieces of art were submitted from every corner of the state. The artists come from a wide range of artistic training and backgrounds, and represent the full spectrum of what it means to have a disability. Without the Maine Arts recovery funding, which enabled VSA Maine to hire a curator for the exhibition, A Matter of Perception, which is VSA Maine's largest outreach program, would have been unable to exist this year.

The curator is responsible for all aspects of A Matter of Perception exhibitions as well as activities and events accompanying each show including disability and accessibility workshops, artist receptions, art workshops, panel discussion and children's activities. 2010 A Matter of Perception venues include the Maine Discovery Museum (Bangor), Fusion Gallery at Creative Trails (Portland), Northeast Harbor Public Library, Demark Arts Center, MacArthur Library (Biddeford), Camden Public Library, Courtyard Café (Houlton), Southwest Harbor Public Library, Freeport Public Library and Willowbrook Museum and Village (Newfield).

"The work in A Matter of Perception tests our perceptions about what it means to have a disability and how those perceptions affect our artistic expectations. This exhibition reminds us that we share the same hopes, fears, and visions, regardless of our perceived differences. Every year this exhibition reveals the strength and diversity of art that exists across the state. A Matter of Perception demonstrates that physical, cognitive, or other disabilities do not limit talent or creativity." -Matthea Daughtry, A Matter of Perception Curator

For more information about VSA arts of Maine, please visit <http://www.vsartsmaine.org/>.

Waterfall Arts

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Arts Center
LOCATION: Belfast
GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000
TYPE OF POSITION: Administrative
TITLE: Program Director

The Director of Programming, Martha Piscuskas, started in November 2009, immediately coordinating and installing a sell-out exhibition in the Clifford Gallery at Waterfall Arts in Belfast, Cast and Found: Wooden Foundry Patterns ca. 1900.



Martha Piscuskas and Clifford Gallery visitors.

In addition to all exhibitions in 3 galleries, she is also responsible for art classes all year long for adults and youth in two locations, community outreach, artist residencies, lectures and public events, and several public art collaborations.

"We are delighted to have the funds provided by the Maine Arts Recovery grant to hire a program director, a staff we lost as a result of the faltering economy last year. During the course of the interview and hiring process, we have met and made connections with talented and creative people – some of whom we hope will remain interested and engaged with our programs and whose energies and talents we can tap into in the future. Having the ability to hire the Program Director, a key resource to advance our current and future programs, comes at a critical time for our organization. In troubled economic times, the grant provided a vote of confidence for an organization that such a diverse range of people from the community, encompassing all economic backgrounds and abilities, look to for providing opportunities to create and discover." -Giff Jamison, Executive Director of Operations

For more information about Waterfall Arts, please visit <http://www.waterfallarts.org/Maine-Art-Centers/>.

Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Art Organization
LOCATION: Newcastle
GRANT AMOUNT: \$8,890
TYPE OF POSITION: Artistic, Administrative
TITLE: Program Manager

The Programs/Residency Manager is responsible for two core operations of the organization and its mission.



Wm. Reeder Fahnestock grinding welds on the steel frame of Watershed's new wood fired kiln, June 2010.

1. The Programs/Residency Manager is the primary contact to, and for, over 100 guest and invited artists attending residencies at Watershed each year. This position coordinates on and off-site artist presentations, demonstrations, exhibitions and lectures for combined public audiences of 4,000+.
2. The Programs/Residency Manager performs, or supervises, all facility, grounds, and equipment repair and maintenance of a 32 acre campus, 8 buildings (totaling 25,000 sq ft in artist studios and housing, and administrative spaces), two vehicles and numerous pieces of essential studio equipment and materials.

A third aspect to the position is tied to Watershed's educational outreach program, Mudmobile.

The Residency/Program manager is responsible for maintaining all tools and materials for the program, including oversight of the glazing, firing, packing and return of Mudmobile clay projects which are made by students/participants in Mudmobile workshops. Between January 1 and April 30, 2010, the Mudmobile served over 1,000 students.

The Residency Manager position is filled by a practicing artist, and is a person who carries the working studio knowledge to anticipate and respond to the needs of other artists, as well the organizational and communication skills (and patience) to manage the numerous and diverse demands of the position.

"The impact the Maine Arts Commission "Maine Arts Recovery" grant, has had in the retention of the Programs/Residency Manager position (Wm. Reeder Fahnestock) can be seen in the activities that Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts has been engaged in, particularly with the support of the Programs/Residency Manager, since late October 2009 (when receipt of the grant was announced)

* In early November 2009, Watershed traveled to Chicago as part of a SOFA Expo exhibition highlighting four "LEGENDS" in the ceramics field. Reed Fahnestock was instrumental in the preparation, installation and staffing of this important and successful exhibition.

* Throughout the winter work continued on the Kiln Annex (Watershed's current capital campaign project) and on electrical upgrades at Watershed's main residency hall, Thompson Hall. Reed's communication with contractors, builders and vendors maintained progress on the Kiln Annex project allowing us to stay on schedule with a major wood-kiln construction project completed June 2010. The electrical upgrades to Thompson Hall were completed prior to the start of summer residency programming in May.

* Reed assisted with the preparation of the annual Residency Brochure publication (December 2009); received and coordinated application and selection panel schedules for Watershed's residency programs (March-May); corresponded with all incoming summer and fall residents, including coordination of travel/arrival plans for international artists; and established residency session candidates for summer 2011." -Tyler Gulden, Executive Director

For more information about the Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, please visit <http://www.watershedceramics.org/>