

# CREATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

SERVING GREENE, COLUMBIA + SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

## CREATING TOGETHER

### 2024 REPORT



CREATECOUNCIL.ORG  
398 Main St, Catskill NY

## CREATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

### 2024 - Annual Report

**CREATE Council on the Arts** is a nonprofit service organization committed to enriching the communities of Greene, Columbia, and Schoharie counties through the arts.

We foster a vibrant arts ecosystem by championing local artists and cultural organizations, offering essential resources, and promoting creativity.

As the regional arts council, our primary role is to support individual artists and small to mid-sized arts organizations with funding opportunities, advocacy and by serving as a vital connector across the creative community.

CREATE connected over 8,100 people to the arts - exhibits, creating, learning and through the work of local artists and organizations that received grants to produce their projects.

Our mission in action serves the community in 3 essential ways.

- ACCESS TO FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- CONNECTING THE ARTS COMMUNITY
- SOURCE FOR RESOURCES

### ACCESS TO FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



## REGRANT PROGRAMS

CREATE's regrant programs are central to the mission and role in the rural areas we serve. CREATE administers the SCR (Statewide Community Regrant) program for artists and organizations impacting 3 rural counties. Our commitment is reflected in the ways we continue to refine the process for applicants based on their feedback as well as updating back office systems.

### **SCR (Statewide Community Regrant) Program - NYSCA partnership**

We distributed \$160,000 in grants to activate arts activities across Greene, Columbia and Schoharie counties. NYSCA's allocation through our advocacy efforts for 2025 increased to \$208,000.

**GREENE COUNTY 2024** (3) individual artists (10) Community Arts Projects (2) Arts Ed \$52,000 awarded.

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS



[Plant Community INC.](#), **\$5,000** “Youth Seed Packet Design” - Workshops of middle and high school-aged students will get together for a few hours each day for a week to do a deep dive of a specific plant. A different art medium will be used each day to teach them about this particular plant and at the end of the week, we would all vote on a work of art that would be used on one of the seed packets in the seed library at the Greenville Seed Library. The created artwork will be made available to the public through the Greenville Seed Library.

[Earth Arts Initiative](#) / [Miriam Atkin](#), **\$5,000** “Verbatim: Text Sound Expo” - This project is the 4th annual Verbatim: Text Sound Expo, a small press / record label fair and performance festival featuring 20 small presses and record labels from the Hudson Valley.

[Mountain Top Library](#), **\$2,500** “More Than Books” - “More Than Books,” is the slogan of Mountain Top Library. This project consists of a combination of distinct programming, which will utilize books and words as a means of creative expression, as a physical medium, and sometimes as both. There will be programming including poetry, paper folding, journaling, and bookbinding.



[Athens Cultural Center](#), **\$5,000** “Athens Cultural Center's Summer Music Series” - The Athens Cultural Center celebrates its 20th Anniversary with a free summer music series at the Athens Riverfront Park. Showcasing the diverse musical landscape of the greater Hudson Valley, this series presents Juma Sultan's Aboriginal Music Society, the Slambovian Circus of Dreams, and neo-soul ensemble Lady Moon & the Eclipse. Students from Coxsackie-Athens middle and high school as well as those served by programs for at-risk youth will be invited to shadow artists and production staff prior to performances, and to interact directly with the musicians during Q&A sessions.

[Catskill Mountain Shakespeare](#), **\$5,000** “Catskill Mountain Shakespeare Summer Season” - Catskill Mountain Shakespeare announces its 5th Season with a 3 week outdoor production of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, directed by Michael Alvarez, opening Saturday July 13, 2024. CMS presents classic works in immersive and natural settings. Our summer season also includes our third annual LGBTQ+ Midsummer Social, Pay What You Can Performances, a Community Book Club, farmers' market arts and crafts pop-ups, free acting workshops, free and discounted performance tickets, and The CMS Youth Company: a week long summer intensive workshop for the local community.



[Community Partners Of Greenville](#), **\$5,000** “Greenville Summer Concert Series 2024” - Held at the gazebo at the corners of Rte 32 and 81, neighbors and newcomers meet in Veterans Memorial Park to experience free live concerts, food trucks, and ice cream in a safe family friendly atmosphere. The 7 week series from July 9th through August 20th will present an array of musical genre for everyone's preferences.

[Heermance Memorial Library](#), **\$2,500** “Library Facilitated Artistic Exploration” - The Heermance Memorial Library will offer five, free unique art classes with three Greene County artist/instructors. Participants will have the opportunity to learn new techniques and experiment with a variety of materials. Classes will include drawing, mixed media plasterwork, Chinese brush painting, and collage.

Town of Hunter / [Kevin VanHentenryck](#), **\$5,000** “Hunter Stone Carving Seminar” - In this project, students will be able to learn the Ancient Art of Stone Carving for free. No prior artistic experience



or ability required. Join for a moment, an hour, a day, or the whole two weeks. While there, stroll through the sculpture park and enjoy the over 300 stone carvings created by the students over the last 16 years.

[Mountain Top Arboretum](#) / [Horton by the Stream Theatre Co.](#), **\$2,500** "*Horton by the Stream Theatre Company's 30th Summer Season*" - This project will present "Texas Town" and retrospective scenes from Horton Foote's plays, along with a special bonus documentary film screening with live commentary from his surviving daughters, actress Hallie Foote, and playwright, Daisy Foote. Presented free to all, donations appreciated.



[Athens Cultural Center/The Catskill Comedy Festival](#), **\$5,000** "*The Catskills Comedy Festival*" - This project will create an annual multi-day festival in Catskill, NY, showcasing a variety of comedic genres appealing to all audiences. This project will establish workshops for attendees to train with professionals in the comedic arts with the opportunity to apply those skills in front of live audiences as well as for local youth to participate in free comedy workshops, teaching them how humor can boost self-confidence, diffuse conflict, and inspire creativity.

[Boundless Arts](#), **\$3,000** “*Boundless Arts @ Hunter Day Camp*” - Boundless Arts will provide nine Art Through Nature workshops in partnership with the Hunter Day Camp, in the Village of Hunter. This program will take place during the six-week camp session offered in July and August 2024. This program will provide three distinct sequential workshop series, each one including three workshops, for 65 school aged children in grades K-5. Taking into consideration the diverse age groups represented at the Hunter Day Camp, children will be broken into small groups during workshop sessions to ensure that the instruction is age appropriate.

[Cairo Library](#), **\$1,500** “*Full STEAM Ahead*” - This project fuses STEM into the Arts, allowing children the chance to experience art forms not traditionally taught in schools including but not limited to architecture, pottery, and printmaking. Each week the art form changes giving many different educational opportunities. The culmination of this project is an art opening where participants show their work to the public.

#### INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS



[Meredith Kooi](#), **\$2,500** “*I'm just trying to be a kid (again; or, maybe for the first time)*” - This project is a performance, video, and zine project that uses playgrounds and noise to convey the (sometimes) heaviness of play. It grapples with the difficulty of childhood through an unapologetic return to the playground. Technically, the project transforms playgrounds into noise instruments using microphones, transducers, and other technologies in order to sonify the sounds of play. Audience members are encouraged to expand their aesthetic range (e.g., unfamiliar sounds, bodily movements, etc) and engage playgrounds in a new way to reclaim childlike imagination for healing.

[Lucy Bohnsack](#), **\$2,500** “*This Work They Call Love*” - The artist will host multiple local mothers (Catskill and surrounding areas) and their children in their studio for a photoshoot. Select images



from the shoot will be turned into large mixed media pieces for display at Joust Cafe on Main Street in Catskill. The work will be on view for a few months, open to the public during Joust's regularly scheduled business hours. The opening will be held on Mother's Day where the artist will host an artist talk followed by an open mic event where women can share their experiences as mothers as it pertains to the work.

[Jackie Fischer](#), **\$2,500** “*Nostalgia*” - This project will be a series of clay sculptures capturing iconic objects and sparking childhood memories: discontinued Good Humor bars, Mr. Potato Head, early MP3 players, VHS tapes, beach toys, floaties, early cell phones and a magic 8 ball. Culminating in a public exhibition, the sculptures aim to foster intergenerational dialogue and community engagement. The exhibition will feature an artist talk and invite visitors to share their own nostalgic objects, fostering a collective exploration of the past and its significance in the present.

### FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Arts in Corrections NYS program in partnership with WaveFarm - working with teaching artists who facilitate a storytelling and personal narrative workshop at Green Haven Correctional Facility.

### CONNECTING THE ARTS COMMUNITY

**Creative Crit Meetups:** We launched Creative Crit - a monthly peer feedback meetup for creatives to share work-in-progress or a question about their artistic practice or creative business. Creative Crits are a quintessential example of how we are advancing mission-aligned support by providing a generative space for artists to develop their work and feel less isolated. Through a facilitated process these gatherings offer an equitable model that values collective wisdom and recognizes each participant as an expert. The impact is immediate and lasting; by the end of each session, participants feel connected and leave with inspiration that continues to ripple outward. This is evident in the collaborations that emerge and resulting projects. Locations are rotated monthly in each of the counties.





**Field Trips:** To foster pride and investment into the creative ecosystem, we launched Member Day Field Trips--cultural excursions organized for members to experience the richness of our region. We see our creative community as collaborators and rely on the organizations and artists within our regrant and membership programs to activate creativity and generate arts activities across the region so these experiences provide symbiotic benefits: Field Trips not only enrich attendees creatively but also expands their network, opening up potential for future collaborations on projects and venues for their work.



### Catskill's Annual Winter Solstice - Crafts for All: In






collaboration with Cultivate Catskill, CREATE hosted the kids craft stations. From making cards with stamps, cookie decorating, and face painting for kids, we also had a swag station led by a CREATE member where visitors of all ages could create their own foraged holiday decorations.



## SOURCE FOR RESOURCES

### LEARNING TOGETHER

**Professional Development Workshops:** CREATE offers free workshops to help artists not only develop their creative practice but also secure funding and sustain their careers. This year, we hosted a budgeting workshop for artists and a grant writing session led by a former NYFA mentor, equipping participants with essential financial skills. Additionally, we provided three artists with free one-on-one money mapping sessions with a coach. Prioritizing economic empowerment, CREATE hires local artists with diverse expertise, ensuring they gain both visibility and paid opportunities while sharing their knowledge with the community.

  <p><b>Budgeting for Artists Who'd Rather be Creating</b> w/ Allegra Stein</p> <p><b>Nov 6th</b> 6-8pm</p> <p>at Spark of Hudson 502 Union St. Hudson NY</p> 	<p>CREATE Council on the Arts is excited to offer personal finance sessions to three artists/creatives looking to gain clarity and confidence around their finances.</p> <p>In these personalized 'Money Mapping' sessions, Allegra Stein, a personal budgeting coach, will guide you through exploring your current financial landscape and help you think about your money in a more intentional and empowering way. Whether you want to understand your spending habits, set financial goals, or simply need a safe space to talk about your finances, these sessions are designed to meet you where you are.</p> <p>We're offering three spots—one in each county—so apply now.</p>	 <p><b>Get Your Grant Done!</b> An in-person workshop where you write your SCR grant (with help!)</p> <p>w/ Andrea Kleine</p> <p><b>Jan 15th</b> 6-7:15pm</p> <p>CREATE Council on the Arts 398 Main St. Catskill, NY</p> 
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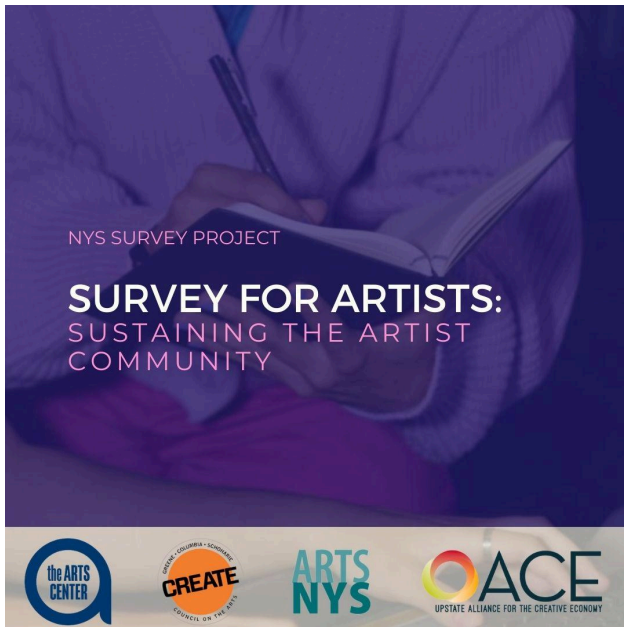
### OFFSITE EXHIBITIONS

**Amtrak - Hudson NY:** CREATE oversees the offsite gallery at the Hudson Amtrak station, the third busiest station in NYS. We showcase visual artists from the community every quarter. In partnership with the Flow Chart Foundation, we feature poetry through this program.

### PARTNERSHIPS

**FASNY Museum of Firefighting - Hudson, NY:** In preparation for their 150 anniversary, we worked with the museum to create their submission process for artist commissions. We were able to provide outreach, expand their network and identify two artists who are creating paintings for their special exhibition and will be added to their permanent collection. 2 Greene County artists were awarded these commissions - Richard Scott and Elbert Perez.

**Ancram Art Center** - hosted an Intergenerational Storytelling workshop at CREATE and brought their program to Catskill.



### **Sustaining the Artist Community**

**NYS Survey Project** was developed by The Arts Center of the Capital Region, in collaboration with the ACE! (Upstate Alliance for the Creative Economy), CREATE Council on the Arts, and ArtsNYS. The survey was directed and constructed by the Siena College Research Institute. The goal was to identify artist populations as well as the tools they need to thrive. The Survey has four sections:

demographics to tell us who artists are; professional development

opportunities; artist studio and workplace needs; and finally an assessment around housing, both rented and owned. Here are the survey results: [NYS Artists Opportunity Survey](#).

### **GALLERY AT CREATE**

CREATE's gallery programs provide an accessible space for artistic expression, inspiration, and community connection. Over the past year, we had 4000+ visitors and we hosted 12 exhibitions featuring the work of 150 artists and 90 youth. We hosted artist talks during exhibition periods to give artists the opportunity to be in dialogue with community members, while open studio events offer opportunities for creative exchange. With 100–200 attendees at each opening, the gallery serves as a vital hub for regional artists and audiences, amplifying diverse voices and enriching the cultural landscape. In July, our special *Open Studios at CREATE* event, held in conjunction with Upstate Art Weekend, welcomed over 350 visitors and highlighted the artists with studios on our third floor, along with our neighboring artists. The gallery is also a resource for community members and organizations. In April, the REACH Center of MHACG hosted a special exhibit during Crime Victims Awareness Month. CREATE's has also provided meeting space for Catskill Artists and Creatives for Housing Equity (CACHE), open calls (R'ville Stage Creations), and the Chronogram's Catskill Portrait project pop up.





### What We Hold: Stories + Objects

Feb 9 - Mar 10

1st floor gallery: In celebration of Women's History Month - open call exhibit featuring 60 regional artists.

2nd floor gallery: "Catskill Reveries" Artist: [Dina Bursztyn](#). The summer of 2023, we said farewell to our dear friend and neighbor, the talented artist, Dina Bursztyn. Dina's art reflects her unique perspective on life, blending her sense of humor with a profound sensitivity to the world around her. As a member of our community, Dina was not only a friend but also a champion of Catskill and creativity.

**41ST ANNUAL  
OUTSIDE THE LINES**

CAIRO-DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
CAIRO-DURHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CATSKILL ELEMENTARY  
CATSKILL HIGH SCHOOL  
CATSKILL MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
COXSACKIE-ATHENS ELEMENTARY  
+ EDWARD J ARTHUR  
COXSACKIE-ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL  
GERMANTOWN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
GERMANTOWN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
HUDSON HIGH SCHOOL  
HUDSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
MONTGOMERY C. SMITH ELEMENTARY  
WINDHAM ASHLAND JEWETT CENTRAL SCHOOL

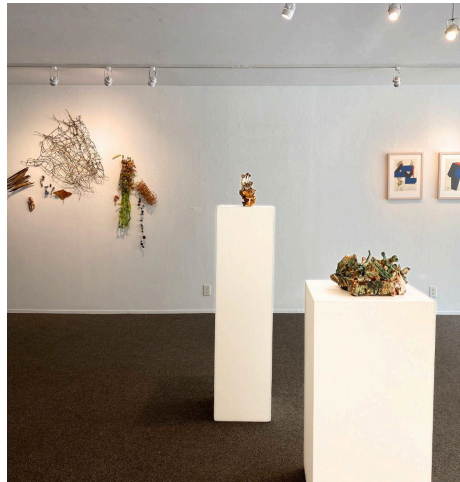
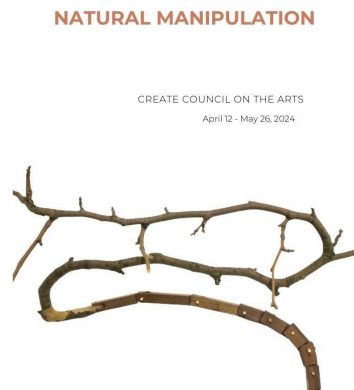
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### Outside the Lines - annual local youth art exhibition

Mar 15 - Mar 31

1st floor gallery: 41st annual student art show from Greene + Columbia county schools

2nd floor gallery: Teacher Showcase highlight the talent of of educators alongside their students



## Natural Manipulation

Apr 12 - May 26

\*Opening Reception: Friday Apr 12th, 5-7PM

Co-Curated by Monika Zarzeczna and Stella Yoon

1st + 2nd floor gallery: *Natural Manipulation* brings together 8 artists whose work engages in a conversation about the intricate relationship between humans and the natural world: Addie Russell, Benjamin King, Bonnie Ralston, Carolyn Lambert, Jonathan Harris, Judy Hoffman, Stephanie Beck, Triona Fritsch.



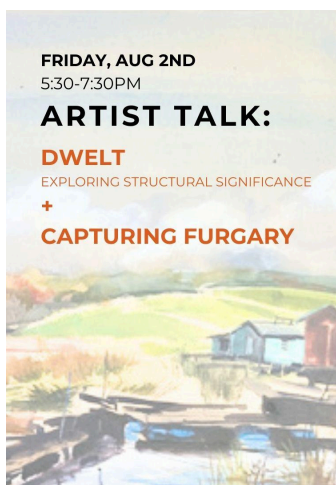
## Seen Scenes - Annual Member's Showcase

May 31 - Jul 14 (7 wks)

\*Opening Reception:

Friday, May 31st, 5-7PM

1st + 2nd floor gallery: theme selected by CREATE members showcasing the work of 52 members of the CREATE community.



CREATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS  
July 19 - September 1, 2024  
2nd FL GALLERY  
398 MAIN ST. CATSKILL NY







**Dwelt: Exploring Structural Significance**

Jul 19 - Sept 1 (7 wks)

\*Opening Reception:

Fri, July 19. 5-7pm

Co-Curated by Monika Zarzeczna and Stella Yoon

1st floor gallery: Buildings offer a physical + metaphorical space to embody parts of our lives. In constructing narratives of personal histories, places frame and create not only a backdrop but become a character in how these stories are formed and remembered.

2nd floor gallery: "Capturing Fugary - Beyond the Fishing Shacks" curated by Chris

DeMarco Featuring works by members of the former CCCA (Columbia County Council on the Arts) and other artists celebrating the uniqueness of the historic Fugary Fishing Village in Hudson.



**Collective Visions:**

**Art of Schoharie**

**County** Organized in partnership with Schoharie County Arts  
Sept 6-22 (3wks)

\*First Friday: Sept 6.

\*Artist Talk Sept 12

hosted by board member Adrienne Pierce

**On the Table - Annual Fundraiser**

Oct 4 - Nov 3 (5wks)

OPENING WEEKEND \*Preview Party (Fundraiser): Fri, Oct 4 \*Opening Reception: Sat, Oct 5 \*Community Craft: Sun, Oct 6

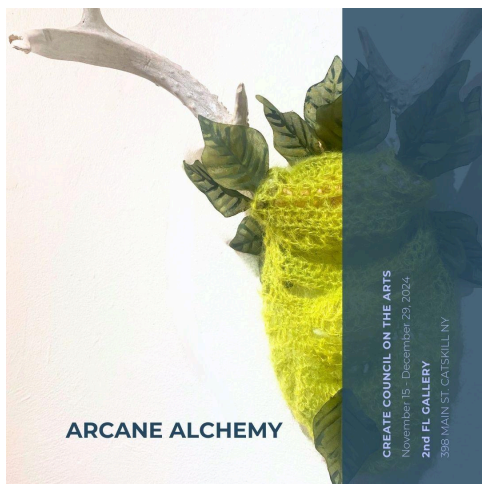
SPECIAL EVENT \*Whiskey Tasting + Artist Talk: Fri, Oct 25

1st + 2nd floor: curated group show celebrating the bounty of the Hudson Valley in the physical and creative landscape.



CREATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS - 398 MAIN ST. CATSKILL NY  
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### THE ALCHEMY OF SOUND



Friday, Dec 6th 6-7PM

Free + Open to the Public to Join!

### Winter Exhibitions: Member 20x20 + Arcane Alchemy

Nov 15 - Dec 29 (7 wks)

Opening Reception: Friday Nov 15th, 5-7PM

Fri, Dec 6 - First Friday: The Alchemy of Sound

Sat, Dec 21 - Catskill Winter Solstice - free kids crafts

1st floor gallery: local artists fill their 20" square on the wall or tabletop with art and products they have created where visitors can shop. Artists continue to bring new pieces as others sell.

2nd floor gallery: "Arcane Alchemy" w/ KA Laity + Stephanie Johnson