



ValleyCAST

Fostering a creative and engaged community in the Historic Blackstone Valley that is inclusive and supportive of all people with and without disabilities.



Our Vision

- ✓ A thriving arts environment which actively engages and educates people of all abilities.
- ✓ Cultural organizations and local artists collaborating to maintain a creative community.

✓ A region celebrated for its historic resources, industrial heritage, and natural beauty.

Board of Directors







Liz Mirabelli-Nye
Chair

Former ValleyCAST staff; Worcester Community Foundation; Clark U. Alum; Johns Hopkins University Graduate

Member Since 2021

Lisa Shea
Clerk

President - BVAA; Arts Worcester Member; Seven Hills Camera Club

Member Since 2019

Charles J. Washburn

Treasurer
Open Door Arts retired VP
& COO; Advisor to the
Berklee Institute on Arts
Ed & Special Needs;
REC Board; Mustard Seed
Catholic Worker House

Member Since 2007









David Kmetz

Douglas Historic Society; Foodies Magazine of New England; Eastern Mass High Tech Corridor; Petraglia Real Estate; MIT; RISD

Member Since 2009

Guru Simran Kaur-Khalsa Bob

Formerly served by Alternatives; Former Alternatives Board Member

Member Since 2019

Dennis H. Rice

Board affiliations:
WCC; Worcester Citizen
Advocacy; BV Heritage Corr
idor; CCURE; BV
Chamber; Lyceum

Member Since 2007

James Hunt

Babson College; ArtsWorcester Member; BVAA Member

Member Since 2018

ValleyCAST Team





Cristi W. CollariDirector of Community Outreach

Mary Laliberte
Assistant Director
of Community Outreach

ValleyCAST Before COVID

Heritage Gallery & Uxbridge Community Gallery



Since 2008, ValleyCAST has engaged the community and the individuals we served in over 100 art gallery exhibits. Between the Spaulding R. Aldrich Heritage Gallery and the Uxbridge Community Gallery we have featured over 300 talented artists with and without disabilities.



The Annual Art Palette Contest

Since 2013, artists of all ages and abilities have been invited to participate in this much-loved annual exhibit. Over sixty artists participate each year, with hundreds of people voting to award cash prizes for outstanding palettes.

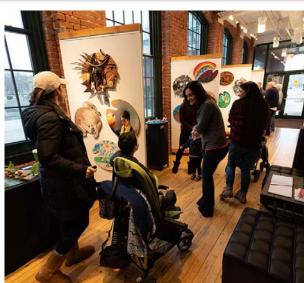


9th Annual









Ten theater companies made the Singh their home!

The Singh Performance Center was home to ten different theater companies performing over 96 plays since 2008. With an average of 5 performances for each play that's over 480 theater performances and thousands of patrons enjoying local theater.







4th Wall Theater Company

Algonquin Theater Company
Becoming More Theater Productions
Braid Productions

Daft Theater Company

Dreamplay Theater

Go Go Theater

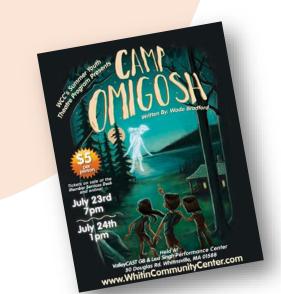
Molehill Productions

Pilgrim Soul Productions

Stepping Stone Inclusive Theater

Summer Youth Theatre Program

Whitin Community Center



Every summer since 2012, The Whitin Community Center has held their *Summer Youth Theatre Program* in our Singh Performance Center.









Worcester
Shakespeare
Summer
Festivals





Every summer from 2012-2018, the Worcester Shakespeare Company performed their Worcester Shakespeare Festival in the community plaza and Singh Performance Center. With four plays a week over two months, they entertained hundreds of patrons every summer for years.

"I could be in New York!"

Audience Member

One Act Play Festivals



From 2002-2019, we held our One Act Play Festival on the Mumford with over 59 plays performed and 21 juried awards presented to a host of local Community Theater Troupes with and without disabilities.



Fly Girl, Lorna Nogueira



Stepping Stone Inclusive Community Theater



A Slight Ache, Pilgrim Soul Productions



The Howl and the Pussycat, Whitinsville Christian School

Priscilla B. Mason Award Ceremony



Since 2011, we have presented twelve Priscilla B. Mason Awards recognizing champions of arts and cultural excellence throughout the Blackstone Valley.



Stepping Stone Inclusive Community Theater - Championing Inclusive Theatrical Excellence



Zentangle – *Inspiring Artistic Exploration* Lorna Pezanelli – *Inspiring Artistic Exploration*



Worcester Shakespeare Company – Theatrical Excellence

Free Summer Concert Series

This 10-week series, running since 2008, is one of our most successful events, with hundreds of people of all ages and abilities dancing, singing and enjoying music together all summer long on Thursday nights.









Art & Music Makers Festival

This annual full day event features live music and talented artisans selling their wares and demonstrating how their unique arts are crafted.











A Walk-Through Time in Our Community Plaza

ValleyCAST developed these four Historic Heritage Panels that depict the history and influence of the Whitin Empire, and document how people with disabilities were treated during that time period. They were funded in part by a grant from the Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc.











ValleyCAST During COVID

The 2020 Art
Palette Contest ...

On March 6, 2020, the Art Palette Contest drew over 100 people of all ages and abilities to the opening reception.









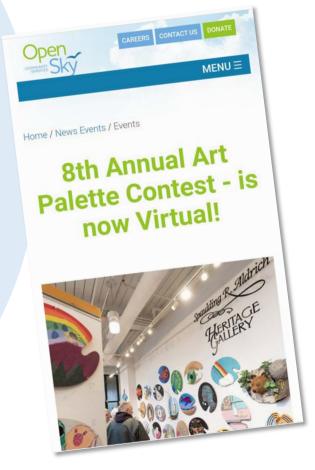


...Goes virtual!

By the next week, we had to quickly switch gears and move the contest online due to the emergence of COVID-19.

With hundreds of votes from as far away as New Zealand and Switzerland, the 2020 Art Palette Contest winners were selected and announced on Facebook!







Congratulations to the 1st Place Winners of the 8th Annual Art Palette Contest:

"The Meg" by Brandon Drake, 1st Place Adult Category

"Happiness Comes in Waves" by Abigail Dreary, 1st Place Teen Category

"Untitled" by Lucy Gibbons, 1st Place Kids Category







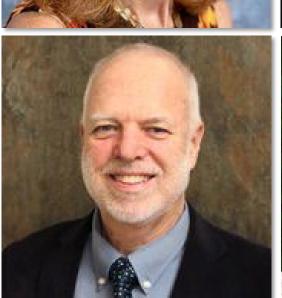
Virtual Task Force

Envisioning engaging and inclusive events "virtually" took some serious ingenuity and technological skills. So, a Virtual Task Force was formed in March of 2020.

Members pooled their expertise, and with over 400 hours of committed volunteer time, managed to pull it off beautifully!







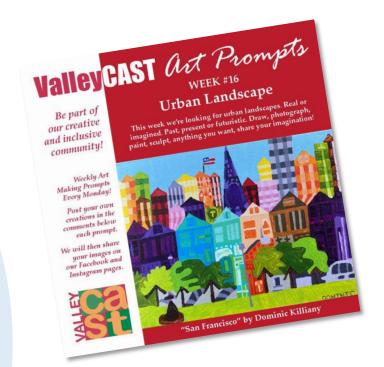




Art Prompt Series

Over the course of 24 weeks, from December 2020 through April 2021, we offered weekly virtual art prompts and solicited artwork submissions from community members and individuals served that were then shared over Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube each week.





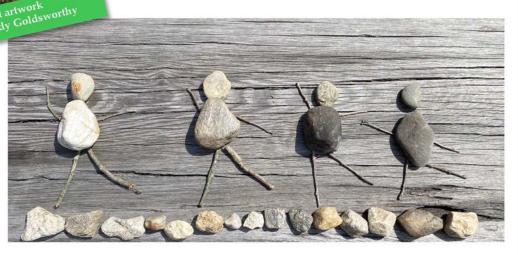










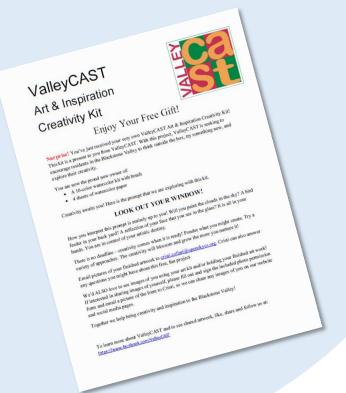




Highlight From our Art Prompt Series

Art Pilot Project













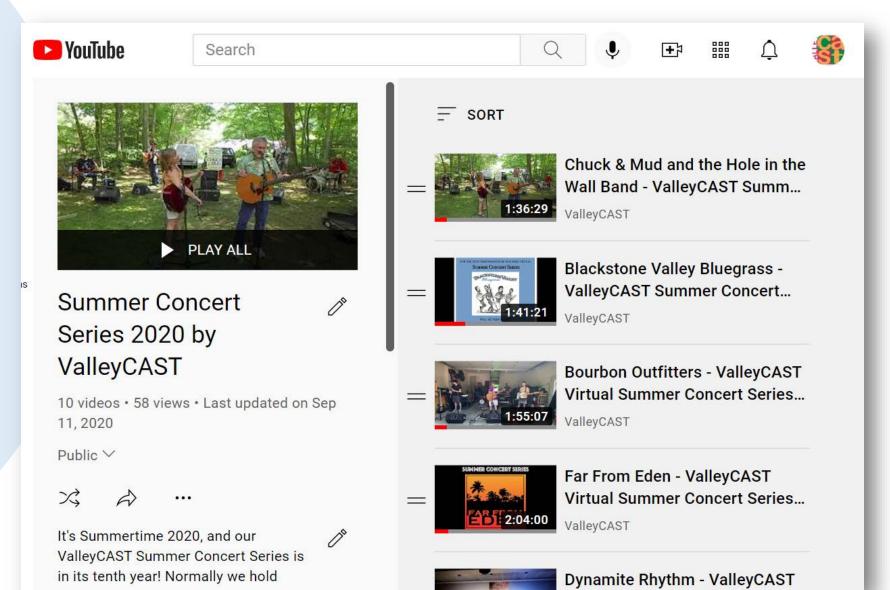
We didn't miss a beat!

The Free Summer Concert Series was shared virtually on Facebook and YouTube each Thursday night from 6-8 PM.

Viewers could share comments, emojis, and say hi to one another during the performances. It was the next best thing to being live in the plaza!



2020 Virtual Summer Concert Series

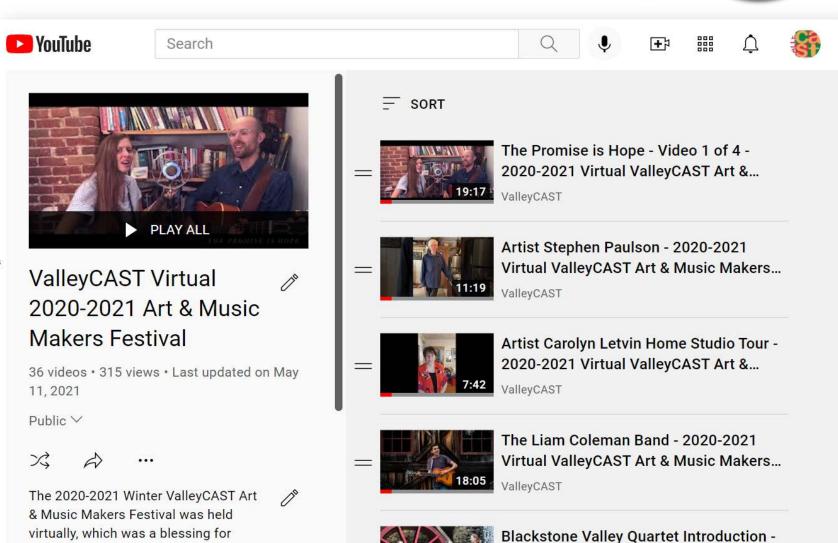


Arts & Music Makers Festival Dec 2020 - April 2021

You Tube
3806+
Total
Series Views
to date!

Our annual one day, in-person Art & Music Makers Festival had already been planned, with a full line-up of artists and musicians for Fall 2020. We quickly adapted and were able to host this annual event online for the first time.

We shared 36 videos of talented musicians and artists with and without disabilities over 18 weeks from December 2020 to April 2021! People from all over the world viewed, commented, and liked what we shared!

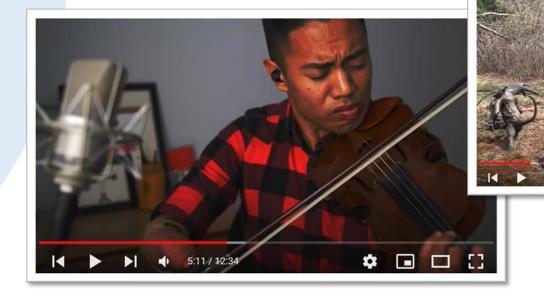


Moving our festival online allowed us to feature a talented group of artists who might not have normally participated in our in-person event.

Some of these artists include guitarist Noé Socha from NYC, and violinist Adrian Anantawan from Boston.

We were also able to film an on-location tour of Nick Swearer's studio, and hosted youth performers from Main IDEA in Worcester.





Ukulele Project

To help ease the isolation of the pandemic, ValleyCAST Board members decided to share the gift of music with Open Sky programs.

In the winter of 2021, eighty kits with ukuleles, electronic tuners, sheet music, tambourines and assorted musical shaker eggs were distributed to all Open Sky residential programs to enjoy!





That ukulele couldn't have come at a better time. One of my individuals has been in the hospital. She used to play the ukulele but hasn't had access to one in some time. I surprised her with it, taught her a few tricks, and we had a jam session with that and the egg shakers. It has been an absolutely wonderful asset to my peer support work, and I can't thank you enough.

The Yellow Tulip Project

Yellow Tulip Project is a youth-led non-profit dedicated to suicide prevention and ending the stigma around mental illness.

In October 2020, we began collaborating with YTP, and planted our first *Hope Garden* at the Whitin Mill. Several community partners participated.

In May of 2021, we kicked off Mental Health Awareness Month with Hope Day, which featured a live performance by The Promise is Hope and speeches by YTP.











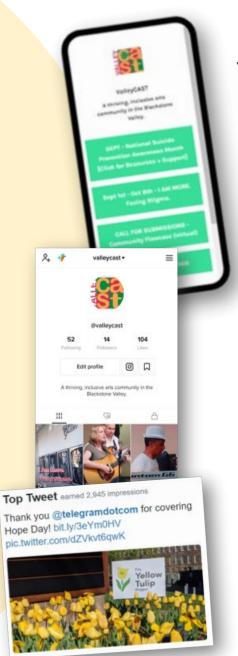
Navigating the New Normal

Social Media

Social media is key to how we're building an engaged, inclusive arts community in the Blackstone Valley and beyond.

During the pandemic, this became our primary platform for programming.

It continues to help us build public awareness, engage the community, encourage participation, solicit program sponsors, expand our board, cultivate our audience, and build collaborations.







- Instagram Created AUG 2016 600 Followers
- Facebook Created NOV 2017 976 Followers
- YouTube Created JUNE 2020 107 Subscribers
- Twitter Created DEC 2020 316 Followers
- TikTok Created JULY 2021 82 Followers



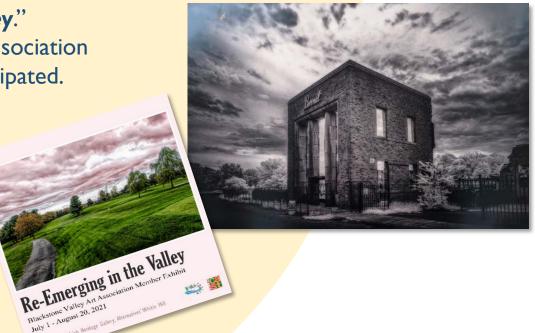
Virtual Programming

Modeled after our virtual Arts & Music Makers Festival, our virtual Community Flowcase launched October 8, 2021, in conjunction with Mental Illness Awareness Week as a showcase of creative practices for mental wellbeing. Aligned with our Strategic Objective to engage individuals served across Open Sky's service area, we solicited participation from people of all abilities across the state and beyond.

The Heritage Gallery Re-Emerges!

In July 2021, ValleyCAST hosted the first in-person gallery exhibit since March 2020, aptly named "Re-Emerging in the Valley."
32 Blackstone Valley Art Association artists, of all abilities, participated.











I Am More. Facing Stigma.

In September 2021, we continued to foster our collaboration with the Yellow Tulip Project by hosting their powerful "I Am More. Facing Stigma" exhibit.















Artful Home

Our Artful Home exhibit in November 2021 showcased unique, hand-crafted works of art for the home created by local artists of all abilities in the spirit of shopping local for the holidays. We had artist demonstrations during opening night and during Shop Small Saturday.















ValleyCAST teamed up with the New England Sculptors Association in 2021 for the exhibit "Inside & Out" which opened in January of 2022 and featured over 30 sculpture inside the gallery and outside on the Whitin Mill Complex grounds.

It was so well attended and liked; we are doing it again!

The outside sculpture has already arrived, and the **2**nd **Annual Inside & Out** exhibit opens on Friday, January 13, 2023.







9th Annual Art Palette Contest

Our beloved Art Palette Contest makes a strong comeback in March 2022 with the most submissions to date!

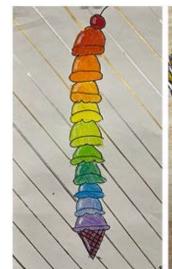
Seventy people of all ages and abilities submitted art palettes for our exhibit after a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic.



Every May since 2015, the Whitinsville Christian School has exhibited student artwork as part of the school's **Annual Student Art Walk**. Due to the pandemic, we missed having them in 2020 & 2021. It was great to have them back in 2022!

The Blackstone Valley Technical High School exhibited with us for the first time in June of 2022 with an art exhibit in the Heritage Gallery and a Student Chorus Performance on opening night in the Singh Performance Center.

We're looking forward to hosting them both in again in 2023.











Local School Collaborations











Beyond Zentangle

In the summer of 2022, ValleyCAST teamed up with Zentangle to exhibit the works of 21 artists of all abilities from all over the country. From Zentangled weavings on the wall to an illuminated, Zentangled kayak on the ceiling this exhibit was a showstopper!





My Favorite Art Show

September 2022, ValleyCAST invites the BVAA back for a member exhibit of favorite artwork. 29 artists, of all abilities participated.







Blackstone Valley Mill Explorations

Blackstone Valley Mill Explorations is our current exhibit in the Heritage Gallery. The Artists' Reception and video screening in the Singh Performance Center were both well attended and well received.





Demolition and Destruction #5, The Draper Demolition, 2021, James Hunt

Season Change, David Lawlor



Hope Happens

Since our first Hope Garden planting at the Whitin Mill in 2020, we've inspired other organizations to plant Hope Gardens and hold Hope Day Celebrations throughout the Blackstone Valley and beyond!



















Poetry Series with Poets at Large



An Evening of Poetry



SAT, NOV 20 7:00 - 9:00PM

Featuring readings from Paul Richmond, Candace Curran, Karen Warinsky & Gerald Yelle, followed by an Open Mic for local poets.









Singh Performance Center Alternatives' Whitin Mill 60 Douglas Rd Whitinsville, MA







Contact Karen Warinsky at karen warinsky @ email.com with any questions. Open mic sign-ups will be held at the event. His event is sponsored by Valley CAST, the arts and culture ving of Open Sky Community Services. llew ours event an Eurebook on Valley! AST

Poetry Word Series

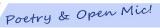














Sunday

2:00-4:00pm

Alternatives' Whitin Mill

60 Douglas Road

Whitinsville, MA

Contact Karen Warinsky at karen.warinsky@gmail.com with any questions. Open mic sign-ups will be held at the event, this event is sponsored by Valley CAST, the arts and culture using of Open Sky Community Services.

Poetry Word Series



















Sunday

June 26

2:00-4:00 pm

60 Douglas Road

Whitinsville, MA

Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza

Alternatives' Whitin Mill

Contact Karen Warinsky at karen.warinsky@gmail.com with any questions. Open mic sign-ups will be held at the event. It is event is sponsored by Valley CAST, the arts and culture wing of Open Sky Community Services.



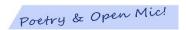














Sunday

October 23

GB & Lexi Singh Performance

Alternatives' Whitin Mill

2:00-4:00 pm

60 Douglas Road

Whitinsville, MA

Contact Karen Warinsky at karen.warinsky@gmail.com with any questions. Open mic sign-ups will be held at the event. This event is sponsored by Valley CAST, the arts and culture wing of Open Sky Community Services. We upped our game for our 10-week *Free Summer Concert Series* by securing a third sponsor for both 2021 & 2022. And it paid off! We made a great comeback with hundreds of people of all ages and abilities attending each week in both in our community plaza and our Singh Performance Center. The final band in the 2022 series saw over 300 people in attendance!







Theater is BACK!

Pilgrim Soul Productions is the first theater company to brave the aftermath of the pandemic with their productions of **Be Here Now** in May 2022 and **The Treasurer** in November 2022. They are already in the calendar for May & November 2023. We are also actively recruiting theater troops and already have two more on the schedule for 2023!











Zentangle

Live from the Singh!

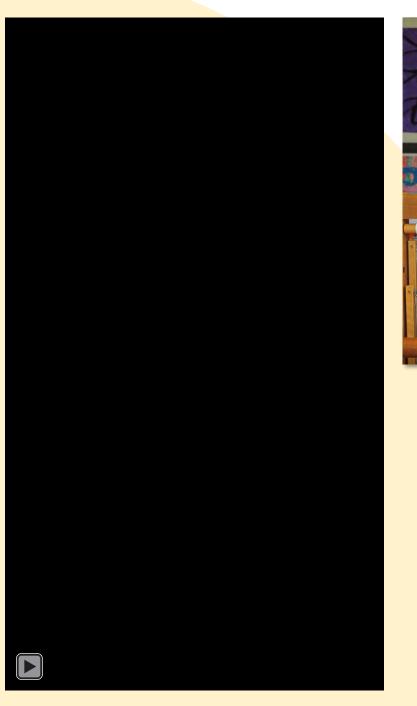
May 2021, Zentangle, Inc. used the Singh Performance Center to host their "first ever" virtual Certified Zentangle Teacher training seminar.

Founders of the Zentangle Method, Rick Roberts and Maria Thomas, and staff, taught a live, 4-day seminar which was attended by participants from 21 different countries across the globe. It was so successful they came back in November 2022, and they have already booked the Singh Performance Center for 2023.





In the Works







Gallery Exhibits

We are working on securing and scheduling more of our amazing and engaging gallery exhibits!

Coming this summer ... Weaving Community!





Card Making Workshops with Holly Crawford



Learn to Juggle with Flippo the Clown



Saori Weaving with Anita Droby

One Act Play Festival Spring 2024





Art & Music Makers Festival Fall 2023

Mason Awards Ceremony Spring 2024



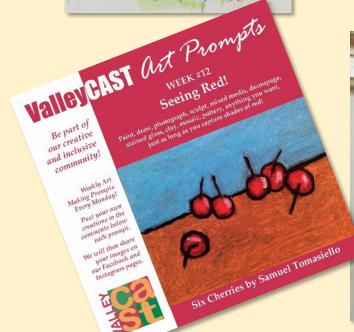


Continuing Programs

Building on the success of our Ukulele Project in 2021, plans are in the works for a virtual ukulele project on *World Play Your Ukulele Day*, February 2nd, 2023.

We will also launch another Art Prompt Series this winter!







Emerging Collaborations

We are brainstorming with other arts and culture organizations to expand our reach beyond the Blackstone Valley to help initiate more creative and inclusive communities for the people we serve.



Art & Music Makers Festival with Mechanics Hall, Worcester





Art Palette Contest
with Fitchburg Art Museum

ValleyCAST

Fosters a creative and engaged community that is inclusive and supportive of all people with and without disabilities.

