



Cultivating vibrancy in our community through the arts, recreation, technology, and sustainability.

WonderArts

Annual Report 2020



Join Us

We hope to see you at a class or event soon! Check out our calendar at wonderartsvt.org to see what opportunities we have coming up. And sign up for our periodic newsletter to learn more about all of the amazing programs we run throughout the year!

Our Covid-19 Response

Covid-19 has impacted all of us individually in myriad ways, but we believe in the power of coming together - and that is exactly what we experienced when the pandemic hit. Almost instantly, WonderArts expanded upon and joined multiple cross-sector partnerships with schools, non-profit organizations, local businesses, and government agencies to identify and address the needs of our community.

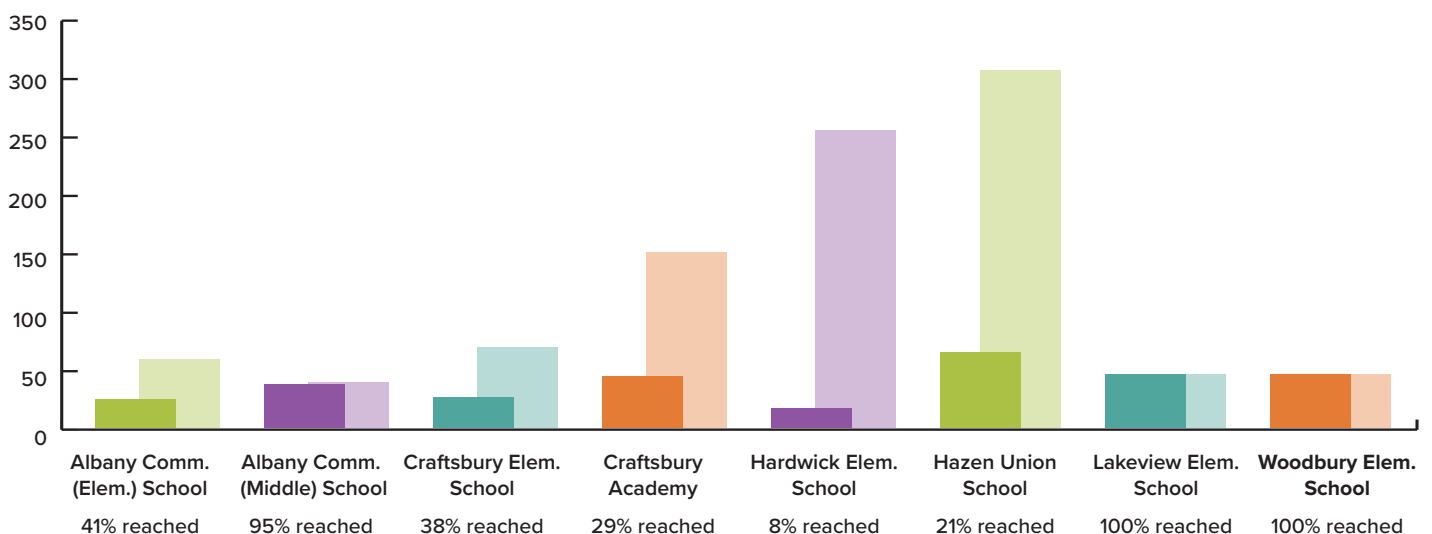
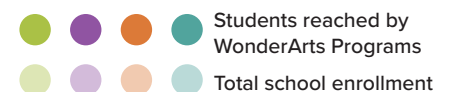
By working with partner organizations, we were able to publish local and regional resource directories and provide creative materials for schools to distribute to students and families. WonderArts and Spark connected with our community virtually through our weekly *Family Takeaways*, regular activity and idea sharing, and by hosting online classes and gatherings. Throughout the pandemic Spark has remained open, providing resources and support for businesses, towns, schools, and community members, and we printed several town-wide Covid-19 information mailings and community signs. Spark also provided downtown Greensboro with free WiFi, a resource we're thrilled to continue offering to this day!

WonderArts is proud to say that our staff members volunteered their time to assist in their home communities' pandemic response efforts. These endeavors include making masks, providing mutual aid through neighbor-to-neighbor networks, making community dinners, assisting local food banks, and aiding in the distribution of groceries and supplies.

The creative sector makes up 9.4% of all jobs in the Northeast Kingdom, 31% higher than the national average.

Our average population density is 36 people per square mile, 53% lower than the statewide average of 68.

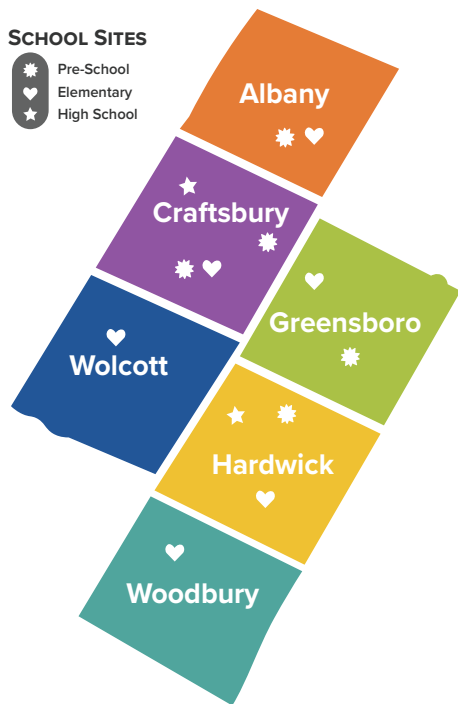
Students Reached by our School Programs in grades 1-12, compared to Total School Enrollment



All of our school programming for Wolcott Elementary School was scheduled for spring 2020, and did not occur due to Covid-19 school closures.

SCHOOL SITES

- ☼ Pre-School
- ♥ Elementary
- ★ High School



FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH RATES

88%	Albany Comm. School
35%	Craftsbury Elementary
45%	Craftsbury Academy
58%	Hardwick Elementary
43%	Hazen Union School
65%	Lakeview Elementary
47%	Wolcott Elementary
30%	Woodbury Elementary

What's in a Name?

ARTS

We believe in the power of creativity to solve problems, build resilience, and develop self-confidence, so we strive to make it a part of everyday life and a valued asset in our community.

RECREATION

Community health starts with individual action, and we love providing fun opportunities for people of all abilities to move, play, and engage with the outdoors.

TECHNOLOGY

In our rural corner of Vermont, we offer high-speed internet, state of the art technology and equipment resources, and foster design thinking, creative capital, and resourcefulness.

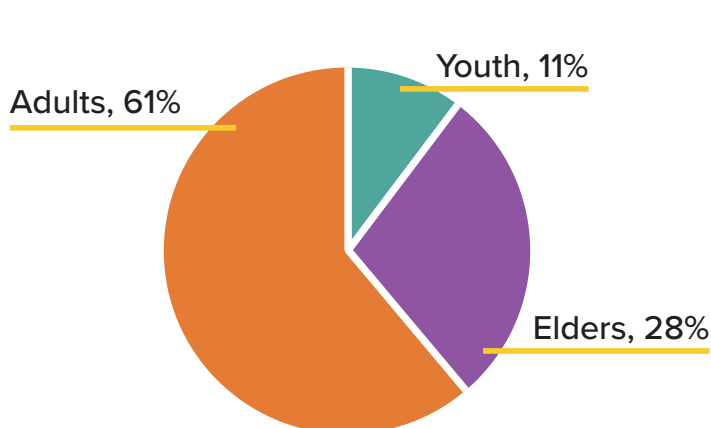
SUSTAINABILITY

We are proud stewards of our community and the land that we all cherish. Through our work we nurture social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

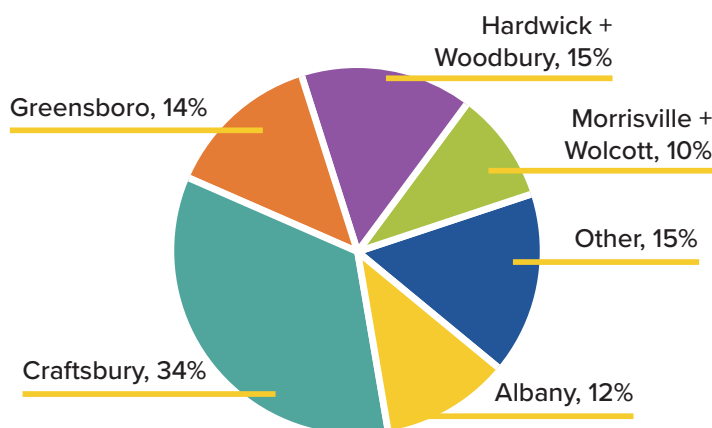
Our Community

We serve all ages, from preschoolers to seniors, through our school programs as well as events and classes at community venues throughout Greensboro, Craftsbury, and Hardwick. By bringing our programs to multiple locations, we're able to reach more people in their home communities.

What Age Groups Participate in our Community Programs?



Where do our Community Program Participants Live?



Looking Back at our Year!



"I get so much out of teaching. It forces me to grow and step outside my comfort zone in a way I just don't get through studio work."

- Emma Podolin, Teaching Artist



55% of participants this year were new to our community programs!



Our school programs reach **29%** of all OSSU students

"I really appreciate her ethic around using low-impact/natural and biodegradable or repurposed materials"

- Anne Hanson, regarding Liz Echeverria's PreK Nature Art class



Our programs have a 96% and **87%** of our Community Program participants return to their community after e

*"This was so wonderful,
thank you! I hope to
attend more like it."*

*- Sam, a Sip+Share
participant*

**11
artists
exhibited**

*"I love
WonderArts!
I think it's
my favorite
after school
activity."*

*-a Woodbury
Elem. student*



participant satisfaction rate,
*participants report feeling more connected
engaging in a WonderArts program.*

**We reached
450 youth and
998 adults this
year!**

Collaboration Highlights

WonderArts LOVES to collaborate! This year, **Hazen Union High School** students came to Spark weekly to explore the tech resources and develop their design thinking skills. There were over 35 small business owners at our Women in Business event, a partnership with the **Center for Women & Enterprise**, to network, share successes and challenges, and hear a panel of business leaders. Partnering with the **Vermont Land Trust, VT Forest, Parks and Recreation, the Stone Family Woodlot, and Sterling College** for our Honoring Ash event and exhibition drew a crowd of over 100 attendees!

Other collaborations include our Soup + Sustainability film series with the **Craftsbury Outdoor Center**, our Sip + Share classes at the **Highland Center for the Arts**, partnering with the **Center for Agricultural Economy** and the **Hardwick Area Food Pantry** for the Grow Your Own and Nourish Hardwick programs, leading self-expression classes for middle-schoolers at **Craftsbury Academy**, organizing small business meetups and Entrepreneurship week with **DoNorth Coworking**, and hosting in-school residencies and performances with **Peter Gould, Mollie Burke, Rusty DeWees, and Modern Times Theater.**



WonderArts Staff

Carol Fairbank, Executive Director
Sherri Molleur, Finance Manager
Nancy VanWinkle, Development Manager
Skye Livingston, Program + Engagement Manager
Kim Wojnar, School Program Coordinator
Jake Lester, Spark Coordinator
Brittany Worsham, AmeriCorps VISTA

A special THANK YOU to all of our class instructors!

Board of Directors

Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, President
Havilah Stewart Mann, Treasurer
Monique Beaudry, Secretary
Chip Troiano
Alain McMurtrie
Stephen Ferber
Amelia Fritz
Bethany Warner
Carey Crozier

Here We Grow Again...

Did you hear the big news? WonderArts, Spark & Grass Roots Art & Community Effort (G.R.A.C.E.) have merged! Our organizations have united as the **Rural ARTS Collaborative** with the common vision of cultivating vibrancy through the arts, recreation, technology, and sustainability. WonderArts, Spark and G.R.A.C.E each has a separate focus within the larger community, and will retain their individual brands, missions, and programs. Streamlining our administrative efforts enables us to more effectively work together to create new and innovative opportunities for the communities that we serve across Northern Vermont.

Kathryn Lovinsky (G.R.A.C.E.) and Carol Fairbank will be collaborating as the leadership team for Rural ARTS Collaborative, with Kathryn stepping into the role of Executive Director, and Carol becoming the Program and Engagement Director. We have a dedicated and enthusiastic Staff and Board of Directors, with a blended board including several former G.R.A.C.E. Board Members and transition of officers in the new Fiscal Year.



Thank you for making our work possible through your generous support!

We appreciate all of our donors, grantors, sponsors, participants, members, volunteers, partners, and neighbors.

Financial Statement July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

EXPENSES \$253,790

REVENUE \$191,071

- Programs, 44%
- Administration + Overhead, 27%
- General Operating, 27%
- Marketing + Fundraising, 2%



- Grants, 34%
- Program + Event Revenue, 28%
- Donations, 25%
- Town + Business Support, 7%
- Earnings on Investments, 8%





Support Us

WONDERARTSVT.ORG

You can make a donation, set up a recurring gift, and explore other gifting options at wonderartsvt.org. If you would like to support a specific program, you can designate your donation as such. Donations can be made in honor or memory of a friend or loved one.

AMAZON SMILE

If you shop on Amazon, part of the proceeds of each sale could go to WonderArts! Using your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com gives you the option of supporting your favorite participating organizations like WonderArts VT.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Let your family, friends, and followers know that you support WonderArts! Like and follow us on Instagram ([@wonderartsvt](https://www.instagram.com/wonderartsvt) and [@sparkvermont](https://www.instagram.com/sparkvermont)) and Facebook ([facebook.com/wonderartsvt](https://www.facebook.com/wonderartsvt)) to keep up with us and help share our vision of a vibrant community.

MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a Spark member is one of the best ways to support us. Even if you don't plan to regularly use the resources, your membership enables us to provide free and low cost programs and support to our community. Learn more at sparkvt.org!



501(c)3 Rural ARTS Collaborative, Inc. d/b/a WonderArts VT

PO Box 300 • 165 E Craftsbury Rd, Greensboro, VT 05841 • (802) 533-9370 • www.WonderArtsVT.org