



Annual Meeting
July 18, 2008, Bath
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2006-2007

Five Rivers Arts Alliance Mission

To strengthen the communities of the greater Brunswick [Five Rivers Arts Alliance] area by increasing awareness, knowledge, education, appreciation, participation and support for the arts and other cultural activities. Our region includes twelve communities in Midcoast Maine: Brunswick, Harpswell, Topsham, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Richmond, Bath, West Bath, Phippsburg,

Five Rivers Arts Alliance Programs

New programs in 2006-07 built on Strategic Plan (approved August 2005), Creative Economy Forums (2005-06), and Creative Communities Institute (June 2006). In FY 2006-07 Five Rivers developed its Online Cultural Directory and planned new publication *Artscape*.

Online Cultural Directory

Funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Maine Community Foundation helped fund design of the online cultural directory. Data from Creative Sector surveys is included. New surveys are filled out by Five Rivers Arts Alliance members. As of 2008, 170 artists, creative businesses and cultural nonprofits are online. <http://www.fiveriversartsalliance.org/directory/directory.aspx>

Arts Around Us calendar becomes *Artscape*

This new publication replaced the *Arts Around Us* calendar (4 issues publisher in 2006-07). Cathy Matero served as Calendar Coordinator for the *Arts Around Us* calendar and published four issues in 2005-06. *Artscape* builds on the calendar of arts, culture and heritage events and includes an artist profile, titled "ArtSpeak," a driving tour of one or more of our communities, heritage highlights, performance spotlight and "the 5"- fun and free things to do. First issue of *Artscape* was published in July 2007. Much of the planning, grant writing and other fundraising for the publication took place in fiscal year 2006-07. *Artscape* start-up was supported by Town of Brunswick and MCBDP. Additional start-up funding provided by Maine Community Foundation and Davis Family Foundation. <http://www.fiveriversartsalliance.org/artscap/artscap.aspx>

2nd Friday Art Walk Brunswick/Topsham. Brunswick & Topsham's ArtWalk grew with new artists studios opening in Fort Andross, new businesses opening downtown. Revised brochure design, by Finn MacDonald, features bold foot that has become event logo for Five Rivers ArtWalks. Held May – Nov in Brunswick and Topsham with average of 24 sites. 500 attendees or more each month. Sponsor: Gardiner Savings Institution.

3rd Friday Art Walk, Bath. 2006 was the inaugural year for 3rd Friday ArtWalk in Bath. Held June-October the walk featured 20 downtown businesses (restaurants, Bed & Breakfasts and other shops), galleries and artist studios and several home studio-galleries in Bath's North End and South End neighborhoods. Attendance is estimated at 300/month. Major in-kind start up support provided by Minerva's Bounty and Main Street Bath.

"400 Years of Craft Along the Kennebec" A grant from Maine Humanities Council funded research by Minot fiber artist Jill Snyder Wallace into history of three crafts along the Kennebec River: fiber crafts, pottery and boat building. An exhibit was created for the Family Arts Festival in September 2006 (which also included fiber and boat-building demonstrations). Arts Nights at the Library in Bath in early 2007 included a focus on this research. Brenda Cummings presented the research and Robin Hansen discussed mitten and knitting patterns of the fisherman of this region, northern New England and the North Atlantic.

Family Arts Festival was held September 16, 2006 on the Brunswick Town Mall. 25 artists and 8 organizations presented 21 workshops and demonstrations, including hat making, kite making, felting, festival mural, face painting, t-shirt printing, clay, twig stars, and more. Demonstrations included skiff building, strip kayak portraits, painting with acrylics, digital photography, embroidery and spinning. Display of "400 years of Craft on the Kennebec" research. Performances by The Spaceheaters, Acadia Brass Ensemble, Cricket Kid's Choir, Don Brewer Blues Project, Fire Fly and Matt Loosigian-Earthjams. Grantors: Nathaniel Davis Foundation, Alfred Senter Fund, Town of Brunswick, Maine Humanities Council, Kennebec-Chaudiere Heritage Commission. Sponsors: Hannaford Supermarkets, Centerline Construction, Northeast Bank, Eveningstar Cinema. Attendance estimated at 1000.

Arts Downtown & All Around, 12/8-12/10/06 included 53 art exhibits and sales in Brunswick, Topsham, Bowdoinham, Harpswell, Arrowsic and Bath. Work by more than 200 artists represented. Fourteen readings, concerts, special events were also offered over the weekend. Grantors: Alfred Senter Fund. Sponsors: L.L. Bean, Downeast Energy & Building Supply. Special thanks to Waterfront Maine for in-kind support. Attendance estimated at more than 1000 region-wide.

Arts Nights at the Library went regional in winter and spring of 2007 with four evenings offered at four libraries on the theme of "Stories of the Five Rivers." Presentations included Bath Patten Free Library: "400 Years of Craft Along the Kennebec," with Brenda Cummings and Robin Hansen; Bowdoinham Public Library: "Confluence: Merrymeeting Bay" author Frank Burroughs, photographer Heather Perry and boat builder Buster Prout; Topsham Public Library: with artists and Merrymeeting Bay paddlers Colleen Moore and Cindy McNett; Curtis Memorial Library: "Riversong, Riverstory" explored local and universal themes of rivers with singer/songwriter Matt Loosigian and storyteller Sarah Halford. Grantor: Alfred Senter Fund. 175 attendees for the series.

Other highlights of the year:

Membership. Membership in Five Rivers for 2006-07 reached 211 paid members, providing support of \$10,731, a 32% increase over the previous year. Membership in Five Rivers continues to be a primary source of revenue.

www.fiveriversartsalliance.org. Five Rivers Arts Alliance website is used by more and more visitors. Year 2007 marked 258,349 server hits.

Bowdoin College Community Matters Fellowship Program. Five Rivers was invited to participate in this exciting internship program in 2006. Interns were Deborah Theodore, June-Aug 2006 and Sara Griffin, June-Aug 2007. Interns spent 10 weeks at Five Rivers Arts Alliance office, participating in all aspects of the organization and greatly enhancing the organization's capacity.

Financial Report for fiscal year July 1, 2006- June 30, 2007

- Income of \$47,750.
- Expenses of \$46,334.
- Net income for the year, \$1,416.
- Financial details attached.
- IRS-990 is on file and available to view at Five Rivers office, 108 Maine St., Brunswick.

Five Rivers Arts Alliance Board of Directors, 2006-2007

- *Board Chair*
- Kathryn Durgin Leighton, Town Manager, Town of Bowdoinham
- *Secretary*
- Erika Helgerson, Community Relations Coordinator, City of Bath
- *Treasurer*
- Will Vernick, CPA Filler & Associates, Portland
- *Board Members*
- Roger Fenn, Communications Director to President of the Maine Senate
- Theo Holwijk, Planner, Town of Brunswick
- Liz McGhee, Program Director, Spindleworks, Brunswick
- Finn MacDonald, Principal, FDM+Design, Topsham
- Marlene Oliver, Community Member, Topsham.
- Susan Perrine, weaver and visual artist, Woolwich
- Bob Santerre, Co-Owner, Arrowsic Island Pottery, Arrowsic
- David Tilton, Community member and artist, Richmond.
- David Wall, owner, Applecart Press, Brunswick
- Susie Westly Wren, owner, West Island Gallery

Five Rivers Arts Alliance Staff

- *Executive Director:* Harriet A. Mosher
- *Arts Around Us Coordinator:* Cathy Matero
- *Interns*
- Debbie Theodore, Bowdoin College Community Fellow, Summer 2006
- Sara Griffin, Bowdoin College Community Fellow, Summer 2007

Major donors and sponsors, Fiscal year 2006-2007

Grantors

- National Endowment for the Arts
- Alfred Senter Fund
- Maine Community Foundation
- Community Development Block Grant, supporting Creative Economy Forums (2005-06)
- Maine Humanities Council (and Kennebec-Chaudiere Heritage Commission)
- Nathaniel Davis Fund
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Municipal Support

- Town of Brunswick
- Town of Bowdoinham
- Town of Arrowsic
- MCBDP, for *Artscape* start-up

Business and Corporate Sponsors

- Centerline Construction
- Downeast Energy & Building Supply
- Eveningstar Cinema
- Gardiner Savings Institution
- Hannaford Supermarkets
- L.L. Bean
- Northeast Bank
- West Island Gallery
- Anonymous

Business Supporters

- Bowdoin International Music Festival
- Cornelia Viek, CPA
- Maine Bank & Trust
- Midcoast Hospital
- Riley Insurance

Patron and Supporting Members of Five Rivers Arts Alliance, 2006-2007**Annual Appeal Patron and Supporting Members**

- Betsy Fear
- Lorna and John Flynn
- Downeast Energy & Building Supply
- Fore River Foundation
- Maine Pines Racquet & Fitness
- Lydia Sparrow

Organizations Patron and Supporting Members

- Bowdoin College Museum of Art
- Bowdoin International Music Festival
- Chocolate Church Arts Center
- Maine State Music Theatre
- Merrymeeting Bay Business Association

Individuals Patron and Supporting Members

- Barbara E. Bean
- Anne & Nathaniel Brackett
- Katherine Bradford
- Eva S. Dewitz
- Cory Gardiner
- George & Elizabeth Glover
- Sarah Halford
- Ruth Hartman
- Monika Kirtland
- Christine Macchi
- Marjorie McCurrach
- Margaret S. Mosher
- Ann & Jeff Nelson
- Penny Strand
- Emily & Ben Swan
- Kathryn Thorson & Mark Battle

Business Supporting and Patron members

- Arrowsic Island Pottery
- Brunswick Business Center
- Neil Lamb Music
- The Picture Framer