

JAMESTOWN ARTS CENTER'S ABILITY AND RESOURCES

We believe that Jamestown can and will support an arts center

As technology has broadened the ability to communicate electronically, our year round population has grown dramatically. The wide range of our residents' professions, interests, and educations imbue our island with a deep appreciation of our peaceful Jamestown life and the myriad of wonderful experiences that the world beyond our shores offers. In the past few decades Jamestown has become a wellspring of ideas, talents, and aspirations. The people who generate this energy are highly generous with their volunteerism, financial support and intellect. This is the spirit which fuels our passionate pursuit to create the Jamestown Arts Center.

The Jamestown Arts Center draws its strength to achieve the goals of this project from the island's wide range of professional artists, its passionate art students and patrons, and our dedicated board. In equal parts, these four components will ensure the success of creating a sustainable entrepreneurship.

THE BOARD

The Jamestown Arts Center is run by a board of seven dedicated women. Together we bring the essential skills to achieving our goals. We greet the challenges that this large scoped and multi-faceted project presents with competence, diligence and optimism.

Kate Petrie, President:

Photographer, Schock Gallery Jamestown RI
BA architecture from RISD,
Board member, fundraiser -The Jamestown Education Foundation,
PTO vice president, chair for fundraisers for Playground Auction and Chair Affair
(total \$60,000 raised)
Conanicut Island Art Association, president, 2006

Elizabeth Congdon, Vice President:

Oil painter, BA in visual arts, UCSC, Florence Academy of Art,
MFA Painting Program -Parsons School of Design
Cultural Arts and Enrichment co chair – Jamestown School PTO board member
Freelance curator, South Wharf Gallery in Nantucket; Schock Gallery in
Jamestown
Assistant fashion designer, Janet Russo NYC

Dori Hirsch, Treasurer:

Jewelry designer, BA Art History and BS Economics from Barnard College
Fundraiser for Jamestown PTO (as co president), Cultural Arts and Enrichment
co-chair

Co-producer, costume designer for the Jamestown Community Theater
Institutional bond trader, investment banker

Jocelyn Donaghue, Secretary:

Fabric artists, visual arts director Kingston Court House for the Arts, BS
Sociology from Princeton University,
Associates Degree in Illustration, Parsons School of Design

Vivi Valentine, Fundraising Coordinator

BA English, with a minor in Art History, New England College, Henniker, NH
Publishing Department The Metropolitan Museum, NY, NY,
Fundraising, development, board member -The Green Mountain Valley School,
in Waitsfield, VT,
Grant writer, Assistant to the Director. SITE Santa Fe, a contemporary art
museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico
Board of trustees- Conanicut Yacht Club

Dianne Grippi, publicity

Real estate agent, photographer, Fairleigh Dickenson University,
Fashion Institute of Technology
Television and film production company, public relations, stylist, Commercial
visual manager

Abigail Campbell King, construction overseeing

Architect, BA Visual Arts from Smith College,
MA in Architecture Harvard Graduate School of Design
Member of the American Institute of Architects, NCARB
Member of the Arlington Historical Commission
Former Board Member, New England Aquarium, Boston MA
President of the New England Aquarium Council, fundraising events chair

ISLAND ARTISTS:

The abundance of qualified teachers in Jamestown define our progressive programming. Our community is as eager to have the opportunity to study under these award winning artists as the artists are to teach at the Jamestown Arts Center. Like most working artists, Jamestown's arts educators welcome the chance to conserve time and energy by teaching close to home. We are confident that this great wellspring will be tapped by the many professional and amateur artists and creative children of our community and surrounding areas.

COLLABORATION and THE JAMESTOWN ARTS CENTER

The Jamestown Arts Center welcomes collaboration with the non-profit arts and educational organizations, however, we will not be engaging in any permanent and binding legal agreements. By coordinating our programs effectively and efficiently with the schools, arts and community organizations, we will work to serve our whole population

We believe that collaboration is the essence of island life. An arts center that would benefit our island is a place where everyone is welcomed, nourished creatively, challenged, and has an opportunity for transformation. Our community is collaboration of the best kind: one that relies on mutual respect, no matter a person's age, abilities, profession, or socio-economic standing. We are integrated not out of necessity, we live here out of choice.

Past collaborations with area community organizations

- Jamestown Lower and Middle Schools
- Jamestown PTO
- Jamestown Education Fund
- Community Center
- Teen Center

Future collaborations anticipated:

- Jamestown Philomenian Library
- Piano Guild
- Jamestown Historical Society
- Senior Center
- Conanicut Island Arts Association
- Jamestown Community Theater
- Jamestown Community Band
- Jamestown Community Chorus
- Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association

As we move closer to our goal, reaching out to the community for support, our confidence is affirmed that not only CAN we afford to build the Jamestown Arts Center -- we cannot afford NOT to! The Jamestown Arts Center is our stimulus package. We live on Jamestown because we love it. Because it makes our lives better. Now we can help make it better. We can help transform our community, making it even more vibrant, creative, and full.

STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC REALM

The Jamestown Arts Center believes that cultivating our community's artistic expression and investing in our creativity is tantamount to a building a strong public realm. People of all ages and abilities will benefit by having one central place where they can learn and share in creative, rewarding arts experiences. The Jamestown Art Center will provide alternative education, employment, internships, mentoring, and outreach. For the first time in Jamestown's history, artists and art lovers may gather and inspire each other in one central welcoming

environment. The arts may flourish as we enrich our island, celebrate our spirit and honor our diversity.

Art is a powerful way for society to connect. When we engage in art we heighten our ability to see within and beyond ourselves. Art relies upon the communication of ideas, and thus builds empathy. Art does not promote greed or cruelty, but strives to elevate the human condition with wisdom and compassion. These valuable attributes unify a society with the spirit of goodwill, transforming lives both individually and collectively.

Learning in the arts is also an important tool to enhance the creativity necessary to succeeding in the technological age. We can deepen our imaginations and capacities to conceive of powerful ideas when we the practice of any art form because art demands challenge taking action. Right-and-wrong thinking is quickly becoming a crippling way to approach problem solving, while a new intelligence embraces creative experimentation without the fear of failure.

Noted educator Ken Robinson, Ph.D.:

“The world is changing faster that ever in our history. Our best hope for the future is to develop a new paradigm of human capacity to meet a new era of human existence. We need to evolve a new appreciation of the importance of nurturing the human talent along with an understanding of how talent expresses itself differently in every individual. We need to create environments where every person is inspired to grow creatively.”

* Ken Robinson, Ph.D. with Lou Aronica “the Element” Penguin Publishing

The Jamestown Arts Center recognizes the need for this paradigm shift from an industrial age educational philosophy-- whose hierarchy relegates the arts to the least important area of study-- to a technological age that demands creativity. We seek to empower our community by providing enriching arts experiences so that we may learn to see the horizons of our rapidly changing world and look beyond.