

2010-2011



INFO PACKET



**CATA: 40 Railroad Street, Suite 6, Great Barrington, MA 01230
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CATACAT

One-Page Summary



Mission

Community Access to the Arts nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts.

History

Founder Sandra Newman was working as a dance therapist with adults with disabilities when she was moved to create community through the use of the fine and performing arts. In 1993, she founded Community Access to the Arts (CATA), a non-profit arts organization, with the goal of using the arts as common ground to connect traditionally underserved populations with the community-at-large. From the first workshop for 12 individuals with disabilities, CATA has grown to over 1,000 workshops annually, actively involving hundreds of individuals from across the county.

Population

Our programs take place in healthcare, therapeutic, eldercare, educational, community, and cultural settings. We serve 600 individuals with developmental, physical, emotional, and/or mental disabilities representing 26 different human service and educational organizations, as well as individuals living at home. Currently, the majority of our participants reside in Berkshire County, MA.

Programs

Programs include Arts In & Arts Out, The Art Cart, CATA Art on Tour, A.R.T. Workshops, CATAtansitions, CATAdirect - our crafts cooperative, and Special Events.

Faculty Artists

CATA employs 21 faculty artists who combine expertise in their medium with intuition and compassion. They are independent contractors, encouraged to draw on each other's strengths and insights.

Board of Directors

The 18 members of the Board of Directors are all hands-on volunteers whose involvement includes fiscal stewardship, long-range planning and fundraising. Their diverse interests and skills are united by their passion for the mission and commitment to CATA's success. Each year one faculty member and one participant serve as representatives on the board.

Partner Organizations

CATA has many community partnerships. Besides offering workshops in our gallery/studio space, CATA holds workshops at many therapeutic, healthcare, cultural, educational, community, and business settings, all located throughout Berkshire County. CATA works in collaboration with area art galleries, businesses and non-profit agencies in presenting our participants' artwork.

Staff

CATA currently employs six staff members. **Sandra Newman**, Founder & Executive Director, holds a Master's Degree in Dance Therapy and has extensive experience working with individuals with disabilities. **Dawn Lane**, Program & Artistic Director, dancer, choreographer, holds a Master's of Education and Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. **Liana Toscanini**, Development & Marketing Director, has 20 years of marketing and 10 years of local, non-profit management and fundraising experience. **Adrienne Brown**, Program Coordinator, has been teaching art and other subjects for fifteen years in New York and Connecticut. She graduated Cum Laude from Connecticut College with a B.A. in Studio Art and has worked with special needs students throughout her career. **Maria Mazzocco**, Assistant Program Coordinator, has a B.A. in Fine and Performing Arts Management and is a visual artist. **Katie Clarke**, Administrative Director, previously worked in event services at the Boston Symphony Orchestra and has a B.A. in Communications.

CATACAT

Faculty, Settings, Partners



Faculty Artists

Paula Beaudin, Yoga Instructor
Barby Cardillo, Actress, Teaching Artist & Social Worker
Laura Christensen, Visual Artist
Lara Gonzalez, Performing Artist & Educator
Susie Hardcastle, Visual Artist
Pat Hogan, Visual Artist
Leslie Klein, Ceramic Artist
Dawn Lane, Choreographer, Dancer & Teaching Artist
Bernice Lewis, Singer, Songwriter, Educator
Marlene Marshall, Visual Artist
Sarah McNair, Visual Artist
Diane Prusha, Actor
Roger Reed, Juggler & Mime
Yael Shacham, Performing Artist & Educator
Janice Shields, Rustic Artist
Yvette “Jamuna” Sirker, Playwright
JoAnne Spies, Singer/Songwriter
Carol Stroll, Poet
Vikki True, Singer & Performing Artist
Stefanie Weber, Dancer Artist
Michael Wolski, Visual Artist & Puppeteer

Settings

Ad Lib Inc.
Adult Day Health Center of the Brien Center
Berkshire County Arc
Berkshire Family and Individual Resources
Berkshire Health Systems
Berkshire Hills Regional School District
Berkshire Place
Berkshire Service Group of the Department of Developmental Services
Blue Q
Cadmus Lifesharing Association
Central Berkshire Regional School District
High Spirit Community Farm
Individuals living at home

Leander House
Lenox Public Schools
Oak Lodge
Oakdale Foundation
Pittsfield Public Schools
Riverbrook Residence
Southern Berkshire Regional School District
Special Needs Program (Ghent, NY)

Current Partners

Berkshire South Regional Community Center
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival
Montessori School of the Berkshires
Monument Mountain Regional High School
New Stage Performing Arts Center
Shakespeare & Company
VSA arts Massachusetts

Art on Tour Venues

Ferrin Gallery
New Marlborough Meeting House
North Adams Regional Hospital
Sandisfield Arts Center



Teresa Thomas with CATAdirect volunteer, Leslie Shatz.

CATA

Programs



Arts In and Arts Out

In this core program, CATA participants attend workshops led by CATA faculty artists skilled in the visual and performing arts. Visual arts workshops include drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, and set and costume design. Performing arts workshops include singing, drumming, dancing, juggling, and acting. Other workshops include poetry and yoga.

The Art Cart

CATA faculty artist, **JoAnne Spies**, and a CATA participant share songs and stories, as well as a colorful mobile lending library of framed artwork with residents of **Berkshire Health Systems** nursing homes.

A.R.T. Workshops

Artistic Realization Technologies is a unique method that provides people with severe physical disabilities the opportunity to paint with the assistance of laser pointers, trained trackers acting as the hands of the artist, employing a sophisticated series of yes/no questions designed to give the artist complete precision and control.

CATAtansitions

A collaboration with area schools to provide teenagers and young adults with disabilities with the skills, motivation, and support necessary to access artistic and cultural resources in their communities, including CATA workshops.

CATAdirect Crafts Cooperative

Each week, a group of adults with disabilities collaborate with community volunteers to create beautiful, eco-friendly products out of mostly recycled materials. Sales of these products provide income in the form of commissions to the participants, help fund the program, and tell CATA's story wherever they are sold.

CATA Art on Tour

CATA's visual art has been exhibited at business, cultural and community sites throughout Berkshire County and beyond, i.e. Norman Rockwell Museum, Ferrin Gallery, and VSA Boston. CATA's five performing arts companies - **The Moving Company, The Serenaders, Shakespeare's Players, The Juggling Connection** and **Tap Murmurs** - are comprised of CATA participants and often include community members as guest performers.

Special Events

CATA's annual events include a gala and community performance at **Shakespeare & Company's Founders' Theatre** and **"I Am A Part of Art,"** an art show and poetry reading. In addition to year-round programs, CATA holds special events that raise public awareness of CATA's work, including **The Sprout Touring Film Festival**, featuring films by and about people with developmental disabilities, art exhibitions, and informal performances.



Dawn Lane and Louisa Millonzi in "Resilience" (2010)

CATA

Key Achievements



■ **1993** Twelve women with disabilities attend CATA's first workshop held at IS183 Art School of the Berkshires and led by textile artist Wendy Rabinowitz.

■ **1995** CATA visual artists have their first public art show at the Rica Gallery in Housatonic, Massachusetts.

■ **1996-1997** CATA receives its first year of operational support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

■ **1999** CATA stages its first theater performance, introducing artists and performers with disabilities to an audience of 250 community members at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington.

■ **2001** Former Mummenshanz Theatre member Roger Reed joins the CATA faculty.

■ **2002** CATA's annual performance moves from Berkshire Theatre Festival to the Founders' Theatre at Shakespeare & Company.

■ **2003** CATA's annual performance, CATALive, celebrates CATA's tenth anniversary and includes special guests: actor Tina Packer, dancer Marge Champion, and journalist John Hockenberry.

■ **2004** "CATA on Tour" brings CATA's performing arts companies to Berkshire County Public Schools and is selected by the Massachusetts Cultural Council as a Gold Star Project.

■ **2004** CATA Program & Artistic Director and choreographer Dawn Lane receives LEF New England grant to create "Mattress Ticking," a duet including Ms. Lane and Marisa Yudkin, a dancer with Huntington's Disease.

■ **2005** CATA and the Berkshire Theatre Festival present "for heaven's sake," a movement event choreographed and directed by Dawn Lane and featuring five CATA dancers from The Moving Company.

■ **2005** CATA is named a VSA Massachusetts affiliate.

■ **2006** CATA and Black Ice Entertainment screen "Too Much to Stop," a film documenting the collaboration between Dawn Lane and Marisa Yudkin at the National Brain Injury Association Conference, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and at the Berkshire Museum.

■ **2006** Nominated by State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, CATA receives the Outstanding Community Arts

Collaborative award from the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education.

■ **2006** CATA holds its first public poetry event, featuring readings by CATA participants, actor Sally-Jane Heit, and four-time National Poetry Slam winner Taylor Mali.

■ **2007** Pollack-Krasner award winning artist Gordon Sasaki comes to CATA for a week long residency program that integrates CATA participants, faculty artists and community members.

■ **2007** CATA receives a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to expand its Artistic Realization Technology program.

■ **2007** Program & Artistic Director Dawn Lane receives the Distinguished Educator in Dance award from the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education.

■ **2008** CATA presents The Sprout Film Festival in Great Barrington featuring films by and about people with disabilities.

■ **2008** CATA expands into Northern Berkshire County adding 154 workshops, 70 participants and 4 new settings.

■ **2009** CATA receives \$15,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts for school programs.

■ **2009** CATA received \$10,000 from the William J. and Margery S. Barrett Fund for a digital photography workshop series.

■ **2009** Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield hosts first A.R.T. exhibit. Eight paintings sold.

■ **2009** Sandy Newman receives the Unsung Heroine Award from the MA Commission on the Status of Women.

■ **2009** CATA artwork travels to ten venues thanks to a grant from Berkshire Life Charitable Foundation.

■ **2010** The Moving Co. is invited to perform in Washington, D.C., at the VSA International Arts Festival.

■ **2010** Sandy Newman elected "Citizen of the Year" by the Great Barrington Rotary Club.

■ **2010** Dawn Lane receives a fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for outstanding choreography.

Supporters



Grants & Foundations

Alford-Egremont Cultural Council
Alpern-Rosenthal Foundation
Fund
Artists' Resource Trust
Berkshire Hills Fund for Excellence
Berkshire Life Charitable Foundation
Bulova Gale Foundation
City of Pittsfield
Coolidge Hill Foundation
Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire
Green Foundation
John Sellon Charitable Residual Trust
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Monterey Cultural Council
National Endowment for the Arts
New England Foundation for the Arts
New Marlboro Cultural Council
Otis Cultural Council
Pittsfield Cultural Council
Sandisfield Cultural Council
Stockbridge Cultural Council
VSA arts of Massachusetts

Business Donors & Collaborators

A. N. Pignatelli & Sons
Austen Riggs Center, Inc.
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Barnbrook Realty
The Beacon Cinema
Berkshire Brewing Company
Berkshire International Film Festival
Berkshire Life Insurance
Company of America
Berkshire Mountain Bakery/Richard
Bourdin
Berkshire Mountain Distillers
Berkshire Museum
Berkshire Pulse
Berkshire Theatre Festival
Black Ice Entertainment
Shirley Blanchard
Blue Point Design
Blue Q
Barbara Bonner
The Bookloft
The Bookstore
Brazabra Corporation
Cadmus Lifesharing
Calgo Gardens
Campo di Fiore
Canyon Ranch
Laura Christensen

The Colonial Theatre
Crossings French Food
Cyril & Dayne
Domaney's Liquors & Fine Wines
Dresser Hull Lumber
E. Caligari & Son
Bart Elsbach
Janet Elsbach
Everest Reinsurance Company
Evergreen
Fiesta Candy Company
The Floor Store
Sean Flynn
Walton Ford
Frames on Wheels
Gail Garland
Germaine
Ghi Sign
Trudy Gilbert
Dr. Scott Goffin
GoodSearch
Google Ads
Great Barrington Rotary
Greenagers
Celeste Gustavsson
Hancock Shaker Village
Susie Hardcastle
Pat Hogan
Hunter Bee
Iredale Mineral Cosmetics
iSchine Consulting
Iverson Jewelry
Stephanie Iverson
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival
John Fulop Associates
Architects & Planners
David Joseph
The Kennedy Center
Gigi Kingston
Kwik Print
Jenny Laird
Lance Vermeulen Real Estate
Valerie Locher
Govane Lohbauer
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center
Mahaiwe Tent
Catherine & Matt Mandel
Marlene Marshall
Martin Clothes, Inc.
Metropolitan Shop
Kara Midlam
MissionFish.org
Margo Morrison

The Mount
Museum Fascimilies
Norman Rockwell Museum
Our Berkshire Green
Paradigm Properties
Vera Pavlisova
Pediatric Psychology Associates
Peter Pan Bus Lines
Sophie Petillo
Pittsfield Veterinary Hospital
Steve Porcella
Quintessentials Jewelry
Railroad Street Youth Project
Red Lion Inn
Peggy Reeves
Renaissance Remodeling & Restoration
Riverbrook Staff
Amy Rudnick
Pamela Sandler, AIA
Janice Shields
Shopper's Guide
Gail Smith
Soudant Builders
Spirol International Corp.
Richard Stanley
Studio Day Spa
Stacey Surber
Taft Farms
Kathleen Tillet
The Triplex
Tucker Street Associates
John Valente
Ward's Nursery & Garden Center
Wheeler & Taylor
Williams & Son
Ev & Eric Wilska
Windy Hill Farm
Dr. Jay Wise, DDS
Wonderful Things
Worldwide Market Square
You Are Here

Volunteers

Eddie Allen
Susan Arkans
Barbara Clarke
Jaff Gagnon
Dorrie Margolin
Richard Migot
Elaine Radiss
Deborah Schreier
Leslie Shatz
Denise Ulick

CATACTA

Board Biographies



Officers

■ **John J. Whalan**, President. PO Box 273, West Stockbridge, MA 01262. Founder/President of Black Ice Entertainment.

■ **Kathryn Burdsall**, Vice President & Secretary. 103 Baldwin Hill Rd., South, Gt. Barrington, MA 01230. Secondary Special Education teacher, Monument Valley Regional Middle School.

■ **Richard Lindner**, Treasurer. 8 Highcrest Rd., Lenox, MA 01240. Owner and President of Lindner Consulting, a financial and management consulting business servicing mid-sized businesses in New England.

■ **Janet Reich Elsbach**, Creative Advisor. 1554 Boardman St., Sheffield, MA 01257. Writer, Fiber Artist. Active in several education and community action organizations in the US and abroad.

Members

■ **Deborah Caiola**, 206 Old Gale Hill Rd., East Chatham, NY 12060. Director Center for Development in Lee, MA, a day-habilitation program serving adults with developmental disabilities.

■ **Linda Cooper**, 193 Dawes Ave., Pittsfield, MA 01201. Sales & Marketing Executive specializing in the hospitality industry.

■ **Nancy K. Kalodner**, PO Box 353, Monterey, MA 01245. Broker-owner of Benchmark Real Estate.

■ **Rita Kasky**, 140 Silverbrook Rd., Sandisfield, MA 01255. Retired Development Director. Sandisfield Arts Center board member and Gould Farm associate board member.

■ **Laurie Gilden Lindner**, 8 Highcrest Rd., Lenox, MA 01240. Retired Director of multi-disciplinary programs in the Boston Medical Community and Co-owner of Lindner Consulting.

Members (cont.)

■ **Catherine Mandel**, PO Box 1483, Stockbridge, MA 01262. Educator, theatre professional and volunteer for numerous Berkshire County non-profit organizations.

■ **Matthew Mandel, M.D.**, PO Box 1483, Stockbridge, MA 01262. Retired Physician. Founding member of Board, Volunteers In Medicine - Berkshires.

■ **Kate Millonzi**, PO Box 572, Sandisfield, MA 01255. Educator and founding member of the Cooke Center for Learning & Development in NY.

■ **Elaine Radiss**, 12 Blue Hill Rd., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230. Background in family therapy, specializing in adolescent behavior.

■ **Emily Rechnitz**, PO Box 1955, Lenox, MA 01240. Writer and actor.

■ **Lance Schine**, 6200 Stratford Rd., Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Technology Consultant.

■ **Stephen A. Shatz**, PO Box 1435, Stockbridge, MA 01262. Principal of Law Firm Shatz, Schwartz and Fentin, PC of Springfield, MA. Board member of Banknorth Massachusetts and Community Music School of Springfield.

■ **Tyler Weld**, 1640 Home Rd., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230. Background in architectural design.

■ **Liz Williams**, 475 Fernside Rd., Tyringham, MA 01260. President and Marketing Director of the Jessica Howard, Ltd., Eliza J, Jessica Simpson, and private label dress divisions of G-III Apparel Group.