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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Arts Council of Windham County announce grantees for
2 2026 Brattleboro Town Arts Fund

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The Arts Council of Windham County (ACWC)
6 announces the grantees for the 2026 Brattleboro Town Arts Fund
7 (TAF) program. Sixteen community-centered creative projects
8 were selected from a competitive pool of proposals in the
9 program’s sixth year.
10 TAF supports the development and presentation of
11 projects that strengthen community connection and contribute to

12 the vibrancy and diversity of Brattleboro’s arts and cultural life.
13 Funded projects engage social and quality-of-life issues, foster
14 collaboration, expand access for underrepresented artists and
15 audiences, and celebrate the unique character of Brattleboro.

16 This year’s cycle invited proposals for low-cost creative
17 projects, ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000, open to various media,
18 artists, organizations, and creative practices. Since 2020, TAF has
19 received nearly 200 applications and funded 69 initiatives,
20 reflecting the depth and diversity of creative work across the
21 community.

22 “We’re continually inspired by the creativity and care
23 reflected in these proposals,” TAF co-coordinators Chrissy Lee
24 and Sharon Fantl said in a news release. “Each year, artists and
25 organizations bring forward ideas that not only enrich
26 Brattleboro’s cultural landscape but also create meaningful
27 opportunities for connection, expression, and belonging. We’re
28 proud to support projects that invite the community to
29 participate, reflect, and imagine together.”

30 Together, these grants support artist-led and community-
31 rooted projects that expand access to the arts, foster
32 collaboration, and create opportunities for shared creative
33 experience across Brattleboro.

34 Here are the 2026 Town Arts Fund Grantees:

35 • Brattleboro Portrait Series (Bobby DiTrani) — A series
36 of small-scale portrait paintings capturing the varied and diverse
37 people of the Brattleboro area. The project includes two public
38 exhibitions, with opening and closing events aligned with Gallery
39 Walk.

40 • Focus Forward (Vermont Center for Photography) — A
41 seven-week introductory digital photography program for
42 individuals in recovery, offered in partnership with Turning Point
43 of Windham County. Participants receive cameras, hands-on
44 instruction, and the opportunity to share their work in a
45 culminating public exhibition.

46 • Deep-Rooted Songs: A Recording Project (Audrey
47 Kivimäe Batchelder) — A studio recording project featuring
48 original songs rooted in personal experience and a sense of place
49 in Brattleboro, created in collaboration with local musicians and
50 shared with the broader community.

51 • 2026 Brattleboro Festival of Miniatures (Brattleboro
52 Festival of Miniatures) — A free, town-wide celebration inviting
53 businesses, schools, and artists to create small-scale scenes
54 across Brattleboro. Building on the success of its inaugural year,
55 the 2026 festival expands programming, participation, and public
56 engagement to amplify the unique creative spirit of Brattleboro.

57 • Community Circus Day (New England Center for
58 Circus Arts) — A free opening day for the Vermont Circus Festival,
59 developed in collaboration with local community partners. The
60 day features performances, workshops, and participatory
61 activities, culminating in a family-friendly acrobatic clown show.

62 • HUMAN School Show Initiative (Sandglass Theater) —
63 School-day performances of *Human*, a multimedia puppetry
64 work by Nehprie Amenii, presented as part of the Puppets in the
65 Green Mountains Festival. The project connects visiting artists,
66 students, and educators through interactive storytelling centered
67 on empathy and human connection.

68 • GRRRLS 2 the Front: Future Beat School (The Stone
69 Church) — A multi-session DJ workshop led by Maria Pugnetti
70 (DJ Wooly Mar), offered through The Stone Church's GRRRLS 2
71 the Front program. Designed for women, trans, and nonbinary
72 participants, the program builds skills and access within a
73 supportive, community-centered learning environment.

74 • Vermont Trans Literary Festival (Out in the Open) — A
75 pilot series of free literary events in spring and fall 2026,
76 presented in collaboration with Everyone's Books and Brooks
77 Memorial Library. The festival will feature at least four established
78 and emerging trans writers through readings, conversations, and
79 community engagement, creating space for dialogue, visibility,
80 and connection in a rural context.

81 • Illuminated Trash (Amber Paris) — A pilot artist-in-
82 residence program at the Windham Solid Waste Management
83 District, culminating in a collaborative public installation created
84 from reclaimed materials. The project engages local students in
85 the creation of a quilted banner and establishes a framework for
86 future artist residencies in partnership with the transfer station.

87 • Afro-Fusion Dance & Drum: Africa to the Americas
88 (Ammaya Dance & Drum) — A participatory performance and
89 workshop led by the Ammaya Dance & Drum ensemble, rooted
90 in West African dance and drumming traditions and interwoven
91 with Latin and American musical influences. Featuring live
92 percussion and movement, the project invites community
93 members into an energetic, shared experience of rhythm, cultural
94 exchange, and collective expression.

95 • Vermont Crankie Fest Family Shows (Vermont Crankie
96 Fest) — Expanded festival programming, including a free daytime
97 family concert. This free programming builds on ongoing efforts
98 to increase access to the festival, such as the addition of live ASL
99 interpretation.

100 • Brattleboro-Built Band Music: Composer + Students
101 (Keane Southard) — A new composition by local composer
102 Keane Southard, inspired by Brattleboro and developed in
103 collaboration with Brattleboro elementary school band students
104 and music educators. Students contribute ideas, rehearse the
105 work, and premiere it in performance alongside the composer.

106 • Bringing Literary Characters to Life (Brattleboro Words
107 Project, Vermont Folklife Center) — A collaborative project of the
108 Brattleboro Words Project, Brooks Memorial Library, and the Tiny
109 Theater Acting Ensemble, bringing Brattleboro’s literary history to
110 life through live performances. Events include the June 2026
111 ribbon-cutting of the new Brattleboro Amtrak Station and the
112 unveiling of an interactive Brattleboro Words Trail exhibit, as well
113 as a performance at Brooks Library as part of town-wide America
114 250 commemorations.

115 • The People’s Living Wisdom Museum (Jamie Mohr,
116 Sarah Freeman) — A nomadic, pop-up exhibition series
117 developed by collaborators from Epsilon Spires and the
118 Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Hosted in downtown spaces,
119 the project invites community participation through open calls
120 and creative prompts that playfully inspire open-ended
121 exploration (and interpretation).

122 • Making Community (River Gallery School of Art) —
123 Free, drop-in art-making sessions for adults, facilitated by River
124 Gallery School teaching artists and developed in collaboration
125 with downtown partners. Participants are invited to engage in
126 drawing, mending, and other accessible creative practices in a
127 welcoming, social setting that fosters connection and creative
128 confidence.

129 • The Brattleboro Cabinet of Wonder (Taylor Allison
130 Dunne) — A public art vending machine developed in
131 collaboration with local artists, featuring affordable, original
132 works in a curated, rotating format. Installed in a shared
133 community space, the project expands access to art beyond
134 traditional venues and includes themed open calls and a
135 companion website connecting audiences directly with
136 participating artists.

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137 Updates on TAF projects and future opportunities can be
138 found at artswindhamcounty.org/taf and @artswindhamcounty on
139 Facebook and Instagram. The Brattleboro Town Arts Fund is a
140 program of the Arts Council of Windham County and is made
141 possible through support from the town of Brattleboro. To help
142 sustain this program and support future community-based
143 creative work, donations can be made at
144 artswindhamcounty.org/donate.

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