

# RESILIENCY, INNOVATION, OPTIMISM

Throughout the disruptions and havoc caused by COVID-19, some fundamental things remained constant in 2020 for the arts in our community. They bode well for the future and are useful to note as 2020 draws to a close.

The arts organizations and individual artists in our community are vibrant and diverse; they shine brightly and truly do constitute an “arts constellation”. The amazing art they create provide numerous beneficial impacts that are indispensable in making our community exceptional. This community’s arts supporters are stalwart and devoted to the success of the arts, which they continue to demonstrate by supporting The Arts Council and other organizations and artists in the arts constellation.

Those fundamental constants are mutually reinforcing. They buoyed the arts constellation in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered the staging of planned productions and events. They helped to inspire the resiliency and innovation that have been pervasive themes throughout this turbulent year.

All across our community, arts organizations and artists have been finding new ways to continue engaging with and delivering much-needed artistic content to community members and other constituents. Consider just these few illustrative examples.

The Piedmont Opera was undaunted when it had to cancel its sold-out, highly-anticipated production of “The King and I”, and later couldn’t hold its Magnolia Ball in the traditional festive style that has made it a “community event” for 28 years. The Opera persevered and went on to stage the community’s first major virtual fundraising event, living-streamed the 2020 edition of the Magnolia Ball with fabulous success.

During the summer, Maestro James Allbritten held a series of engaging, noon-time, virtual chats with performing artists, composers and others involved in producing operas. The Opera developed a 2020 - 2021 season that opened on time in September with its first ever live-streamed opera. For

that production – two scintillating performances of “Echoes from Carolina” in collaboration with the Winston-Salem Festival Ballet – the Opera sold tickets in 42 states and nine countries. Its 2020 - 2021 season will include a live-stream of “Cinderella” in March 2021.

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company continued to engage with and serve both its local and international audiences by producing eight virtual events between April and October. Those events included creative staged readings, a National Black Theatre Festival celebration event that featured performances by artists from across the country and a fully-staged streaming production of Pearl Gaffney’s “The Resurrection of Alice”, for which it partnered with Appalachian State University and the Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts in Boone.

From September to November, Artistic Director Jackie Alexander led the NC Black Rep’s production of an outdoor series of staged readings in partnership with SECCA, another star in the community’s arts constellation that has exemplified resiliency and innovation. The NC Black Rep is also making plans to stage a 2021 edition of its internationally-acclaimed National Black Theatre Festival that will comply with then-applicable safety protocols.

The Winston-Salem Symphony – which had teed up multiple major roles in the community-wide, year-long, series of Beethoven Rocks Winston-Salem events – was similarly undaunted when that series and the Symphony’s other live productions were shut down by the pandemic. The Symphony continued to engage with its myriad constituents and began to deliver a broad array of “reimagined” productions and events.

The Symphony has been providing new live-streamed and recorded digital content, which has included enhanced digital music education offerings via a weekly online instruction program for P.L.A.Y. (Piedmont Learning Academy for Youth). Among myriad other outreaches, small ensembles

of Symphony musicians gave live performances (in compliance with social-distancing protocols) at outdoor locations around the community.

The Symphony has also created new online adult experiences as part of its reimagined 2020 - 2021 season, which will include a series of “Music Lovers Luncheons” featuring interviews of guest artists and composers moderated by Music Director Tim Redmond.

There are countless other examples of resiliency and innovation by the above and numerous other organizations and artists in our arts constellation. They are similarly impressive.

No one knows what 2021 will bring, of course, or what the “new normal” will look like in the ultimate aftermath of COVID-19. We lost some valued arts organizations this year, and we may lose others before we emerge from the current crisis.

But, we do know that the fundamental constants noted earlier will continue. We know that the arts constellation, on the whole, will emerge vibrant and diverse, and that the beneficial impacts of the arts will endure.

As a part of that, The Arts Council will continue its key core functions of (i) making critically-needed grants to arts organizations and artists; (ii) operating its strategic facilities and dynamic multi-functional venues, on which so many in the community depend; and (iii) providing a wide range of other services that support and promote the arts constellation.

The arts will continue to entertain, enrich and inspire every life they touch. The Arts Council will continue its mission to help them “touch every corner” of the community. And, the arts will help fuel optimism and the continuing emergence of our community as a great place to live, work, learn and play.

The deep devotion and stalwart support of this community for the arts – and the resiliency and innovation of the arts constellation – will make it so.

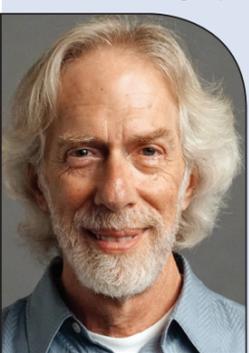
## Arts Council's

# 2020 Annual Awards

Each year, countless individuals and organizations contribute to the vitality and diversity of the arts in our community. It is always a highlight of The Arts Council's year to recognize and celebrate some of them in a special way by granting our Annual Awards. 2020 is no different in either of those regards.

The Arts Council was delighted to present its 2020 Annual Awards to four very impressive recipients. We regret that COVID-19 safety protocols prevent us from celebrating them at our customary Annual Meeting for the community, but we do so here.

**The Arts Council Award** recognizes an individual who exhibits a significant commitment to volunteer service and has made a lasting impact on our arts community. The 2020 recipient is **Dr. Dale Pollock**, who embodies those very high standards.



DR. DALE POLLOCK

Dr. Pollock is a retired professor and former Dean of the School of Filmmaking at

the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Via extensive volunteer service over the course of his long career, and beyond it, Dr. Pollock has both shaped the lives of hundreds of inspiring film industry participants and helped to shape and deepen our community’s appreciation of filmmaking and love for the “big screen”.

Among his numerous impressive contributions to our community, Dr. Pollock was instrumental in bringing the RiverRun International Festival to Winston-Salem in 2002, and subsequently helping to lead its emergence as one of the premier cultural events in the state and region. Dr. Pollock still serves as an emeritus member of RiverRun’s Board of Directors.

**The Arts Educator Excellence Award** recognizes an educator or teaching artist who has enriched the education of our community’s youth and inspired the next generation of artists, patrons and other creative individuals. The 2020 recipient is **Dr. Rachel Watson**, who literally personifies the award’s criteria.

Dr. Watson is a musician as well as an educator, and she is currently Senior Director of Education, Engagement and Inclusion for the Winston-Salem Symphony. Dr. Watson taught music in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School

System for 15 years, serving as the orchestra director at Mount Tabor High School and Jefferson Middle School.

Dr. Watson has been instrumental in the Winston-Salem Symphony’s P.L.A.Y. (Piedmont Learning Academy for Youth) program, which emphasizes teaching the whole child – i.e., head, heart and hands. She even learned Spanish in order to enhance her ability to extend the impact of the P.L.A.Y. program, and she also led the adaption of the program’s curriculum to provide online lessons when COVID-19 disrupted in-person lessons.



DR. RACHEL WATSON

**The R. Phillip Hanes, Jr. Young Leader Award** recognizes an individual under 40 years old whose time, talent and energy have furthered the mission of supporting and promoting the arts in our community, leaving a legacy of service for future leaders and for the future of the arts. The 2020 recipient is **Magalie Yacinthe**, who epitomizes the attributes targeted by the award.



MAGALIE YACINTHE

Her volunteer community service is extensive and wide ranging, notwithstanding the demands of running her own business. Magalie currently serves as the Communications and Marketing Chair of Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts, and she is a member of the City/County’s Public Art Commission’s Fourth Street Public Art Committee.

Among her impressive activities, Magalie was part of the volunteer organizing group for the Winston-Salem Portrait Project, which will officially unveil in April 2021 and is one of the City’s largest public art projects. She has also worked with the University of North Carolina School of the Arts’ Kenan Institute for the Arts and the National Black Theatre Festival and served as Arts & Letters Chair for the local alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta.

Magalie is an entrepreneur, arts and equity advocate, and community

**The Arts-Integrated Workplace Award** recognizes a local company or other business for its exemplary efforts to integrate the arts into its organizational culture and the lives of its employees. The 2020 recipient is **Hanesbrands Inc.**, a longstanding and stalwart supporter of the arts in this community.

Hanesbrands is the archetype of a company that both supports the arts itself and promotes and facilitates appreciation for the arts within its work environment. In addition to its magnanimous financial support to numerous arts organizations for many years, Hanesbrands has encouraged its employees to embrace, support and participate in the arts.

Among numerous other things, Hanesbrands sponsors annual visual art contests and talent shows for its employees. Hanesbrands also hosts an annual arts fair that introduces employees to various arts and cultural organizations in the community

to promote awareness, attendance at arts events and volunteerism that includes service on the governing bodies of arts organizations.

Hanesbrands longstanding special support of The Arts Council is manifested in numerous ways on our campus at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts – via the Hanesbrands Theatre and otherwise – and by its proactive promotion of its employees’ workplace campaign that support our annual Community Fund for the Arts campaigns.



HANESBRANDS INC.

“FOR IT IS IN *giving*  
THAT WE *receive*.”  
- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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