



Burlington City Arts (BCA) is a multidisciplinary contemporary arts organization and the City of Burlington's cultural planner. For more than 45 years, BCA has supported our region's artists, expanded access to arts learning and experiences, and made the arts an essential part of civic life.

Through a public-private partnership, BCA combines municipal investment, philanthropy, earned revenue, and community partnerships to create opportunities for artists and audiences. Our work connects art with education, public space, civic dialogue, and the local economy—helping make Burlington a vibrant place to live, work, visit, and create.

OUR MISSION

Burlington City Arts nurtures a dynamic environment through the arts, making quality experiences and opportunities accessible to a broad audience. **We:**

- Support Vermont artists and advance the creation of new work.
- Expand access to arts education, participation, and engagement for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
- Present contemporary art and cultural experiences that connect Burlington to wider conversations and encourage critical dialogue.
- Make the arts integral to Burlington's economic and civic development, public spaces, and livability.

Burlington City Arts plays an enormous role in keeping our community vital, alive and welcoming.

**-Michelle, donor and
community member**



BCA presents contemporary art by Vermont, national, and international artists, creating opportunities for discovery, exchange, and critical dialogue.

- Present a rotating program of exhibitions, artist talks, panels, and public programs at the BCA Center.
- Connect exhibitions with school visits, community groups, and intergenerational gallery learning experiences.
- Extend opportunities for Vermont artists through high visibility exhibitions in public and private spaces across the region, including the UVM Medical Center and Burlington International Airport.

*Really glad I came across the
BCA Center in passing.
Beautiful, meaningful work.*

- BCA Center visitor



BCA provides hands-on arts learning for youth, adults, and families, with an emphasis on access, creative exploration, career discovery, professional development, and skill-building.

- Offer classes, workshops, youth camps, and family programs at BCA Studios, including facilities for painting and drawing, printmaking, clay, jewelry, and photography.
- Provide scholarships and tuition assistance to help reduce financial barriers to participation.
- Partner with schools and community organizations to connect more people with arts learning, including programs for disabled teens and young adults.
- For the past two years, provide paid youth apprenticeships in public art, pairing mentorship and professional experience with the creation of permanent community artwork.
- Facilitate the Community Arts Education Council (CAEC) a local and statewide braintrust on community arts education programming.

*Over the course of the program,
they've grown as an artist and
I can really begin to see them
coming into their own as an
adult.*

**- Public Art Apprenticeship
Program Parent**



BCA produces programs, festivals and events that bring people together, support artists, and animate Burlington's public spaces throughout the year.

Festival of Fools

- A celebration of street performance and spectacle, transforming downtown into a vibrant stage for world-class circus artists, acrobats, comedians and musicians. This Burlington tradition draws visitors from far and wide to experience Burlington's quirky magic.

Summer in the City

- Summer Concert Series
- Sunday Classical
- Splash Dance
- Twilight Concert Series
- Other seasonal performances, artist activations, cultural and community events

Winter in the City

- Burlington Illuminated: temporary public art, video projections, and artist activations across downtown and the waterfront
- Highlight, Burlington's New Year's Eve celebration, with artists and community partners presenting events across the city
- Art Amplified, a series pairing gallery exhibitions with local musicians, DJs and mood lighting to bring community together

BCA promotes partner-led cultural, family, comedy, music, and performance programming under both the Winter and Summer in the City umbrellas.

BCA also manages event spaces, including the Lorraine B. Good Room, Roth Gallery, BCA Plaza in City Hall Park, Contois Auditorium, and the newly opened Community Room at the BCA Studios, helping community organizations and individuals bring public and private events to life.

My husband and I traveled up to Burlington from the Upper Valley to attend Highlight, and we had such a wonderful time—from the Moth storytellers and circus performers to the ECHO dance floors and fireworks.

What a spectacular event!

- Meghan & James Rushton



Since 1994, Art from the Heart has brought volunteer-led artmaking to patients, caregivers, and care teams at the University of Vermont Medical Center and Children's Hospital. The program offers free creative connection and helps make the hospital environment more welcoming. Just over half of the participants are children under the age of 18. Over 17,000 people participate in this program annually. Art from the Heart is FREE for anyone at UVM Medical Center and Children's Hospital.

The generosity of the Art from the Heart volunteers kept me alive. Creating art from my hospital bed helped me express the depths of my illness and find my way through it.

**- Art from the Heart
participant, treated for
lymphoma**



BCA helps integrate art into Burlington's public realm, strengthening a sense of place, supporting artists, and making creativity a part of everyday civic life.

- Recent work includes the completion of multiple major permanent downtown installations as part of Burlington's Great Streets initiatives.
- Two significant installations at Burlington International Airport extend public art to a major regional gateway.
- Administer Burlington's Percent for Public Art Ordinance, which dedicates one percent of City capital project budgets to public art.
- Develop public art projects and partnerships that connect artists, neighborhoods, public agencies, and community priorities.

A public sculpture that makes me think, that frightens me a little, even as I am drawn to it: massive, elegiac, inventive, powerful. Beautiful at the same time.

**- Barbara Zucker,
on Lakebone by Nancy
Winship Milliken**



Through grants, awards, and philanthropic partnerships, BCA helps artists create new work, strengthens the regional arts ecosystem, and recognizes artistic leadership.

Verge Artist Fund

BCA is a new regional regrantee partner with the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts through the Verge Artist Fund. The program will provide direct support to artists and expand opportunities for experimental visual art across the region.

Vermont Prize

A collaborative initiative of Burlington City Arts, Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, The Current, and the Hall Art Foundation, the Vermont Prize recognizes visual artists living and working in Vermont and shares their work with wider audiences.

Herb Lockwood Prize

In partnership with the BCA Foundation, The Herb Lockwood Prize recognizes outstanding arts leadership in Vermont, honoring artists whose work and community contributions have made a significant impact across creative disciplines.

Artist Grantmaking & Philanthropic Partnerships

The BCA Foundation works with public and private funders to regrant resources to artists and arts initiatives, helping sustain creative practice and expand the public's access to the arts.

LAST YEAR:

130,000+ people reached through performances and events

280 unique performances and events

595 artists paid **\$528,000** to perform, teach, exhibit, and sell their work

21,597 visitors to BCA Center

1,626 participants in classes, camps and workshops

348 people received education scholarships

16,000+ patients and families served through Art from the Heart

BCA's impact spans exhibitions, education, public art, community partnerships, and citywide cultural events. Together, these programs support artists, build connection, and contribute to Burlington's cultural vitality.