

Catamount Arts 2020

The residents and voters of Concord have consistently played a very important role in the success of Catamount Arts. Through your support at Town Meeting and by attending many of the films and performances offered throughout the year, the citizens of Concord help to keep the Arts vital and available to all of the residents of the Northeast Kingdom.

In a typical year, Catamount invites and encourages the residents of Concord to participate in many of its community offerings, including the Tap Into Film 48 Hour Student Film Slam, Community Film Series, monthly free Bluegrass Night, and gallery exhibits and receptions. In the summertime, we invite thousands of residents to the top of Dog Mountain each Sunday where Catamount Arts offers a free 10-concert music series -- 2020 would have been our fourth year. These free events are funded in large measure through appropriations from communities in our area.

Also in a typical year, Catamount Arts offers a wide range of classes, workshops and camps for people of all ages. Learning opportunities at Catamount range from Claymation, and bookbinding, to mask making, French lessons, and filmmaking through mediums such as stop motion animation. Catamount Arts partners with local elementary, middle and high schools to provide in-school and out-of-school creative learning activities. In addition, more than 4,500 students and teachers typically enjoy shows by professional performers in our School-Time Performance series. Catamount Arts also generally presents more than 200 films and 100 live performances a year, also in large measure due to the generosity of the voters of Concord. Your appropriations help to underwrite the costs of these presentations as well as helping Catamount pay for such general operating expenses as heating and electricity.

However, we all know 2020 was anything but a typical year. For the majority of 2020, we had to close the doors to our building, but the Catamount staff brainstormed night and day via Zoom, email, and text message to keep art in the lives of our community. Kingdom COVID Chronicles, SOCAPA's 72-hour international Family Film Slam, and the NEK What's Your Art Creativity Showcase engaged people of all ages from the comfort of their homes. The Drive-In to Stay Safe Music and Movie Series, #GetDownTown, and Vermont's first vertical concert starring Kat Wright at Burke Mountain brought live performance safely back to the Kingdom.

By the time you read this request, we will have successfully brought to you eight hours of comedy, magic, storytelling, and music direct to your living room via our First Night North virtual celebration of the arts.

Our mission is to promote lifelong community engagement in the arts, and thanks to your patience, engagement and encouragement, and continued support, we are reimagining our creative economy with adaptive programming to support recovery in all sectors. We look forward to continuing to grow with you, and hope to see you back for more events in 2021!