

Catamount Arts

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.

After 15 months long months, Catamount Arts opened its doors once again! We spent 2020 exploring our capacity to adapt, and in 2021 we were excited to invite and encourage the residents of Concord to participate in many of our community offerings. New offerings that began during the pandemic such as StJ Art on the Street and our Hey St. J! #GetDownTown events continued in 2021, and we welcomed back some old favorites like the Tap into Film Student Film Slam, PoemTown St. Johnsbury, Open Stage at the Cavern, the Levitt AMP St. Johnsbury Music Series at Dog Mountain, and North Country Youth Chorus Camps. These free events were funded in large measure through appropriations from communities in our area.

Catamount Arts produced over 50 community events this past year, events that allowed us all to reconnect with the world we missed so much during isolation. Our KCP Presents season is well into its most ambitious season yet, and by the time you read this request, we will have successfully brought to you eight hours of comedy, magic, storytelling, music and more via First Night North with 200 performers in 60+ shows in 12 venues across St. Johnsbury.

In 2021, Catamount Arts resumed indoor arts center programming including films, opera, ballet, and theater screenings as well as gallery shows, also in large measure due to the generosity of the voters of Concord. Your appropriations helped to underwrite the costs of these presentations as well as helping Catamount pay for such general operating expenses as heating and electricity.

We repurposed 20,000 square feet of empty retail space in the Green Mountain Mall to bring live in-person shows, including Kingdom All Stars, comedian Bob Marley, and our first heavy metal show, safely back indoors. We are excited to announce that this space is now the new site of Catamount Bluegrass Night, a long standing event loved by all communities we serve.

As part of our mission to promote lifelong community engagement in the arts, Catamount Arts is back on track to offer a wide range of classes, workshops and camps for people of all ages, including partnerships with local elementary, middle and high schools to provide in-school and out-of-school creative learning activities. Inspired by El Sistema, Catamount Arts once again partnered with Northeast Kingdom Community Orchestra, Northeast Kingdom Classical Series, and the St. Johnsbury School District to continue our EPIC Music program, which provides stringed instrument instruction to students in grades 4-9, now in its fifth year.

The safer, flexible programming strategies we developed to get through the pandemic will play key roles in re-establishing and sustaining the vibrancy of Catamount Arts and the entire Northeast Kingdom. With the continuing growth of its many cultural offerings and Arts Education program, Catamount and its patrons directly and indirectly contribute more than \$1,500,000 each year to the local economy while also securing a meeting space for local Masons for generations to come. Thanks so much for your patience, engagement and encouragement, and continued support! We look forward to continuing to grow with you, and hope to have your special appropriation support in 2022!