

# ANNUAL REPORT



A very exciting year at Catamount Arts is drawing to a close, and as we hit the halfway mark of our 50th anniversary year, we have supporters like you to thank for every moment of it.

Looking back, it has been a year defined by vibrancy and connection. Were you able to join us at this year's 50th Anniversary Celebration with the Wicked Smart Horn Band at Burke Mountain? Did you fall in love with Ukraine's incredible Balkan chanson group, Kommuna Lux, at Final Friday?

I hope you found yourself dancing to Le Winston Band at Dog Mountain, laughing at Second City improv right here in St. Johnsbury, or cheering on our EPIC Music students (and scoring a wheel of Jasper Hill cheese!) at Make Music Day. Whether it was these moments or securing your tickets for *The Nutcracker* at Lyndon Institute, you helped make our region come alive this year.

On screen, we spanned genres and generations. We brought you *Tosca* live from the Metropolitan Opera and the National Theatre's *Vanya* with Andrew Scott. We celebrated local talent with the baseball nostalgia flick *Eephus*, revisited classics like *Poltergeist* and *Boomtown*, and screened powerful new releases like *No Other Land*. Perhaps most meaningfully, we screened Charlie Chaplin's *Limelight*—the very first film ever shown at Catamount way back in 1975—bringing our history full circle.

Off the stage and screen, your support deepened our community roots. We launched the 560 Railroad Community Artist program, housing three visual and literary artists for four to eight week long residencies. Each artist hosted community engagement events ranging from poetry readings and mixed media classes to public art projects. Our Arts Connect at Catamount Arts Juried Exhibition drew submissions from 80 artists, and our galleries showcased oversized portraits by Elly Barksdale, etchings from Gatto Nero Press, and a stunning mixed media collection curated by Harlan Mack.

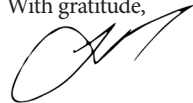
Now, we are thrilled to close the year with First Night North. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we are offering free student admission, allowing families to celebrate the New Year across generations. Will we see you on Main Street for the midnight dance party and the raising of the Ball of Light?

We can't wait to count down to our second half-century, but we need you with us.

Please consider a year-end gift to Catamount Arts. Your donation ensures that we can continue to bring world-class art, film, and education to our neighbors for the next 50 years.

Thank you for being part of our Catamount Arts family. Here's to 50 more years!

With gratitude,



Jody Fried, Executive Director  
Catamount Arts



**We're so excited to show you some of what our incredible team accomplished with the help of our community in 2025!**



## OUR TEAM

**Alli Sousa**, Internship Coordinator / Bookkeeping Assistant

**Andrea Otto**, Community Liaison, Film Curator, Box Office Manager

**Anne Campbell**, Education Director

**Anthony Cimino**, Production Manager NH

**Ashley Van Zandt**, Director of Development and Communications

**Ashli Roberts**, Production Manager VT, Gallery Technician

**Autumn Chamberlain**, Box Office, Open Stage/EPIC Music Coordinator

**Bri Johnson**, Artist Residency Assistant

**Campbell Jillette**, Open Stage Assistant/Box Office/Production

**Charlie McKelvey**, Production

**Christine Nockels**, Youth Program Assistant/Box Office

**Derek Campbell**, Production Manager, Sound Engineer

**Dianne Gingue**, Bookkeeper

**Erin Narey**, Communications Coordinator

**Jody Fried**, Executive Director

**Martin Bryan**, Membership, Room Rental and Volunteer Coordinator

**Molly Stone**, Artistic Director, Gallery Director

**Owen Davie**, Graphic Designer/Asst. Director of Marketing & Communications

**Patrick Black**, Ticketing/Regional Box Office Manager & Head Projectionist

**Rose Nunn**, Building Caretaker

**Sarah Amos**, Director of Operations

**Tim Mikovitz**, Technical Director, Creative Campus Design Consultant

# ACTIVATING COMMUNITY SPACES

From the Mall to Dog Mountain, Catamount Arts is no stranger to activating various community spaces! And integrating arts into the community means bringing the programming to our community members! In 2025 we had events everywhere from church lawns and local parks, to high school stages and college gymnasiums, to parking lots, to the Burke Mountain Hotel day lodge.

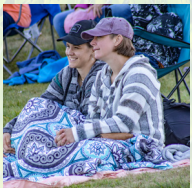
Partnerships with other community organizations help to make all of what we do possible! In addition to live shows in St. Johnsbury and Lyndonville, did you know our mobile stages and production teams supported 70+ shows throughout Vermont and New Hampshire last year for an estimated economic impact of over \$6.5M and 175 jobs?

Read more about it on our [COMMUNITY SUPPORT](#) page.





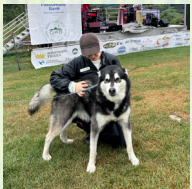
FREE CONCERTS  
IN DOWNTOWN  
ST. JOHNSBURY



10,000+  
ATTENDEES



FREE  
CONCERTS ON  
DOG MOUNTAIN



1  
MUSIC SERIES



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Who knew we could top 2024? Our production team did just that! In 2025, our production team delivered technical services to support over 70 community events across Vermont and New Hampshire, enhancing local gatherings with professional expertise.

While working with over a dozen communities, including Newport, Fairlee, Littleton, Bradford, Montpelier, Island Pond, Lyndon, Burke, and Bethlehem, we helped to produce events that attracted well over 100,000+ attendees, generating an economic impact exceeding \$6.5 million.

In Fairlee specifically, Catamount pushed its own production capacity with shows featuring Trampled by Turtles, KALEO, and Andy Grammer.



**“Without their [Catamount Arts] efforts, it would not be possible”**  
-Mark Avery, Owner of the Lake Morey Resort, talking about the Lake Morey Concert Series

# ARTS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS



Our El Sistema-inspired EPIC Music program had 52 students enrolled for the year, playing violin, viola, cello, and bass. In honor of the 50th anniversary of El Sistema USA, we collaborated with Fiddlehead Field in Campton, NH on a family dance with student musicians, and a full-day music gathering culminating in a joint concert.



Our youth Open Stage program, a weekly, substance-free venue for creative expression run by high school students, hosted a month-long Pride Month celebration, with activities funded by NVRH and Northeast Prevention Coalition.



With an Early Childhood Arts Partnership grant from the Vermont Arts Council, we offered 7 professional development workshops for early childhood educators with master teaching artists, and a family puppet making workshop.



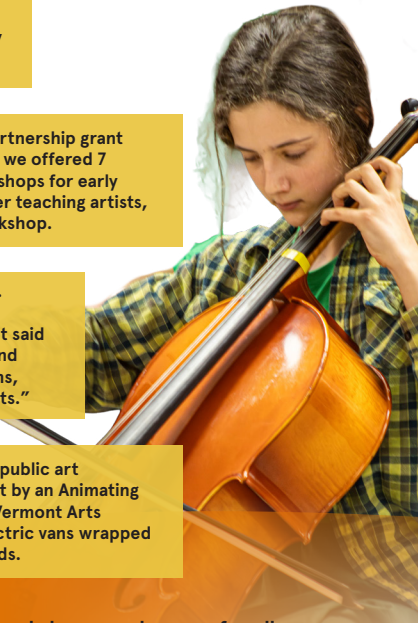
The students in our Community Arts Club at St. Johnsbury School shared their work with the community in many different ways. One student said of the Kindness Charms that were placed around town: "I hope that when people find our charms, they catch the kindness and put it in their hearts."



PoemTown St. Johnsbury expanded with the Paper Chains Poetry Project. Funded by an Arts & Social Cohesion grant from the Vermont Community Foundation, the project trained social service agency staff to lead writing workshops for people whose voices are often unheard.



We saw the culmination of our public art project, Art2Go, funded in part by an Animating Infrastructure grant from the Vermont Arts Council, with two of RCT's electric vans wrapped in artist designs hitting the roads.



In addition, we offered classes, workshops, and camps for all ages, including photography, abstract art, circus arts, printmaking, sculpture, needle felting, tie dyeing, birch bark ornaments, and poetry writing.

# GALLERIES & PUBLIC ART

In addition to the Fried Family Gallery and Rankin Family Gallery, featuring both internationally recognized and talented local artists, Catamount has facilitated an impressive public arts program, making art more accessible than ever to our community. In 2025, a new arts residency and mural program launched at 560 Railroad Street in partnership with the Northern Forest Center. We were also proud to bring back the ever popular Arts Connect Juried Show for the first time since our building closure in 2023 with an impressive 80 submissions from artists near and far.



# CATAMOUNT

ON THE BIG SCREEN

FILM SCREENINGS

469

OPERA PRESENTATIONS

19

NATIONAL THEATRE  
SCREENINGS

11

ATTENDEES +

5000+





# FIRST NIGHT NORTH

150+ PERFORMERS

70+ SHOWS

2,000+ ATTENDEES

ALL STUDENTS ATTEND FOR FREE IN 2025

5000+ ATTENDEES

000+ FREE STUDENT TICKETS

11 SHOWS



WORLD CLASS SHOWS FEATURING GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING ARTISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



# 50 years



We celebrated 50 years of creativity and community at Catamount Arts, reflecting on how a small grassroots effort founded by Jay Craven grew into a vibrant cultural hub for the Northeast Kingdom and North Country. This past May, We came together to enjoy poetry, film screenings, music, and gallery events.

The festivities opened with a reading by Vermont Poet Laureate Bianca Stone and a community reception, followed by special showings of Chaplin's *Limelight*, Catamount's first-ever film, as well as a the 50th Anniversary Block Party, an outdoor concert featuring Twisted Pine, the Levitt AMP lineup announcement, a gallery reception for artist Elly Barksdale, and culminated with a Mother's Day orchestra performance featuring Catamount's EPIC Music Program.

The celebration honored Catamount Arts' rich legacy while highlighting the creative spirit that will guide its next 50 years.

# CREATIVE CAMPUS PROJECT

105-107 EASTERN AVE

COMMUNITY HUB FOR CREATIVE ENTERPRISES



The Creative Campus will serve as a pioneering rural model for:

- Community & Economic Development for Creative Enterprises
- Environmental Cleanup
- Historic Preservation & Stewardship
- Energy Efficiency & Innovation

OCTAYON 2.0

50 YEARS OF INTEGRATING ARTS...

CATAMOUNT  
ARTS



*years*

...INTO THE COMMUNITY