UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Partnership for Arts and Culture (PAC) aims to serve as an incubator and resource for artistic and cultural collaborations with a specific focus on global understanding and social change. PAC promotes the engagement of the arts and humanities in designing, implementing, and assessing multidisciplinary solutions to areas of critical social concern and needs.

Since its launch in March 2018, PAC has seen its membership grow to over 80 university and community members representing a range of arts and culture organizations throughout Delaware. PAC’s impact and reach has also grown, with the number of grant funded projects increasing from seven in 2018 to thirteen in 2019. This report highlights the projects supported by PAC in 2018 and the community partners who served as collaborators.

PAC plans to continue to promote mutually beneficial partnerships between the University of Delaware and arts and culture organizations through Delaware and beyond.

We look forward to collaborating with you!

Dr. Lynnette Overby
Director, Partnership for Arts and Culture
The audience that filled the Baby Grand Theatre in Wilmington on Saturday, March 10, was there for an event that was described as consequential in a variety of ways.

One significant element was the launch of the University of Delaware’s Partnership for Arts and Culture, a collaboration with organizations throughout the state to advance the arts and humanities—and improve lives—in Delaware communities.

Another was the performance itself, “Women of Consequence: Ambitious, Ancillary and Anonymous,” a two-hour production that showcased the talents and hard work of UD students through their dance, poetry, music, visual arts and drama. All aspects of the performance were based on the historical research students conducted, beginning last summer, into the lives and important contributions of often-overlooked African American and African women.

George Watson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and president of the Delaware Arts Alliance board of directors, also praised the benefits—to the University, its students, the arts in Delaware and the community—of UD’s engagement with organizations and cultural institutions statewide.

The arts help bridge divides and bring people together in their common humanity, Watson said: “In the College of Arts and Sciences, we like to say that we illuminate the heart and mind, and that’s exactly what the arts do.”
WOMEN OF CONSEQUENCE

Written by Ann Manser for UDally
March 2018

Project Director: Lynnette Overby

Community Partners: The Partnership for Arts and Culture, Department of Theater, Dance Minor Colored Conventions Project, Center for Black Culture, Delaware Historical Society, Delaware Humanities, Christina Cultural Arts Center.

“Women of Consequence: Ambitious, Ancillary, Anonymous” tells the stories of women who have contributed to the political landscape of America but have often been viewed as ancillary or, worse, anonymous.

Through the lens of arts-based research, the program incorporates dance, music, poetry, drama and the visual arts to bring the lives of these women to life. It also seeks to promote audience discussion about freedom of expression and equality for all women.

Women highlighted in the production included abolitionist and Union Army scout Harriet Tubman, writer and reformer Harriet Jacobs, novelist Harriet Wilson, editor and political advocate Mary Ann Shadd Cary (a Delaware native), activist and educator Charlotte Forten and poet Frances Harper.

The first act of “Women of Consequence” focused on African American women in the 19th century, examining the Colored Conventions at which they gathered to advocate for social justice. It continued by illuminating the lives of “The Three Harriets” and of Charlotte Forten, who taught former slaves in South Carolina’s “Gullah Country.”

In the second act, performers and narrators told stories of women from the 20th and 21st centuries. “The Four Roses” was inspired by the young South African women who joined the anti-apartheid movement in the 1970s.

The full program was designed to celebrate the past and present contributions of women and to encourage the audience to foster a successful future for all women.
PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (PAC) MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The PAC mini-grant program provides up to $4,000 for collaborative projects involving the university and community partners focused on societal issues in Delaware through an arts and culture approach. A requirement of the grant is an inclusion of significant involvement with community partners.

Projects may consider solutions to challenging health, education and social issues through arts and culture. Interdisciplinary projects are encouraged but not required. The projects may be classified as engaged research/creative activities, or service. The PAC mini-grant program supported seven projects during the 2017-2018 academic year.
THE SOCIOLOGY OF ART AND CULTURE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE WILMINGTON ARCHIVE PROJECT AND CREATIVE VISION FACTORY

Project Director: Dr. Anne E. Bowler

Organizations involved in the project: Creative Vision Factory (CVF), Wilmington Archive Project.

Numbers of participants in project: 20 participants including: 7 UD undergraduate students, including two CVF members; 2 UD graduate students; UD faculty David Kim; CVF leadership Michael Kalmbach and Tiernan Alexander; 9 Creative Vision Factory artists.

This project centered around a collaboration between an advanced undergraduate seminar in the sociology of art and culture, the University’s Wilmington Archive Project (WAP), and Creative Vision Factory (CVF), a community arts organization located in downtown Wilmington that provides studio and exhibition space to individuals on the behavioral health spectrum. During the Fall 2018 semester, the course combined traditional academic content with student research projects centered around the creation of a digital archive of CVF members’ work. Through the generous assistance of both PAC and the Division of Professional & Continuing Studies, two CVF members were enrolled in the class for University credit.
**LITTLE MASTERS PROJECT**

*Project Director:* Xiang Gao

*Organizations involved in the project:* UD Master Players Concert Series, University of Delaware Department of Music students, representatives from Bayard Middle School, representatives from Design Thinking Academy (formerly Delaware Design Lab High School).

*Numbers of participants in project:* 65 participants including: Student musicians, UD music education students, and Master Players Concert Series staff members.

The Little Masters Project (LMP) is a community outreach project designed by Master Players Artistic Director and international concert violinist and producer Xiang Gao to benefit the children of under-served communities in the tri-state region. With the increasing crime rate in the city of Wilmington and other neighboring communities reported by the state government and public resources, LMP is designed to protect, inspire and empower the children who live in these communities. LMP will offer these children free instruments and free private music lessons during after-school hours to challenge them, develop their self-esteem and show them the reward and beauty of playing a musical instrument. LMP will also inspire young students by providing them a once-in-a-lifetime performance opportunity to share the stage with world-class musicians and will empower them by using their own music to change other people's lives at the venues of Master Players community partners. These partners may include (but are not limited to) retirement homes, medical facilities, community centers, schools and libraries.

With the PAC mini-grant, the education program was able to expand its breadth greatly, extending its reach to provide free music lessons, instruments, music theory instruction, and performance opportunities to underserved students and families throughout northern Delaware. As of today, the Little Masters Project has served 42 students (ages 6-18) at 11 schools, representing 4 Delaware school districts and 3 independent/charter schools.
BACH IN WILMINGTON

**Project Director:** Lawrence Stomberg

**Organizations involved in the project:** Hanover Presbyterian Church, St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, HOPE Commission Achievement Center, Old Swedes Church, Kingswood Community Center, Temple United Church, Music School of Delaware, ANKOS Films.

**Numbers of participants in project:** 60, not including audiences at performances.

Dr. Stomberg was delighted to share the works by J.S. Bach and new works by Alisa Rose and Mazz Swift with audiences in Wilmington at a variety of venues. In addition to the music, the performances included recorded segments of interviews Dr. Stromberg conducted with members and clients of the venues involved. Interviewees included church members, volunteers, clients of a food pantry, children who have been affected by gun violence, and others. The interviews and music performed by Dr. Stomberg were part of the PAC-funded short documentary film made by ANKOS Films, which has been widely distributed online and has been met with acclaim. At the conclusion of last year’s project, the music was performed as part of the Adult Cello Festival at the Music School of Delaware, as well as part of the HOPE Commission Achievement Center graduation ceremony in July. Among the audience were Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki and other city and state dignitaries.
Nineteen Questions

How can we make a change?
Is it in our community’s range?
How can you strive for positive impact?
How would your actions make a child react?

How can we help the violence subside?
How many people have to die?
Why is there so much aggression?
Could it stem from all this oppression?

Who benefits from our education?
Can our wisdom improve relations?
Do we care about our children’s hopes?
Can we help our youth to grow?

Why do we see each other but never wave?
Why can’t we smile, why can’t we behave?
Is the future important or is it too far from sight?
Can we push to make tomorrow bright?

What is a dream?
Is it a full idea or just a scheme?
Can you work for your hope or achieve your goal?
Dream big, and work from your soul.

Learning is in us all, Reading a book
Taking a class
Writing knowledge on a wall.

19 Questions Public Poetry Installation

Project Director: David Teague

Organizations involved in the project: UD Associate in Arts Program, Wilmington Renaissance Corporation, Creative District Wilmington, Saints Andrew and Matthew Church.

Numbers of participants in project: 20, including University of Delaware students and members of the collaborating organizations.

The 19 Questions Public Poetry Installation involved two community workshops, approximately ten interviews with community leaders, the composition of a collaboratively-authored poem based on those interviews, and the design and production of a 12x18 foot mural of the poem. The culmination of these efforts was the installation and dedication of this mural at Saints Andrew and Matthew Church in Wilmington.

The mural now plays a part in the revitalization of the city, visible to all who travel the busy stretch of Orange Street where it is displayed. It memorializes and commemorates many concepts: the hard work put in by UD students, the value of education, the gun violence that claimed the life of one poet’s best friend, the challenges that lie ahead, and most importantly, nineteen questions that future UD AAP Poets will endeavor to answer as they work to cover all forty-five feet of the church wall with a vibrant, living mural in the coming years.
BEYOND THE BARS

**Project Director:** Colin Miller

**Organizations involved in the project:** Culture Restoration Project, Inc. and Kingswood Community Center (Wilmington).

**Numbers of participants in project:** 9 students participated in the creation of this project in collaboration with Culture Restoration Inc. and Kingswood Community Center members.

Students wrote and professionally recorded an original song about the Underground Railroad in Delaware. The song recording was conducted in class with a mobile recording studio where students were able to learn how to use recording equipment and software. They also filmed a music video to accompany the song. In addition, students participated in a beat-making workshop where they were able to make their own original beat for their song.

NATIONAL WATER DANCE

**Project Directors:** Dr. Jame McCray, Delaware Sea Grant, Kim Schroeder, UD Dance Minor, Ashley SK Davis, Artistic Director; Pieces of A Dream Dance Company

**Organizations involved in the project:** DuPont Environmental Education Center of Delaware Nature Society, Ignite: A Company of Dancing Artists

Delaware Sea Grant collaborated with the UD Dance Minor and Pieces of a Dream to create a Delaware focused performance for the National Water Dance. Students, community members, and dancers came together during workshops to create sections of the dance. At the workshops, participants created movement as they shared stories about their personal connections to water, learned about storm water management in DE, and discussed actions people can take to improve water quality in DE. The dance was performed for the public on the riverfront in Wilmington at the DuPont Environmental Education Center and livestreamed on Facebook.
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN PICTURES AND WORDS

Project Director: Margaret Winslow

Organizations involved in the project: Delaware Art Museum, Delaware Division of the Arts, News Journal, University of Delaware Department of Africana Studies.

Number of participants in the project: 11 presenters.

The most significant accomplishment of the project was the assembly of 11 participants familiar with the 1968 occupation of Wilmington (through direct experience, research, or artistic interpretation), the documentation of their stories and responses, and the engagement of the assembled audience. The public gathering was conceived as a complement to the spring 2018 AFRA 205-013 course that explored this history, and the enrolled students were able to observe such a revealing conversation. In addition, University of Delaware faculty, staff, and other students witnessed the responses to this history and were given a new perspective on the complexity of the 1968 occupation and the reality of how historical amnesia can impact understanding. Voices were added to the conversation through a question and answer period at the end of the panel, and the videotaping of the program will help ensure future consideration.
PROMOTING THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES IN DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTING, AND ASSESSING MULTIDISCIPLINARY SOLUTIONS THROUGH POLICY.

The Partnership for Arts and Culture's Research Group along with the Delaware Arts Alliance co-authored and distributed a policy letter to legislators that describes the process of publicly funding the arts and cultural sector in Delaware, as well as the economic and social impacts of that monetary support. The two-page document describes the relationship between the Delaware Division of the Arts, the Delaware Arts Alliance, and arts and cultural organizations in Delaware, and how they work together to ensure that Delaware has a vibrant arts and cultural community. After detailing how state legislatures can support this community, the policy brief explains the importance of the art and cultural sector in achieving a variety of beneficial social and economic outcomes state-wide. The two types of beneficial outcomes highlighted are: economic vitality for the area, and how communities coming together to understand each other. The policy brief is a first of a series of briefs which will address prominent issues pertaining to arts and culture in Delaware.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

The Partnership for Arts and Culture Teaching Artist Committee, comprised of University of Delaware faculty and representatives from cultural organizations, has met monthly and been actively assessing the need and appropriate format for professional development courses or certificate program for regional current and aspiring Teaching Artists. To collect formative data, the Teaching Artist Committee designed two online evaluation tools and surveyed both active teaching artists and statewide organizations that regularly work with Teaching Artists. Currently, while the survey data is currently being collected and analyzed, the Teaching Artist Committee is developing curriculum ideas, meeting with potential content distributors, such as the University’s Professional and Continuing Studies, and planning a summer Teaching Artist weekend workshop to introduce program concepts and compile additional evaluative information.
LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT

PAC Co-Chairs

Sam Sweet
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Delaware Art museum

Greg Shelnutt
Faculty Fellow, Community Engagement Initiative Chairperson, Art and Design Professor, Art and Design

Jame McCray
Marine Advisory Service Specialist, Earth Ocean & Environment

Steering Committee

Suzanne Burton
Interim Associate Dean, Arts & Sciences Professor, Music

Deb Hess-Norris
Chairperson, Art Conservation Unidel Henry Francis DuPont Chair, Art Conservation

Lauren Petersen
Interim Associate Dean, Arts & Sciences Professor, Art History

Graduate Students

Dianna Ruberto
Jacob Thompson

Staff

Lynnette Overby
Director, Partnership for Arts and Culture

Liza Amatetti
Program Coordinator, Partnership for Arts and Culture

Valerie Lane
Assistant Director of Community Programs

PAC Community Partners

Creative Vision Factory
Christina Cultural Arts Center
Delaware Arts Alliance
Delaware Art Museum
Delaware Contemporary
Delaware Department of Education
Delaware Division of the Arts
Delaware Historical Society
Delaware Institute for Art and Education
Delaware Museum of Natural History
Delaware Symphony Orchestra
First State Ballet Theatre
The Grand Opera House
Mid-Atlantic Ballet
Newark Arts Alliance
Newark Symphony
Opera Delaware
UD Department of Art and Design
UD Department of Dance
UD Department of Music
Wilmington Renaissance Company
LOOKING AHEAD - 2019 GRANTEES

Martha Carothers
Science-based Storybook project, books developed by UD Marine Science, Art & Design, and Elementary Teacher Education students who collaborate with regional elementary schools to work with students in their school classrooms.

Johnathan Cox
Traveling exhibition with the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware.

Abigail Donovan
Creative Vision Factory Summer Studio Assistantship in collaboration with the Creative Vision Factory.

Jessica Edwards
“Uprising” in collaboration with the Delaware Art Museum.

Gabrielle Foreman
“Mary Ann Shadd Cary, Delaware’s Forgotten Foremother of Civil Rights” in collaboration with the following community partners: Delaware Historical Society, Delaware Art Museum, Hip Hop artist Richard Raw, Twin Poets, Christina Cultural Arts Center, Kuumba Academy Charter School, and jazz and gospel artists Alfie Moss and Dexter Koonce.

Colette Gaiter
Archiving the Other Queen on Market Street in collaboration with the Christina Cultural Art Center.

Roger Horowitz
Oral History Collaboration with the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware.

Thomas Leitch
How to Read the News in collaboration with local libraries.

Colin Miller
Arts Alliance Fellowship in collaboration with SummerCollab.

Stephanie Raible
Social Awareness Through Youth Arts in collaboration with Dual School and FourYouth Productions.

Greg Shelnutt
Moving with the Rising Tide in collaboration with the Delaware Institute for the Arts, Sea Grant Delaware, and Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Lawrence Stomberg
Bach in Wilmington, Phase 2.
PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

Connect with PAC!

Pac-info@udel.edu
www.sites.udel.edu/engage-arts-culture/