

THE NORWICH ARTS COUNCIL
62 Broadway
Norwich CT 06360

MISSION STATEMENT

The Norwich Arts Council was formed in 1987 by a group of citizens to cultivate the community's appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the arts by providing free and/or affordable cultural enrichment through diverse and compelling visual and performing arts programs. To that end, it has adopted the following goals:

1. To serve the community by providing cultural enrichment to its citizens through a diverse selection of artistic programming;
2. To increase the number and diversity of cultural activities in the community and to publicize them to the general public in an effective manner;
3. To foster an increased awareness of and appreciation for the work of local artists and to provide increased opportunities for them to display or perform their work;
4. To encourage the public and private sectors to integrate cultural planning in all aspects of community and economic development through the integration of display or performance space in the public areas of new buildings, parks, plazas and other appropriate facilities;
5. To involve the youth of the community in the arts in order to increase their appreciation and understanding of different art forms, and to stimulate and encourage the development of their creativity.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The founders of the Norwich Arts Council saw the need to bring a greater variety and number of performing arts presentation to the area and the need for a space where the public could view the work of local artists. Believing in the potential of downtown Norwich, the NAC leased and renovated a vacant storefront at 60 Broadway, Norwich, CT, to provide a gallery and office space. In August, 1995, the NAC purchased the building. This three-story edifice is an historic structure built in 1892 and known then as the St. Mary's Total Abstinence and Benevolence Building. Currently, the first floor houses the NAC Art Gallery and administrative office, and a large 1500 sq. ft. space currently being developed as a coffee house with live entertainment. The second floor is currently occupied by a number of rental offices and another suite of offices that have recently been converted to the NAC Administrative headquarters, Conference Room and Theater Box Office. The third and top floor is home to the Donald Oat Theater. This 120 seat theater is suitable for formal or cabaret style performances or as totally open space for receptions, workshops, dancing, meetings, etc.

Over the years, NAC has maintained the longest on-going co-operative gallery in southeastern Connecticut and has restored and currently operates an historic theater, the Donald Oat. Many theatrical productions, musicals, concerts (jazz, classical, folk), workshops, children's classes, receptions and other community events have been presented here. NAC has hosted Art Train, an outreach program to community schools, the Chelsea Street Festival, and the Summer Gazebo Music Series. Today the organization sponsors an Art Outreach Program, an after school performing arts program for middle school students, and is playing a major role in the city's Free Summer Music program. NAC and its programs were instrumental in bringing Artspace to downtown Norwich, and continues to be an increasingly viable catalyst for rejuvenation and regeneration in the city.

Plans for the immediate future include the full expansion of our *NACKids After School Performing Arts/Cultural Enrichment Program*, which was inaugurated in January, 2004; a *Brunch with Bach* chamber music series, replacing the Stained Glass series of several years ago; a second music series, *First Saturday Folk Fest* (Urban Folk, Blues and Blue Grass) to meet the interest and demand for this music form in the southeastern part of Connecticut; *Artitudes*, an ongoing series of exchange exhibitions between the NAC gallery co-operative artists and other groups from around the state and region; *Speak Easy*, poetry and other literary readings by new and emerging writers, the ongoing development of *Outreach*, a project coordinated with as Madonna Place, Reliance House, and TVCCA Group Home, to bring the arts to those sectors of the community unable to avail themselves of our facility's offerings, along with a continuing program of First Friday Jazz Concert Series, a theatrical season filled with drama, musicals, comedy and children's fare. And to increase our presence and visibility in the downtown area, we will be opening *Kokopelli Café at The NAC* in early 2005, a coffee house with an attitude! The Norwich Arts Council is very much your place for the Arts and a jewel in the city's crown!

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THE NAC ART GALLERY MISSION STATEMENT

Mission: It is the mission of The NAC Art Gallery to provide, encourage, and support involvement in the visual arts, toward the goal of enriching the cultural life of the area residents.

The NAC Artists' Cooperative, which utilizes the Gallery, is comprised of a group of artists from the Eastern and Southeastern part of the State of Connecticut who promote the visual arts through individual and group exhibitions and other educational activities. The Cooperative helps maintain a professional gallery space of approximately 600 square feet of exhibition space and another 700 square feet of office, art storage, restroom and kitchen facilities at 60 Broadway, in the heart of historic downtown Norwich. Each month a new exhibition is inaugurated with direct mail promotion and a public reception, orchestrated in concert with the First Friday Jazz Concert Series in the Donald L. Oat Theater on the building's top floor. Admission to all Gallery events is free of charge. *Kokopelli Café at The NAC* is a high-end coffee house that occupies the other half of the NAC's ground floor, and is connected to the gallery by an arched doorway. The Café opens in early 2005.

Membership: There are three levels of membership: Elected Artist Member (\$150 per year dues), Associate Artist Member (\$50 per year dues), and Supporting Member (general contributions to the Gallery program).

Membership is open to all regional artists, and benefits include periodic exhibition opportunities and institutional promotion and marketing. Artists whose work is "non-traditional" are particularly encouraged to apply, as this is the primary focus of the Gallery.

For additional information and/or application material, please contact:

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(860) 887-2789

Please visit our website at www.norwicharts.org

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