





# Contents

## Fayette County Cultural Trust

2019 Annual Report

Cover: Downtown Public Art by Jeremy Raymer - 400 West Crawford Avenue

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The Fayette County Cultural Trust has 3 basic initiatives. The Downtown Connellsville initiative focuses on the historic preservation of Downtown Connellsville as well as promoting Connellsville as a great destination within the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania. The Connellsville Canteen preserves the history of the Fayette County men and women who served not only in the War but at the homefront. The Rural Arts Collaborative was formed to place local professional artists into a classroom setting. The Fayette County Cultural Trust brings all walks of life together in the Fayette County area to preserve the history and collaborate working relationships with other like minded organizations.

The Connellsville Canteen is the only WWII Museum in Southwestern Pennsylvania. It is also the home of Harry Clark's Indian Creek Valley Railroad Display. Since opening it has received the Pennsylvania Downtown Center award for community enhancement. The Canteen has also been visited by the *Travel Channel*, *Mysteries at the Museum* and News Center 4 from Cleveland, Ohio.

[ConnellsvilleCanteen.org](http://ConnellsvilleCanteen.org)



**Downtown Connellsville**  
[DowntownConnellsville.org](http://DowntownConnellsville.org)



**Rural Arts Collaborative**  
[RuralArtsCollaborative.org](http://RuralArtsCollaborative.org)



**Fayette County Cultural Trust**  
[FayetteTrust.org](http://FayetteTrust.org)



# President's Message

## 2019 Annual Report

Fayette County Cultural Trust

### Executive Director

Daniel Cocks

### President

J. Michael Edwards

### Vice President

Karen Hechler

### Treasurer

Bryan Kisiel

### Board Members

Gerry Browell

John Coleman

Mary Dreliszak

Vicki McWilliams

Lori Omatick

### Annual Report

### Graphic Designer

Daniel Cocks

### Connellsville Crossroads Editor

S. Joy Lewis

While I feel this way all year, I want to take a moment to express gratitude for our network of funders and partners dedicated to helping the Fayette County Cultural Trust promote Fayette County, preserve history, advance economic development and enhance the lives of those who call this area home. Thank you to the Allegheny Conference on Economic Development for all the help you provided the Trust with this year. In particular, thank you to UPMC Health Plan, Somerset Trust Company and TriState Capital for your contributions to the Neighborhood Partnership Program. With these funds we have seen a tremendous change in Connellsville through economic development initiatives, public art projects and the betterment of the quality of life issues facing residents. Thank you to Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development for help in obtaining funding and guidance.

Local businesses and organization have played a big part in advancing Downtown Connellsville's mission in promoting and enhancing the opportunities for economic development and business expansion in our downtown. This year alone we have seen the expansion of businesses and the grand openings of several new locally owned stores and restaurants. It is because of the donations from businesses and individuals that we were able to put together a program geared to enhancing the façade and signage for businesses in our downtown. Through a grant with the Allegheny Foundation and part of an estate left by Michael Prestia we were able to offer several façade improvements and public art projects in the downtown that help preserve the historic nature of buildings and help make our gateways welcoming to visitors and residents alike.

The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation is the primary sponsor of the Rural Arts Collaborative Initiative, and I would like to thank them along with Carmelle Nickens who leads that program. Through this initiative we have also received funding from the Community Foundation of Fayette County and Chevron.

The Fayette County Achievement in the Arts program keeps growing through a partnership with local Rotary organizations. This year we awarded 21 students from all the High Schools in the county with much deserved recognition in the achievement in Music, Theater and Visual Arts.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the board members and volunteers working together to make a difference. This year would not have been so successful if it were not for all these dedicated volunteers!

J. Michael Edwards

This year has really marked a change in the "atmosphere" in Connellsville! Yes, Connellsville is open for business!! The façade improvement and public art projects really made 2019 a banner year for Downtown Connellsville! Thank you to Jeremy Raymer and Randi Stewart for doing such a fantastic job on the public art projects. As well as to Penn State professor Patrick Daugherty and his students. Also thank you to the Allegheny Foundation and to the estate of Michael Prestia. With the passing of each year the positive change in Connellsville is becoming very apparent.

Partnerships and collaborations is what it is all about. Thanks to all those who see the vision, participate in the creation of art, and the preservation of history in our area. These collaborations are part of the solid foundation that not only enhance the area but attract more economic development and tourists to the Laurel Highlands. Our area is full of scenic beauty, and having a city with character that matches the environment is a positive step towards being successful. Thanks to all of those who made our "Scenic Pittsburgh" award a reality!

The Connellsville Canteen has been busy this year. The Canteen hosted numerous Laurel Highlands Ambassador Programs, Lunch & Learns, Dinner & Dialogues, and special events. Thanks to all of those individuals who frequent the Canteen and attend the educational programming that is offered.

Lastly I look forward to 2020 with a vision of building upon all the successes that were achieved in 2019. Together we are making a difference. Thank You!

Daniel Cocks



## Neighborhood Partnership Program

The Partnership is funded through the Pennsylvania Neighborhood Assistance Program, which is a tax credit program offered through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The program offers tax credits of 80% against applicable Pennsylvania business taxes to businesses who commit at least \$50,000 per year for over 5 years and up to 10 years for an approved program.



On January 5, 2019, the Fayette County Cultural Trust, through the Neighborhood Partnership Program, presented \$5,000 checks to each of our NPP partners. Pictured here are Daniel Cocks, Fayette County Cultural Trust; Margie Eiford, Wesley Health Center; Eileen Gallo Beveridge, Connellsville Carnegie Free Library; Michael Edwards, Connellsville Redevelopment Authority and Rita Smith, Connellsville Community Ministries.

The Fayette County Cultural Trust has three Neighborhood Partnership Program corporate partners which include UPMC Health Plan, Somerset Trust Company and TriState Capital.

UPMC HEALTH PLAN



### Community Ministries

The Connellsville Community Ministries serves low income individuals and families. They operate a care & share boutique and currently run the largest food pantry in the area.



The Fayette County Cultural Trust presented a check for

\$4,500 to the Connellsville Area Community Ministries for an automated entrance system that will make it easier for people to gain entrance to their building. The Community Ministries building is located at 110 West Crawford Avenue and houses a thrift store and food bank — with Daniel Cocks and Dana Evans Krofcheck.



# Neighborhood Partnership Program

## Connellsville Carnegie Free Library

The library opened its doors on April 30, 1903, thanks to the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, who believed that education is the cornerstone of success. At that time, Connellsville was the leading coke producer in the world and immigrants were flocking here to work in the mines and coke works. Built of sandstone in the Italianate manner, the building housed books and magazines and offered early patrons both educational and recreational reading, as well as musical evenings in the second floor auditorium. The library was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. Library patrons now have access to more than a million volumes including magazines, e-books, audio books, music and movies through the WAGGIN network.



## Wesley Health Center

Wesley Church Health Center, Inc. (WHC), a mission of Wesley United Methodist Church, was founded in 1993 by the Rev. Eugene Ankeny and parishioner Dr. J. Miller Oppy. WHC has been in continuous operation since that time and is the only clinic in southwestern Pennsylvania that provides free primary health care for individuals without health insurance or who are under insured. WHC is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors and a volunteer Executive Director. Part-time paid staff consists of a Nurse Practitioner, Office Manager, and a Medical Assistant. Dr. Mouhanad Al-Fakih is WHC's Medical Collaborator and, over the years, WHC has added services through collaborative agreements including those with Connellsville Counseling and Psychological Services for counseling, Dr. John Ellis for eye care, Dr. Francis Jacobyansky for dental care, and Excelsa Health's Frick Hospital for blood analysis. An elevator makes WHC's second floor accessible for additional services such as dental and vision screenings, patient education and health classes.



## Allegheny Conference on Community Development Continued Support

The Allegheny Conference's Strengthening Communities Partnership (SCP) program assists communities to achieve stronger momentum in their economic transformation. Leaders representing communities, business and government are working collaboratively to create truly transformative economic development. Their program was created to concentrate private investment and help address disparities in many of the region's neighborhoods.

Since the program's inception in 2012, they have seen the tremendous impact these partnerships have, not only the buildings and vacant lots in these communities, but also, in the restoration of pride and hope in these communities.

The Conference helps build strong relationships between business and community leaders and has committed resources to assist our community partners. The Conference currently assist 16 communities. These communities are Beaver Falls, Bloomfield, City of Butler, Braddock, North Braddock, Rankin, Swissvale, Fineview, Perry Hilltop, Hazelwood, Hill District, Penn Hills, Homestead, W. Homestead, Munhall, Connellsville, Homewood, McKees Rocks, Mount Oliver, Knoxville, Sharpsburg, City of Washington, and Wilkinsburg.

Since its inception in 2012, SCP has assisted communities to bring in over \$15M in revenue, close to 50% coming from tax credit funds. The role of a business, investing in tax credits, providing technical support, and creating strategic partnerships is essential for the region's communities to thrive. The SCP program is part of the Conference's focus of promoting a regional vitality where a thriving people living in the highest quality of place.



## Downtown Connellsville - Scenic Pittsburgh Award - October 16, 2019



Connellsville, PA—Years of planning and labor by area leaders to leverage their scenic resources and make good on a new vision of the former “coal and coke capital of the U.S.” have brought big changes to Connellsville, and a first-of-its-kind award by local environmental and civic advocacy group Scenic Pittsburgh.

Scenic Pittsburgh’s Community Scenic Achievement Award is given to a southwestern Pennsylvania community that has “demonstrated a consistent, long-term, and visionary commitment to protecting and promoting their scenic resources.”

The public award ceremony took place on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at the Connellsville Canteen. The planned location was in front of the mural at the Italian Independent Social Club at 400 West Crawford Avenue, but due to inclement weather it was moved to the Canteen. The 4,000 sq. ft. mural was commissioned by the Fayette County Cultural Trust from noted Pittsburgh muralist Jeremy Raymer, and portrays scenes from the history of Connellsville’s Italian-American community. Aside from the mural and the Connellsville Canteen, a restaurant and WWII museum housed in an historic train station, other scenic attractions include flower plantings, renovated historic buildings, and improved facades. Public art calls attention to the city’s history and location, adjacent to the Youghiogheny River and Great Allegheny Passage bike trail. Connellsville also adopted an ambitious Comprehensive City Plan in April 2019 that focuses on further development of the area as a “recreational haven” and local arts showcase with a walkable downtown.

Scenic Pittsburgh’s focus is the preservation and promotion of southwestern PA’s scenic resources – those places, sights and unique features of communities that make them great places to live and work. The non-profit serves a 10-county region that includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland counties. Scenic Pittsburgh’s Executive Director, former PA state senator, state representative and Allegheny County commissioner Mike Dawida, says Connellsville is a great example of how communities can make the most of their scenic resources.

“Our motto is that beauty is good for business. Connellsville is leading the way, and showing how communities in the region can provide economic opportunity and quality of life for their residents by taking advantage of what makes them beautiful and unique.”

One of the main forces behind the city’s revitalization has been Daniel Cocks, who created the Fayette County Cultural Trust specifically to seek funding for Connellsville’s downtown. He says the Trust’s efforts helped to catalyze a broader transformation financially supported by a broad range of local organizations, businesses and individuals called Downtown Connellsville. “Collaborations are very important for any community development initiative, and Connellsville has proven that working together produces positive results,” he said.

The city council and Connellsville Redevelopment Authority have also been on board every step of the way. Mayor Greg Lincoln said, “It is a great honor to receive an award from Scenic Pittsburgh for all the efforts done by so many to make Connellsville a better place to work, live, and do business in.”

Mayor Lincoln also emphasized the role of collaboration in the city’s success. “We have an amazing community full of volunteers who love Connellsville and its history. This award exemplifies working together to build a better community and I am grateful to Scenic Pittsburgh for recognizing our jewel on the Yough.” “The people behind this had a vision,” adds Dawida. “And through a lot of hard work, and a focus on the beautiful aspects of their community, they’ve brought it to life.”



119 West Crawford Avenue  
Restored Cornice,  
Metal Awning



139 West Crawford Avenue  
New Windows,  
Accessible Doors



201 North First Street  
New Windows, Doors



# Downtown Connellsville

## Downtown Facade Improvement Program

The Fayette County Cultural Trust leveraged funds from the Allegheny Foundaton with an estate left by Michael Prestia to complete historic preservation work on several downtown buildings. The historic preservation initiative also included making some of the buildings handicapped accessible.



166 West Crawford Avenue  
Restored Cornice

615 West Crawford Avenue  
New paint, Windows



109 West Crawford Avenue  
Accessible Doors



150 West Crawford Avenue  
New windows, Repointing,  
Metal Railing



142 North Pittsburgh Street  
New Windows,  
Accessible Doors



414 West Peach Street  
New Paint



# Downtown Connellsville



Three pavilions and the band shell at Youghiogheny River Park in Connellsville received new roofs. Thanks to the Connellsville Rec Board and the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority and the Neighborhood Partnership Program for funding this project.



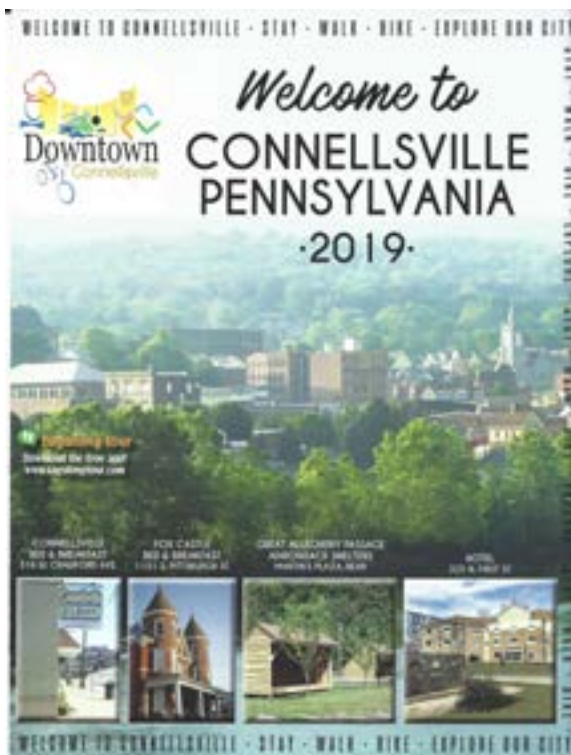
Downtown Connellsville maintains the downtown planters along Crawford Avenue and Pittsburgh Street.



Downtown Connellsville produces two publications. The Welcome to Connellsville walking map is placed in all overnight lodging facilities in Connellsville. This document has a map inside and lets visitors know how far participating restaurants and shops are to walk from the Hotel. The First City News is published twice a year. This publication keeps businesses informed of events and funding opportunities.

## First City Newsletter

### Welcome to Connellsville Walking Map



**First City News**  
Downtown Connellsville  
Downtown Connellsville is an initiative of the Fayette County Cultural Trust  
www.DowntownConnellsville.org  
Fall 2019

**Scenic Pittsburgh**  
Beginning in August of 2019, Scenic Pittsburgh created the Southwestern PA Scenic Awards program to recognize excellence in preservation, enhancement, and promotion of scenic resources in the region. They hope that the example provided by the award winners can help other communities in making the most of their own scenic resources and keep southwestern Pennsylvania beautiful for us all.

**Connellsville is the First Award Recipient from Scenic Pittsburgh!**

The recipient of our very first Scenic Award is the city of Connellsville, PA, which will receive the Award for Community Scenic Achievement during a ceremony Wednesday, October 16, 5 p.m. in front of the mural at the Italian Independent Social Club on West Crawford Avenue in Connellsville. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place at the Connellsville Center on West Crawford Avenue. The public is invited to attend.

For more information about Scenic Pittsburgh and their programs please visit their web site at [www.scenicpittsburgh.org](http://www.scenicpittsburgh.org).

Downtown Connellsville would like to welcome Coker 'This 'N' That' to downtown. They are located at 119 West Crawford Avenue. Money raised from this shop will go to help support the Coker Museum.

Downtown Connellsville would also like to remind businesses located in the designated downtown area that we have matching business sign funds up to \$500 and matching facade funds up to \$1000. Please see our web site [www.downtownconnellsville.org](http://www.downtownconnellsville.org) for more information.

The downtown designated area is from Sheets to Immaculate Conception Church on Crawford Avenue and Donath Florist to the Connellsville Carnegie Free Library on Pittsburgh Street.

We would like to welcome Denise White to the position of Downtown Connellsville Liaison. Under the direction of the Downtown Connellsville initiative and the Fayette County Cultural Trust, the Downtown Connellsville Liaison is tasked with supporting the designated Downtown Connellsville area businesses. She will promote public awareness of the programs and events as well as act as liaison to existing and potential new businesses in the downtown area. Denise is a city resident and a current member of the Connellsville Planning Commission. Denise can be contacted at [DeniseWhite@DowntownConnellsville.org](mailto:DeniseWhite@DowntownConnellsville.org)



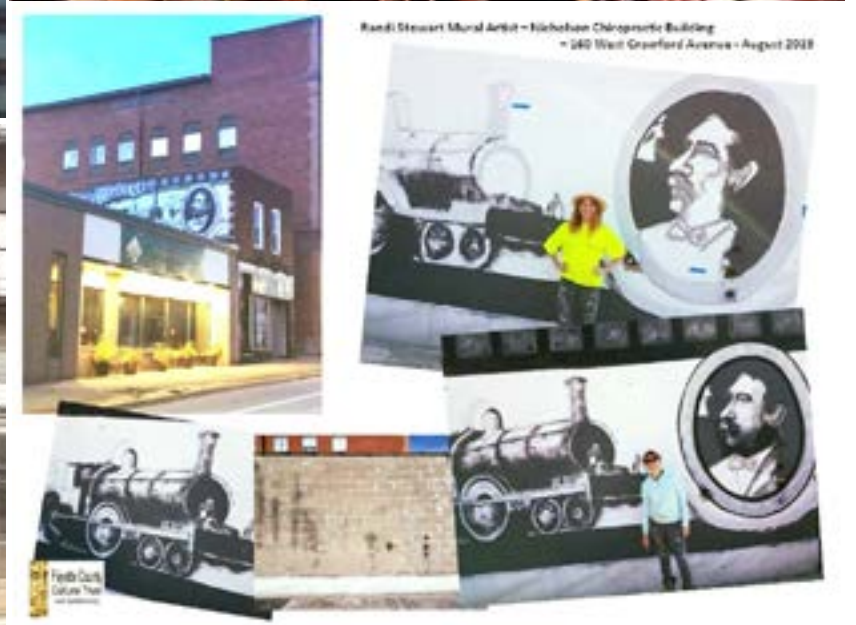
# Downtown Connellsville Public Art Scene



Downtown Connellsville hired a local sign graphic designer to replace the lettering on the Connellsville Municipal building. The Fayette County Cultural Trust partnered, for the second year in a row, with the students at the Connellsville Career and Technical School and the students designed seven more metal bird houses for the downtown planters.



Local Artist Randi Stewart was commissioned by the Fayette County Cultural Trust to paint a mural on the side of 160 West Crawford Avenue. This mural tells the story of past resident Edwin S. Porter, who conducted the first major motion picture *The Great Train Robbery* in 1903. This mural was paid for using funds from the Allegheny Foundation and part of the estate from Michael Prestia.





## Downtown Connellsville Public Art

## Italian Social Club Public Art Project

The Fayette County Cultural Trust commissioned Pittsburgh artist Jeremy Raymer to complete a 4000 square foot mural on three sides of the Italian Social Club located at 400 West Crawford Avenue. This building is located just a block from the Great Allegheny Passage Bike Trail and along Crawford Avenue which sees an average of 20,000 cars daily. This project was funded through the Allegheny Foundation and matched with part of an estate from Michael Prestia.



A new sign in front of the building was added using funds from the Downtown Connellsville organization.





## Downtown Connellsville Public Art

Penn State Students Mural Restoration - Connellsville City Council Meeting, Mayor Greg Lincoln issued a Proclamation thanking Professor Patrick Daugherty, and his students for the great work repainting the B&O Penn State Mural on the side of 139 West Crawford Avenue. That mural was first painted by Penn State Professor David Dipietro and his art students in 1983.



Local Artist Brandi Bee created a mural along the Great Allegheny Passage near the new Comfort Inn Hotel. This mural was partially paid for by Downtown Connellsville.



The Fayette County Cultural Trust partnered with Land Art Generator to provide a workshop at the Connellsville Canteen. This workshop was geared towards creating a public art project that produces energy at Highlands Hospital Center for Autism School in Connellsville. Founder and Co-Director of Land Art Generator, Elizabeth Monoian & Robert Ferry, facilitated this meeting. Land Art Generator has produced public art pieces and held competitions all around the world including Denmark, Australia, Dubai/Abu Dhabi, NYC and California.

LAND ART GENERATOR Workshop  
RENEWABLE ENERGY CAN BE BEAUTIFUL

COMBINING  
RENEWABLE ENERGY  
WITH ART!

**PUBLIC IS INVITED**

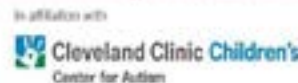
29 October 2019  
10 am – 2 pm

RSVP ONLY  
Connellsville Canteen  
724-603-2093

Connellsville Canteen  
131 West Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville, Pennsylvania 15425

Workshop is to gather ideas to create a public art project that produces energy at Highlands Hospital Center for Autism School.

For more information please visit: [www.landartgenerator.org](http://www.landartgenerator.org)



BE PART OF THE PROCESS – SHARE IN THE POSITIVE OUTCOME!

# Downtown Connellsville - Soup Walk & Chili Walk

Each year Downtown Connellsville hosts a spring Soup Walk and fall Chili Festival. This year marked the 4th annual for both events. These events raised money for Downtown Connellsville initiatives as well as encouraged people to walk around downtown to visit shops and restaurants.

Connellsville Simply Soup  
Soup Walk  
09 March 2019

1. Trinity Church  
- Lemon Chicken Orzo  
- Cajun Potato Sausage  
126 E. Fairbairn Ave.
2. Connellsville Rotary  
- Roasted Red Pepper  
- Caro B. Shaw Boosloger  
110 W. Crawford Ave.
3. Paint Room  
- Potato Bacon Soup  
118 W. Apple St.
4. Wavie & James  
- Chicken Cheddar Dumpling  
121 W. Apple St.
5. El Camello's  
- Tortilla Soup/Conc Soup  
130 W. Crawford Ave.
6. Connellsville Canteen  
- Italian Sausage Tortellini  
131 W. Crawford Ave.

**Downtown Connellsville**

## Simply Soup

Soup Walk

**Saturday, March 9, 2019**  
11 am – 2 pm

Tickets on sale now - \$10 each  
Receive a 4oz cup of soup at each stop.





7. Appalachian Creativity  
- Mexican Chicken Soup  
135 W. Crawford Ave.
8. Clubhouse M&M  
- Philly Cheese Steak Soup  
142 W. South St.
9. O'Donnell's Pub  
- Chicken Noodle Soup  
128 S. Arch St.
10. Kickstand Kitchen  
- Buffalo Chicken Soup  
507 W. Crawford Ave.
11. Keedy's Pizzeria  
- Creamy Italian Sausage  
512 W. Crawford Ave.

**Downtown Connellsville Chili Festival**  
**Saturday – 02 November 2019**  
11 am – 2 pm



- Keedy's Pizzeria – Sweet & Tangy Chili
- Kickstand Kitchen – 3 Bean Chili
- O'Donnell's Pub – Santa Fe White Chicken Chili
- Clubhouse Pizzeria – Chili Supreme
- Wavie & James Emporium – Korean Chili
- Paint Room – Santa Fe Dark Bean Chili
- Youghiogheny Coffee Co. – Vegan Chili (Fox Pizza)
- Community Ministries – Connellsville's Best Chili (Rotary)
- Connellsville Canteen – Turkey Chipotle Chili
- Appalachian Creativity Center – Sweet & Sassy Chili
- Trinity Lutheran Church – Oktoberfest Chili

Ticket will let you try a 4oz serving of chili at each stop.  
Additional chili will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$10 each. Tickets available at each establishment.



# Fayette County Train Day

Fayette County Train Day was created to encourage people to travel around Fayette County and see several scratch built railroad displays. This event draws many people to Fayette County from the adjoining counties.

**WINGFIELD RIVER, RAILROAD & TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM**  
412 Church Street  
Martinsburg, PA 15401  
10 am - 4 pm

**WILLSBORO RAILROAD MUSEUM**  
Route 119 South Avenue  
Hillsboro, PA 15340  
10 am - 4 pm

**FAYETTE COUNTY Cultural Trust**  
101 CENTER STREET, FAYETTEVILLE, PA  
The mission of the Fayette County Cultural Trust is to create and maintain a collection of historical and cultural artifacts that tell the story of Fayette County, PA. The Trust is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Fayette County's rich cultural heritage.

**FAYETTE COUNTY TRAIN DAY**  
Saturday, May 11, 2019  
Open House at the Administration Building

101 W. Washington Ave., Fayetteville, PA  
717.433.6970 • FayetteCountyPA.com



**HARRY CLARK'S INDIAN CREEK VALLEY RAILROAD DISPLAY**  
Connellsville, PA  
134 West Washington Avenue  
Connellsville, PA 15405  
10 am - 4 pm

**WINDY CLIFF RAILROAD DISPLAY**  
WEST VIRGINIA NORTHERN  
Connellsville Community Center  
201 East Parkside Avenue, Room 112  
Connellsville, PA 15405  
10 am - 4 pm

**DAVID BARBER RAILROAD DISPLAY**  
HO SCALE  
209 W. Abingdon Ave.  
Beverly, PA 15405  
10 am - 4 pm

**THE TOWN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
3 SCALE  
101 Main Street  
Connellsville, PA 15405  
10 am - 4 pm

## Downtown Connellsville Events

### Amish Donuts

The Fayette County Cultural Trust has been working with Punxsutawney Amish donut makers. They have been coming to Connellsville for the past 3 years making fresh donuts during the summer. This event draws hundreds of people to downtown Connellsville.



Same day as the Greater Connellsville Chamber Community Yard Sale!!



The Amish will be making

- Toasted Coconut
- Maple Glazed
- Vanilla Glazed
- Cinnamon Sugar
- Sugar
- Plain

**Downtown Connellsville**  
H&R Parking Lot

**Connellsville Canteen Area  
Downtown Connellsville**

**Saturday  
04 May 2019  
8 am – 4 pm**

Other dates:  
June 1  
June 22  
July 27  
Aug 17  
Sept 7  
Sept 28  
Oct 19



### Downtown Connellsville Promotions Committee



### It's a Connellsville Christmas



**DECEMBER 7, 2019**

Breakfast with Santa • Christmas Parade  
Children's Activities • Gift & Vendor Markets  
Cookie Tours • Church Tours  
Live Nativity • Christmas Shopping • and More!

[www.downtownconnellsville.org](http://www.downtownconnellsville.org)

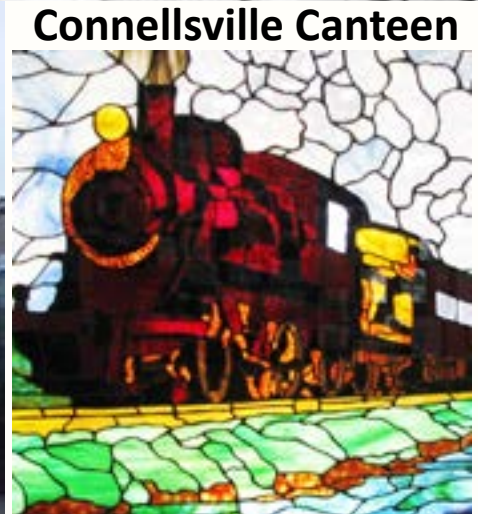
At the end of each year, the Downtown Connellsville Promotions Committee plans It's a Connellsville Christmas. This event is a city wide open house and encompasses Breakfast with Santa, a Christmas Parade, Non-Profit Cookie Sales, Church Tours, Live Nativity, Gingerbread House Contest, and activities for children.



### Crime Prevention



In April Downtown Connellsville Steering Committee presented Tyler Garlick with the Connellsville Police Department a \$500 check for the Connellsville Police K-9 initiative.



A project of the Fayette County Cultural Trust, the Connellsville Canteen has been operating since 2012 and is the only museum in Southwestern Pennsylvania dedicated to preserving the history of WWII. Since opening, the Canteen has hosted several school field trips, mystery tours from out of state tour groups, the *Travel Channel*, news teams from Ohio, and has received an asset enhancement award from the Pennsylvania Downtown Center. The Canteen continues to be the hub of education in the area with its programming to include Lunch & Learns, Dinner & Dialogues, educational partnerships with the Heinz History Center and other organizations.



The Connellsville Canteen employs a Chef, Canteen Manager, and two waitresses. The Canteen has also worked with seniors from the local Area Agency on Aging. The facility also has a “Canteen Boot-camp” program to train Culinary Career and Technical Students the aspects of running a kitchen. This past year we have utilized interns from Penn State University.

The Canteen is also the home of Harry Clark’s Indian Creek Valley Railroad Display. This 25’ x 55’ display was rated one of the best scratch built displays in America. This display houses many recreated buildings from the area around the 1940’s. A group of volunteers runs the trains every Saturday.



May 2019 - The 3rd grade classes from West Crawford Elementary took a field trip to the Connellsville Canteen, Appalachian Creativity Center and the Laurel Highlands Native American Interpretative Center in Connellsville. They spent all day having fun learning about the Canteen, train display, creating art, WWII, Native American History and even got to meet Officer McGruff who stopped by to say hi. This field trip was provided by the Allegheny Foundation which included their transportation, lunch and a fun day in Connellsville! Thanks to the teachers at West Crawford Elementary for making this happen.



Harry Clark's Indian Creek Valley Railroad Display

## Connellsville Canteen - Events & Tours

meet, eat, discover  
**Dinner & Dialogue**  
Downtown Connellsville  
an initiative of  
Fayette County Cultural Trust

Join us for a Dinner & Dialogue on Tuesday, August 19, 2019 • 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Creative Writing with Chris Susary**  
Chris teaches adult writing classes in the Goodland Center for the Arts. She enjoys writing fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

Chris "Chris" Susary teaches adult writing classes in the Goodland Center for the Arts. She enjoys writing fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. She teaches classes in the Goodland Center for the Arts. She enjoys writing fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

Connellsville Canteen  
131 West Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville, PA 15425  
724-603-2093

HCAP  
Unlock Your History

Tuesday, 26 February 2019  
9:00 am - 1:30 pm  
Connellsville Canteen  
131 West Crawford Avenue  
Cost: \$15.00 - Light Lunch Included

Presenters from the Heinz History Center and its Affiliate members will "Unlock Your History." Learn about the documents that might be in your attic, and how you can better understand their contents. Museum professionals and experts Pamela & Stefan Israel will discuss how anyone can decipher clues hidden within documents. Learn about the German language with insight into the genealogical history and some of the unique challenges in understanding these letters and other documents.

As a special opportunity this workshop will include an offering of FREE, brief reviews of your Germanic and Scandinavian family letters, postcards and other documents. If you think you have something written in German, Danish, Dutch, Swedish, or Norwegian, now is your chance to discover what they are all about. Be sure to bring a sample for a quick review at the end of the session.

RSVP Please Call the Connellsville Canteen at 724-603-2093 - Payment must be made before presentation as space is limited.

Fayette County Cultural Trust  
Connellsville Canteen  
131 West Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville, PA 15425  
724-603-2093

Pamela Israel



Retired nurses from Frick enjoyed touring the Canteen and learning about the local WWII History as well as seeing Harry Clark's Indian Creek Valley Railroad Display.

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday the Connellsville Canteen is presenting a daily FREE showing of "Love & Solidarity" by Rev. James Lawson.

FREE showing  
Starting Tuesday, January 22 - Saturday, February 02, 2019  
Everyday at 12:00 pm. (Except Sun & Mon)

**Love & Solidarity** - An exploration of nonviolence and organizing through the life and teachings of Rev. James Lawson, a Quaker, PA native. Lawson provided crucial strategic guidance while working with Martin Luther King, Jr. in southern freedom struggles and the Memphis sanitation strike of 1968. Moving to Los Angeles in 1974, Lawson continued his nonviolence organizing in multi-racial community and worker coalitions that have helped to invigorate the LA labor movement. Through interviews and historical documents, acclaimed labor and civil rights historian Michael Honey and award-winning filmmaker David Wolfson put Lawson's discourse on nonviolent direct action on the front burner of today's struggles against economic inequality, racism and violence, and for human rights, peace, and economic justice. (2016, 30 min)

Rev. James Lawson  
was born in  
Uniontown, Pennsylvania on  
23 September 1918.

"I AM A MAN"

Fayette County Cultural Trust  
Connellsville Canteen  
131 West Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville, PA 15425  
724-603-2093



During Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday the Canteen hosted a video *Love & Solidarity* produced by former local resident Rev. James Lawson.



This year the Fayette County Cultural Trust teamed up with the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh to bring their educational programs to Fayette County during one of the Laurel Highlands Ambassador Programs.

Monday 25 February 2019  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
(Light Dinner - 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm)  
The Ruins Project - Rachel Sager



Come and hear about The Ruins Project with Rachel Sager, the forager mosaicist. The Ruins Project is a long-term mosaic installation that represents the vision of one Pennsylvania artist but welcomes the hands, hearts, and hammers of mosaic enthusiasts from around the world.

Doors open at 5:30 pm  
Donation \$10

Connellsville Canteen  
131 West Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville, PA 15425



The Connellsville Canteen is home to the Laurel Highlands Ambassador Program. Through this program Southwestern Pennsylvania residents can learn about the history of their area by local professionals. This year the Canteen has hosted several sessions dealing with history, art, tourism and businesses such as wineries and brewing companies.



## Rural Arts Collaborative Placing teaching artists in schools.

Started in 2012 and after a year of conversations and planning with funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Rural Arts Collaborative (RAC) Arts Education Project was formed. The premise behind the RAC project approach was to recruit Teaching Artists to work in school districts in Southwestern Pennsylvania counties, with the intent to infuse a diverse arts education approach into existing curriculum, enhance social and cognitive learning for students, and contribute to sustained partnerships amongst educators, artists and students in the region, particularly in those schools which were experiencing cutbacks or entire elimination of their arts programs.

The Fayette County Cultural Trust has been the force to build a strong home for the RAC on that original foundation, and the project continues to flourish in Southwestern Pennsylvania school districts with continuing support from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, and additional funding from the Community Foundation of Fayette County, Chevron and EQT. We are ever grateful to our funders, supporters and schools for believing in this project that has made a difference for so many students in our region.



Rural Arts Collaborative  
Founder and Manager  
Carmelle Nickens

**Primary  
Sponsor**

**CLAUDE  
WORTHINGTON  
BENEDUM  
FOUNDATION**

**Participating artists include:**

Diane Adams  
Glynis Board  
DW Gregory  
Hiromi Katayama  
Rebecca Kiger  
Michael McKowen  
Laura Jean McLaughlin  
James Moore  
Frank Morgan  
Jess Reger  
Michelle Sophia Sabol

James Simon  
Heather Snyder  
Calvin Stemley  
Nancy Tirone  
Codi Yoders Vanata  
Robert Villamagna

### **Art Organizations**

Attack Theatre  
Bricolage





## Rural Arts Collaborative - 2018 - 2020 Participating Schools

Burgettstown High School, Washington County, Pennsylvania – 2018 – 2019

Fort Cherry Middle/High School, Washington County, Pennsylvania – 2018 – 2019

Ringgold Middle School, Washington County, Pennsylvania – 2018 – 2019

Trinity Middle School, Washington County, Pennsylvania – 2018 – 2019

Washington High School, Washington County, Pennsylvania – 2018 – 2019

Laurel Highlands Middle School, Fayette County, Pennsylvania – 2018 – 2019

Brooke Middle School, Brooke County, West Virginia – 2018 – 2019

John Marshall High School, Marshall County, West Virginia – 2018 – 2019

Weir High School, Hancock County, West Virginia – 2018 – 2019

Bellaire High School, Belmont County, Ohio – 2018 – 2019

Madonna Catholic High School, Weirton, Hancock County, West Virginia – 2019 – 2020

St Paul School, Weirton, Hancock County, West Virginia - 2019 - 2020

St. Joseph the Worker Catholic School, Weirton, Hancock County, West Virginia - 2019 - 2020

Greesburg-Salem, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania – 2019 – 2020

Washington Middle/High School, Washington County, Pennsylvania – 2019 – 2020

Madonna Catholic Regional School, Washington County, Monongahela, Pennsylvania - 2019 - 2020

Beaver Career & Technical Center, Beaver County, Pennsylvania – 2020 – 2021

North Elementary, Monongalia County, West Virginia – 2019 - 2020

Paden City High School, Wetzell County, West Virginia - 2019 - 2020

**Primary  
Sponsor**

**Corporate  
Sponsors**

**Fiscal Agents**

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WORTHINGTON  
BENEDUM  
FOUNDATION**



**Shepherd  
UNIVERSITY**



**Oglebay Institute**  
*Inspiring the Imagination*

## 5th Annual Achievement in the Arts - May 2019

The Fayette County Achievement in the Arts mission is to recognize, encourage and reward the advancement and achievement in music, theater and visual arts among high school students in Fayette County. The Achievement in the Arts program recognizes 3 students from each of the schools in Fayette County excelling in Music, Theater and Visual Arts. The schools participating are Albert Gallatin High School, Brownsville Area High School, Connellsville Area High School, Frazier High School, Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Laurel Highlands High School and Uniontown Area High School. This initiative is a collaboration between the Fayette County Cultural Trust and local Rotary organizations. 2019 marked the 5th Annual.



Thank you to this year's sponsors!



Murphy Hall  
Connellsville



### 2019 student award winners include

#### Albert Gallatin High School

Music - Caitlyn Angel  
Theater - Jayda Jones  
Visual Arts - Valerie Warren

#### Brownsville High School

Music - Caitlyn Angel  
Theater - Jayda Jones  
Visual Arts - Valerie Warren

#### Connellsville Area High School

Music - Anthony Domina  
Theater - Parker Carte  
Visual Arts - Kellie Marie Willians

#### Frazier High School

Music - Nicholas J. Miller  
Theater - Logan Kulikoski  
Visual Arts - Laci Sullivan

#### Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School

Music - Nina Alvarez  
Theater - Lauren Judy  
Visual Arts - Amanda Knapp

#### Laurel Highlands High School

Music - Brandon Scott Saghy  
Theater - Isabella Leonardo  
Visual Arts - Madison Adele Ford

#### Uniontown Area High School

Music - Luke Patton  
Theater - Abigail Rocks  
Visual Arts - Leah Jane Anido

House Financial  
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June 2, 2019 - Spring Recital organized by Chelsea Ritenour. Students included Bailey Rosensteel, Ava Jordan-Egnot, Lena Miller, Sydney Gillott, Haile Rapano, Jenna Kosisko, Riley Artis, Ivy Flesik, Lily Grimm, Shelby Basinger, Lily Flesik, Aaron Zavatchan, Hanna and Halle Detwiler. Donations went to help support the Achievement in the Arts Awards.



December 15, 2019  
Funds raised for the Achievement in the Arts



## RECITAL WITH CHELSEA RITENCOUR AND HER STUDENTS SUNDAY - DECEMBER 15, 2019

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

- Jenna Kosisko - Woe Is Me - 25th Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee
- Nick Filotel - Heaven on Their Minds - Jesus Christ Superstar
- Haile Rapano - Moby - Garner
- Eva Sepp-Lysson - All I Ask - Adele
- Lily Flesik - What I Did For Love - A Chorus Line
- Lily Grimm - My New Philosophy - You're a Good Man Charlie Brown
- Nicole Yisiel - Hurt - Christina Aguilera
- Riley Artis - No Good Deed - Wicked
- Madison Hardy - Cry Me A River - Hamilton
- Lena Miller - Landslide - Stevie Nicks
- Ivy Flesik - The Wizard and I - Wicked
- Aaron Zivatskhan - If I Can't Love Her - Beauty and the Beast
- Taney Basingor - Shallow - A Star Is Born
- Sydney Gilott - Shameless - Camilla Cabello
- Ava Jordan Egnot - Waiting For Life To Begin - Once on This Island
- Shelby Basinger - Astonishing - Little Women
- Halle Detwiler - You Were Meant For Me - Jewel
- Hanna Detwiler - Someone Like You - Adele



Donations are accepted to benefit the Fayette County Achievement in Arts program.



Thank you to the Conestoga Presbyterian Church for the use of your facilities.

## Perryopolis- Fayette County

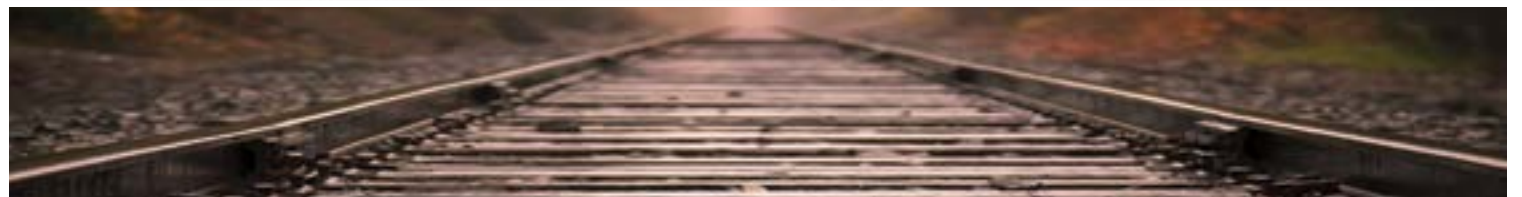
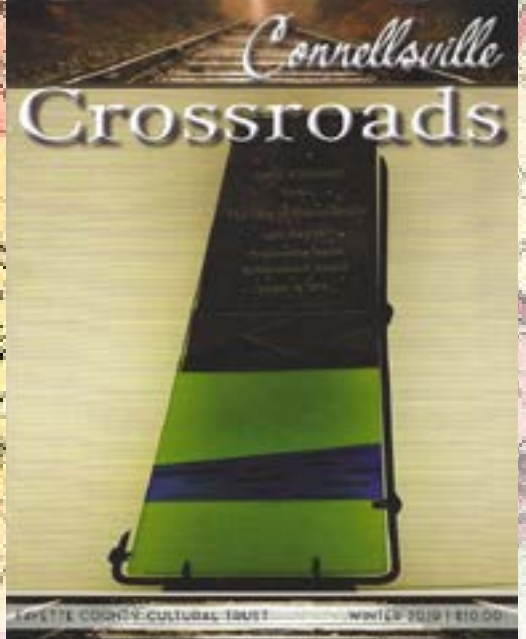
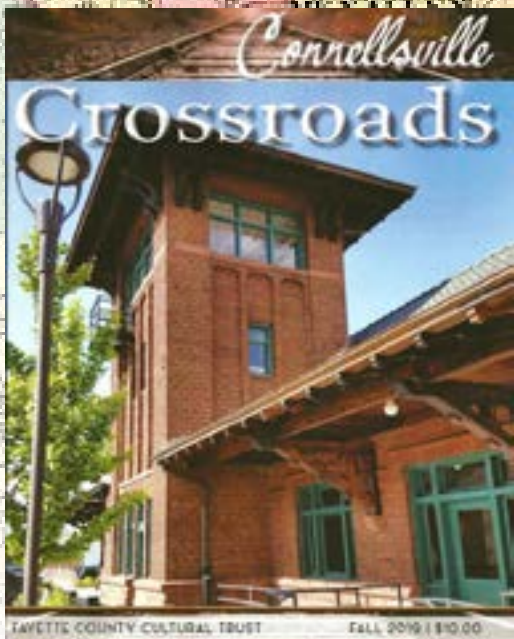
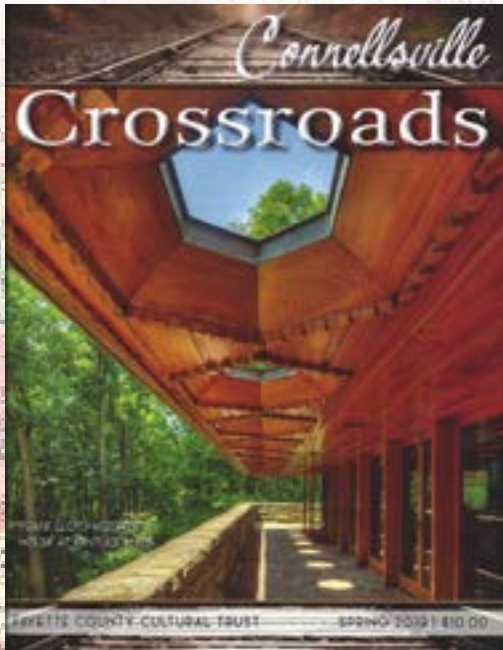
This year the Fayette County Cultural Trust toured Washington's Grist Mill Facility in Perryopolis with the Perryopolis Parks & Recreation Authority. Washington's grist mill is currently in need of maintenance, and a plan is being formulated to partner with Perryopolis and their historical society to continue the preservation efforts..





## Connellsville Crossroads Magazine

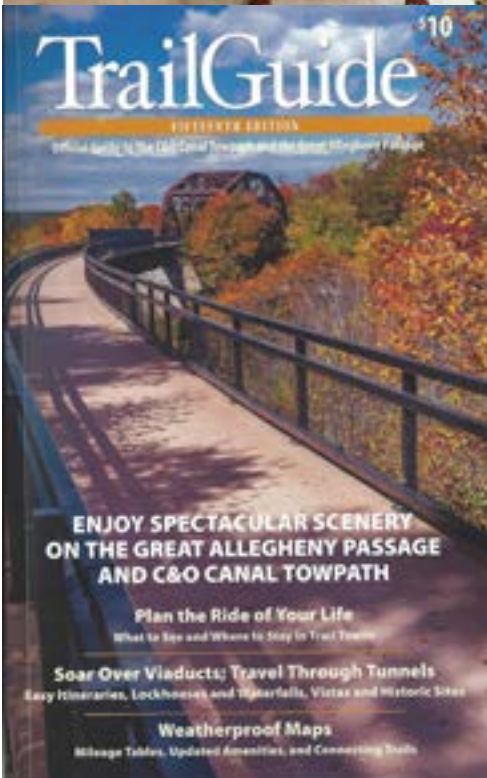
The Connellsville Crossroads Magazine was first published in the Spring of 2009. The Connellsville Crossroads is printed quarterly. The magazine covers stories relating to the area's past, present and future. The winter 2019 magazine marked our 43rd issue. This year the magazine had a subscription base of 225 people from all around the country.





## Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau Tourism Grants

In 2019, the Fayette County Cultural Trust received two tourism grants from the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau - Hotel Tax Program. The first one was for \$1,491 which was used for marketing Connellsville as a destination along the Great Allegheny Passage to cyclists in the "Trail Guide." The second was for capital projects in the amount of \$25,684. The capital projects included placing signage, bike racks, benches and trash receptacles along Crawford Avenue in downtown.



The Fayette County Cultural Trust represented Fayette County at the February 2019 Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency Summit in Washington PA.



The Fayette County Cultural Trust and Connellsville Rotary partnered together to place a bronze plaque at the East Park Bandshell honoring local musician Herald Better who just turned 92 years old.

**Harold Better's  
Band Shell Dedication  
East Park  
Sunday  
26 May 2019  
4:00 pm**



## Fayette Non-Profit Partnership

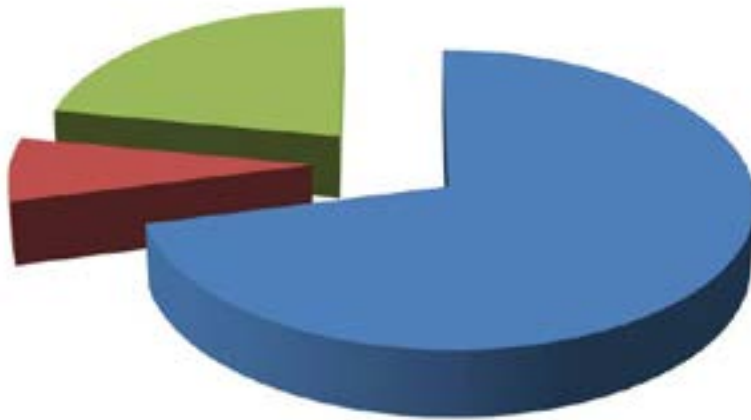
The Fayette Non-Profit Partnership was created as a way to get non-profits working together. "Better Together" is facilitated by MJ Callaway. Represented here were the Fayette County Cultural Trust, Wesley Health Center, Highlands Hospital, Youghiogheny Holistic Living, Connellsville Community Ministries, Alternative Yes, Connellsville Redevelopment Authority and community members that are engaged with helping the area move forward in a positive way. — with Cathy Kumor, Heidi Dunlap McClain, Dana Evans Krofcheck, Paula Grubach, Mj Callaway, Daniel Cocks and Emily Saylor Richter.



**TOGETHER**  
*we can achieve* **GREAT**  
*things*

## Financials - 2019

### Revenue & Support \$643,127

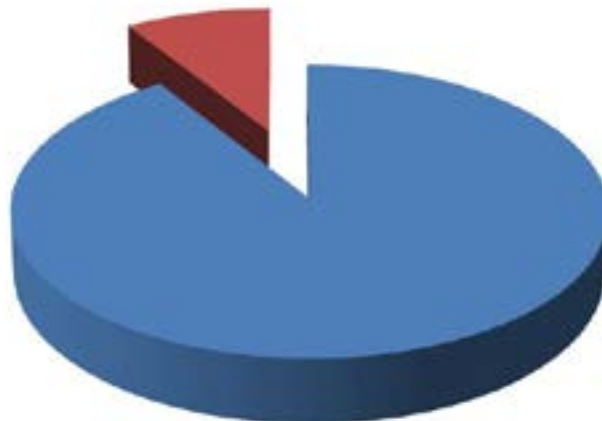


Grants  
71% - \$457,025

Sales  
22% - \$139,831

Contributions & Fundraising  
7% - \$46,271

### Expenses \$880,290



Program  
85% - \$746,404

Management & General  
15% - \$133,682

Fundraising Expenses  
Less than 1% - \$204

The Fayette County Cultural Trust uses the calendar year for IRS purposes and audits. The FCCT incorporates two financial cycles in its end of year financial report. The IRS calendar year runs from January 1st through December 31st on any given year and the Pennsylvania state's fiscal year is a 12-month period that runs from July 1st through June 30th of the following year. Pennsylvania's Neighborhood Partnership tax credit program is based on the state's fiscal year. The financials reported in this end of year financial report only reflects part of the income from the Neighborhood Partnership tax credit program which is the reason the FCCT is showing a deficit at the end of the 2019 calendar year.

The official registration and financial information of the Fayette County Cultural Trust, Inc. (EIN: 65-1283985), a 501(c) (3) non-profit, may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

*Thank You*

to our  
Neighborhood Partnership Program  
sponsors!

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