

Contents

2021 Annual Report

Fayette County CulturalTrust

- 2 Table of Contents
- 3 Editorial Page
- 4 5 Neighborhood Partnership Program
- 6 13 Downtown Connellsville Initiatives
- 13 15 Connellsville Canteen
- 16 Photo Contest/PA Downtown Center/Events
- 17 Rural Arts Collaborative
- 18 Fayette County Achievement in the Arts
- 19 Meyersdale Town Tour/Fayette Gives
- 20 Connellsville Crossroads Magazine
- 21 Promotions/State Award
- 22 Non-Profit Partnership



On the cover:

This year the Connellsville Canteen presented a display on North & South Korean customs and culture.

The Fayette County Cultural Trust is a 501(c)(3) and its mission is to enrich the area's quality of life by promoting our cultural, artistic, historic and natural assets and by creating partnerships to revitalize communities and further economic development. 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 perserves 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 perserve 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









DowntownConnellsville.org

RuralArtsCollaborative.org

Fayette County Cultural Trust FayetteTrust.org



2021 Annual Report

Fayette County Cultural Trust

Χ

Executive Director

Daniel Cocks

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Annual Report Graphic Designer

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Connellsville Crossroads Editor

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Χ



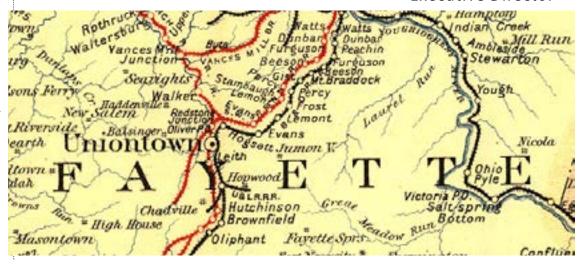
President's Message

Despite the continued COVID 19 setbacks, the Fayette County Cultural Trust forged ahead with new programming and pivoted on other initiatives. As you will see in this publication, the resilience of the organization is evident—from the Downtown Connellsville business growth to new partnerships with the University of Pittsburgh and the Laurelville Retreat Center. We seek new ways to engage both the community and visitors to the area. We hope that you can take part in some of the upcoming events that are planned.

J. Michael Edwards President

2021 has been a great year! People are looking forward to getting back to their normal lives as COVID outbreaks are on the decrease. This year the Fayette County Cultural Trust has been busy maintaining a lot of the programing from previous years as well as adding new initiatives like the Downtown Connellsville "Bananas for Bikes" event and the exploration of the downtown with a "What in the World" contest. These events were intended to get people out of their homes and experience the great outdoors while exploring different parts of Connellsville. We managed to host and participate in many Zoom educational programs, Canteen Lunch & Learns and meetings that could not otherwise be attended in person. Even though we didn't have the regular Achievement in the Arts award ceremony, we still gave out the awards to those students who excelled in theatre, art and music. While looking back at 2021, I am proud of all the work that has been accomplished, and look forward to the future where we once again can plan for in-person events and programs.

Daniel Cocks Executive Director



Allegheny Conference on Community Developement 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.

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 6 years for an approved program.

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





Allegheny Conference on Community Development



This year the Fayette County Cultural Trust, through the Neighborhood Partnership Program, presented \$5,000 checks to each of our NPP nonprofit partners. Partners include the Connellsville Community Minstries who manage the local food bank and thrift shop, Connellsville Carnegie Free Library, Wesley Health Center and Highlands Hospital. This year we also presented a \$2500 check to Connellsville's police department in support of the K-9 unit.

Neighborhood Partnership Program

Connellsville 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 Connellsville Community Ministries is managed by Rob Reamer, Executive Director and a board of directors.



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 underinsured. 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 Pyschological Services for counseling, Dr. John Ellis for eye care, Dr. Francis Jacobyansky for dental care, and Excela

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.

Downtown Connellsville Vision & Mission Statement Downtown Connellsville is an initiative of the Fayette County Cultural Trust

Downtown Connellsville Vision Statement:

Connellsville is a community of rich natural and historic resources where all embrace: local history, the benefits of tourism centered on the Great Allegheny Passage and the Youghiogheny River, the beauty of the environment, the advantages of local services, businesses, artists and crafters; so that both the quality of life and vitality of businesses are improved through increased visitors and active members of the community.

Downtown Connellsville Mission Statement:

With the current business community, natural and historic resources and our cultural diversity as a solid foundation, the Downtown Connellsville Program will provide opportunities for existing and future businesses to expand and flourish by encouraging economic development and revitalization through the promotion of our heritage, the arts and tourism.

Downtown Connellsville Downtown Facade Improvement Program



Downtown Planters

Downtown Connellsville takes care of 42 concrete flower planters located throughout the designated downtown areas.



Downtown

Take a Wild Guess

You Could Win a Prize!!

DowntownConnellsville.org/What-In-The-World

"What in the World" - Guess what is in each window located at the below addresses and you can win a prize! Please write down on a piece of paper your name, address, phone number, item number and your guess of what that item is. Take your list to the Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce located at 100 S. Arch Street and place it in their mail slot, by the front door. Winners will be notified by 20 August 2021.

www.DowntownConnellsville.org/What-In-The-World

What in the World Locations 15 June - 15 August 2021

- 1. Connellsville Community Ministries 110 West Crawford Avenue
- 2. T&A House of Treasures 109 West Crawford Avenue
- 3. Connellsville Redevelopment Authority 124 West Crawford Avenue
- 4. Storefront 119 West Crawford Avenue
- 5. Connellsville Canteen (Bulletin Board) 131 West Crawford Avenue
- 6. Appalachian Creativity Center 139 West Crawford Avenue
- 7. Atkins Music 166 West Crawford Avenue
- 8. Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce 100 South Arch Street
- 9. Riverwalk Antiques 308 West Crawford Avenue



Sponsors



WELCOME TO THE GREATER

CONNELLSVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Downtown **Connells**ville 2021 Events



This year, Downtown Connellsville, hosted a "What in the World" contest. Contestants went around to 9 different store fronts to guess what antique item was in each window! The winner's of this contest are Troop 101 - Boy Scouts of America! Troop 101 just celebrated it's 104th Birthday and are considered the First boy Scout troop in America. When they started out they were Troop 1! Pictured here, left to right, are: Andrea Doppelheuer, -Boy Scouts; Debbie Mullaney - VP Connellsville Historical Society; Ben Metzger; David Hutchinson; Tim Metzger; Thomas Hutchinson; Johnathan Sapola and Michael Edwards - President Fayette County Cultural Trust/VP Connellsville Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to the partnership of the Fayette County Cultural Trust, Connellsville Area Chamber of Commerce, Connellsville Historical Society and participating stores, this event was a big success!



Downtown Connellsville 2021 Events

In celebration of cycling – and the once ubiquitous banana seat – Downtown Connellsville hosted a town-wide vintage bike exhibit. This exhibit was put together by Cycle Forward - Amy Camp. This bike exhibit lasted through the summer season showcasing different vintage bicycles in many of the downtown storefront windows.

Amy Camp, Cycle Forward, is pictured here with a 1940's paratrooper bike that is on display at the Connellsville Canteen WWII Museum and Cafe





9 October 2021

Thanks to all the students and professors from the University of Pittsburgh who traveled down to Connellsville to explore our downtown businesses. Also thank you to all those businesses who welcomed them into their shops and banks helping them get a better understanding of their successes and needs.



This year a group of digital media students from the Connellsville Middle School were in town working on a marketing video for the area. This is a great opportunity for them to learn about our area and market what they learned to potential visitors.

Downtown Connellsville

Downtown Connellsville produces two publications. The Welcome to Connellsville walking map which 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.

Welcome to Connellsville Walking Map









First City Newsletter



Downtown Connellsville is celebrating all the good that Connellsville and it's zip code 15425 has to offer. In 2021 we started selling polo shirts with an embroidered celebration logo. Money raised going into helping to support Downtown Connellsville initiatives. Pictured here is Sharon Joseph, Downtown Connellsville Liaison.



Downtown Connellsville - Soup Walk & Chili Walk

Each year Downtown Connellsville hosts a spring Soup Walk and fall Chili Festival. This year marked the 6th annual for both events. These events raised money for Downtown Connellsville initiaties as well as encouraged people to walk around downtown to visit shops and restaurants.



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 4 years making fresh donuts during the summer. This event draws hundreds of people to downtown Connellsville.





Saturday 22 May 2021 8 am – 4 pm

H&R Block Parking Lot Downtown Connellsville



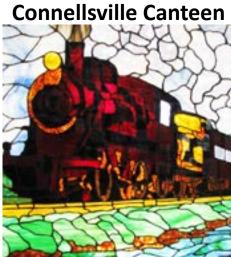


Other Dates:
Saturday's
June 12
July 3
July 24
Aug 14
Sept 4
Sept 25

Oct 9 Oct 30







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. In 2017, the Connellsville Canteen was awarded the Asset Enhancement Award from the state through the Pennsylvania Downtown Center.

The Connellsville Canteen hosted a display of traditional Korean dresses that are traditionally worn in North and South Korea. Along with this display the Canteen showcased hand painted posters produced in North Korea - Propaganda Posters and some items from the security forces that patrol along the DMZ. The Canteen foused on the shared customs of the Divided Land and differences between North and South Korea. - May 2021



10 Nov 2021

The Connellsville Canteen would like to thank the Connellsville Joint High School Class of 1966 for their donation of seven flags and stands to the Canteen in the memory of Private First Class David Bartock who died in combat on March 10, 1967 while fighting in Vietnam.



On August 25, 2021, Connellsville had a group of "Road Scholar's" visit the Connellsville Canteen and learn about Connellsville and the surrounding area! These visitors were from all over the United States! They were biking the Great Allegheny Passage and staying up at the Laurelville Retreat Center. Thank you Mary Huschak-Kaufman for having the Fayette County Cultural Trust host their visit in Connellsville.





Harry Clark's Indian Creek Valley Railroad Display

Connellsville Canteen - Educational Programming



In 2021, the Fayette County Cultural Trust hosted several Lunch and Learns/Dinner and Dialogues at the beginning of the year.











A free Veterans Appreciation Breakfast was hosted at the Connellsville Canteen on, 11 November 2021, by Janney. Three different seatings were available and the veterans were able to bring a guest for free. This event was sponsored by Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC - Uniontown Office.



Downtown Connellsville hosted a "Design a City Flag" contest in honor of Youth Art Month. Thanks to all those students that participated in the Youth Art Month "Design a Connellsville Flag" event. Thanks also for the support of the teachers from the Springfield CNP Elementary School. Connellsville City Council had a tough decision and these are their picks for the 1st and 2nd place winners. Thanks to the Connellsville City Council for taking time out to support this project.

9 July 2021 - Celebrating Black History Month

Dr. Frank Jacobyansky was taking Channel 11 News - Jennifer Tomazic around Connellsville today so they can film a segment for our hometown hero John Woodruff. They stopped in the Connellsville Canteen to take a look at all the memorabilia we had from the 1936 Olympic's

14 September 2021 Reading, PA

The Fayette County Cultural Trust attended the Downtown Revitalization Conference 'Beyond the Structures' that was held in Reading, Pennsylvania promoted by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center's Annual Statewide Conference.





To end the year the Fayette County Cultural Trust hosted a breakfast with Santa event at the Connellsville Canteen.







Rural Arts Collaborative Founder and Manager Carmelle Nickens

Primary Sponsor

CLAUDE

WORTHINGTON

BENEDUM

FOUNDATION

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

Participating artists include:

Codi Yoders Vanata Robert Villamagna

Art Organizations

Attack Theatre Bricolage

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.



Corporate Sponsors







Heather Snyder Calvin Stemley Nancy Tirone







7th Annual Achievement in the Arts - 2021

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 excelling in Music, Theater and Visual Arts from each of the school districts in Fayette County. 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. 2021 marked the 7th Annual.



Thank you to this year's sponsors!









House Financial Services





Judy & Gerry Browell











2021 student award winners include:

Albert Gallatin High School

Music - Brooke Chapman Theater - Kimberly Trump Visual Arts - Taylor Voiek

Brownsville High School

Music - Abigail Soroka Theater - Kenna Thomas Visual Arts - Hope Yeardie

Connellsville Area High School

Music - Hunter Roadman Theater - Riley Artis Visual Arts - Bailey Pritts

Frazier High School

Music - Nicholas Michael Sinal Theater - Wayne Taranto Visual Arts - Zoe VonBergen

Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School

Music - Kennedi Stockey Theater - Matti Trimbath Visual Arts - None

Laurel Highlands High School

Music - Kaleb Walls Theater - Cassidy Morrison Visual Arts - Brenna Hixon

Uniontown Area High School

Music - Caroline Arison Theater - Andrea Gurtner Visual Arts - Catherine Wallace

Meyersdale Tour September 2021

The Fayette County Cultural Trust took a trip to Meyersdale, PA. to share our successes with Meyersdale Renaissance. We went over our Downtown Connellsville Initiative. This trip was sponsored by Senator Pat Stefano.





16 November 2021

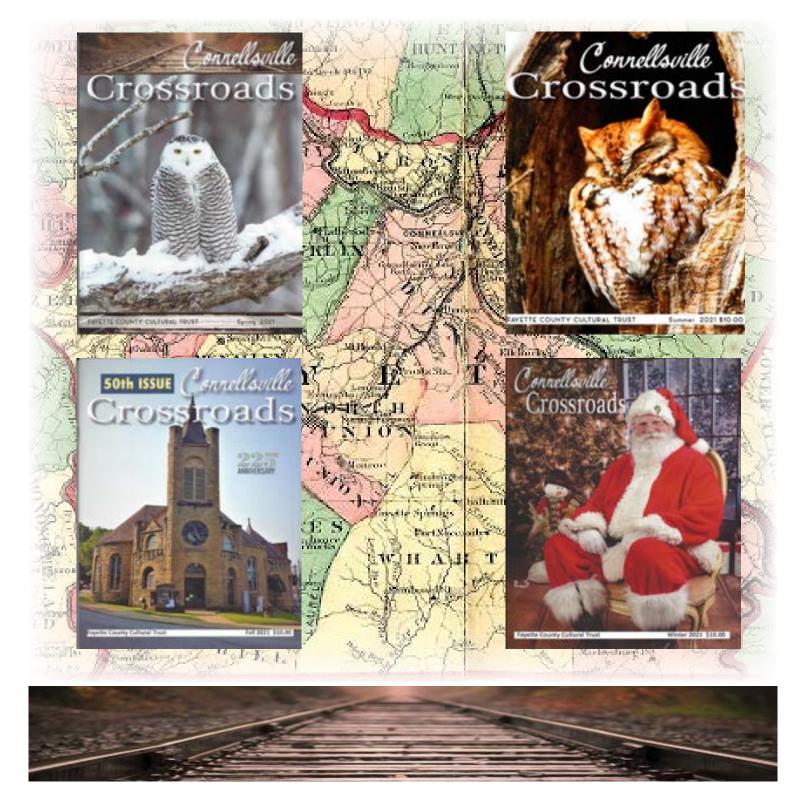
The Fayette County Cultural Trust participated in the Community Foundation of Fayette Counites Fayette Gives. Through this initiative we were able to raise \$2270.





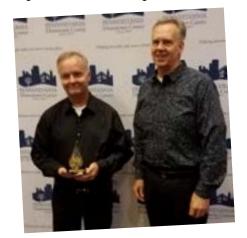
Connellsville Crossroads Magazine

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. This year the magazine had a subsciption base of 225 people from all around the country.



Public Art Wins State Award through Downtown Pennsylvania Advertising in the Trail Guide

The Fayette County Cultural Trust & artist Jeremy Raymer were presented a state award for public art at the Pennsylvania Downtown Center's 2021 Annual Meeting in Reading, Pennsylvania. The award was announced in 2020, but the presentation took place in 2021.

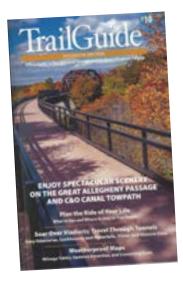






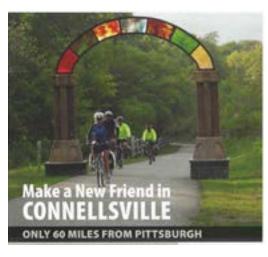


The Fayette County Cultrual Trust advertized the city of Connellsville in the Trail Guide. This Trail Guide is published for users of the Great Allegheny Passage.



PENNSYLVANIA

Downtown Center





Fayette Non-Profit Partnership

The Fayette Non-Profit Partnership continued in 2021 with the mission of creating partnerships and collaborations among non-profits. "Better Together" is facilitated by MJ Callaway. The Trust hosted several meetings via Zoom that included the Wesley Health Center, Highlands Hospital, Connellsville Area Community Ministries, Alternative Yes, Connellsville Redevelopment Authority and the Connellsville Carnegie Free Library. Some of the benefits discussed throughout the year of partnerships were shared ideas, improving services through collaboration, increased exposure and program expansion ideas.





The Fayette County Cultural Trust would like to thank it's board members, donors and volunteers that helped make 2021 a successful year despite COVID.

Daniel Cocks - Executive Director

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Michael Edwards - President Karen Hechler - Vice President Bryan Kisiel - Treasurer Gerry Browell John Coleman Mary Dreliszak Vicki McWilliams Lori Omatick

Connellsville Crossroads Magazine

Susan Joy Lewis - Editor Daniel Cocks Karen Hechler

Downtown Connellsville

Gerry Browell
James Cox
Michael Edwards
Laurie Hensel
Bryan Kisiel
David Marchewka
Leo Rudnick
Emily Saylor
Pat Stefano

Achievement in the Arts

Gerry Browell
Daniel Cocks
Michael Edwards
Geremy Hoover
Charles Motyka

Connellsville Canteen

Ann Nicholson OK Dewitt Nicole Nicholson

Rural Arts Collaborative - Carm Nickens









Web Sites

Fayette County Cultural Trust - FayetteTrust.org
Downtown Connellsville - DowntownConnellsville.org
Connellsville Canteen - ConnellsvilleCanteen.org
Rural Arts Collaborative - RuralArtsCollaborative.org



Financials - 2021
Revenue & Support - \$496,469
Grants and Contributions

81% - \$404,172

Other Revenue

19% - \$92,297

Expenses - \$596,845

Program

86% - \$513,241

Management & General

14% - \$83,604

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 2021 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!





