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Fayette County Cultural Trust

2020 Annual Report

Cover: Youghiogheny River drone photo by Nathan Norton

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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 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)



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



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



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



# President's Message

## 2020 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

This year has truly been a rollercoaster ride due to COVID - 19. This is a time like no other in our lives. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to produce uncertainty, stress and trauma in our communities. By now, we have all been impacted by this virus, which has been devastating for so many. Despite the challenges, we are all facing every day; this is also a time that is bringing out the best in many people—from the healthcare staff and first responders on the front lines to the essential workers providing food and services.

In 2020, the Fayette County Cultural Trust offered financial relief for our downtown businesses who purchased personal protection equipment supplies. The Trust was also able to continue the Downtown Facade Improvement Program thanks to the Allegheny Foundation and the estate left by Michael Prestia. As 2020 ended there seemed to be a light at the end of the tunnel as some of the shuttered businesses started to open up on a limited basis.

The Connellsville Canteen was forced to shut down at the beginning of 2020, but as the year progressed, we opened back up with limited hours and take-out service only. The Trust ended up cancelling all in person programming at the Canteen and rescheduled some of those for Zoom gatherings. Like everyone else around the world, we had to be flexible and learn how to adapt to the ever-changing conditions. As you will see, we rose to the occasion.

The Fayette County Cultural Trust is very thankful and fortunate to have generous supporters who continued with funding this year. We are also thankful to all those who volunteered their time in advancing initiatives of the Trust. COVID - 19 is a devastating virus, but we adapted and continued as best as we could.

J. Michael Edwards  
President

Due to COVID, 2020 has been a rough year for most businesses and individuals. The Fayette County Cultural Trust is thankful for the partnerships formed with Tri-State Capital, Somerset Trust, UPMC Health Plan and our new partner PNC Bank. This partnership, bridged through the Neighborhood Partnership Program, helped sustain the projects that the Cultural Trust was tasked with through most of the year.

Schools have been greatly impacted with the virus and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation has maintained its lead donor role in the Rural Arts Collaborative Initiative. This initiative continues to put rural teaching artists in classrooms throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. The Rural Arts Collaborative Manager, Carm Nickens, has been able to maintain the programs and even include a program for Social Justice into the Rural Arts Collaborative platform through internet presentations.

As we forge forward we will continue to do the programming and maintain the partnerships that are so important in this region to help bring economic prosperity to what has been neglected for many years.

The Connellsville Crossroads Magazine continues to report on those topics of interest that keep the magazine going, and we are thankful to those who contribute to those wonderful articles. We are also thankful for all those who subscribe to the magazine. The Connellsville Crossroads has subscribers from all around the county.

Lastly, I would like to thank those sponsors, teachers, volunteers and students who made the Fayette County Achievement in the Arts 2020 successful. It was

Daniel Cocks  
Executive Director



## 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.



On January 14, 2020, the Fayette County Cultural Trust, through the Neighborhood Partnership Program, presented \$5,000 checks to each of our NPP nonprofit partners. Pictured here are John Malone, Somerset Trust Company; Marilyn Weaver, Wesley Health Center; Daniel Cocks, Fayette County Cultural Trust; Eileen Gallo Beveridge, Connellsville Carnegie Free Library and Dana Krofcheck, 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



In June 2020, PNC Bank replaced UPMC Health Plan as a corporate sponsor and the Trust was able to add Highlands Hospital and the Connellsville K-9 Unit as non-profit partners in the Neighborhood Partnership Program.

## 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.



## 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 Psychological Services for counseling, Dr. John Ellis for eye care, Dr. Francis Jacobyansky for dental care, and Excelsior

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 Youghioghney 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**



The Fayette County Cultural Trust leveraged funds from the Allegheny Foundaton with an estate left by Michael Prestia to complete \$250,000 worth of historic preservation work on 16 downtown buildings. The historic preservation initiative included facade work and also equipped buildings with handicapped accessible entrances.

109 West Crawford Avenue  
Accessible Doors

139 West Crawford Avenue  
New Windows,  
Accessible Doors



166 West Crawford Avenue  
Restored Cornice

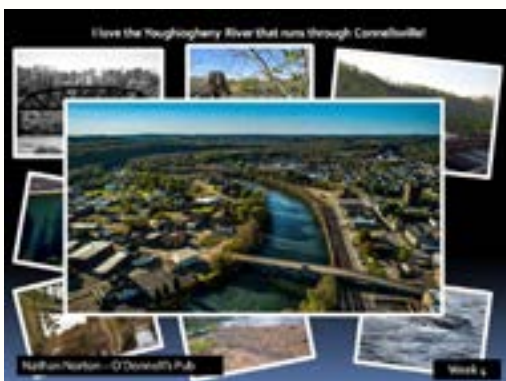
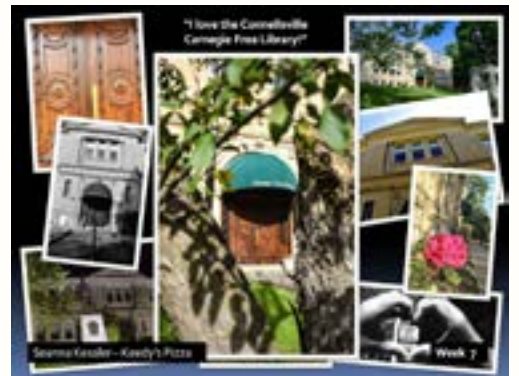
615 West Crawford Avenue  
New paint, Windows

**Heart of Connellsvile Photo Contest**

The Heart of Connellsville Photo Contest was a nine week contest sponsored by Downtown Connellsville. Each week a winner was selected and they received a gift certificate to a downtown business. After the 9 weeks a grand prize winner was selected out of the past winners.



# Downtown Connellsville - Photo Contest



# Heart of Connellsville Photo Contest

# 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

WELCOME TO CONNELLSVILLE - STAY - WALK - BIKE - EXPLORE OUR CITY

**Connellsville's Bank!**  
Conveniently located at  
New Station Building, West Central Railroad  
Connellsville Branch, 100 West Central  
Rd., Connellsville, Pa. 15403

**11** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.4 mi., 0.9 hrs.**  
Thinking about bringing us walking?

**FOR SALE** **SOLD**  
**DOTINA J. EVANS** REALTY INC. 724-426-8923  
**DOTINA J. EVANS** REALTY INC. 724-426-8923

**The Book Case**  
BENNY, BENNY  
Metaphysics and More

**15** **Special Dinner From Home, 1.1 mi., 2.4 hrs.**  
**MEMORABLE MOMENTS**  
230 West Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville, PA 15403

**17** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.4 mi., 0.9 hrs.**  
**CLUBHOUSE**  
784-003-0037

**2020 EVENTS**  
MAY 7 - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - \$10 per person  
MAY 8 - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - \$10 per person  
MAY 9 - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - \$10 per person  
MAY 10 - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - \$10 per person

**HISTORIC SITES / MUSEUMS**  
CONNELLVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
100 West Central Rd., Connellsville, PA 15403

WELCOME TO CONNELLSVILLE - STAY - WALK - BIKE - EXPLORE OUR CITY

**Welcome to CONNELLSVILLE PENNSYLVANIA 2020**

**www.DowntownConnellsville.org**

**CONNELLVILLE**  
100 WEST CENTRAL RD.  
CONNELLVILLE, PA 15403

**FOR CASTLE**  
100 WEST CENTRAL RD.  
CONNELLVILLE, PA 15403

**RiverSide Lodging**  
101 NORTH PINE ST  
CONNELLVILLE, PA 15403

**DRIFT KILL CAMP HOUSE**  
101 NORTH PINE ST  
CONNELLVILLE, PA 15403

**CONNELLVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
100 WEST CENTRAL RD.  
CONNELLVILLE, PA 15403

**FOR CASTLE**  
100 WEST CENTRAL RD.  
CONNELLVILLE, PA 15403

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WELCOME TO CONNELLSVILLE - STAY - WALK - BIKE - EXPLORE OUR CITY

**WELCOME TO CONNELLSVILLE - STAY - WALK - BIKE - EXPLORE OUR CITY**

WELCOME TO CONNELLSVILLE - STAY - WALK - BIKE - EXPLORE OUR CITY

**1** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.3 mi., 0.7 hrs.**  
**CONNELLVILLE CANTEN**  
cfe & museum  
Serving breakfast and lunch  
Tuesday - Saturday, 8 am - 2 pm  
Lunch + Light Museum + Museum Shop  
191 W. Crawford Ave.  
724-426-2003 | ConnellsvilleCanteen.org

**2** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.4 mi., 0.9 hrs.**  
**Vaughnigheny Holistic Living**  
A center for health and wellness  
144 North 3rd Street, Connellsville, Pa 15403  
724-707-4228  
info@vaughnigheny.com  
vaughnigheny.com/wellness

**3** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.3 mi., 0.7 hrs.**  
**COLEBROOK CHOCOLATE COMPANY**  
Open Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
4th West Central Rd. Connellsville, PA 15403

**4** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.2 mi., 0.4 hrs.**  
**Bud Murphy's**  
Handing Handmade Bread From Our Mill And More  
Open 7 Days A Week

**5** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.3 mi., 0.7 hrs.**  
**Kicks and Kitchen**  
Large Fresh Smoothies  
Smoothies, Juices, Salads  
Breads, Pastries, Sandwiches, Pizzas & Cookies  
Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
SUN 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
100 West Central Rd. Connellsville, PA 15403

**6** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.4 mi., 0.9 hrs.**  
**The Care & Share Boutique**  
Clothing, Accessories, Home Goods  
100 West Central Rd. Connellsville, PA 15403

**7** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.3 mi., 0.7 hrs.**  
**GC**  
Vintage, Antique, Collectible  
100 S. Arch Street  
Connellsville, PA 15403  
724-426-1000

**8** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.4 mi., 0.9 hrs.**  
**CONNELLVILLE CANTEN**  
cfe & museum  
Serving breakfast and lunch  
Tuesday - Saturday, 8 am - 2 pm  
Lunch + Light Museum + Museum Shop  
191 W. Crawford Ave.  
724-426-2003 | ConnellsvilleCanteen.org

**9** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.4 mi., 0.9 hrs.**  
**CONNELLVILLE CANTEN**  
cfe & museum  
Serving breakfast and lunch  
Tuesday - Saturday, 8 am - 2 pm  
Lunch + Light Museum + Museum Shop  
191 W. Crawford Ave.  
724-426-2003 | ConnellsvilleCanteen.org

**10** **Special Dinner From Home, 0.4 mi., 0.9 hrs.**  
**CONNELLVILLE CANTEN**  
cfe & museum  
Serving breakfast and lunch  
Tuesday - Saturday, 8 am - 2 pm  
Lunch + Light Museum + Museum Shop  
191 W. Crawford Ave.  
724-426-2003 | ConnellsvilleCanteen.org



# First City Newsletter

**First City News**  
Downtown Connellsville  
Downtown Connellsville is an initiative of the Fayette County Cultural Trust  
www.DowntownConnellsville.org Spring 2020

**New Downtown Connellsville website created!**

A new website for Downtown Connellsville was just launched. This website is more user friendly and has just 4 categories which include: Downtown Businesses, Open a Business, Current Events and Vacation Home. All the top one can click on a page entitled Initiatives. This will take you to all that Downtown Connellsville has to offer. When you get a chance please check it out at [www.DowntownConnellsville.org](http://www.DowntownConnellsville.org).

**ZIA MAREIA**  
ziamaria.com

Downtown Connellsville would like to welcome Zia Maria Bakery & Cafe to our downtown. They are located at 1 Zia Maria Way - Next door to Puckett's Tavern. They offer a full service bakery and coffee bar. They are open for breakfast and lunch and have a menu which includes all sorts of delicious meals. Check them out at [www.ziamariabakery.com](http://www.ziamariabakery.com).

**Connellsville Massage** just opened at 100 West Carroll Street, Downtown Connellsville would like to welcome Susan Leroy and her Massage business to Connellsville. Please check out their website at [www.ConnellsvilleMassage.com](http://www.ConnellsvilleMassage.com).

**The Pennsylvania Downtown Center is working with Downtown Connellsville on Nature Based Placemaking!**

The first step in creating a nature-based place is to recognize and embrace the natural world as a generator for economic activity. NBP is about the connection and collaboration among the local areas of civic, tourism and business in the following ways: civic, where the focus is on education and tourism, where the focus is on hospitality and guest services and business, where the focus is on shopping and entertainment. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has engaged Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC) to develop a strategy that will address these opportunities and provide communities with the ability to develop them to their fullest potential. For more information on the Nature Placemaking Program please visit their web site at [pennstatepa.com/programs/nature-based-placemaking-program](http://pennstatepa.com/programs/nature-based-placemaking-program).

Coming soon to Downtown Connellsville  
**COLE B'S**  
[www.colebs.com](http://www.colebs.com)

COLE B'S will be located at 100 West Carroll Avenue. When they open, they will be offering freshly made pizzas, smoothies, salads and Pastrami! Watch for their grand opening soon.

**First City News**  
Downtown Connellsville  
Downtown Connellsville is an initiative of the Fayette County Cultural Trust  
www.DowntownConnellsville.org Fall 2020

**Coronavirus Prevention Supplies**

The Fayette County Cultural Trust, through the Downtown Connellsville program, is offering up to \$100 in CORONAVIRUS prevention supplies to businesses that are located in the designated Downtown Connellsville area. If your business would like to get a refund of up to \$100 please mail a copy of your receipt to the Fayette County Cultural Trust, 139 West Carroll Avenue, Connellsville, PA 17423. Please include your business name, phone number and email address. Refunds are on a first come, first served basis.

Welcome to Connellsville Breaux & Novak! Cole B's had their official ribbon cutting on 30 July. They are located at 400 West Carroll Avenue. Stop on down and try some of their amazing pizzas, smoothies & juices.

Cole B's mission is to bring intentionally prepared food to the Connellsville area. Owned by Nicole Craig & Bruce Corra, Cole B's is a woman-owned, small-business startup with a big vision to serve people everywhere.

On April 16, Downtown Connellsville sponsored a photo contest to get people out and about photographing the city. During the course of 8 weeks over 200 photos were submitted. Each week a winner was chosen and given a \$25 gift check to a downtown business. \$225 was given out during the 8 week course and two \$25 gift checks were awarded to the grand prize winner.

Week 1 - I love Connellsville's history Winner: Anonymous Prize: \$25 Chickadee Pizzeria	Week 3 - I love the downtown buildings Winner: Bryn Enoch Prize: \$25 Brevin Italian Restaurant	Week 6 - I love all the public art Winner: Suzanne Kessler Prize: \$25 Younglingsby Habitat Living
Week 2 - I love Downtown Businesses Winner: Donna's Pizzeria Prize: \$25 The Pastry House	Week 4 - I love Connellsville Winner: Bryn Enoch Prize: \$25 Puck's Pizzeria	Week 7 - I love our Carnegie Library Winner: Suzanne Kessler Prize: \$25 Kessler's Pizzeria
Week 5 - Downtown has a positive vibe! Winner: Suzanne Kessler Prize: \$25 Kikichana's Kitchen	Week 8 - I love the Younglingsby River Winner: The Kelly Loubie Prize: \$25 Zia Maria & \$25 O'Hanrahan's	<b>The Grand Prize winner for the Downtown Connellsville photo contest is Nathan Norton with his frame photo of the Younglingsby River. Grand Prize was \$25 Wade &amp; James and \$25 Demuth's Florist.</b>

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

**Discover Connellsville, Pennsylvania!**

Connellsville is located in the Heart of the Laurel Highlands!

This brochure was made to enhance the tourist experience while visiting business establishments located in Connellsville.

**Discover Connellsville**

Fayette County Cultural Trust  
www.fayettecountyculturaltrust.org

A project of the Fayette County Cultural Trust's Downtown Connellsville Initiative.  
FayetteTrust.org

## Downtown Connellsville Public Art Walking Guide

**About Connellsville**

Connellsville was founded in 1847 by the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. It is the heart of the Laurel Highlands and is known for its scenic views and historic architecture.

**Historic Landmarks**

Connellsville is home to several historic landmarks, including the Carnegie Library, the Connellsville Hotel, and the Connellsville School.

**Public Art**

Connellsville is a vibrant community with a rich history of public art. The Downtown Connellsville Public Art Walking Guide provides information on the location and history of each piece of public art in the downtown area.

**Public Art Walking Guide**

This brochure was made to enhance the tourist experience while visiting business establishments located in Connellsville.

**Public Art Walking Guide**

This brochure was made to enhance the tourist experience while visiting business establishments located in Connellsville.

A public art walking trail was created to get people out and exploring our city.

**Public Art Walking Guide**

This brochure was made to enhance the tourist experience while visiting business establishments located in Connellsville.

**Public Art Walking Guide**

This brochure was made to enhance the tourist experience while visiting business establishments located in Connellsville.

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**Public Art Walking Guide**

This brochure was made to enhance the tourist experience while visiting business establishments located in Connellsville.



**Downtown Connellsville  
Public Art Scene**

**Randi Stewart  
First Christian Church**

**Mural Dedication**

August 16, 2020 - 12:00 p.m.

Artist Randi Stewart was commissioned by the Fayette County Cultural Trust to do a mural on the side of the Christian Church located at 212 South Pittsburgh Street. This mural takes up the three-story side of the building to honor the old YMCA center located. She worked closely with parishioners and Gerald Brown on the design work for this mural. The design was then presented to Rev. Chris Stillwell, pastor of the church, and then received approval.

Randi entitled this mural 'Jesus and Children.' She has the stained glass pointing on images that are inside the church in stained glass windows. She used brushes, rollers and spray paint to complete this mural. She created a 30-foot lesson to get all the way up to the top of the building. The church contracted with Ron Foltz to install LED lighting on the mural side of the building. These lights made the mural visible at night.

Randi believes that public art is largely visual formation for a community in many ways. As a Pittsburgh-based artist she focuses most of her time on accepting large-scale mural projects that make an impact. Randi has several indoor and outdoor murals in and around the Pittsburgh area. Randi also has a full-time job as the Senior Visual Merchandising Team Leader for Giant Eagle. Last year Randi was commissioned to do a mural on the top side of the Nicholson基督教会 building located at 216 West Crawford Avenue. The theme for this project was Edwin S. Porter's conducted the first major motion picture: 'The Great Train Robbery.'

Jesus and The Children  
Christian Church  
212 S. Pittsburgh Street  
Connellsville

Edwin S. Porter  
Nicholson Christ Church  
180 W. Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville



**Speakers**

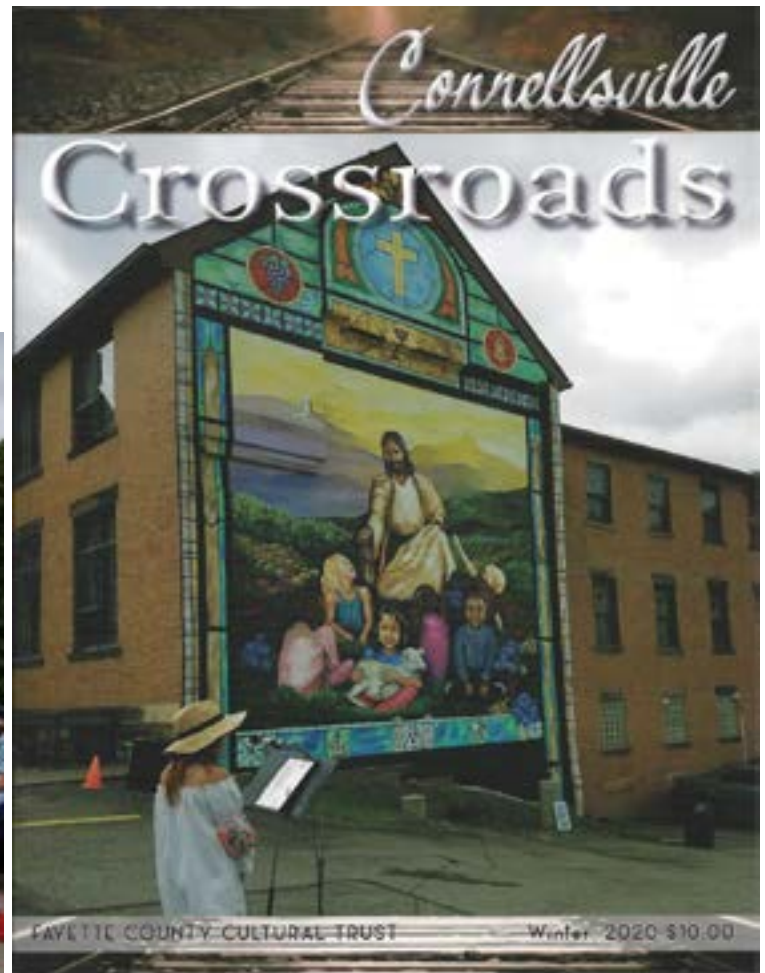
- Daniel Curks - Fayette County Cultural Trust
- Greg Lincoln - Connellsville Mayor
- Rev. Chris Stillwell - Christian Church
- Randi Stewart - Artist



These murals were funded by the Fayette County Cultural Trust, Allegheny Foundation and estate of Michael Prestia.



Thanks to Armstrong for doing an interview with Randi Stewart on the mural located at the Christian Church in Connellsville. This project was funded through the Fayette County Cultural Trust with help from the Allegheny Foundation and the estate from Michael Prestia. Also, thank you to the Christian Church for your support on this project.





In conjunction with the Downtown Connellsville Simply Soup Walk, the Fayette County Cultural Trust sponsored an Artist Gathering at the Connellsville Canteen. This artist gathering featured three new artists to Connellsville exposing them to publicity in the Daily Courier and people out and about walking around for the soup walk.

## Downtown Connellsville Signage Facade Program Matching Funds

This year Downtown Connellsville was able to match up to \$500 for business signage. Pictured is Connellsville's Comfort Inn Hotel with their new sign.



**COVID - 19** Downtown Connellsville Business Relief Fund

Matching up to \$100.00 For COVID related expenses.



Downtown Connellsville maintains the downtown planters along Crawford Avenue and Pittsburgh Street. This year Angela LaRosa Hamman donated flowers from her greenhouse to help beautify some of the planters.



Downtown Connellsville distributed matching funding, up to \$100 for COVID related items purchased by businesses located in the designated downtown area.

# Downtown Connellsville - Soup Walk & Chili Walk

Each year Downtown Connellsville hosts a spring Soup Walk and fall Chili Festival. This year marked the 5th 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.

## Downtown Connellsville Simply Soup – Soup Walk

07 March 2020

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arch Cafe<br/>-Pasta Fagioli<br/>615 North Pittsburgh Street</li> <li>2. Trinity Church<br/>-Ham &amp; Potato<br/>-Hungarian Mushroom<br/>126 E. Fairview Ave.</li> <li>3. Connellsville Rotary<br/>-Creamy Tomato Tortellini<br/>-Care &amp; Share Boutique<br/>110 W. Crawford Ave.</li> <li>4. Paint Room<br/>-Potato Bacon Soup<br/>118 W. Apple St.</li> <li>5. Wavie &amp; Janes<br/>-Pork Roast Vegetable Beef<br/>121 W. Apple St.</li> <li>6. Fox's Tavern<br/>-Vegan Soup<br/>-Youth Holistic Living<br/>144 N 3rd Street</li> <li>7. Connellsville Canteen<br/>-Victory Garden Veggie Soup<br/>151 W. Crawford Ave.</li> <li>8. Appalachian Creativity<br/>-Chicken Tortilla<br/>139 W. Crawford Ave.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Appalachian Creativity<br/>-Chicken Tortilla<br/>139 W. Crawford Ave.</li> <li>9. Clubhouse Pizzeria<br/>-Fizzo Soup<br/>130 West Crawford Avenue</li> <li>10. O'Donnell's Pub<br/>-Broccoli Cheddar<br/>128 S. Arch St.</li> <li>11. Kickstand Kitchen<br/>-Black Bean Soup<br/>507 W. Crawford Ave.</li> <li>12. Keady's Pizzeria<br/>-Tuscan Turkey Tortellini<br/>512 W. Crawford Ave.</li> <li>13. Zia Maria<br/>-Wedding, Chicken Adobo<br/>-Cheddar &amp; Vegetable Soup<br/>1 Zia Maria Way</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased any location listed.



**Downtown Connellsville  
Chili Walk  
Saturday, 07 November 2020  
11 am – 2 pm**

- \*Appalachian Creativity Center – Sweet & Savory
- \*Clubhouse Pizza – Pizza Chili
- Cole B's – Cole B's Chili
- Grill 1905 – Polish Chili
- \*Keady's Pizzeria – Buffalo Chicken Chili
- \*Kickstand Kitchen – Red Beans & Quinoa (Vegan)
- O'Donnell's – Chicken Santa Fe
- \*The Paint Room – Black Bean Chili
- Wavie & Janes – Southwestern Chili
- \*Zia Maria – Triple Chili

**\*Tickets available - \$10 Each**

If you bring in your used Chili Walk ticket to Coterie located at 201 East Fairview Avenue – Room 211 (Connellsville Community Center) you will receive 10% off any purchase!

Chili Fest – Saturday 7 November – 11 am – 2 pm

1. Zia Maria – 1 Zia Maria Way
2. The Paint Room – 118 W. Apple Street
3. Wavie & Janes – 121 W. Apple Street
4. Clubhouse Pizzeria – 130 W. Crawford Avenue
5. Appalachian Creativity Center – 139 W. Crawford Avenue
6. Grill 1905 – 141 W. South Street
7. O'Donnell's Pub – 128 S. Arch Street
8. Kickstand Kitchen – 507 W. Crawford Avenue
9. Keady's Pizzeria – 512 W. Crawford Avenue
10. Cole B's – 605 W. Crawford Avenue



In May Downtown Connellsville volunteers painted the light poles in front of businesses.

# 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.



H&R Block Parking Lot  
Downtown Connellsville

## Downtown Connellsville Promotions Committee



Saturday's  
June 6, 27  
July 18  
August 8, 29  
September 19  
October 17, 31  
8 am – 4 pm



For the Month of February, Martin's sold "Bags for a Cause" and donated \$1.00 for every bag sold to the Fayette County Cultural Trust.

## Business After Hours

The Fayette County Cultural Trust was able to graduate several business entrepreneurs that, over four sessions, learned all aspects of running a successful business. These classes were free and taught by Seton Hill Professor Lyz Marshall from the Wukich Center. Thank you to Wal Mart, Chevron, Community Foundation of Fayette County, Connellsville Redevelopment Authority, Seton Hill University and the Downtown Connellsville initiative of the Fayette County Cultural Trust for sponsoring this educational event.

### BUSINESS after HOURS

**Classes are FREE**  
**Total Value \$500.00**  
**You must RSVP**

Join us at the Connellsville Canteen for our *Business after Hours* seminars. Network, enjoy a meal, and learn from Seton Hill University Professors!

**Each Session is from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

- Session 1: Plan for Business Success - Wednesday, 8 January 2020
- Session 2: Plan for Marketplace Needs - Wednesday, 15 January 2020
- Session 3: Plan for Cash Flow Needs - Wednesday, 22 January 2020
- Session 4: Plan for Business Operations - Wednesday, 29 January 2020

**Veterans are encouraged to attend this event!**

There's a difference between running a business and running a successful business.



Lyz Marshall earned degrees in B.Sc. in Business Administration, M.B.A., and is a Doctoral Candidate (entrepreneurship focus), certified as an Entrepreneurial Mindset Profile (EM) Practitioner and GrowthWheel Certified Business Advisor. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate business courses and works as a Business Counselor for the Wukich Center for Entrepreneurial Opportunities. She has assisted nearly 1,000 individuals in achieving his or her entrepreneurial interests and dreams.

RSVP required, please email  
TECHN@CONNELLVILLECAFE.COM  
724.270.6292  
Free Business Classes



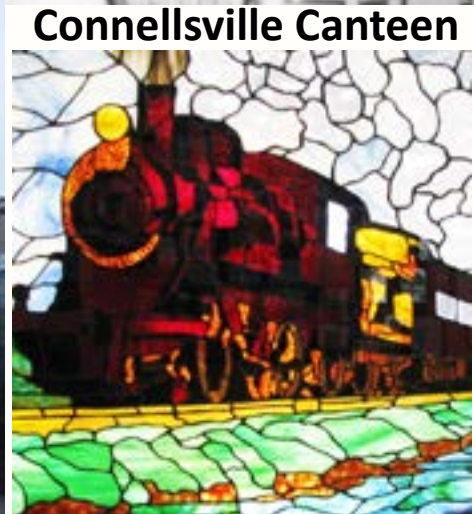
**Connellsville CANTEEN**  
café & museum

151 1/2 Crawford Ave., Connellsville, PA 15425  
724.655.5945 [ConnellsvilleCanteen.org](http://ConnellsvilleCanteen.org)







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.



### Rotating Historical Displays

The Connellsville Canteen has many permanent displays and a few displays that rotate throughout the year. This year our rotating display was on the lives of the Eisenhower family who had ties to Connellsville.

The Connellsville Canteen hosted dinner shows at the beginning of the year featuring local musical artists. These dinner shows were sponsored by the Laurel Highlands Wealth Advisory Group of Janney Montgomery Scott LLC.

In March 2020, the Connellsville Canteen closed temporarily due to a State of Pennsylvania mandate on museums and restaurants due to COVID. At the end of the year the Canteen opened back up for private tours with limited occupancy.



Harry Clark's Indian Creek Valley Railroad Display

## Connellsville Canteen - Educational Programming

**Dinner and Dialogue**  
**BECOMING ONE OF THE GRATEFUL DEAD**  
 Thursday, January 14, 2020 • 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, January 20, 2020 • 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, January 26, 2020 • 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, February 04, 2020 • 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Lunch and Learn**  
**Local Author, Judy Kellix**  
 Thursday, January 9, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00  
 Thursday, January 16, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00  
 Thursday, January 23, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00  
 Thursday, January 30, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00

**Lunch and Learn**  
**Local Author, Megan Ekkeberry**  
 Thursday, February 13, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00  
 Thursday, February 20, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00  
 Thursday, February 27, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00  
 Thursday, March 05, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00

**VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARN**  
**Local Author, Megan Ekkeberry**  
 Thursday, February 13, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00  
 Thursday, February 20, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00  
 Thursday, February 27, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00  
 Thursday, March 05, 2020 • 12:00 - 1:00

In 2020, the Fayette County Cultural Trust hosted several Lunch and Learns/Dinner and Dialogues at the beginning of the year. When the State of Pennsylvania restricted the occupancy in restaurants due to COVID those Lunch and Learn's went virtual. The Laurel Highlands Ambassador program was getting under way at the start of 2020, then we had to cancel the rest of the program for the year due to the virus. At the beginning of the year the Canteen also hosted author Cassandra Vivian who talked about her new book *Henry Clay Frick and the Golden age of Coal and Coke*.

**Laurel Highlands Ambassador Program**  
 Monday, 02 March 2020  
 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
**37 Reasons to Visit the Heinz History Center with Bob Stakelley**  
 A light dinner is included starting at 5:30 pm.  
 Doors open at 5:30 pm  
 Donation: \$30  
 RSVP: 724-623-2885

**Monday, 09 March 2020**  
 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
**Local Author, Judy Kellix**  
 A light dinner is included starting at 5:30 pm.  
 Doors open at 5:30 pm  
 Donation: \$30  
 RSVP: 724-623-2885

**VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARN**  
**Local Author, Megan Ekkeberry**  
 Thursday, May 14, 2020 • 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
**Megan Ekkeberry**  
**Jeremy Harris**  
 Helping to protect your financial journey  
 RSVP required, please email: [rsvp@connellsvillecanteen.com](mailto:rsvp@connellsvillecanteen.com) for a link to Web Ex.



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 from local professionals. In the past, 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

CLAUDE  
WORTHINGTON  
BENEDUM  
FOUNDATION

### Corporate Sponsors



### Fiscal Agents



## 6th Annual Achievement in the Arts - 2020

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. 2020 marked the 6th Annual.



**Thank you to this year's sponsors!**



**DAVIS & DAVIS**  
Attorneys At Law

*House Financial Services*



### **Educational Outreach Program Allegheny Conference**

In February, the Cultural Trust attended a educational outreach program hosted by the Allegheny Conference on Economic Development - in a 200 year old barn located in Penn Hills - owned by the Penn Hills Garden Club. We learned how to market our city and received tips on how to utilize social media sites to achieve the best outcomes. We would like to thank Becky Thatcher Baer, Director of Community Development at the Allegheny Conference for putting on such an informative session. Connellsville is going to move up in search engines!

#### **2020 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



## Unlock your History - February 2020

The Fayette County Cultural Trust hosted “Unlock your History” with Pamela & Stefan Israel. This program, provided through a partnership with the Heinz History Center Affiliate Program, was a study on German Immigration in this area during the 1800’s. We were provided a tour of St. John’s Lutheran Church by Pastor Daniel Clark. St. John’s was once a German Church with lots of local history. The Church organ was donated by Andrew Carnegie. This site is one of the oldest in Connellsville for the location of a church. After the tour we headed to the Connellsville Canteen and learned about the history of a letter that was sent from New Haven PA to Pittsburgh that was written in the 1830’s. This letter describes the working conditions at a Wool Mill and Weaving Center that was located here. Thanks to Pastor Daniel for the Church Tour and the Heinz History Center for bringing all this together and of course Unlock your History! Hope to have you back in Connellsville.



## Oil City Tour - March 2020

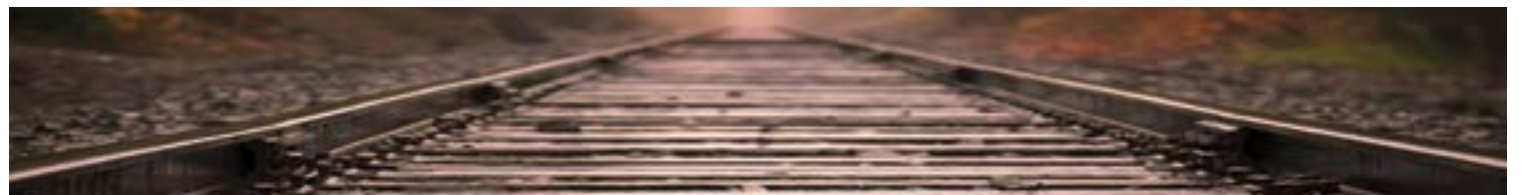
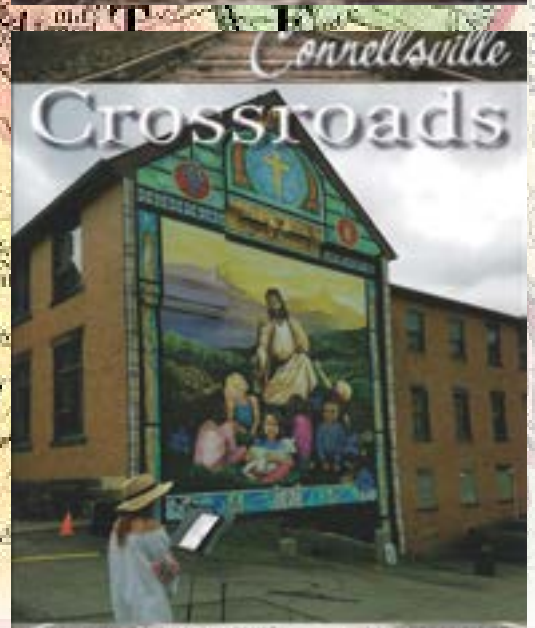
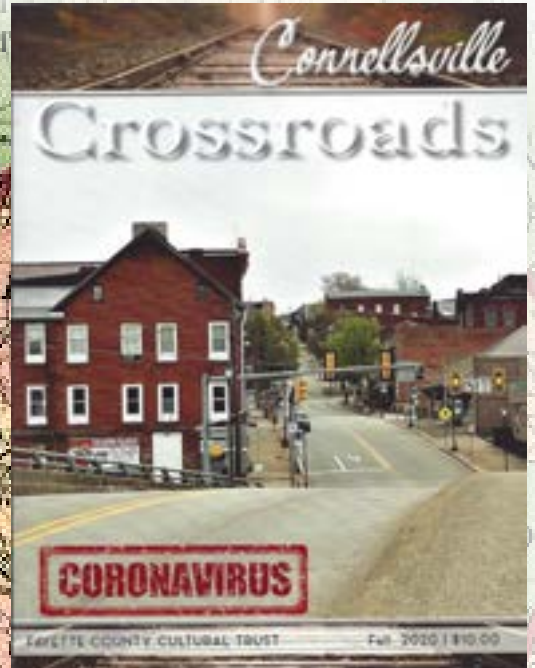
The Fayette County Cultural Trust took a trip to Oil City, Pennsylvania. Oil City and Connellsville have a lot of similar geographic features. We received a tour of the city by Mayor Bill Moon and Main Street Manager Kathy Bailey. It was a good trip and we learned a lot about their Artist Relocation Program, Artist Studios and other downtown projects they have in the pipeline. It’s great to see what other cities are doing to reinvent themselves. We hope to have Oil City Officials in Connellsville soon for a tour of our city. Thanks to Pennsylvania’s Downtown Center for hosting this tour and thanks to Senator Pat Stefano for helping to arrange the transportation for this trip.





## 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 2020 magazine marked our 47th issue. This year the magazine had a subscription base of 225 people from all around the country.



# Public Art Wins State Award Pennsylvania Downtown Center

4 December 2020

The Fayette County Cultural Trust was just notified that the public art mural located at 400 West Crawford Avenue (Italian Social Club), in Connellsville, won a state award! This 2020 state award is presented by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center and was selected in the Category Public Space Improvement - "Connellsville Public Art - Leading the Way"



This three sided mural was painted by Pittsburgh artist Jeremy Raymer and commissioned by the Fayette County Cultural Trust in 2019. Funding was provided by the Allegheny Foundation, part of an estate from Michael Prestia and the Downtown Connellsville Initiative of the Fayette County Cultural Trust.



Photo Credit of Jeremy Raymer  
Patrick Varine Trib Live



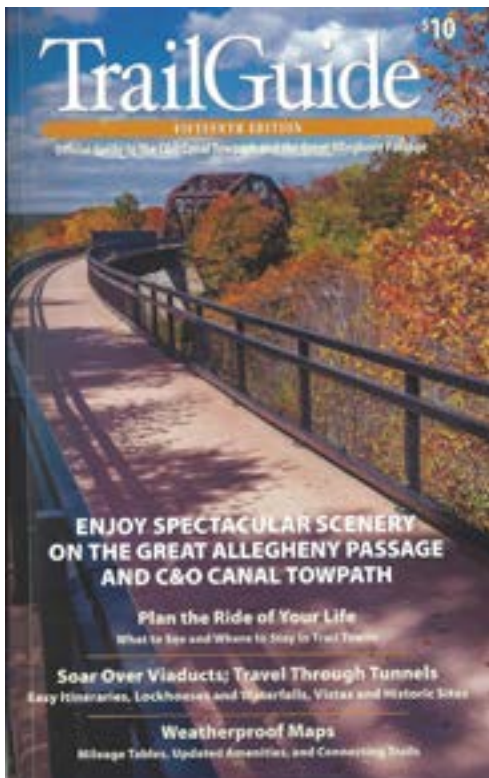
This is the second state award the Fayette County Cultural Trust received. The Connellsville Canteen was presented a Pennsylvania state Asset Enhancement award in 2017.



Fayette County  
Cultural Trust  
www.fayettectrust.org



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.



The Fayette County Cultural Trust has been working with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center on the Downtown Connellsville initiative. A blighted property survey was conducted and a Nature Based Placemaking program was discussed.



# Fayette Non-Profit Partnership

The Fayette Non-Profit Partnership continued in 2020 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 community members. Some of the benefits discussed throughout the year of partnerships were shared administrative costs, improving range of services, bring about new ideas, increase brand exposure and expand programs.



The Fayette County Cultural Trust received a grant from the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County to help promote the 2020 Census to city residents. With these funds we produced a 2020 Census video that was shown on Armstrong and advertised the Census in the Crossroads Magazine and First City News.



The Fayette County Cultural Trust would like to thank it's board members, donors and volunteers that helped make 2020 a successful year despite COVID.

**Daniel Cocks - Executive Director**

**Board Members**

- Michael Edwards - President**
- Karen Hechler - Vice President**
- Bryan Kisiel - Treasurer**
- Gerry Browell**
- John Coleman**
- Mary Drelisak**
- 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**
- Jeremy Hoover**
- Charles Motyka**

**Connellsville Canteen**

- Ann Nicholson**
- OK Dewitt**
- Nichole Nicholson**

**Rural Arts Collaborative**

**Carm Nickens**



Fayette County Cultural Trust  
www.fayettestrust.org



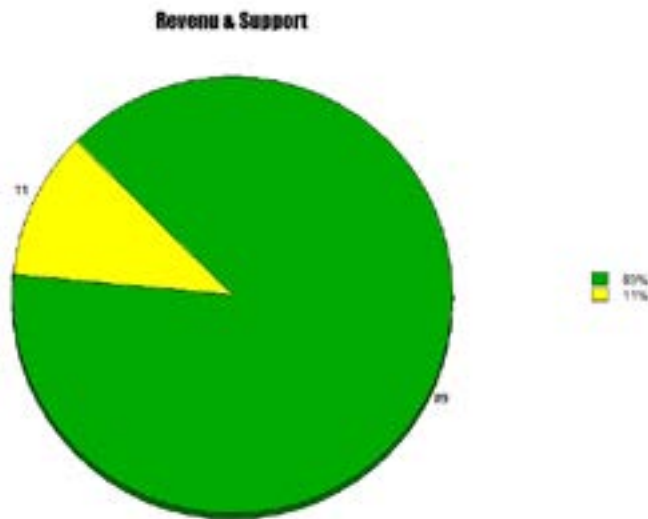
Achievement in the Arts  
Fayette County, Pennsylvania



**Connellsville CANTREEN**  
café & museum

## Financials - 2020

### Revenue & Support - \$473,472



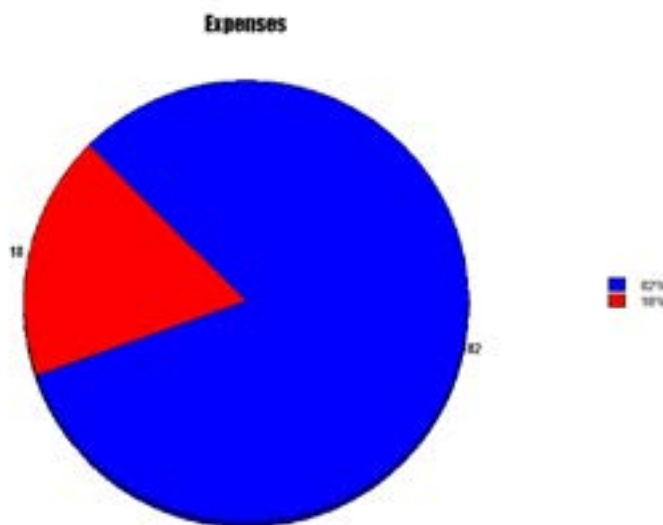
### Grants and Contributions

89% - \$422,638

Other Revenue

11% - \$50,834

### Expenses - \$625,470



### Program

82% - \$512,075

Management & General

18% - \$113,395

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 2020 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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