GLASSY
Silent Auction Treasures,
Artistic Talks,
Jim Woodring,
Dan Friday &
Salish Sea Artists

IN THE KAY
Opera, Dance, Chorale,
Orchestra, Theatre,
Musicals, Cabaret,
& Talks

BLUE HERON
EDUCATION
CENTER
Fall Classes for Every Age
Scholarships Available

INSIDE
New Trustees,
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Welcome New Trustees

Comprised of 17 dedicated community volunteers, the VCA Board of Trustees – like all governing boards – is responsible for the overall health of VCA. And one important measure of organizational health is in the quality and effort individual Trustees bring to their VCA responsibilities. This summer, two new Trustees – Mark Pinto and Lauren Paris Watts – joined the Board. Each brings impressive credentials and a proven commitment to community service. Read for yourself below. We couldn’t be happier.

Mark Pinto was born in New York City but grew up in Atlanta and Houston. He earned a B.A. in English from Wesleyan University and an M.S. in Human Genetics from Sarah Lawrence College. Mark has been a residential real estate broker since 2003. He is currently affiliated with Windermere Chambers Bay and he works primarily in North Tacoma, University Place and Gig Harbor. Prior to his career in real estate, Mark worked as a certified genetic counselor, first at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York and then at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Mark is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Pierce County Library Foundation and as an Ambassador for the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. Past board service has included three terms on the Tacoma Arts Live Board of Trustees, two terms on the UW Tacoma Urban Studies Advisory Board and one term on the UW Tacoma Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Advisory Board.

Mark and his partner Jeff Williams have lived on Maury Island since 2015. They currently split their time between their house on Tramp Harbor and a duplex in Central Tacoma.

Lauren Parris Watts is a partner at Seyfarth Shaw, where she practices as a labor and employment attorney. She joins VCA as a former dancer and a strong supporter of both education and the arts. She is active in the community and sits on the board for the Rainier Club and the L&E Section of the Washington State Bar Association. In her free time, Lauren can be found entertaining friends and family and relaxing with her husband and young children.

Congratulations, Lauren, on recently being named one of Puget Sound Business Journal’s 2022 “40 Under 40” – honoring business leaders under the age of 40 who are making a difference in business, philanthropy, and in their communities!

Left to right: Our Little Free Art Gallery on the front porch at the Blue Heron, and mermaids take to the stage for summer’s The Little Mermaid, Jr. Slava with PianoFête supporters Mary & Whit Cahart, Vashon Maury Chamber Orchestra musicians perform alongside Slava & Konstantin in PianoFête’s Grand Finale, young audience members meet Slava after the performance.
Finding Affirmation in Art

Barely a week goes by without hearing ‘how is VCA doing?’ It’s no secret arts organizations across the country are struggling. Significant grant support, multiple program revenue streams, a generous community, and a keen eye on our expenses have kept us sustainable.

This year, with all our programs fully operating, we continue to face many challenges on the path toward financial stability. Government support by way of Covid-relief grants has dwindled. Audiences are still hesitant to return as surges in case counts are now part of our daily lives. Inflation has made matters worse. Unpredictable ferry service and the West Seattle bridge has discouraged many off-island visitors (a source of revenue for many).

In spite of these many challenges, and with the help of special donors, we nevertheless boldly launched an ambitious week of unforgettable music this July – PianoFête.

VCA’s success in bringing PianoFête to life was just the affirmation we needed. Rather than postpone our plans worrying about whether audiences would come, we moved forward.

Two years ago, PianoFête was conceived as the brainchild of Vyechaslav ‘Slava’ Gryaznov, an extraordinarily talented pianist and believer in great possibilities. He had a vision to curate a series of piano concerts that could grow to become an annual summer festival featuring acclaimed pianists collaborating with local musicians. Two concert grands on our stage would make it a uniquely signature event and offering free access to youth would introduce classical music to a new generation.

Thanks to the generosity of island art patrons, Mary and Whit Carhart, we were able to offer free tickets to youth under 18. It worked. Families turned out because it was affordable. And the performances were brilliant. Standing ovations every night showed how positively thrilled audience members were to experience great music. It exhilarated the performers too, many of whom had not had that level of appreciation for more than two years.

The beauty of PianoFête was finding harmony with our mission — local talent, world class artists, collaboration, engaging young minds, and phenomenal classical music.

VCA aims to create more opportunities where youth can freely experience great art, not just through arts education and youth programming but through watching gifted artists on the stage. We want to plant the seeds for their own emerging talents and foster a strong connection to the arts.

Symbols of Transformation

Fall is upon us and with it comes the excitement and anticipation of our annual benefit celebration – VCA’s Gala Art Auction Masquerade. The success of the gala owes much to the amazing artists in our community and their incredible generosity in donating works of art to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. With the amazing support of patrons and arts lovers who come to bid, to donate, and to celebrate – this event generates the financial resources for us to continue providing great art experiences and community events for thousands of islanders and visitors each year.

For two years, VCA has managed to successfully produce a virtual gala – thanks to your participation as livestream viewers and online bidders. In doing so, you helped fuel our Scholarship Fund, a resource that has awarded more than 350 scholarships in 2020 and 2021. Last year we broadened the appeal to include the Blue Heron Education Center (scholarships, building repairs and renovations), and your gifts helped us make critical repairs to our beloved Blue Heron building. (See page 20).

To use this year’s butterfly theme for inspiration, the time has come to unfurl our wings and step out of our Covid cocoons. Please join us in-person on September 24th for a celebration of the arts, to toast the extraordinary artists in our community, and to support the many programs at VCA that enrich and engage us all, from early childhood into adulthood.

See you at the Gala!

Allison Halstead Reid
Executive Director

“The beauty of PianoFête was finding harmony with our mission — local talent, world class artists, collaboration, engaging young minds, and phenomenal classical music.”
Kids Clay Lab
Explore hand-building clay techniques and learn to pinch, coil and slab-build. Projects will include making animals, personalized mugs, food, and things that make noise.

Ages: 7-12
Wednesdays, 4:5-5:30pm
Sept 21 - Oct 12
Instructor: Laurie Detzer

Fun with Art - Preschool Style!
Bring your preschooler for a fun and immersive experience in art with different projects and techniques each week. Drop your child off or stay and be a part of the fun.

Ages: 4-6 (3 year olds welcome with parent or caregiver)
Mondays, 10-11:30am
Sept 26 - Oct 24
Instructor: Michele Brady Palermo

Suzuki Violin
The Suzuki approach is based on the philosophy that young children learn music by listening. We provide developmentally appropriate instruction and frequent opportunities to play alone and with others. Students can register for 15, 30 or 45-minute private lessons with one group lesson per month.

Ages: 4-18
Instructor: Gaye Detzer

Musical Theatre: Shrek, Jr.
Join us for this partnership between VCA and Drama Dock as we bring everyone’s favorite ogre and band of fairytale misfits to life! Multiple classes for teens, leads, and the younger ensemble cast.

Grades: 3-12
Sept 13 - Nov 17
Performances: Nov 18-19
Instructors: Marita Ericksen, Lisa Peretti, Elise Ericksen, & Joy Ghigleri

Little Mozart
A creative and fun introduction to reading music for young children! Learn how to read music on a staff through letters, numbers and colors. Class will include fun and silly songs as well as rhythm and movement exercises.

Ages: 4-6
Saturdays, 10-11:30am
Oct 1 - Nov 5
Instructor: Tricia Rose

Beyond the Selfie
Who are you beyond the surface? How can you creatively show that in photographs? Explore self-portrait photography in different ways and varying locations, with both digital and film cameras.

Ages: 9-15
Thursdays, 4-5:30pm
Oct 6 - Nov 10
Instructor: Annie Marie Musselman

I Solisti di Vashon
I Solisti di Vashon is an advanced string ensemble for high school students (8th graders by special permission). The repertoire is chosen from the great classical composers and from contemporary popular music.

Grades: 9-12
Mondays, 5:15-6:30pm
Sept 13 - Jan 30
Instructor: Gaye Detzer

Monster Knitting!
Learn the basics of knitting, how to cast on, and the knit stitch. You’ll sew the knitted piece together and add buttons and fabric to create your knitted friend.

Ages: 9-12
Wednesdays, 4-6pm
Oct 19 - Nov 16
Instructor: Rachel Keil

Songwriting with Hope
Researchers have found hope to be a belief that is teachable, measurable and one of the greatest predictors of well-being. Spend time exploring your own sense of hope, what you believe is needed for a better future for the world, and pathways for achieving these goals. Craft your discoveries into songs and create an album of hope to share with family and friends.

Ages: 9-15
Thursday-Saturday, 10am-2pm
Nov 3 - 5
Performance: Nov 5
Instructor: Havilah Rand

Teens & Adults
Clay Vessels
Learn techniques to make functional vessels such as cups, small pourers and bowls. Explore coil-building, slab construction, and Kurinuki - a traditional Japanese hand-building method of carving from a block of clay.

Ages: 16-Adult
Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm
Sept 27 - Oct 18
Instructor: Laurie Detzer

Improv I
Explore the spontaneous creation of theatre and short form improv with one of Vashon’s most talented actors. Learn spatial awareness, balance and body centers as you build characters and develop group dialogue.

Ages: 16-Adult
Wednesdays, 7-9pm
Sept 28 - Nov 16
Instructor: Mik Kuhlman

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR TUITION DETAILS AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON ALL OUR CLASSES.
Improv II/III
A deeper dive into physical improv focused on ways to incorporate the body while adding verbal repartee and wit. Previous improv experience required.
Ages: 16-Adult
Mondays, 7-9pm
Sept 26 - Nov 21
Instructor: Mik Kuhlman

Poetry of Place
This online workshop will focus on the significance of place in poetry, whether it’s a geographical location, an internal state, or perhaps a poetic meeting of the two.
Ages: 16-Adult
Saturday, Nov 5, 10am-1pm
Instructor: Jodie Hollander

Creating with Cashmere
Make a neck warmer and creatively mend a cashmere sweater to keep. Class will include information on how to wash, de-pill, and protect your cashmere and wool clothing.
Ages: 13-Adult
Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm
Nov 29-Dec 13
Instructor: Jessica Kennan

Knitting Foundations
Cozy up in the Blue Heron and make a warm hat for winter. Learn the basics of knitting: reading a pattern, knit and pearl stitches, and knitting in the round.
Ages: 13-Adult
Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm
Oct 6 - Nov 10
Instructor: Rachel Keil

Knitting Just Beyond the Basics
Do you know the basics of knitting and want to branch out? Learn how to knit with double pointed needles, use more than one color, and create simple designs with knit and pearl stitches as you make fingerless mittens or handwarmers for winter.
Ages: 13-Adult
Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm
Jan 17-Feb 28
Instructor: Rachel Keil

Resin Art
Explore rich colors and textures as you develop paintings using layers of paint, pigment, mica powders, and resin.
Ages: 15 to Adult
Saturdays, 1-4pm
Oct 22 & 29
Instructor: Alisara Martin

Oil Painting Intensive
Learn to paint in the Russian Impressionist tradition from one of Vashon’s most talented and prolific painters.
Ages: 16-Adult
Friday Jan 20, 7-9pm
Saturday Jan 21, 9am-4pm
Sunday Jan 22, 9am-3pm
Instructor: Pam Ingalls

Owl Study
Discover the world of owls! Vashon Nature Center will talk about our nocturnal raptor neighbors on Vashon, including their unique characteristics, habitat requirements and adaptations. Then Britt Freda will lead a drawing study of owls to guide our understanding of this legendary bird species.
Ages: 15-Adult
Tuesday, Oct 25, 6:30-9pm
Instructors: Vashon Nature Center & Britt Freda

Writing & Critique
Discover the importance of having readers for your writing in this beginner to intermediate class. Set up in a writing critique group format, we will read each other’s work and learn to gently make suggestions. Students should currently have writing they are working on—fiction or nonfiction, so long as it is in narrative form.
Ages: Adults
Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm
Jan 19-Feb 16
Instructor: Tavi Black

Family Clay Lab
Join us for an afternoon of family fun and create a terra cotta sun to brighten your walls. All ages welcome – kids 10 and under should sign up with someone older.
Ages: all ages welcome
(kids under 10 must register with an adult)
Saturday, Sept 10, 3-5pm
Instructor: Laurie Thorpe

We Offer Scholarships
VCA’s Scholarship Fund provides need-based financial assistance to make classes affordable for every student. To apply, please visit our website.

Register online at www.vashoncenterforthearts.org or call (206) 259-3005
Youth

Creative Movement
A fun-filled introduction into the world of dance where children explore their imaginations through music and movement as they develop motor skills, rhythmic awareness, coordination, and balance in a nurturing environment.

Ages: 3-4
Mondays, Sept 12 - Jan 9, 3:15-4pm
or Fridays, Sept 16 - Jan 20, 10:30-11:15am
Instructor: Elise Ericksen

Primary Ballet/Tap
The fundamentals of both Ballet and Tap are introduced through fun and structured group activities. Your little dancer will have so much fun learning important skills like coordination, balance, and following instructions!

Ages: 4-6
Tuesdays, Sept 13 - Jan 17, 4:15-5:15pm
Instructor: Elise Ericksen

Ballet/Tap 1
Miss Elise makes it fun to learn basic Ballet and Tap vocabulary and technique! Class will include basic center work and across the floor exercises that tap into imagination and develop musicality.

Ages: 6-7
Mondays, Sept 12 - Jan 9, 4:15-5:15pm
Instructor: Elise Ericksen

Ballet
Classes 4.5 and up require instructor permission to register. All ballet students are invited to perform in Vashon’s The Nutcracker, December 2-4. Additional rehearsals may apply.

Ballet 2
Building on the skills learned in Level 1, students continue their learning journey in Ballet. They will warm up at center, then learn how to string steps together into combinations.

Ages: 7-8
Mondays, Sept 12 - Jan 9, 5:15-6:15pm
Instructor: Vanessa Wylie

Ballet 3
Dancers will train twice weekly for skill acquisition and injury prevention. Dancers will be introduced to turns and more intricate combinations. Proper technique will be a focus.

Ages: 8-11
Wed & Thurs, Sept 14-Jan 20, 4:15-5:45pm
Instructors: Madeline Morser & Elise Ericksen

Ballet 4 Pre-Pointe
Ballet 4 meets twice weekly, and combines elements of pre-pointe with intermediate combinations, stretches, turns, and jumps. Students are invited to perform in The Nutcracker, Dec 2-4, and rehearsals are an additional 45-minute session following the Tuesday class.

Sept 13 - Jan 19
Tues, 5:15-6:30pm, & Thurs, 4:15-5:45pm
Instructors: Vadne White, Madeline Morser, & Sana Tepley

Ballet 4.5
Ballet 4.5 meets twice weekly, and combines elements of pre-pointe and beginning pointe work as well as intermediate combinations, stretches, turns, and jumps.

Sept 13 - Jan 19
Tues, 5:15-6:30pm, & Thurs, 4:15-5:45pm
Instructors: Vadne White, Madeline Morser, & Sana Tepley

Ballet 5-7
Students at this level are trained in intermediate to advanced pointe work, partnering, controlled adage, ad petit allegro, as well as more advanced combinations, turns, and jumps. Scholarly articles are shared with students in the areas of conditioning, nutrition, wellness, flexibility, and more.

Sept 12 - Jan 19
Mondays, 5:15-6:45pm, & Thursdays, 6:45-8:15pm
Instructor: Vadne White

Advanced Pointe and Variations
Learn the pointe variations from classical ballets: Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, Le Corsaire, Cinderella, Giselle and many more! For pointe dancers level 5 and up.

Tuesdays, Sept 13 - Jan 17, 6:30-7:30pm
Instructor: Sana Tepley

Tap

Beginning Tap
Trying on tap shoes for the first time or graduating from our tap/ballet combo classes? Let’s get you learning the fundamentals of tap dance! We’ll have you shuffling and paddle-rolling in no time! Tap shoes required, and no experience needed.

Ages: 8+
Wed, Sept 14 - Jan 18, 4:15-5:15pm
Instructor: Joy Ghiglieri

Intermediate Tap
Building on the fundamentals of Tap, students will work on their rhythm hoofing, time stepping, and improvisational skills. Must have tap experience and tap shoes. Instructor permission is required to register.

Wed, Sept 14 - Jan 18, 6:30-7:30pm
Instructor: Miles Wingett

Lyrical, Jazz, Modern, and Contemporary

Students in these classes will perform in the Spring Original Works performance March 17-19, 2023.

Beginning/Intermediate Contemporary & Lyrical
This class is aimed at introducing Level 3 and 4 dancers to Contemporary and Lyrical Dance. In the Contemporary portion, students will become familiar with Modern, Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, and foreign dance styles incorporated into detailed and satisfying phase-work. The Lyrical dance section will develop expression and fluidity, and is often described as a combination of ballet and jazz techniques with emphasis on fluid motions that mirror the lyrics or theme of the music.

Ages: 8+
Thursdays, Sept 15 - Jan 19, 5:45-6:45pm
Instructor: Madeline Morser

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR TUITION DETAILS AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON ALL OUR CLASSES.
Advanced Contemporary
Have a blast with our favorite music while taking a part and getting into the knitty-gritty details of timing, floor-work, inversions, and a powerful grounded center.
Level: 5-7
Wednesdays, Sept 14 - Jan 18, 7:15-8:45pm
Instructor: Madeline Morser

Advanced Lyrical
Hone your fluidity, expression, and grace in Advanced Lyrical dance, defined as a combination of ballet and jazz techniques, with emphasis on graceful, fluid motions that often mirror the lyrics or theme of music.
Level: 5-7
Wed, Sept 14 - Jan 18, 5:45-7:15pm
Instructor: Madeline Morser

Intermediate Jazz
Learn the fundamentals of Jazz dance: isolations, syncopations, style and showmanship. Concurrent enrollment in Ballet is encouraged.
Level: 4 & 4.5
Mondays, Sept 12 - Jan 9, 6:15-7:15pm
Instructor: Vanesa Wiley

Advanced Jazz
Miss Vanesa gives a fabulous class for advanced dancers in our treasured American dance genre that includes a warm-up, stretching, across the floor combinations and fun choreography that builds every week.
Level: 5-7
Tuesdays, Sept 13 - Jan 17, 5:30-6:30pm
Instructor: Vanesa Wiley

Modern and Choreography
Miss Vanesa teaches students the movements that are the foundation for classical Modern dance and helps students develop their creative voice.
Level: 3-4
Mondays, Sept 12 - Jan 9, 4:15-5:15pm
Instructor: Vanesa Wiley

Intermediate Modern
Students will work on the Modern dance elemental concepts of force, time and space, and will build core strength and flexibility through floor work and spirals.
Level: 4.5-5
Tuesdays, Sept 13 - Jan 17, 4:15-5:30pm
Instructor: Vanesa Wiley

Advanced Modern
At this level, emphasis is placed on technique, musicality and movement quality. Graham, Cunningham, Limon and other Modern disciplines are covered.
Level: 6-7
Tuesdays, Sept 13 - Jan 17, 7:30-9pm
Instructor: Vanesa Wiley

Ballet Basics
Want to try Ballet? Take our Ballet Basics class to learn the fundamentals from one of the founders of our program, Kathleen Bonner. Class will focus on the basics: posture, turnout, the positions of feet and arms, and moving through space with grace and confidence. No experience required.
Ages: 13+
1: Tuesdays, Sept 13 - Oct 25, 1-1:45pm
2: Tuesdays, Nov 1 - Jan 17, 1-1:45pm
Instructor: Kathleen Bonner

Intermediate Ballet
Class focus is technique, choreography, and fun. Ballet experience recommended.
Ages: 13+
Sept 13 - Oct 27
1: Tues, 2:15-3:15pm, or Thurs, 5:45-6:45pm
Nov 1 - Jan 19
2: Tues, 2:15-3:15pm, or Thurs, 5:45-6:45pm
Instructor: Kathleen Bonner

Contemporary
Class begins with a full-body warm-up in center, including proprioceptive challenges, floor work, and timing exercises. Across the floor progressions will follow center work, culminating in the building of longer phrases.
Ages: 13+
1: Thursdays, Sept 15-Oct 27, 6:45-7:45pm
2: Thursdays, Nov 3-Jan 19, 6:45-7:45pm
Instructor: Madeline Morser

Beginning Tap
If you’ve always wanted to try Tap dance or you’re just dusting off your Tap shoes, this is the class for you. We’ll cover ball-changes, shuffles, flaps, cramp rolls, the tap Shim Sham, riffs and more. Tap shoes required, and no experience needed.
Ages: 13+
1: Weds, Sept 14 - Oct 26, 7:30-8:30pm
2: Weds, Nov 2 - Jan 18, 7:30-8:30pm
Instructor: Miles Wingett

Belly Dance
This course incorporates basic Belly Dance isolation techniques with Flamenco, Cabaret, and Raqs Sharki classical stylings. You’ll learn several short phrases of movement comprising our “dance language” and be able to take those dance phrases to build your own solo by the end of the semester!
Ages 17+
1: Fridays, Sept 16 - Oct 28, 2-3pm
2: Fridays, Nov 4 - Jan 20, 2-3pm
Instructor: Maya Krah

Register online at www.vashoncenterforthearts.org or call (206) 259-3005

All Ballet students at Level 1+ are invited to perform in The Nutcracker on Dec 2-4. Rehearsals for Levels 3+ are additional sessions following Ballet class.

We Offer Scholarships
To apply, please visit our website.
Creative Fun on PDD Fridays!

Fall 2022 Late Start Fridays run Sept 2 through Jan 27* from 9-10:30am
*Except for holidays and scheduled school breaks

Our Fall to early Winter Late Start Arts series provides enriching, creative activities on Chautauqua’s Professional Development Days (PDD). Students arrive at VCA’s Blue Heron Education Center at 9am and take the bus to school after class. Tuition includes snack and art supplies. Financial assistance is available for families in need.

Ecosystem Art
Grades: K-2 | Instructor: Sara Bennett
Explore your place in the larger ecosystem, locally and beyond! Assemble self-portraits, build miniature houses, create representations of Vashon businesses and landmarks, construct a ferry project, paint a wall hanging, create mosaics from fir and cedar cones, design monograms from seashells and sand, make driftwood mobiles, paint beach rocks, and play with different mediums to represent the likeness of orcas, jellyfish, starfish, owls, raccoons.

Late Start Dance
Grades: 3-5 | Instructor: Elise Ericksen
Join us on Late Start Fridays in an exploration of dance in its many forms. Each month will focus on a new genre of dance including its history and specific movement qualities. We will study Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Contemporary, and Modern and will also get to learn some trendy dances too! No previous dance experience necessary.

Improv & Physical Comedy
Grades: 3-5 | Instructor: Mik Kuhlman
Learn the magic of theatre, improvisation, and comedy through engaging your active body to create characters, scenes and stories. Mik Kuhlman has performed and taught in over 500 schools, universities and art centers throughout the US and abroad.

Register online at www.vashoncenterforthearts.org or call (206) 259-3005
The Art of the Possible
Finding Ways to Say “Yes, And!”

Vashon Artists in Schools embodies the improv ideal of “yes, and . . .” — being open to possibility, and helping artists and classroom teachers share those possibilities with students. An improv residency with artist Mik Kuhlman and VHS teacher Andy James actually launched our VAIS season last fall. Andy’s students took experiences from their October residency into a December production of short plays called, *the Wild*.

“It was exciting to witness my students pulled into full-body, connected work without self-consciousness,” James said. “They seemed to trust Mik completely and lost themselves in their own imaginations.”

Work from Mik Kuhlman’s residency not only informed student performances, but also helped in generating ideas for participating writers.

“The group had so much enthusiasm and camaraderie,” James said, “Mik is a treasure. I was honored to have her join our class.”

Many thanks to both Andy and Mik—and to all of the many teaching artists and classroom teachers who partner to bring these kinds of experiences to students district-wide.

VAIS Sponsors Make the Difference

Thank you to PIE, Vashon Schools Foundation, VISD, Thriftway, ArtsWA, and NEA for supporting projects that reached hundreds of students this year. From providing arts supplies to supporting island artists and emerging programs, VAIS sponsored classrooms and arts engagements across our district! Special thanks to FACE (formerly PTSA) for funding our Arts Blitz and Be Curious events with a legacy gift. What an incredible time for our students to try new things. We could not have done it without all of you!

2021-22
VAIS by the Numbers

Chautauqua Elementary hosted 9 residencies across 5 grades

McMurray Middle School hosted 3 residencies

Vashon High School hosted 4 residencies

Arts Blitz and Be Curious one-day arts engagements

Over 1,100 students reached

54 classroom teachers engaged with 27 teaching artists!

Family/Student Link hosted 2 residencies

Left to right: VAIS teaching artist, Miles Wingett, teaches Tap fundamentals during the June Arts Blitz event held at VHS. A student looks through art supplies during writer Tavi Block’s 4th & 5th grade workshop on artist ‘Zines—collaging and creating their Vashon story. Mik Kuhlman watches VHS theater students ahead of their production of, *the Wild*. 
Shawn Mullins is the prolific and talented singer-songwriter who penned multiple hits, including Grammy-nominated “Lullaby” and “Beautiful Wreck.” A Vashon favorite, Shawn’s fans have waited since 2019 to once again hear the voice that one reviewer compared to “Crème Brûlée; dark and sugar-coated, yet warm and silky.”

VASHON OPERA

Ariadne auf Naxos

Fri, Sept 2 | 7:30pm
Sun, Sept 4 | 2:30pm

Ariadne auf Naxos will mark Vashon Opera’s first foray into the repertoire of Richard Strauss with this beautiful and complex composition. Through the examination of highbrow art and lowbrow comedy in its opera-within-an-opera structure, you’ll be wowed by stunning arias and amused by the hilarious circumstances that ensue!

Bon Appétit!
The Julia Child Operetta

Fri, Sept 16 | 7:30pm

Spend an evening with a few of Seattle’s most beloved performers as they share memories of Julia Child while they bake chocolate cake on stage and sing opera. Featuring host Julia Child Prud’homme dishing up remembrances of her great aunt, and Anne Allgood performing Lee Hoiby’s operetta, Bon Appétit! Anne and Julia will be joined by musical accompanist, Mark Anders (Like a fine wine, the perfect musical pairing for a decadent evening of savory delights). Following the performance we’ll invite the entire crowd to join us for a slice of chocolate cake, lovingly created from Julia’s original recipe by Vashon Baking Company!

Whim W’Him Dance Co.

New Creations

Wed, Sept 14 | 7:30pm

New Creations features three world premieres by Keerati Jinakunwiphat, Dolly Sfeir, and Nicole von Arx. Keerati Jinakunwiphat, a dancer with Kyle Abraham/A.I.M., was featured on the cover of Dance Magazine in 2021 as one of their “25 to Watch.” Dolly Sfeir, a Lebanese choreographer based in NYC, was awarded the 2019 Grand Prize at the Palm Desert Choreography Competition at McCallum Theater in Palm Springs. Completing the program is Nicole von Arx, a Swiss choreographer who was a 2020 Jacob’s Pillow Choreography Fellow.

Todd Zimberg Trio

An Afternoon In Sellwood

Thurs, Sept 29 | 7:30pm

Island drummer Todd Zimberg brings his trio to Vashon for a performance of his album release, An Afternoon In Sellwood. The album features bassist Perry Thoorsell and longtime friend and music collaborator, Michael Gatz on piano. Enjoy American songbook classics, bebop gems and a seasoning of Zimberg’s original material. Vocalist and pianist Maggie Laird will open with a mix of jazz-infused originals and standards, displaying her roots in rock, pop, cabaret and the theater. Sponsored in part by Drama Dock

VASHON ISLAND CHORALE

Mozart’s Requiem

Sun, Sept 11 | 4:00pm

The Vashon Island Chorale is joined by local orchestral players for a special performance of Mozart’s Requiem, featuring Island soloists Jennifer Krikawa, Marita Ericksen, and Gary Koch. This event commemorates the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in New York, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania, in a tradition begun in 2002 called the “Rolling Requiem.” On this date, choirs around the world perform Mozart’s Requiem to unite everyone in remembrance of that tragic occasion.

Iona Fyfe

Fri, Sept 30 | 7:30pm

“Ione of the best Scotland has to offer.” Aberdeenish folk singer Iona Fyfe has become one of Scotland’s finest young ballad singers, rooted deeply in the singing traditions of the Northeast of Scotland. Winner of the Scots Singer of the Year 2018, and Musician of the Year 2021 at the MG ALBA Scots Trad music awards.

To buy tickets or learn more visit us at www.vashoncenterforthearts.org
Graham Nash  
Sat, Oct 1 | 7:30pm  
Sun, Oct 2 | 7:30pm  
Legends artist Graham Nash takes the stage at VCA for an intimate evening of songs and stories. As a founding member of both the Hollies and Crosby, Stills and Nash, this two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee has seen rock history unfold at some of its seminal moments.

Ara James & Jamie Stillway  
Sat, Oct 15 | 7:30pm  
Two masters of their craft, vocalist Ara James and fingerstyle guitarist Jamie Stillway will present an evening of sound poetry, eclectic covers, spellbinding vocals, and transcendent instrumental guitar. They will be joined by Vashon musicians Andrew Reissiger (of Dromedary), Bruce Phares, and Bill Moyer to debut a new collection of original work.

Dia de los Muertos  
with BAILADORES DE BRONCE  
Sat, Oct 29 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Beginning at 6pm, Bailadores de Bronce of Seattle will be igniting the stage with their festive and traditional Folklorico dancing representing the different states of Mexico, along with mariachi performers, puppetry, and storytelling. Following the event, we will have a fiesta in the atrium with food from La Isla, craft stations and face painting.

The Witching Hour  
Sun, Oct 30 | 5:00pm  
Arnaldol Drag Chanteuse returns to host a Halloween fundraising event for the Pacific Northwest Cabaret Association. Enjoy an evening of cabaret performances of songs about the moon, shadows, magic spells, witches and goblins, oh my! Featured performers include: Angie Louise of “The Love Markets”; The Sirens of Swing; John Engerman; Mathew Stull of “The Bobs”; Gretchen Rumbaugh; with the special participation of ALEKSA MANILA and Vashon Island’s very own Evan Stults as Arnaldol’s musical director. Come in festive costume attire and expect more surprises (and prizes!) and tomfoolery. BOO!

Bruce Phares Jazz Birthday  
Fri, Nov 4  
7:30pm  
Vashon-based jazz bassist Bruce Phares will be celebrating his birthday by hosting a fun and laughter-filled concert, featuring a number of his favorite Seattle musicians along with some of Vashon’s own stellar talent. Bruce’s partner in musical crime, the amazing Jeremy Bacon will be holding the piano chair that evening.

Buddy  
Thurs - Sun, Nov 10 - 13  
Hear Buddy Holly’s greatest hits and experience his remarkable rise to stardom, featuring 5th Avenue Theatre star, Billy Joe Huels as Buddy Holly!

Shrek Jr., The Musical  
Fri, Nov 18 | 7:00pm  
Sat, Nov 19 | 2:00pm, 7:00pm  
Come support our musical theatre students as they bring everyone’s favorite ogre to The Kay. Shrek and his band of fairytale misfits will journey on an adventure to rescue a princess and find true acceptance. Part romance and part twisted fairy tale, Shrek Jr. is an irreverently fun show for the whole family.

An Evening with Kevin Joyce & Friends  
Sun, Nov 20 | 7:00pm  
Join singer-songwriter, comedian and longtime islander Kevin Joyce for an evening of original tunes, stories and laughter, (and maybe a few tears). Several surprise guests will sit in, with a show that promises to lift your spirit and renew your faith in humanity (or at least in Vashon).

The Nutcracker  
Fri, Dec 2 | 7:00pm  
Sat, Dec 3 | 2:00pm, 7:00pm  
Sun, Dec 4 | 2:00pm  
A spectacular VCA holiday tradition, The Nutcracker has been beloved by island families and celebrated in our community every holiday season for decades. Vashon Center for Dance presents this classic holiday experience showcasing the talents of student dancers and community performers.

Questions? Call 206.259.3007 or stop by the Box Office Wed - Sun, 12-5pm
 Talks Return this Fall with New Partnerships and Exciting Content

We’re excited to share plans with you for a more robust and diverse series of lectures featuring an even greater mix of eclectic guest speakers. How, you might wonder? We invited our fellow island non-profits – Vashon Nature Center, Vashon Heritage Museum, Mukai Farm & Garden, Voice of Vashon, and Women Hold The Key – to join us in curating our upcoming 2022-23 Talks on the Rock lecture series.

From naturalists to activists, change-makers to historians, artists and experts, we aim to offer something for everyone. Each partner group will program 1-3 guest speakers in the line-up to talk about subjects and themes near and dear to their missions.

You’ll still find familiar faces sprinkled throughout the series. Rebecca Albiani returns for 5 lectures starting with Ukrainian artist Maria Prymachenko in October! Bruce Phares will return as well with a presentation of Jazz History (with guest artists, of course), and Lynann Politte, our Gallery Director, has scheduled several artist talks this fall to compliment the art exhibits.

The idea to partner with other island groups was a natural step after the success of teaming with Vashon Nature Center to bring more science and nature speakers to the series over the past two years. It’s also an opportunity for us to reach new audiences across our organizations and share in the success.

As we re-emerge from the pandemic and embrace the changes we have all experienced, collaboration and partnership have proven to be key to our resilience.

So keep an eye on your mailbox and inbox. Plans are underway to announce the full line-up of talks in late September.

Art History with Rebecca Albiani

In past years Rebecca’s talks have deepened our understanding of famous artists such as Picasso and Rembrandt. This year she is going to introduce us to some fascinating artists you may have never heard of before. From a Ukrainian folk artist to a Marxist photographer to a committed portraitist out of step with the art world’s embrace of abstraction, these artists made work that continues to resonate today. We’ll also look at two painters who are acute observers of their socioeconomic landscapes, one in early 17th century Netherlands and one in today’s Chicago. Join us to enrich your knowledge of the human stories behind these entrancing artists.

Maria Prymachenko
Wed, Oct 26 | 11:30am

Maria Oksentiyivna Prymachenko (1909-1997) was born to a Ukrainian peasant family. Despite having only four years of schooling, she became a master embroiderer before shifting to watercolor and gouache. Her brilliantly colored work, inspired by fairy tales and the natural world, is a symbol of hope in modern Ukraine.

Hendrick Avercamp and the Dutch Winter Landscape
Wed, Dec 21 | 11:30am

A pioneer of the new genre of landscape, Avercamp (1585-1634) specialized in busy winter scenes packed with activity, both professional and recreational. Avercamp, who was known as deaf-mute, was an acute observer of his fellow Netherlanders.

Tina Modotti in Mexico
Wed, Jan 18 | 11:30am

Tina Modotti (1896-1942) traveled to Mexico as Edward Weston’s apprentice but developed her own photographic vision. Combining strikingly modernist technique with subjects drawn from traditional Mexican life, Modotti’s photography had an important impact on Mexican art.

Kerry James Marshall
Wed, Feb 15 | 11:30am

Kerry James Marshall (born 1955), one of the finest painters working anywhere, turns the sites of Black American experience – the barber shop, the diner, the projects – into settings for figure paintings that combine art historical savvy with the urgency of breaking news.

Alice Neel
Wed, Mar 22 | 11:30am

Alice Neel (1900-1984) painted portraits that are as radical in their own way as the drips of Jackson Pollock. Living and working in Spanish Harlem, she made bold and memorable renditions of the vivid characters she encountered in her search to capture what she called “the dignity and eternal importance of the human being.”
**Nibbles, Noshes and Libations**

Eager for that cold beverage to sip while you’re listening to ‘cool jazz’? Craving savories and sweets while waiting for the ushers to open the doors to The Kay? We’re lining up old standards and new fare at the **Concessions Bar** in the atrium to further tempt you to partake and enjoy!

New this month are a selection of savory items from Vashon Island Baking Co., as well as a variety of their sweet baked goods. Plus, fresh brewed Pollard Coffee will be served on Saturdays and Sundays. And always on tap, Camp Colvos beer and Dragon’s Head Cider, along with a selection of Precept Wines.

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**Free Jazz at VCA**

The **JAM in the ATRIUM with Bruce Phares** will be bringing more free Jazz to island audiences throughout 2022 and 2023 on select Saturdays from 1:30-3:30pm. Keep an eye on our weekly Wednesday e-news for info on the next JAM date, or follow on Facebook by joining the group: [www.facebook.com/groups/jamintheatrium](http://www.facebook.com/groups/jamintheatrium)

Special thanks to JR Crawford for sponsoring The JAM in the ATRIUM series!

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**Saturday, November 5 | 7:30pm**

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206.259.3007
This year marks the 45th Anniversary of VCA’s Gala Art Auction, the biggest benefit of the year for the arts on Vashon Island! Join us on Saturday, September 24th, as patrons, artists, trustees, staff and friends of the arts gather for an unforgettable evening with our favorite island hosts Martha Enson and Kevin Joyce, of EnJoy Productions.

Upon arrival, guests will be transported to a magical soirée where winged creatures alight, dazzling artists and performers entertain, and intriguing games abound, all while enjoying scrumptious appetizers and refreshing libations.

Can’t wait til the Gala? Start bidding early as our Silent Auction gets underway three weeks ahead of the party!

Silent Auction Opens Sept. 2nd on First Friday

VCA’s 2022 Gala Art Auction kicks off on September 2nd with the opening of the Silent Auction! More than a hundred must-have works of art, handcrafted treasures, and exciting experiences will be on display in the Gallery and online.

You must register online to bid. Whether you come in-person or browse from home, all bidding will be done through our auction website.

We’re here to help. The VCA staff is available during Gallery hours, Wed - Sun from 12 - 5pm, to answer your questions or assist you with registering online. Stop by in-person or call 206-259-3007 to speak to a staff member.

The Silent Auction will close at the Gala on September 24th at 6:15pm.

Gala Night is September 24th

It’s been three years since we last held our in-person Gala Art Auction and we cannot wait to welcome you back to a glamorous evening where art lovers mingle and performers entertain us throughout the night - all in celebration of the arts at VCA!

The Gala Event will feature special guests and surprise performances on the stage, a Live Auction packed with incredible art and experiences guaranteed to generate friendly, and competitive bidding, and a special moment for guests to Raise The Paddle for the Blue Heron Education Center. Plus, the Gala Dinner returns with a scrumptious gourmet meal prepared by Herban Feast!

Tickets On Sale Now

$50 Ticket gets you into the Gala where you’ll enjoy complimentary refreshments and appetizers, entertainment and a seat in the theatre for all the Live Auction madness!

$175 Tickets include the Gala and dinner immediately following the events in The Kay. The party continues in the Atrium with gourmet fare by Herban Feast, decadent desserts, specialty wines, music and more!

A selection from more than 100 art pieces you’ll find at this year’s Gala Art Auction. From left to right, includes: Eric Heffelfinger, Ted Kutscher, Arianne Heinzman, Brian Dempsey, Donald Cole, Joanne Hammer, Karen Dale, and Pascale Judet.
Appeal for the Blue Heron Education Center

Fundraising proceeds generated during the Gala Art Auction will replenish our Scholarship Fund making arts education accessible to all. Funds raised will also be directed toward necessary repairs and renovations to our beloved Blue Heron building where our education programs offer instruction year-round.

100 Golden Tickets

Only 100 Golden Tickets will be sold! Before the Live Auction begins, the winning Golden Ticket will be drawn. The prize? The winner’s choice of any item from the Live Auction before it even starts! That’s right, for $100, one lucky person is going to get their pick before anyone else has a chance to raise their bid card.

Curious about what’s in the Live Auction line-up? We’ll reveal them all at the First Friday festivities and online on September 2nd when Golden Tickets go on sale. Remember, only 100 tickets will be sold. Be sure to get yours before they’re gone!

Door Prizes

We’ll be giving away a dozen door prizes every 5 minutes as soon as the doors open on September 24th.

If you’ve got a Gala ticket and are there in-person, you could be the luckier winner of two Graham Nash tickets, and that’s just one of many fabulous items!

Covid Protocols at the Gala Event on Sept. 24

Unless risk factors change, we are asking all Gala Night ticketholders to take an at-home Covid test one hour prior to arriving on September 24th. If your test is positive - STAY HOME! If your test is negative, please take a picture on your smart phone to show greeters at the door and we’ll have a special gift waiting to thank you for helping us keep our event as safe as possible. Masks will be optional; however, if King County risk level changes and masks are advised, we will contact you 48 hours prior.

If you need a Covid test for September 24th, we’ll be happy to provide attendees with a free test upon request.

Buy tickets ONLINE at vca.maxgiving.bid
Stop by the VCA Box Office - Wed thru Sun, 12-5pm
Or call us at 206.259.3007
Salish Sea

November 4 - 27

Salish Sea is a collection of regional native artists’ work - paintings, ceremony objects, jewelry, limited edition prints, and glassworks. Many people associate formline art, the style of northern tribes in what is now Canada and Alaska, as the style of artists in our more southern Salish coast area. This exhibition, in collaboration with Stonington Gallery (Seattle), and local Salish artists such as Dan Friday, introduces the gallery visitor to the wide variety of art styles, both traditional and contemporary, created by coastal Salish artists.

Jim Woodring’s World

OCTOBER 7-30

Jim Woodring, a renowned cartoonist, fine artist, writer and toy designer has been chronicling the adventures of his cartoon everyman, Frank, for almost 30 years. Jim Woodring’s World is comprised of a cross section of Jim’s fantasy otherworld pen drawings, oils, prints and a collection of original Frank drawings. Also in October, Jim will be giving a talk about his work, culminating with a book signing for his newly released book, “One Beautiful Spring Day.”

Artist Talks

Talks on the Rock lecture series will be featuring two artist talks in the Katherine L. White Hall this fall coinciding with current exhibits of their work in the Gallery.

**Sun, Oct 16 | 2:00pm**

**One Beautiful Spring Day**

**WITH ARTIST JIM WOODRING**

Join Jim Woodring for his otherworldly presentation that starts with personal anecdotes, continues with a brief survey of his work, and lands on the content of his newly released book, “One Beautiful Spring Day,” described by his publisher, Fantagraphics, as “A mesmerizing, mind-bending, wordless 400-page comics odyssey by a contemporary master of the form.” Ken Johnson of the New Times writes, “Mr. Woodring [has] extraordinary gifts as a draftsman, storyteller and creator of hilarious characters and hallucinatory situations...” Jim Woodring has been chronicling the adventures of his cartoon Everyman, Frank, for almost 30 years. A book-signing will follow the talk in the lobby.

**Sun, Nov 6 | 4:00pm**

**A Salish Sea Story**

**WITH ARTIST DAN FRIDAY**

“A Salish Sea Story” is a Pacific Northwest experience, where history and contemporary art intersect. Dan Friday is a Native of the Lummi Nation and a lifelong resident of Washington State’s Puget Sound region. Drawing from cultural themes and using modern processes, Friday’s work is contemporary in format while maintaining basic Native American qualities. Dan has spent the past two decades working with artists such as Dale Chihuly, Paul Marioni, and Preston Singletary. Friday lives in Seattle, where he maintains an independent glass studio. His work can be found in collections around the world.

Buy tickets at [www.vashoncenterforthearts.org](http://www.vashoncenterforthearts.org) or call us at 206.259.3007
Island Talent, Transition, and Transformation
By Madeline Morser

Seniors Receive 2022 Art Hansen Scholarships

Upon the final curtain of Vashon Center for Dance’s 2022 Spring Concert, we sent off our graduating seniors, Gwen Burwell and Arianna Vickers, with resounding applause. “We each got to give them a rose!” my Ballet 4 students informed me with vigor during their final spring class, exemplifying the strength of mentorship and support that exists between all ages at VCA.

Likewise, as the recipients of VCA’s 2022 Art Hansen Scholarship Award, Burwell and Vickers will literally carry this same support forth into their respective adventures this fall.

“Gwen and I have grown up together as both friends and dancers, and even though we will be so far apart this coming year, [Gwen] will be all the way in London, it’s wonderful to know that she and I will still be connected by shared support provide by VCA, the organization that has helped so much to form us as young adults and dancers,” said Vickers who, to our delight, will study nearby at the University of Washington this fall, where she intends to major in Education and minor in Dance and Spanish.

Meanwhile, this fall will see Burwell commence a year of study abroad in London as a student of Northeastern University, where she plans to major in International Business and Finance.

“VCA has really set me up for a successful future,” explained Burwell, “I’ve learned such life-long skills here, even purely dance related skills have translated so well to the rest of my life. At VCA, I learned the fundamental, key parts of growth, hard work, and friendship.”

We wish Burwell and Vickers all the best in the years to come and thank them for their wonderful years as VCA dancers, mentors, and leaders.

Dance Alum joins Ballet Tucson

On an equally exciting note, we are thrilled to announce that VCD alum and former faculty member, Duncan Barlow, has accepted an offer to join Ballet Tucson as a member of the Corps de Ballet.

“I knew he could do it!” exclaimed VCD faculty member, Vanessa Wylie. “And I get tickets to his first performed choreography he promised when he was 12!” continued VCD faculty member, Kathy Bonner.

A student of VCD for a decade in his youth and teens, Barlow served not only as an inspiration and mentor to fellow VCD dancers, but also as a beloved teacher of advanced ballet, men’s classes, and one-on-one coaching sessions from 2016-2021.

There is a tangible electricity of pride for Barlow, Burwell, and Vickers within the VCD community, and we cannot wait to witness and celebrate their future triumphs.

Homegrown Jazz Pianist Bound for NYC

We’re excited to share that Zander Knodt, a young emerging Jazz pianist raised on Vashon, has been accepted into the prestigious Manhattan School of Music where he starts classes this fall. Many of you had the pleasure of seeing his talents firsthand as part of our JAM IN THE ATRIUM with Bruce Phares Jazz series, or attending Bruce’s Jazz History talk last June.

We wish Zander the best as he heads off to the city where Jazz never sleeps! We hope he returns often to Vashon during the course of his studies, and we will make sure the pianos in the Katherine L. White Hall are well-tuned should he stop by again to tickle the ivories!
A creative, collaborative, work in progress

By Juli Goetz Morser

Great works of art usually begin with a vision or an idea, often inspired by nature. It’s an impulse to shape, to bring to life, to solve a problem. Often, it looks like one artist working alone, but upon closer inspection, the notion of interdependence, of collaboration — be it with materials or people — is nearer to the truth. All that and more can be said about the creative work in progress called Heron Meadow, Vashon Center for the Art’s two-and-a-half-acre wetland property adjacent to the Katherine L. White Hall.

It all began in 2019, when former VCA staff member Ian Metler and his wife, Maria, who worked for Vashon Nature Center, saw an opportunity for mutual benefit between the two organizations. VCA needed to comply with King County’s wetland mitigation requirements but did not have the staff expertise to carry it out. VNC needed a home. The organization had been operating out of staff cars and garages, was looking for a field station to store equipment, and wanted a base near the schools for all their educational programs.

Former VCA Executive Director Kevin Hoffberg reached out to VNC Director Bianca Perla for a meeting. She described what happened next as a classic story of small town connections and big dreams.

“The diversity is quite high for such a small place.”

- Bianca Perla

Indeed, something has been done. Paulina Barry, who began as a volunteer in 2019 and is now VNC’s Stewardship Coordinator, recalls the early efforts to “make the meadow accessible to people, while increasing the habitat value for wildlife.”

That translated into 90 work parties, 400 volunteer hours in the past two years alone, 50 native plant species cataloged, eradicating invasive species, three years of bird and insect monitoring, birdwatching walks, art and science educational projects.

“I am surprised by how much beneficial impact the restoration is having on the site,” Perla said. “The native planting has pulled in a lot of native insects, pollinators and birds. The diversity is quite high for such a small place.”

A wildlife camera records visits by deer and raccoons, along with coyotes seeking out the meadows’ voles. Hundreds of cedar waxwings flock to the twinberry planted on the site.

“We even found a long-toed salamander who’d made a home in the mulch we laid down,” Perla said. “I encourage anyone visiting the meadow to contribute photos of species seen to our iNaturalist.org website, so we can continue to build a community record of what shares this beautiful spot with us.”

The “beautiful spot” also inspires new events to be shared with the community. VNC helps VCA curate
related lectures for their Talks on the Rock series, bringing environmentalists, activists and naturalists to Kay White Hall to further the arts and science connection.

Galvanized by the meadow’s potential, five other partnerships have formed. VCA, VNC and Vashon Audubon came together in 2020 to manifest the 120-foot-long mural along the western wall of the meadow, showcasing eight climate-threatened birds of the Judd Creek Watershed. Julie Burman, former president of Vashon Audubon, imagined the project painted by local artist, Britt Freda.

Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust serves as a resource partner for VNC concerning meadow restoration and the two organizations pool interns to do restoration in the meadow and at Land Trust preserves. VNC works with Vashon Island School District to offer the Scientists in Schools program and with VCA’s Artists in the Schools program.

The meadow also has been home for professional dance performances, meetings for various groups, VCA summer camps and music lessons for island musicians.

“The vision has truly become a reality because two island organizations saw an opportunity, seized it, and trusted in one another’s support and shared interest,” VCA Executive Director Allison Reid said. “Like in nature, we have formed a symbiotic relationship between VNC and VCA. Bianca and her team are wonderful to work with, and their care and love of Heron Meadow are seen in everything they do.”

An important value shared by VCA and VNC is the idea of “giving back.” The organizations encourage artists, teachers, students and community members who use the site to, in turn, help the meadow.

“Kids are phenomenal at this,” Perla said. “Our (camp) instructors talk to the students about how nature is sustained through a cycle of reciprocity, where living things not only take but give back to the system that sustains them. This is how one belongs to a place.”

Art has a similar cycle, she said, with artists finding inspiration from nature and giving a gift, like the bird project, to the community through their work.

“The meadow is always open to people to enjoy this give and take. We want to encourage that feeling of connecting and belonging to a place in all we do,” Perla said, “And we are always open to partnership ideas.”

Currently, VNC is working on a master plan to establish an access trail for enjoyment and further restoration of the meadow.

The wetland plays an important role in Vashon’s ecology as the eastern portion of the headwaters of Judd Creek, Vashon’s largest salmon-bearing stream.

Though the vision for Heron Meadow keeps morphing and maturing, the inspiration remains the same: the natural world.

“As islanders, we have a strong affinity for art, natural history and the environment, and want to be good land stewards,” Perla said. “Heron Meadow sits at the heart of the island, literally being at Island Center, and figuratively being a place where our unique connection with nature can flourish through art, science and stewardship.”

“The vision has truly become a reality because two island organizations saw an opportunity, seized it, and trusted in one another’s support and shared interest.”

– Allison Halstead Reid
Repairs and Improvements

As home for all of VCA’s Arts Education and Dance programming, the Blue Heron is where top-notch instruction nurtures imaginations and dreams take flight – regardless of student age or ability to pay. Ninety-seven classes and 623 students have participated in classes and camps so far this year with more students and offerings scheduled for fall and winter.

While most of us will not live to the ripe old age of 110, the beloved Blue Heron building has done just that. For all those years, the Blue Heron has provided a space for the community to hold celebrations, social events, and performances. It is a well-used space and cherished treasure.

After so many years and so much use, it comes as no surprise that our stalwart building needs some much-needed maintenance and repairs. Last fall, VCA asked the community for help so that improvements could begin in 2022. Thanks to a generous community and support from the Beardsley Family Foundation, VCA had the funding in place to hire Bob Stewart Construction and the work began.

In July, Bob and his team started with demolition and rebuilding of the back porch and stairs which serve as the main entrance to the building. Porch boards had begun to rot, the railing had failed and the lack of sufficient ground support meant the porch and its roof were both sloping and pulling away from the building. Not anymore! Bob Stewart’s crew did a wonderful job diagnosing the inevitable oddities that come with working on an historical building and making sure the new entrance would be sturdy, safe and welcoming. (See photos.)

From there they moved to repairing the building’s South entrance where dance students traverse the steps daily, and replacing failed trim on many windows. As this publication goes to print, a shiny new coat of paint is scheduled to go on the exterior that will also protect the siding. Some of the boards are as old as the building!

Since purchasing the building in 1988, VCA has been committed to preserving and protecting it, knowing that caring for an old building will at times be challenging and expensive. While there’s more work that needs to be done, it feels good to see progress being made.

Over the coming years, we hope to shower more ‘TLC’ on the historic Blue Heron, because there will always be imaginations to nurture and dreams to take flight.

2022 Special Appeal

The Blue Heron Education Center will continue to remain the focus at VCA’s Gala Art Auction Masquerade. Funds raised during the special appeal will replenish the Scholarship Fund. We will also earmark support for ongoing maintenance and repair work on the Blue Heron building. You can support these efforts by making a gift in support of our appeal online at:

vca.maxgiving.bid/donations

Or, join us on September 24th and raise your paddle high at the Gala event.

Blue Heron Building
Home to VCA’s Blue Heron Education Center
2022 Grant Awards

Vashon Center for the Arts would like to recognize and thank the granting organizations and private foundations that have generously supported our programs and operations in 2022.

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Protecting our Heritage – Blue Heron Education Center

While not yet totally visible from the road, work is in full swing making improvements to our beloved Blue Heron Education Center. For decades, the Blue Heron has been the center of arts on Vashon. Simultaneously a dance studio, art studio, art gallery, and performance venue — all packed into the former Odd Fellows Hall — the Blue Heron was the place to be. It was crazy wonderful and quaintly cozy. Embracing the gift from islander Kay White to create a larger performance space, our efforts over the last decade have focused on building the Katherine L. White Hall. With the new center flourishing, we now are returning our attention to the Blue Heron.

Thanks to many of you who supported our fundraising efforts during the 2021 Gala Art Auction appeal, initial upgrades are underway, including reconstruction of the back porch, repairing access areas, and replacing rotted wood. By the time you read this, crews will be putting on a new fresh coat of paint as well. We will continue earmarking our auction appeals for the Blue Heron Education Center, allowing us to not only replenish our Scholarship Fund but also dedicate resources to the preservation of our beloved building.

Speaking of the upcoming Auction, catch a preview of all the details on page 12.

A Summer of Amazing Art

I like to think of the Art Auction as the culmination of a mind-boggling summer of art. Vashon Island is buzzing this summer — with art, theater, movies, and music. From Thursday evenings in Ober Park, play readings at Snapdragon, Shakespeare under the trees at Open Space, and film festivals at Vashon Theatre, to the myriad of delights you can find right here on the VCA campus.

Yes, this has been a busy summer at VCA with every one of our five programs serving up the arts:

- **Summer Arts Fest** celebrated its fifth year in our gallery spaces.
- We were one of several hosts for Vashon Repertory Theatre’s **Summer Theater Fest**, now in its second year.
- **The Blue Heron Education Center** programs welcomed 329 young artists who filled up 49 summer camps and classes. Scholarships were awarded too — in fact, we’ve already exceeded last year’s scholarship awards and applications for the entire year!
- **Our Heron Meadow** has been a hub of activity with Vashon Nature Center work parties, summer camps, internships, and naturalist studies.

My favorite memory this year was listening to acclaimed international pianist Vyacheslav Gryaznov, or Slava as he prefers. He, along with the help of our Executive Director Allison Reid, created, curated, and presented a week-long piano series called, **PianoFête**. Absolutely stunning. Four consecutive evenings of piano virtuosity featuring Slava, his colleagues Katya Kramer Lapin and Konstantin Soukhovestki, and a dozen musicians from our very own Vashon Maury Chamber Orchestra. If you missed it, check out the video clip, a short snippet of their performance, on our youtube channel - www.youtube.com/c/VashonCenterfortheArts

**PianoFête** was a successful experiment and thanks to the positive response of patrons and participants, plans are already underway to make it an annual event with dates scheduled for July 5-9, 2023! Expect more talent, more collaboration, and more opportunities for our island youth to engage with world class talent.

Planning for the Future

This fall, the VCA Board of Trustees will assemble for a strategic retreat, where we plan to revisit priorities and core strategies that will help guide our decisions and actions moving forward. Community input is always valued and appreciated. If you have ideas to share, please feel free to direct them to me at president@vashoncenterforthearts.org or to any of our Trustees.

Stop by our breezy gallery to take in the latest exhibit or see one of the many performances lined up for September and enjoy the air-conditioned cool of the Kay White Hall.

I look forward to seeing you at VCA!
Congratulations to Buddy
The Unofficial Mayor of Vashon!

Buddy’s win helps VIPP provide these important services

- Pet Food Assistance
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Emergency Veterinarian Financial Assistance
- Pet Lost & Found Assistance
- Pet Adoption & Surrender
- $10 Microchips

Follow us Dog & Cat Rescue, Powered by Volunteers and Your Donations

VIPP.ORG
The friendly faces of VoV, on the air daily with music, talk, alerts and parades!

Our homegrown shows are created just for you by your neighbors and friends. Find all of our shows at VoiceOfVashon.org and on our free Voice of Vashon app.

Restore your body’s flexibility, energy and comfort.

There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

– Margaret J. Wheatley

VASHON The island home experts.

Presenting Sponsor

1. Go to VoiceOfVashon.org/app or your app store and download our free app.
2. Install the app on your smart phone.
3. Choose from the Shows tab or click the red button for Emergency Alerts.
4. Enjoy VoV anywhere anytime!

Part of Vashon's art community for 90+ years. Island Home Center and Lumber serves, supplies, and cares about our community and arts. 206.463.5000 - www.islandlumber.com
“There is no power for CHANGE greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

– Margaret J. Wheatley
This New Year’s Eve, don’t walk, don’t run...MARCH into 2023!

NEW YEAR’S EVE

WITH MARCHFOURTH MARCHING BAND

TICKETS GO ON SALE
OCT. 5
www.vashoncenterforthearts.org

To Vashon Island Residents