

# Fayette County Cultural Trust Annual Report 2022



On May 19th, the Connellsville Canteen hosted the 5th grade class from Hatfield Elementary School. During their visit they learned about WWII.



# Fayette County Cultural Trust

# Contents

2022 Annual Report

Cover: 5th Grade Hatfield Elementary School  
visiting the Connellsville Canteen.

2	Table of Contents	11	Rose Garden Center for the Arts
3	Editorial Page	12 - 15	Downtown Connellsville
4 - 6	Neighborhood Partnership Program	16 - 17	Downtown & Canteen Events
7	Diversity & Inclusion	18 - 21	Connellsville Canteen
8	Connellsville Crossroads Magazine	22 - 23	Rural Arts Collaborative
9	Fayette County Achievement in the Arts	24	Fayette County Non Profit Partnership
10	Fayette County Train Days	25	Revenue & Support

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**  
[FayetteTrust.org](http://FayetteTrust.org)



# President's Message

## 2022 Annual Report

Fayette County Cultural Trust

X

### Executive Director

Daniel Cocks

### President

J. Michael Edwards

### Vice President

Karen Hechler

### Treasurer

Bryan Kisiel

### Board Members

Gerry Browell

John Coleman

Mary Drelisak

Vicki McWilliams

Lori Omatick

### Annual Report

### Graphic Designer

Daniel Cocks

### Connellsville Crossroads Editor

S. Joy Lewis

X

It is my privilege and honor to present this year's annual report, a testament to the remarkable journey of our organization over the past year. As we reflect on our achievements, challenges, and the path ahead, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have contributed to our success.

2022 was marked by unprecedented challenges, from the ongoing global health crisis to economic uncertainties. Yet, despite these obstacles, we persevered and continued to make significant progress toward our mission and vision.

Our financial performance remained resilient, a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team. We continued to demonstrate our commitment to financial stability and sustainability, ensuring that our resources are well-managed and directed toward our strategic goals.

Our impact on our community is a source of pride. We undertook numerous initiatives to give back and make a positive difference. Whether it was through our community outreach programs or charitable partnerships, we strived to be a responsible and caring organization.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our employees, partners, and stakeholders. Your unwavering support and commitment have been instrumental in our success. I want to express my deep appreciation for your contributions, creativity, and resilience.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that 2023 will bring. We are well-positioned to build upon our achievements, adapt to changing circumstances, and achieve even greater milestones. We will continue to prioritize the values that define our organization: excellence, integrity, innovation, and a strong sense of purpose. Together, we can make a positive impact that resonates far beyond our organization.

Once again, thank you for your continued trust and support. It is an honor to serve as your president, and I am excited about the journey that lies ahead.

J. Michael Edwards  
President

I would like to thank Somerset Trust, Tri State Capital and PNC Bank for supporting the Fayette County Cultural Trust through the Neighborhood Partnership Program. This is a great state program, administered through DCED, which provides so many different opportunities that help with the economic development of Connellsville! Connellsville has progressed over the years as we see more and more local entrepreneurs establish businesses here. The Great Allegheny Passage is one of the major economic drivers in this area as we have seen many visitors using the trail coming from all around the world.

I would also like to thank the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation for supporting the Rural Arts Collaborative Program. Through this initiative we have put many rural artists in local schools giving students a different perspective on being creative, the arts and culture. Would also like to thank those artists, teachers, students and schools who continue to make this initiative successful, and Carmelle Nickens for managing the program.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Fayette County Cultural Trust board members for their continued support. We could not be successful without your support and input.

As we progress into 2023 I see our future as being bright. We will continue pushing our economic initiatives, art programs and most importantly making the Connellsville Canteen WWII museum a premier WWII learning experience in southwestern Pennsylvania.

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.

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



## 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.



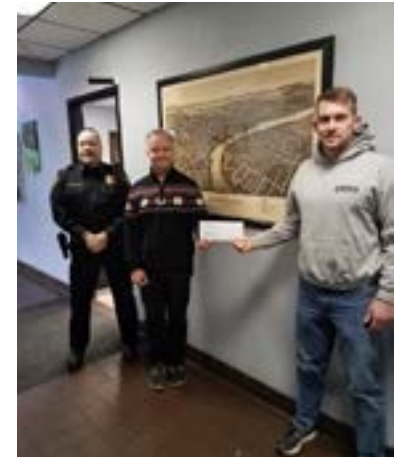
January 04, 2022, NPP \$5000 Check Presentation to the Connellsville Community Ministries. The Ministries runs the Food Bank and a clothing thrift store in Connellsville.

January 4, 2022, NPP \$5000 check Presentation to the Wesley Health Center. The Wesley Health Center provides FREE health care to those who are uninsured or underinsured.



January 7, 2022, the Fayette County Cultural Trust is pleased to provide the Connellsville Parks & Recreation Board with a check for \$5000 to be used in one of the many city parks. A total of \$70,000 has been given to the Connellsville Parks & Rec Board since 2014. This funding was made possible through the Fayette County Cultural Trust and its

Neighborhood Partnership Program funding supporters, Somerset Trust Company, Tri State Capital and PNC Bank. Pictured here are Daniel Cocks, Executive Director of the Fayette County Cultural Trust and Dr. Francis Jacobyansky, President of the Connellsville Parks & Recreation board.



January 4, 2022, the Fayette County Cultural Trust is pleased to provide the Connellsville Police K-9 Unit with a check for \$2,500 to be used in caring for K-9 Am-broos. A total of \$5,000 has been given to the Connellsville Police K-9 Unit since 2014. This funding was made possible through the Fayette County Cultural Trust and its Neighborhood Partnership Program funding supporters, Somerset Trust Company, Tri State Capital and PNC Bank. Pictured here are Connellsville Police Chief Bill Hammerle, Daniel Cocks, Executive Director of the Fayette County Cultural Trust and K-9 Handler J Tyler Garlick.



January 4, 2022, Daniel Cocks, Executive Director of the Fayette County Cultural Trust and Andrea Pritts, Executive Director of Alternative.Yes. \$2,500

January 5, 2022, pictured here are Daniel Cocks, Executive Director of the Fayette County Cultural Trust, Dr. Leah Spangler, President & CEO Learning Lamp, Laura Martin and little Jimmy. \$2,500



January 3, 2022. Since 2014, the Fayette County Cultural Trust has provided the Connellsville Carnegie Free Library with \$40,000. The Fayette County Cultural Trust is glad to be a partner of the Connellsville Carnegie Free Library and hopes this funding will help serve the greater need of the residents of Connellsville. Pictured here, presenting a check for \$5,000 are Daniel Cocks, Executive Director of the Fayette County Cultural Trust and Sharon Martino, Library Director.



# Diversity & Inclusion Youth Poster Contest

## Who Can Enter?

Any student in the Connellsville area attending middle or high school in CASD, Geibel, Highlands Hospital Center for Autism, and those who are homeschooled.

## Cash Prizes!

\$100 for one student from every school represented, including those who are homeschooled!

Posters will be printed and displayed in schools and local businesses and on social media.

## Guidelines & Entry

Create a poster using any medium (paint, pencil, digital drawing program, etc.) celebrating the theme "Connellsville's Strength in our Diversity & Inclusion."

Poster size must be 8.5" x 11"

The poster must be the original work of the student. Posters must be "G" rated using school appropriate language and no depiction of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and/or guns.

Each poster must include the student's name, phone number, grade level, and school.

All submissions must be received by Connellsville Diversity & Inclusion Board, located at Connellsville City Hall, 110 North Arch St., by 4:00pm on November 1.

For questions, email [connellsvilledandboard@gmail.com](mailto:connellsvilledandboard@gmail.com), or connect with us at [www.ConnellsvilleDiversityInclusion.org](http://www.ConnellsvilleDiversityInclusion.org) & Facebook!

Sponsored by:  
Connellsville  
**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**  
Board

Funded by:  
Fayette County  
Cultural Trust

Deadline:  
November 1  
at 4pm

The Fayette County Cultural Trust sponsored a Diversity & Inclusion Youth Poster Contest with the city of Connellsville's Diversity & Inclusion Board.

Congratulations to Leah Rockey, 8th grader at CAMS, and Amanda Hoffer, a senior at Geibel, for winning the Connellsville Diversity and Inclusion poster contest. The theme was Connellsville's Strength in our Diversity and Inclusion. Thank you to all who entered and to the Fayette County Cultural Trust for sponsoring the contest.



Pictured from left to right are Leah Rockey, James Stafford, Gayle Stafford, Toni Colland- Diversity Board Member and Amanda Hoffer.

On the 15th Anniversary of the Fayette County Cultural Trust held a fundraiser celebrating victory over WWII.



## CELEBRATE VICTORY!

Fayette County Cultural Trust  
15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

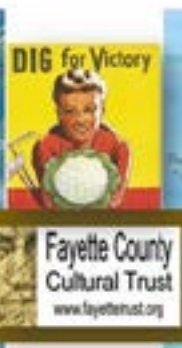
Join us for an International Buffet as we travel the globe to some of the countries where WWII battles occurred.

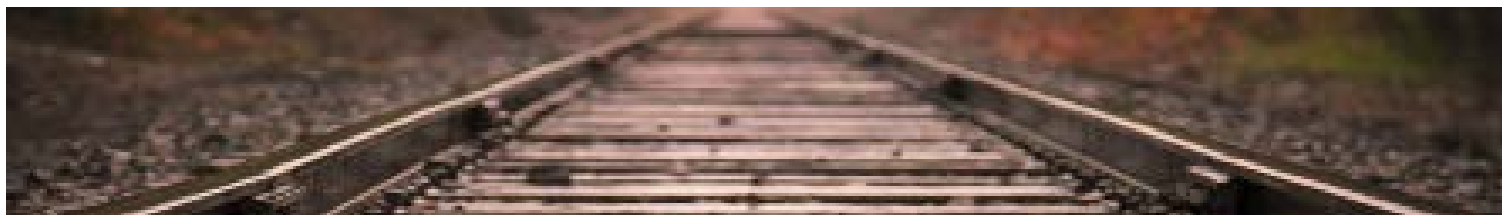
Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

6 pm – 9 pm

Connellsville Canteen  
131 West Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville, Pennsylvania 15425

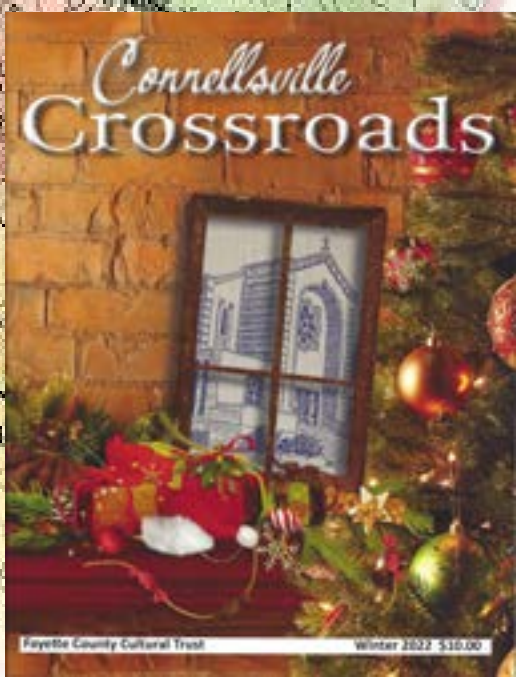
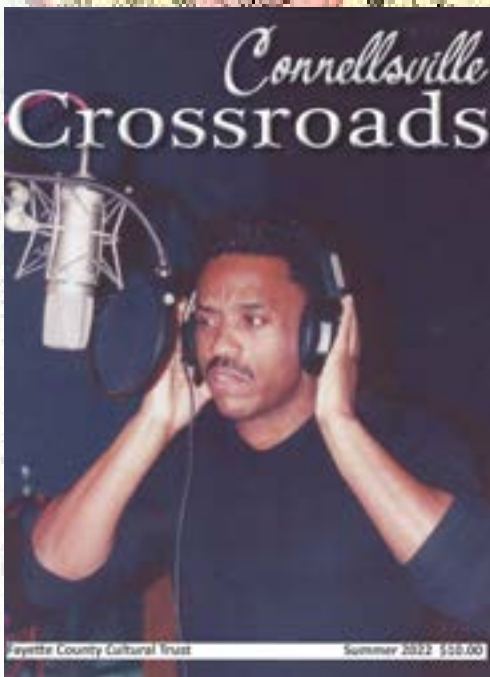
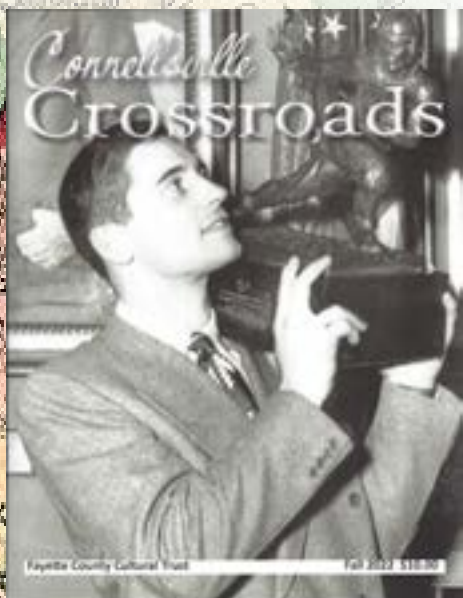
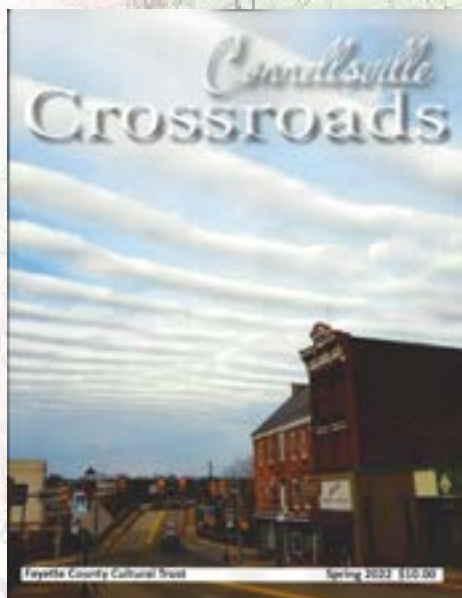
Cost is \$75 per person  
RSVP with payment to the  
Connellsville Canteen by November 4<sup>th</sup>.





## **Connellsville Crossroads Magazine**

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





# 8th Annual Achievement in the Arts - 2022



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. 2022 marked the 8th Annual.

## 2022 student award winners include:

### Albert Gallatin High School

Music - Ben Moats  
Theater - Chaz Berkshire  
Visual Arts - Cassidy Forsythe

### Brownsville High School

Music - Destiny King  
Theater - Megan Sawka  
Visual Arts - Nolan Konopka

### Connellsville Area High School

Music - Taylor Coughenour  
Theater - Taney Basinger  
Visual Arts - Jenna Cope

### Frazier High School

Music - Ryan McWilliams  
Theater - Alexandra Marie Pohodich  
Visual Arts - Ginya Lombard

### Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School

Music - Audra Holonich  
Theater - McKinley Marie Klotz  
Visual Arts - Olivia Martin

### Laurel Highlands High School

Visual Arts - Taryn Stroop

### Uniontown Area High School

Music - Matthew Baker  
Theater - Dusty Plume  
Visual Arts - Kayla Miller



Thank you to Penn State, Fayette for hosting this event.



# Educational Outreach Program

## Allegheny Conference

In February, the Cultural Trust attended an 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!



## Fayette County Train Day

The Fayette County Cultural Trust sponsors Fayette County Train Days. Visitors on this day can tour 7 scratch built train displays located throughout this area for free.

**MONONGAHELM RAILROAD & TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM**  
412 Church Street  
Brownsville, PA 15417  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The free museum will be featuring a 30000 sq ft exhibit by the Pittsburgh-Crescent Railway Society.



**MILLSBORO RAILROAD MUSEUM**  
Rear 117 Oak Avenue  
Millsboro, PA 15348  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

1700 historic railroad scratch built using a copy of original RRU. Displays include a model of the Connellsville R&D RR station, giftback from the Allegheny Railway, and more.





The 2022 Fayette County Train Day will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

If you have a display located in Fayette County you'd like to include in the tour, please contact:

Fayette County Cultural Trust  
120 W. Crawford Ave.  
Connellsville, PA 15425  
Email: fctrust@psnet.net or call 724-320-0292.

**Fayette County Cultural Trust**  
ART-CULTURE-HISTORY-EDUCATION

The mission of the Fayette County Cultural Trust is to enrich the area's quality of life by providing an cultural, artistic, historic, and educational, and by creating partnerships for creative collaboration and artistic success.

**Connellsville Canteen**  
Cafe & Museum

Connellsville Cultural Center Museum  
• Call open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
• Would you? Museum  
• Model Railroad Display



120E Crawford Ave., Connellsville, PA  
724-320-5292 • FayetteTrust.org

**Fayette County TRAIN DAY**

Saturday, May 14, 2022

• Open Houses •  
FREE ADMISSION!



**HARRY CLARK'S INDIAN CREEK VALLEY RAILROAD DISPLAY**  
Connellsville Canteen  
120 West Crawford Avenue  
Connellsville, PA 15425  
724-633-0292 | ConnellsvilleCanteen.org  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you'd enjoy taking 40 years to produce the scratch built model. Featuring a 100000 sq ft including the World's Largest RRU. It's a 20' display set that you can see in a 10' display.



**HOOGLUB RAILROAD DISPLAY**  
West Virginia Northern  
Connellsville Community Center  
201 East Fennell Avenue, Room 112  
Connellsville, PA 15425  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The model that started it all. The history of the HooGLUB Railroad. Center & Hub. The model is a 10' display. The house, the house, and the house from Connellsville in West Virginia.



**HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS - CONNELLVILLE, PA**  
In the 1870s the national locomotive works, of Connellsville Pennsylvania was founded by John T. Smith. The new heavy machinery brought design and construction being combined the first of Smith & Porter in 1884 (precursor of the famous Leitch & Co.)  
In 1912 when Smith formed a new company with George Ferguson and the firm reorganized as "Smith & Ferguson". The partnership was short lived when Smith withdrew from the firm in 1914. The new heavy machinery brought design and construction being combined the first of Smith & Porter in 1884 (precursor of the famous Leitch & Co.)  
In 1912 when Smith formed a new company with George Ferguson and the firm reorganized as "Smith & Ferguson". The partnership was short lived when Smith withdrew from the firm in 1914. The new heavy machinery brought design and construction being combined the first of Smith & Porter in 1884 (precursor of the famous Leitch & Co.)



**DAVID GARLO RAILROAD DISPLAY**  
HO Scale  
207 W. Allegheny Ave.  
Basement 2  
Connellsville, PA 15425  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Although the model is scratch built, the house is a 10' display. The house is a 10' display. The house is a 10' display. The house is a 10' display.



**TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S SCALE**  
201 Main and Howell Streets  
Dawson, PA 15425  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Since its inception, the Historical Society has been a 10' display. The house is a 10' display. The house is a 10' display. The house is a 10' display.



# Rose Garden Center for the Arts

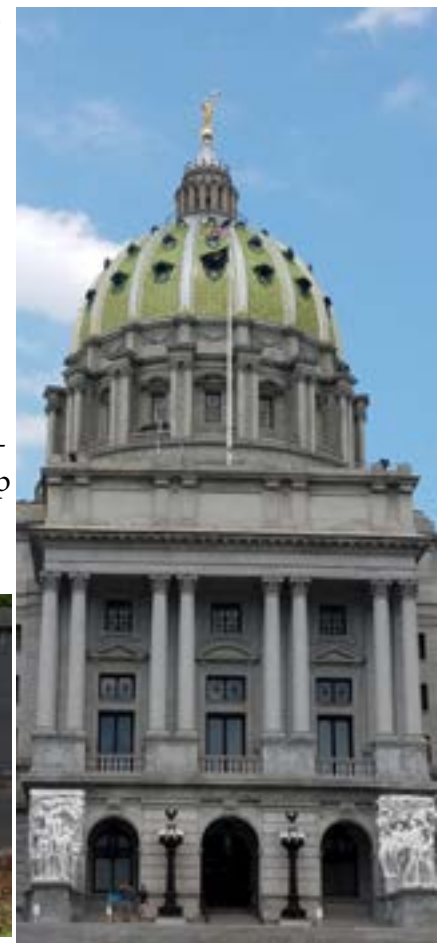
The Fayette County Cultural Trust Board of Directors voted to be a fiscal agent for the Rose Garden Center for the Arts. Plans are to turn this former church into a gathering spot for artists, community members and visitors to the Republic area.

A town meeting was held in Republic on Thursday, 28 July 4 - 6 pm to discuss with community members transformation plans of the former church.



PA Downtown Center – Revitalization Conference & 35 Anniversary  
June 26, 2022 - June 29, 2022

In celebration of Pennsylvania Downtown Center's 35th Anniversary, the 2022 conference, hosted at the Hilton in Harrisburg, PA, highlighted innovative approaches to community revitalization throughout Pennsylvania. The Fayette County Cultrual Trust attended educational sessions that cover revitalization fundamentals, subject-specific strategies, and leadership skills necessary to advance local program efforts.



# Downtown Connellsville



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

## Downtown Connellsville Vision Statement:

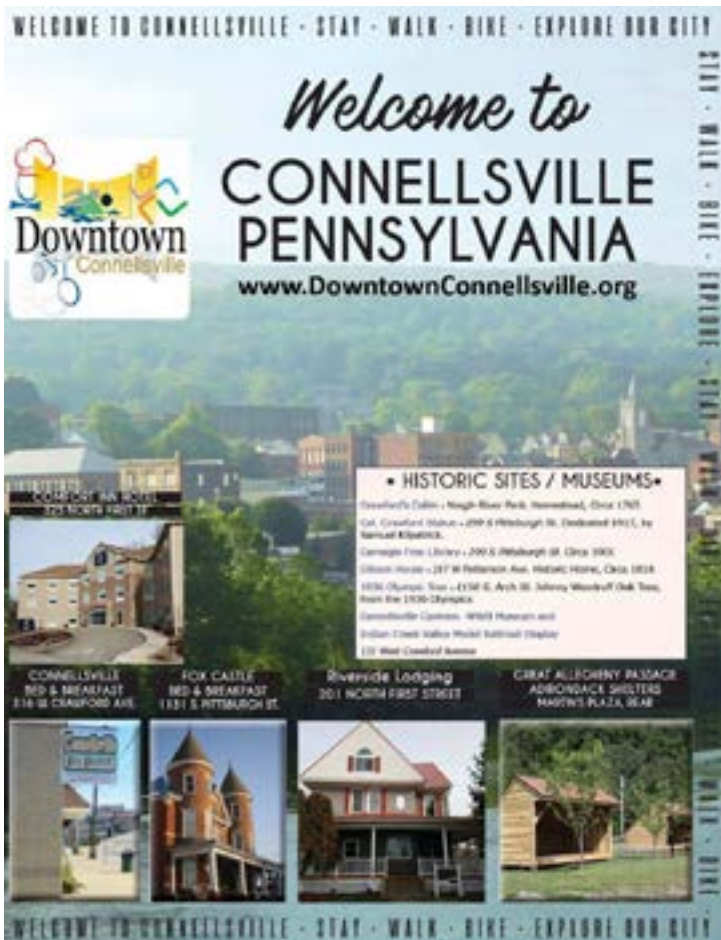
Connellsville is a community of rich natural and historic resources where all embrace: local history, the benefits of tourism centered on the Great Allegheny Passage and the Youghioghenny River, the beauty of the environment, the advantages of local services, businesses, artists and crafters; so that 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 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



Downtown Connellsville produces a yearly walking map for lodging and retail facilities.

Downtown Connellsville maintains the planters located throughout the designated downtown area.



# First City Newsletter



**First City News**  
Downtown Connellsville  
Downtown Connellsville is an initiative of the Fayette County Cultural Trust  
www.DowntownConnellsville.org  
Spring 2022

**Downtown Connellsville**  
on inclusive & diverse cultures

Downtown Connellsville created a project with Gina Lewis who is the Connellsville Area Middle School Library Media Specialist/Digital Media Teacher and her students. They are working on a downtown marketing video. These students were out and about at the beginning of this year photographing and videotaping different areas of our downtown and also capturing images of Fayette County tourist attractions.

Pictured above are students -from left to right: Harter Brown, Nicky Ferrell, Caroline Kropfender, Mayella team, Avery Christopher, Chloe Tiley, Sophia Kuchin, Katelyn Callahan, Mylor Hay, and Kiley Gosh.

**Downtown Connellsville**  
"YouthVille" Initiative

Downtown is a friendly environment for children because they can walk or bike to most places. In Connellsville there are alot of things they can do. Get entertained, learn something new, acquire a new skill, or just enjoy nature and the outdoors! Some of these include music lessons, dance, art classes, bike riding, basketball and educational lessons at our library. Connellsville actually has alot going on for the younger generation!

Downtown Connellsville has, in the past, supported many projects involving the youth of the city and we are thankful for those downtown businesses that care in helping our youth grow in so many ways.

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



**First City News**  
Downtown Connellsville  
Downtown Connellsville is an initiative of the Fayette County Cultural Trust  
www.DowntownConnellsville.org  
Fall 2022

Thank you to the Community Foundation of Fayette County and Rotary of Connellsville for providing funding to plant fresh flowers and new soil and repair some of the metal bird houses to the planters located around Connellsville's gateway areas.

**Did You Know?**

70% of first time sales at restaurants, retail shops, lodging facilities, and attractions can come from curb appeal. We all travel. Think about those phrases: "That looks like a nice place to eat," or, "That looks like a nice place to stay." Virtually every person on the planet has said those words at least once, if not dozens of times. You can spend millions of dollars marketing a town or downtown, and none of that will make one - the visitor - walk through your shop's door. You, the merchant, must do that. Beautification, or curb appeal, is an investment with a tremendous return. We can help you with facade work through our matching funds program.

**2023 Tourism Grant Program**  
Fayette County

[www.gorunhighlands.com/2023tourismgrantprogram/youthville-county-tourism-grant-program/](http://www.gorunhighlands.com/2023tourismgrantprogram/youthville-county-tourism-grant-program/)

Forty percent of the Fayette County Lodging Tax is appropriated for a grant program specifically established to support the county's tourism assets. The purpose of this grant program is to enhance the tourism experience, increase tourism visitation, and to generate overnight stays within Fayette County. Awards are granted annually on the basis of merit as determined by the Fayette County Tourism Grant Review Committee and administered by the Fayette County Commission and GO+LH (Laud Highlands Visitors Bureau). Thus, grant funding must be primarily used for marketing and advertising expenses that target potential visitors who reside outside of the Laud Highlands counties and whose visit is likely to result in an overnight stay.

For-profit organizations can apply only for a marketing grant and are required to provide a dollar for dollar (1:1) match for dollars awarded. If you receive a grant, you can incur expenses eligible for assistance immediately after grant notification. Expenses cannot be incurred before notification date.

Marketing grants may be awarded to any nonprofit or for-profit tourism-related business or organization located within Fayette County that submits a request for such funds utilizing the official grant application furnished for this purpose and whose mission and operations are directly related to tourism and tourism development.

The 2023 grant applications will be available online starting in September 2022.

In 2022, Downtown Connellsville matched up to \$1000 for facade work, and up to \$250 for signage.

## Downtown Connellsville Youth-Ville Initiative

Downtown Connellsville created a page just for the youth of the city on the Downtown Connellsville web site. This page lists all sorts of thing for the younger generation to do in the city and the surrounding areas.

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

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.



# Downtown Connellsville - Soup Walk & Chili Walk

Each year Downtown Connellsville hosts a spring Soup Walk and fall Chili Festival. This year marked the 7th 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  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Simply Soup – Soup Walk  
12 March 2022  
11 am – 2 pm**

**Tickets are now Available at**

- Double Dragon – 142 North Pittsburgh Street**  
Wonton Soup
- Wavie & Janes – 121 West Apple Street**  
Vegetable Beef Soup
- Clubhouse Pizzeria – 130 West Crawford Avenue**  
Potato Soup
- Connellsville Canteen – 131 West Crawford Avenue**  
Bacon Corn Chowder
- Appalachian Creativity Center – 139 West Crawford Avenue**  
Pennsylvania Dutch Bacon Potato Soup
- O'Donnell's Pub – 128 South Arch Street**  
Zuppa Toscana
- Kickstand Kitchen – 507 West Crawford Avenue**  
Hungarian Mushroom Soup
- Keedy's Pizzeria – 512 West Crawford Avenue**  
Wedding Soup



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



**Downtown Connellsville  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Chili Walk**

**Saturday, 05 November 2022**

**11 am – 2 pm**



**Tickets Available At:  
\$10 Each  
Participating Establishments**

- Clubhouse Pizza – Pizza Chili**  
- 130 West Crawford Avenue
- Connellsville Canteen – Foxhole Chili**  
- 131 West Crawford Avenue
- Fox's Pizza Den – BBQ Chili**  
- 121 North Pittsburgh Street
- Keedy's Pizza – Sweet & Tangy Chili**  
- 512 West Crawford Avenue
- Kickstand Kitchen – Vegetarian Pumpkin Chili**  
- 507 West Crawford Avenue
- O'Donnell's Pub – O'Donnell's Chili**  
- 128 South Arch Street
- Pechin Connellsville – Chili Verde & White Chili**  
- 232 North Pittsburgh Street
- St. Rita's Church – (Kitchen) Italian Chili**  
- 116 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
- The Paint Room – Tailgate Chili**  
- 118 West Apple Street
- Wavie & Janes – Korean Chili**  
- 121 West Apple Street
- Will-Onita's – Banging Chili**  
- Comfort Inn Hotel – 325 North First Street

Money raised benefits Downtown Connellsville Initiatives

## Downtown Connellsville Events

### Downtown Connellsville Promotions Committee

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.



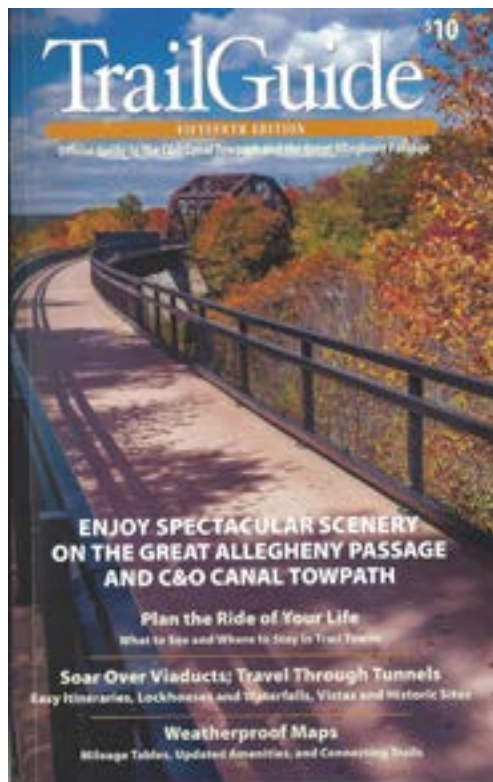
**H&R Block Parking Lot  
Downtown Connellsville**

The Amish will be making

Toasted Coconut  
Maple Glazed  
Vanilla Glazed  
Cinnamon Sugar  
Sugar  
Plain



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



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.



# Downtown Connellsville Events

The Colonial Easter Bunny with Ann Nicholson, Connellsville Canteen Manager.

## Breakfast with the Colonial Easter Bunny

Saturday – 9 April 2022  
 8 am – 10 am  
 Adults - \$15.00  
 Bunnies 4 – 8 \$10.00  
 Baby Bunnies 3 and under \$3.00  
**Connellsville Canteen**

### Buffet Menu Includes

- Pancakes
- Syrup & Whipping Cream
- Scrambled Eggs
- Bacon & Sausage
- Stir Fried Potatoes
- Toast/Butter
- Orange Juice
- Milk
- Coffee



Take your own photos with the Bunny!  
**RSVP: 724-603-2093**  
 Payment must be received prior to event



**AMBASSADOR PROGRAM PRESENTS  
 A LOOK AT KENTUCKY KNOB  
 MONDAY, 20 JUNE 2022  
 6 PM – 8 PM**



Doors open at 5:30 pm  
**\$10.00 Includes Buffet Meal**

Timothy Fischer is the Manager at Frank Lloyd Wright's House on Kentucky Knob. A Visual Communications Graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Tim has been a Frank Lloyd Wright enthusiast for over twenty years, studying the architect's work and life, and he has worked at Frank Lloyd Wright's House on Kentucky Knob since 2018.

Kentucky Knob represents a handful of customized houses the architect designed that draw from his Usonian model. Bernadine Hagan, in her 2005 memoir, *Kentucky Knob*, described Wright's instruction for choosing their house site: use land no one else wanted. She preferred to be on the knob since she would often be alone in the house and wanted to see visitors arriving. Wright said, "My clients are either perchers or nesters, and you are perchers". This house is the mature culmination of Wright's modular designs based on an equilateral triangle. The half-hexagon-shaped house angles around a west-facing courtyard, blending comfortably into the contours of the land. The anchor of the design is a hexagonal core of native stone that rises from the long, low profile of the copper roof at the intersection of the living room and bedroom wings. The cantilevered cypress eaves have hexagonal openings that allow the low rays of the winter sun to penetrate the interior, while blocking the higher angle of the summer sun. Wright crafted the interior finishes and built-in furniture from Sidewater red cypress. The Hagans, who visited Wright's Fallingwater, owned by their business friends the Kaufmanns, also purchased Hans Wegner and George Nakashima furniture. The present owners, Lord and Lady Palumbo, bought the house and seventy-nine forested acres from the Hagans in 1985, and opened it to the public in 1996. They have added acreage and over three dozen modern sculptures to the grounds.

Reservations:  
 Connellsville Canteen  
 131 West Crawford Avenue  
 Connellsville, Pennsylvania  
 724-603-2093  
[www.fayettestrust.org](http://www.fayettestrust.org)



Connellsville Canteen Presents  
 an evening with Bill Metzger  
**Monday, 16 May 2022  
 6 pm – 8 pm**



Come Along on the Adventure of a Lifetime

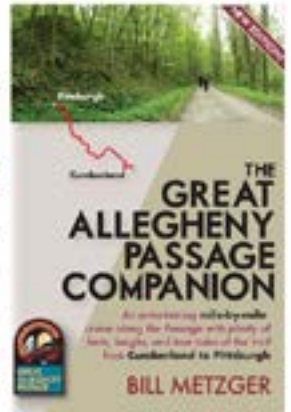
Bill Metzger takes you on a journey along the completed GAP Trail from MP 0 in Cumberland, Maryland to its terminus at Point State Park in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The history and heritage of the trail come alive in Bill's inimitable style - humor blends with serious scholarship in this look at the railroads and other industries that preceded the trail's development. You'll learn something about the trail and the people of southwestern Pennsylvania - how they lived in Days Gone By and how they made the Passage the wonderful experience it is today.

Bill published the "Great Allegheny Passage Companion," which will be available to purchase for \$39.95.

**Cost: \$10**  
 Includes dinner buffet and presentation  
**RSVP only**  
**724-603-2093**

**Connellsville CANTEEN**  
 café & museum

131 W. Crawford Ave., Connellsville, PA 15425  
 724.603.2093 ConnellsvilleCanteen.org





## Composting Class - March 19, 2022

We hosted a Composting Class with Nancy Martin - Education Program Coordinator Pennsylvania Resources Council.



### FREE COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS

<b>Connellsville Canteen</b> Saturday, March 19   10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 131 W. Crawford Ave. Connellsville, PA 15425	<b>Dunbar Township</b> Saturday, March 26   10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 128 Township Drive Dunbar, PA 15431
---	--

All participants will receive a FreeGarden-EARTH compost bin.

Learn how to make natural compost for your lawn and garden using kitchen scraps, leaves and other yard debris! Workshop topics include:

- Composting benefits
- Setting Up a Compost Pile
- Proper Maintenance
- Using Finished Compost
- And much more!

Hosted by the Fayette County Recycling Program & Pennsylvania Resources Council  
Sponsored by the PA Department of Environmental Protection

Preregistration required.  
For more information, email [nancym@prc.org](mailto:nancym@prc.org) or call 412-977-6146.



## It's a Connellsville Christmas

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



Look for these signs at 10 select businesses!

### I'll be Gnome for Christmas Scavenger Hunt

1. Started in 1899, this company's assets total over 1.1 billion
2. This business has the slogan "Let's Do It Together"
3. With over 1,800 of these in America, the one in Connellsville ranks number 5
4. With over 35 years in business, this company keeps spinning it's wheels
5. The Home Page of their web sites states, "Success is a Journey, Not a Destination"
6. This organization was started in 1908 and had their office on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the former First National Bank Building
7. This store has been offering the same thing since the 1890's and is still "blooming"
8. This business is "The Spot To Save."
9. Their web site states, "We love our Customers"
10. The Dollar General use to occupy this building, but now it houses treasures



### I'll be Gnome for Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Ten Gnomes, painted and named by students at the Penn Highlands Autism Center, will be placed around establishments in the downtown area. Use our clues to find each of these gnomes. Write down Gnome names and businesses and you will win an Autism Awareness Duckie or a Gnome Hat. Turn in your completed scavenger hunt answers with your name, phone number and address to the Connellsville Canteen located at 139 West Crawford Avenue. Gnomes will be placed around town between **28 November - 17 December**.

You can also email us your answers at [DowntownConnellsville@zoominternet.net](mailto:DowntownConnellsville@zoominternet.net)

\*Gnomes will be located in the windows of each business - so if your "hunt" is after business hours, participation is still guaranteed. Please only one entry per address.





**Connellsville Canteen**



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.

On May 19th, the Connellsville Canteen hosted the 5th grade class from Hatfield Elementary School. During their visit they learned about WWII.





Harry Clark's Indian Creek Valley Railroad Display

## Connellsville Canteen - Educational Programming

Japanese antiques were on display in the Connellsville Canteen that included an ancient samurai armor uniform, and a traditional hand-embordered wedding robe and wigs created using real human hair! Some of these items date from the ancient to the present. Come with us and explore the history and customs of Japan through an experience you can't find anywhere else in the area!

The Connellsville Canteen  
explores the  
history and culture of  
**JAPAN**

Connellsville  
**CANTEEN**  
café & museum

Through constant international exchange, Japan is a thriving, modern, high-technology society that also celebrates many elements of traditional culture.

Some of the antiques on display at the Connellsville Canteen include an ancient samurai armor uniform, a traditional wedding robe and wigs created using real human hair! Some of these items date from ancient to the present. They reference the lives of emperors and also of ordinary townspeople.

Explore these stunning objects and learn about the history and customs of Japan through an experience you can't find anywhere else in this area!



Connellsville  
**CANTEEN**  
café & museum

131 W. Crawford Ave., Connellsville, PA 15425  
724.603.2093 ConnellsvilleCanteen.org



Model roadroader Steve Williams visited the Connellsville Canteen to see Harry Clark's Indian Creek Valley Railroad display on 7 November 2022. Steve's model railroad display was the feature of Great Model Railroads 2012. Steve lives in North Carolina.

December 5, 2022 - We hosted a Carol Love Mystery Tour to the Connellsville Canteen. 48 people were treated to lunch and also a tour of the WWII Museum and Harry Clark's Indian Creek Valley Railroad Display.

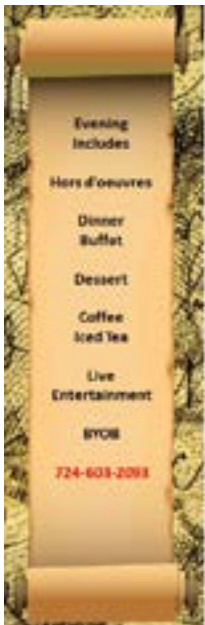


We would like to thank Billy Sechler and Carver McGaughey for their continued support in volunteering to keep the Harry Clark's Indian Creek Valley Railroad display clean and running.

In 2022 we gave out Victory Garden seed packets to educate people on the importance of planting Victory Gardens during WWII.

# Connellsville Canteen Programing

On February 19, the Connellsville Canteen hosted an evening with Scott Blasey and on April 30, 2022, the Connellsville Canteen hosted a dinner show featuring Pittsburgh Jazz Singer Jessica Lee.



The Connellsville Canteen Presents  
**"A Night of Jazz!"**  
 Saturday – April 30<sup>th</sup> 2022  
 Connellsville Canteen  
 \$45.00 per person



6 pm – 9 pm

Entertainment by  
 Pittsburgh jazz artist  
 Jessica Lee and  
 Mark Strickland

Meal prepared by  
 our Chef Susan  
 and WCCU  
 Culinary student  
 Zachary

Please stop by the Connellsville Canteen to sign up for this great event.

Connellsville Canteen  
 a cafe & museum  
 131 W Crawford Ave., Connellsville, PA 15425  
 724.603.2093 ConnellsvilleCanteen.org

The Connellsville Canteen Presents an  
 Evening with Scott Blasey  
 Saturday, 19 February 2022  
 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm



Dinner Buffet  
 BYOB  
 \$45 per person



Love Chocolate

Sponsored By

Limited Seating  
**RSVP ONLY**

COLEBROOK  
 CHOCOLATE COMPANY

Connellsville Canteen  
 a cafe & museum

131 W Crawford Ave., Connellsville, PA 15425  
 724.603.2093 ConnellsvilleCanteen.org



Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC hosted a free Veterans Appreciation Breakfast at the Connellsville Canteen on 11 November 2022. This breakfast was attended by over 100 area veterans.

**Veterans Appreciation Breakfast**  
 Free Breakfast for one veteran and a guest  
**Veterans Day**  
**11 November 2022**  
 Connellsville Canteen  
 131 West Crawford Avenue  
 Connellsville, PA 15425




2 Seatings Available: 7:30 am & 9:00 am  
 Please RSVP by calling the Connellsville Canteen at 724-603-2093



Laurel Highlands  
 Wealth Advisory Group

Sponsored by the  
 Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC.  
 Uniontown Office



Fayette Legacy Partners





## 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 cut-backs 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



The arts are keys to self-expression, but they also contribute to academic achievement, promote a broad range of thinking skills, develop social skills, motivate students, and support a positive school environment.

2018

Rural Arts Collaborative is a copyright of the Fayette County Cultural Trust

# Rural Arts Collaborative - 2021 - 2022 Participating Schools

## 2021-2022

Bobtown Elementary, Greene County, Pennsylvania - 2021 - 2022  
Carmichaels Middle School, Greene County, Pennsylvania - 2021- 2022  
Waynesburg Campus School, Greene County, Pennsylvania - 2021- 2022  
Margaret Bell Miller Middle School, Greene County, Pennsylvania - 2021- 2022  
West Greene Elementary School, Greene County, Pennsylvania - 2021- 2022  
West Greene High School, Greene County, Pennsylvania - 2021- 2022  
Washington High School, Washington County, Pennsylvania - 2021 - 2022  
Fayette County Career & Technical Center, Fayette County, Pennsylvania - 2021 - 2022  
Johnstown High School, Cambria County, Pennsylvania - 2021 - 2022  
Capital City HS, Kanawha County, West Virginia - 2021 - 2022  
Notre Dame HS, Harrison County, West Virginia - 2021 - 2022  
Capon Bridge Middle School, Hampshire County, West Virginia - 2021 - 2022  
Stratton Elementary, Raleigh County, West Virginia - 2021 - 2022  
Monongah Middle School, Marion County, West Virginia - 2021 - 2022  
Berkley Springs High School, Morgan County, West Virginia - 2021 - 2022  
Paden City HS, Wetzel County, West Virginia - 2021 - 2022 (Full Year)

## 2022 – 2023

Jefferson County Elementary School, Jefferson County, West Virginia - 2022  
Albert Gallatin School District, Fayette County, Pennsylvania - 2022 - 2023  
Brooke County Middle School, Wellsburg, West Virginia - 2022 - 2023  
Brownsville School District, Fayette County, Pennsylvania - 2022 - 2023  
Frazier School District, Fayette County, Pennsylvania - 2022 - 2023  
Fayette CTI, Fayette County, Pennsylvania - 2022 - 2023  
Laurel Highlands, Fayette County, Pennsylvania - 2022 - 2023  
Contemporary American Theatre Festival (CATF) - Jefferson County, West Virginia - 2022 - 2023  
Southeast Greene - Greene County, Pennsylvania - 2022 - 2023  
Central Greene- Greene County, Pennsylvania - 2022 - 2023  
Jefferson - Morgan - Greene County, Pennsylvania - 2022 - 2023  
Greensburg - Salem Middle School - Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania 2022 - 2023

**RuralArtsCollaborative.Org**

## Fiscal Agents

**Primary  
Sponsor**

**Corporate  
Sponsors**



# Fayette Non-Profit Partnership

The Fayette Non-Profit Partnership continued in 2022 with the mission of creating partnerships and collaborations among non-profits. “Better Together” is facilitated by Mj Callaway. The Trust hosted several meetings, in person this year, that included the Wesley Health Center, Penn 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.



This year we started planning for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. 49 soldiers from Fayette County were killed in action during that war.

The Fayette County Cultural Trust and Penn State Fayette have partnered together to host The Wall That Heals at Penn State next year. The Wall That Heals is a project of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund out of Washington DC.



**PennState**  
Fayette, The Eberly Campus

The Fayette County Cultural Trust would like to thank it's board members, donors and volunteers that helped make 2022 a successful year!

**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
- Zach Strauser

**Rural Arts Collaborative**



## 2022 Financial Recap

### Revenue & Support - \$561,325



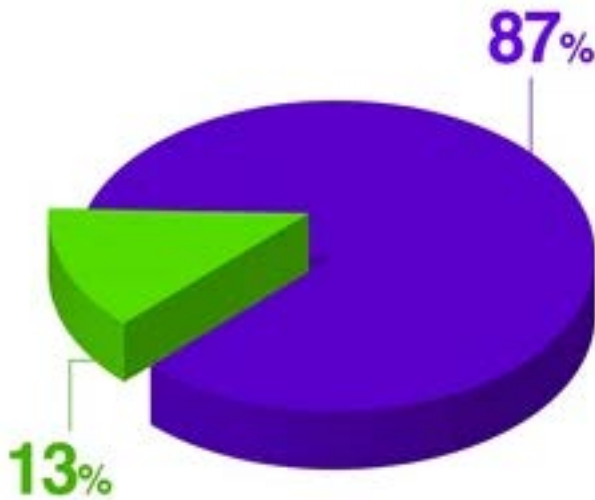
#### Grants and Contributions

90% - \$504,407

Other Revenue

10% - \$56,918

### Expenses - \$583,019



#### Program

87% - \$506,943

#### Management & General

13% - \$76,076

The Fayette County Cultural Trust ("FCCT") uses the calendar year for IRS 990 and audit reporting purposes. As such, FCCT incorporates two financial cycles in this annual financial report. The IRS/audit calendar year reporting runs from January 1st through December 31st and Pennsylvania's fiscal year for grant management is a 12 month period that runs from July 1st of the current year through June 30th of the following year. Pennsylvania's Neighborhood Partnership tax credit program is based on the state's fiscal year. The financial information reported in this annual financial report for this program only reflects a portion of the income/expense from each state fiscal cycle (the 2nd half of the 2021-22 cycle and the first half of the 2022-23 cycle). Annually, this may result in some years showing a surplus or a deficit resulting from timing differences related to expenses incurred that do not match up in the same calendar year as the receipt of the related grant funding. Any questions may be directed to the FCCT office.

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

*Thank You*

to our

Neighborhood Partnership Program  
sponsors!

UPMC HEALTH PLAN



**Somerset  
Trust** COMPANY

Member FDIC

**TRI STATE**  **CAPITAL**



**PNC BANK**