

October 2021

Dear Friends of Nantucket Arts Council,

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the Covid-19 outbreak a pandemic. As we enter October, into the nineteenth month of the pandemic, we humbly realize the impact on the lives of many individuals, communities, states and countries. This impact includes the personal health and financial stability of many artists. The tremor throughout the artistic community is palpable. Many individuals have scrambled to find other various forms of employment while also maintaining time to create and continue in the artistic realm. We recognize that finding this balance is a challenge.

Yet, we see through the darkness of the pandemic, many artists in our community continue their work. They show up online on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok. They are selling work online through local non-profits and performing under strict protocols on stage. They are producing work in their homes and studios and offering glimpses into their work on youtube. The Nantucket Arts Council with Nantucket Community Television created four episodes of interviews with Nantucket artists demonstrating their work through the pandemic. We also produced two videos for the Nantucket Public Schools of performers that included live Q&As following the viewing by classes. All this was possible with funding through grants and generous donations. The arts have not perished on this island, although they are partially subdued and moderated.

You can help us sustain and cultivate the arts in our island community by making a donation to the Nantucket Arts Council. We have helped twenty-four artists by offering grants through the pandemic. We created a walk-by Spring Arts festival downtown and found an audience for them through videos and live Q&As, bringing them to many students. We treasure our work on behalf of artists and the community.

We need your donation now more than ever before. Please help us continue our support of the arts.

With best wishes to you all,

*Barbara Elder*

president

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