RIDGEFIELD LIBRARY: VIBRANT ARTS COMMUNITY PARTNERS & ROBUST ARTS PROGRAMS

VISUAL ARTS, AUTHORS, HUMANITIES/HISTORY, THEATER, FILM, DANCE, AND MUSIC

LAURIE MCGAVIN BACHMANN, ADULT PROGRAMS
RIDGEFIELD: A VIBRANT ARTS COMMUNITY

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RIDGEFIELD ARTS
COMMUNITY PARTNERS
CURRENT AND POTENTIAL
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- **Dance** – Ridgefield School of Dance, Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance, Enchanted Garden Studio
- **Music** – Ridgefield Jazz and Funk Weekend, Western CT Youth Orchestra, Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, Ridgefield Chorale, CHIRP (Concert Happenings in Ridgefield’s Parks), Jazz Masters Series, Ridgefield Playhouse
ROBUST ARTS PROGRAMMING
AT THE RIDGEFIELD LIBRARY

A LIVELY INTERCHANGE BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS
RIDGEFIELD LIBRARY COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMMING: LIBRARY CONTACTS INDIVIDUALS & ORGANIZATIONS
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CONTACT THE LIBRARY
ARTS PROGRAMMING AT THE RIDGEFIELD LIBRARY

- **ARTalks at the Library** – annual Fall/Spring series that explores the creative process and focuses on art, architecture and design-collaboration annually with Ridgefield Guild of Artists
- **Author Talks at the Library** – literary arts, collaborate with independent bookstore, Books on the Common, local authors, Ridgefield writers conference
- **Art Gallery at the Library** – monthly exhibitions in a wide range of media
- **Art Walk** – annual collaboration with Ridgefield Guild of Artists in Aug/Sept and downtown merchants
- **Art and About** – field trips to area museums and galleries, June/July
- **The Artist’s Way** – book group and creativity workshop
- **Library Arts Galleries Consortium** – Art and Text exhibition – 14 Fairfield Cty libraries
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ARTALKS – EXPLORING THE CREATIVE PROCESS THROUGH LECTURES, FILMS AND WORKSHOPS

• **ARTalks** is a series of six presentations annually in the Fall/Spring that focus on art, architecture and design in collaboration with the Ridgefield Guild of Artists. Going on for the past ten years.

• **Approach** – we have a small ARTalks committee that meets in the spring to brainstorm about potential artists/designers to contact in the greater Ridgefield area for the following academic year. Once speakers are confirmed we work on a brochure over the summer.

• A highlighted speaker **whom we approached** this year is Meredith Bergmann who will speak about the creation of her award-winning public sculpture monuments in Boston and New York City. She lives in Ridgefield. These ARTalks are free and supported by the Library.
ARTALKS – INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED FIBER ARTIST: HELENA HERNMARCK

• ARTalk – with award-winning and international renowned tapestry artist, also a Ridgefield resident, who was approached by the Library to come and speak twice about her commissioned tapestries and also her process as a fiber artist.

• Out of this relationship came a friendship and gift to the Library of her tapestry, “Passing Fall,” which was installed in the Library’s front lobby. Helena is in the center with her Swedish weavers on either side.
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ART GALLERY AT THE LIBRARY – MONTHLY EXHIBITIONS IN A WIDE RANGE OF MEDIA

• An interesting exhibition of note was a juried group show we organized with the National Association of Women Artists based in NYC.

• **We were approached** by a Ridgefield member of NAWA to have an exhibition here at the gallery.

• I traveled to NAWA’s headquarters in NYC to help jury the show and we mounted a group exhibit of national women artists for Women’s History month.

• Artists ship work to and from Library at their expense

• Had awards for best in show by media – paid by NAWA
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ART AND ABOUT: FIELD TRIPS TO AREA MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND OTHER CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

• Field trip to Grace Farms – a cultural and community center to explore meaningful programs for nature, arts, justice, community and faith

• **Approach** – the Library initiated this trip to New Canaan, CT for a small group of 15 to walk through the “river” building designed by the Japanese architecture firm: SANAA with a pre-arranged docent for the tour and box lunches afterward. (no charge for tour, minimal for lunch – time to socialize)

• Everyone travelled on their own and met there.
ARTS PROGRAMMING AT THE RIDGEFIELD LIBRARY CONTINUED

• On the Big Screen – throughout the year, NYC Opera, Bolshoi Ballet, West End National Theatre (Live and Encore) at the Ridgefield Playhouse – discounted tickets as Library cardholders, annual fall/spring
• Funk, Jazz and Blues weekend – annual in mid September – major venue
• Thriving Through the Arts: College and Beyond for Musicians, Actors, Dancers and Visual Artists: panel discussions about applications to college in the artistic disciplines - annual, end Sept.
• Ridgefield Independent Film Festival – annual in mid-October, major venue
• Creativity Conference and Full Steam Ahead Conference – multi-day collaborations with the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum
• MOOC – massive open online course – European Paintings: From Leonardo to Rembrandt to Goya, 1400-1800
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THRIVING THROUGH THE ARTS – PANEL DISCUSSIONS FOR ASPIRING ARTISTS

• The Ridgefield Arts Council approached us about developing a program for students and parents interested in learning more about the application process for entrance to creative disciplines at the undergraduate level and how to make a career in those creative professions. For example, how to create a portfolio, audition recordings and more. Annual program, late September.

• Creative partners included: Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, ACT of CT theater company, Thrown Stone Theatre, Ridgefield Symphony and Ridgefield School of Dance

• Program was free of charge thanks to the Library.
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CREATIVITY CONFERENCE – ADVANCING CREATIVE THINKING: IMAGINATION TO INNOVATION


- The Library spearheaded this two-day conference co-sponsored with the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum and Morris Media Group to produce this event with 30 speakers, nearly 300 attendees from the NY metro area. It offered national and international speakers, 18 separate programs at 3 locations including 2 receptions, lunch and live music. Charge modest conference fee to cover costs.

- [http://www.ridgefieldlibrary.org/news_events/programs/documents/CreativityConfernceProgram_000.pdf](http://www.ridgefieldlibrary.org/news_events/programs/documents/CreativityConfernceProgram_000.pdf)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFaFjpSnaUs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFaFjpSnaUs)
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• MOOC – *massive open online course* – European Paintings: From Leonardo to Rembrandt to Goya, 1400-1800
MOOC – MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE AT THE LIBRARY

• The Library offered a seven-week MOOC titled: European Paintings from Leonardo to Rembrandt to Goya, 1400 – 1800. Learn about the Western European Renaissance presented by Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and edX an online resource developed by Harvard and MIT.

• For this free MOOC, which was recommended by a staff member at the Library, I gave an introduction to the paintings we would be seeing with a curator from the Prado Museum in Madrid during the one-hour lectures and moderated questioned afterwards.
REGIONAL ARTS CALENDARS

SEE WHAT IS GOING ON CULTURALLY IN YOUR REGION AND POST EVENTS
Ridgefield Arts Council
https://www.ridgefieldartscouncil.org/new-page-3

Western Connecticut Cultural Alliance
https://cawct.org/what-we-do/

Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County
http://culturalalliancefc.org/

ARTS DEDICATED ONLINE CALENDARS

ANOTHER LIVELY CALENDAR WITH MORE THAN JUST ARTS = HAMLET HUB
STATEWIDE AND NATIONAL ARTS RESOURCES:


Americans for the Arts | CT Arts Alliance | National Endowment for the Arts (www.arts.gov)
**CONCLUSION:** ARTS RESOURCES AND PARTNERS ARE FOUND THROUGH INDIVIDUALS & ORGANIZATIONS AT THE LOCAL, STATEWIDE, AND NATIONAL LEVELS

- Libraries can be tremendous “hubs” for arts information and programming
- Libraries can extend special invitations to local and renowned arts speakers
- Libraries can bring together on-site and off-site arts experiences for patrons
- Libraries can coordinate cross-library arts programming in their counties and states
- Libraries can collaborate with other cultural institutions in their towns and state
- Libraries can collaborate with artists’ councils and guilds in their communities as well as with statewide and national arts initiatives
WRAPPING UP

• I hope you have come away with some new ideas for partnering with individuals and organizations in the arts
• And, that you have also come away with some fresh ideas about how to connect with arts resources your library has to offer.
• Please feel free to contact me at: LMBachmann@ridgefieldlibrary.org