



LA GRUA CENTER
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2014/2015 season at La Grua Center was one of our best yet!

We hosted almost **30** concerts, sponsored approximately **40** lectures, curated **10** different art exhibitions, shared the La Grua Center space with over **15** nonprofits for their programs and meetings, offered **6** different wellness and dance classes each week, and welcomed over **10,000** people through our doors.

To put it simply, it's been a productive year in which La Grua Center enlightened, enriched, and engaged the people of our community. Thank you to all the donors, volunteers, performers and our wonderful audiences for making this season so successful.



Music

Music is life. That's why our hearts have beats. The Music Matters series at La Grua Center continues to thrive, and this year we welcomed a diversified range of performers to our monthly concerts. They keep our toes tapping and hearts racing. For the first time on our Mason & Hamlin piano we were joined by two talented young women, Amelie Fortin and Marie-Christine Poirer, and 20 fingers for a delightful and brilliant

program of Romantic and present-day music for piano four-hands. This spring 540 harpsichord strings were on display for a special concert with three harpsichordists, Elaine Funaro, Beverly Biggs and Rebecca Pechesky. The trio entertained a full house with scores from the High Baroque Period and strikingly accessible compositions written in and for our time. For our string enthusiasts, we hosted several concerts



including the Attica Quartet, who came to us through the Essex Winter Series. The concert featured two violins, a viola and a violoncello and delighted the audience with works from Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel and Leos Janacek. To round out the concert series, we welcomed local musician Bergin O'Malley and her nationally recognized colleagues Jesse Terry and Sarah Peacock for an acoustic storyteller's night, filled with country vibes and folk tunes. La Grua Center is also a celebrated place to perform for young musicians. We once again welcomed the Mystic Middle School Jazz band and Select chorus along with the talented musicians from Calvary Music School for lively concerts, all well attended by the community.



This year we also introduced our inaugural outdoor music festival — *Stonington Sounds*. The series hosted 13 different groups, from bluegrass and rock and roll to classical harpsichord and acapella groups, performing at 10 different locations around Stonington Borough. Although the rain forced some of our concerts indoors, we had a lively crowd that was unfazed by a few sprinkles.



DAVID DORFMAN DANCE

Arts & Culture



La Grua Center hosted a variety of lectures this past year, appealing to our audience's inquisitive nature. We discovered the Wreck of the USS Revenge with Charlie Buffum; explored details of climbing K2 and Broadpeak with Sophie Helenek; learned about phosphorescent proteins from Marc Zimmer; stepped into the world of Lily Pulitzer with Kathryn Livingston; dreamed about an illustrious career on Broadway with David Black; danced the night away with David Dorfman Dance company; and celebrated the life of James Merrill with author Langdon Hammer, to name a few. In addition, we introduced our World Affairs/Current Events series by welcoming the Iraqi Ambassador to France, Fareed Yasseen.

We continue to build upon the important relationships with our non-profit cultural neighbors including the Stonington Historical Society, Stonington Library and James

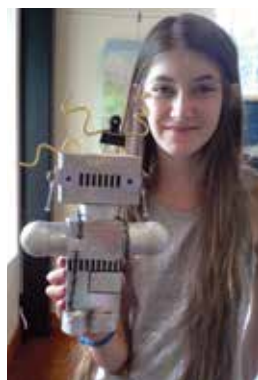


Merrill House who use the Center regularly for their programming. Some highlights from the year include ... the history of Stonington steamships with Norman Brouwer; Hemingway's wives with Harry Martin; the voyage of the Morgan with Mystic Seaport president Stephen White; the music of the war of 1812; the annual James Merrill lecture with award winning author Jeffrey Eugenides ... and many more.



La Grua Center's exhibition space continues to draw exceptional groups of talented artists from around the country. The modern exhibition entitled *Material and Matter* displayed works from artists Deborah Barlow, Paula Overbay and Jo Valley, who joined us from their respected studios in the New York/Boston/London metropolitan areas. Focusing closer to home, we hosted our first posthumous exhibition celebrating works from local artists Clem Despard, Helen Hooker and Fuller Potter. This year we also celebrated the bicentennial of the War of 1812 by co-sponsoring with the Stonington Historical Society an exhibition of historic prints from the town's celebrations 100 years ago. In addition, we welcomed artists from Expressiones Gallery in New London for an exhibit focused on Latin American art.

And for the first year the Stonington High School photography club used the Center's space for a special exhibition and auction highlighting the work of talented young photographers in our community.



MATERIALS AND MATTER EXHIBITION

Now in its fourth year, the Kid's Art Workshop continues to grow, and youth of all ages look forward to the workshop each summer. We owe a big thank you to all our artist volunteers who come out every Sunday to make this possible: Carmel

Bourneuf, Dan Potter, Karin Bastidas, Sadie DeVore, Barbara Ginsberg, Vin Loiacono, Elaine Mills, Juan O'Callahan, Muireann O'Callaghan, Tom Frohnappel, JJ Stinton, Judy Keegan, Li Yujuan, Zhai Yujuan, and Amanda Mead.

VOLUNTEERS

All of our programming is made possible by the dedication of our volunteer programming committees. As always, we extend our gratitude for their donated time and personal commitment to La Grua Center.

PROGRAM AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

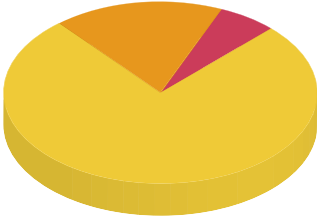
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Shau-Wen Lucia Sokol

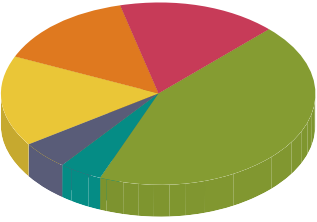


FINANCIALS



Income

Direct Contributions	\$ 135,620
Program Related Sales and Fees	30,790
Fundraisers	10,740
TOTAL	\$ 177,150



Expenses

Payroll Expenses	\$ 75,000
Marketing & Support	7,780
Insurance & Office Related	8,450
Facility and Equipment	28,220
Programming	24,700
Depreciation	28,230
TOTAL	\$ 172,380



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We would like to thank the following donors who make our community programming possible with their financial support. We also receive anonymous cash donations at the door for many of our events and we thank all those donors as well. All donations to the La Grua Center were made between the dates of July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

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LA GRUA CENTER

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La Grua Center is a 501(c) non-profit organization

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