



## 2022 ChangeMakers Arts and Cultural Projects

As part of the ChangeMakers leadership development program, each participant receives a \$1,000 grant to seed a community-driven arts or cultural project. In 2022, the result was a group of innovative, thoughtful initiatives that will undoubtedly make an impact in the communities each of these nonprofits serves.

**Monica Manoski | Executive Director | Essex Art Center.** The BIPOC Artist/Curator program, scheduled to launch in February 2023, will focus on expanding the representation of diverse artists, gallery curators and visions represented during Essex Art Center's annual major exhibits.

"I realized I've had a very heavy hand in picking artists," said Manoski. "And I really want to change that."

**Donna Keefe | Member | Salisbury Cultural Council; Arts & Cultural Initiative.** The sunflower garden planted along Salisbury Beach to help beautify the community, will be expanded next spring.

"I think we started something that took hold," said Keefe.

**Yaya Rodriguez | Founder, CEO, Artistic Director | Cultura Latina Dance Academy.** CLDA is a nonprofit dance academy that hosts a wide array of family and community activities that the organization will continue and expand.

"I feel like we are creating something for the community, something for everybody," said Rodriguez.

**LaCrecia Thomson, Arts and Cultural Planner | City of Lynn.** The Laces of Lynn sculpture sits at the gateway to the city's Arts and Culture District. To celebrate what has become an iconic symbol of Lynn's past and its growing future, the City of Lynn will host an inclusive community event to recognize the many people who participated in the project.

"I just really appreciate the community process that got us to this point," said Thomson.

**Aliana de la Guardia | Founder and Director | Guerilla Opera, Haverhill.** A new Gig Assessment Calculator will help document the true cost of creating art. This new tool is meant to support artists and the festival organizers and event producers that hire them.

“I did this to start a conversation and show people what things really cost,” said de la Guardia. “These tools, I think, will be helpful for everyone.”

**Sarah Slifer Swift | Director | Movement Arts Gloucester MA (MAGMA).** To elevate its impact and relevance in the community, MAGMA is expanding programming that: helps students prepare for dance auditions; supports young, area artists by providing a performance venue and technical and marketing support; and makes dance education more accessible.

“I really believe in making dance classes more affordable for everybody,” she said.

**Kerrie Bates | Director | Ipswich ReCreation & Culture.** The Ipswich Citizens for the Arts, made up of residents and civic leaders, is preparing a fundraising campaign for the Ipswich Community House, a proposed venue that will be shared with the Living Faith Methodist Church and will serve as a center for arts, culture and community building.

“We are collectively envisioning the Ipswich Community House,” said Bates.

**John Mayer | Former Director | Amesbury Carriage Museum.** Under the direction of John Mayer, the Amesbury Carriage Museum was transformed into the Industrial History Center, a place that celebrates the city’s more comprehensive manufacturing history. That success story will be turned into a toolkit to share with others.

“This resource will include some basic truths that were reinforced through this process,” said Mayer.

**Nathan Lewis | Head Curator | The Satanic Temple Salem/Salem Art Gallery.** A new creative writing and performance series will bring artists and the community together.

“Our goal is to foster creative placemaking,” said Lewis.

**Lisa Miller Gillespie | Co-Founder/President | Lawrence Festival of the Arts.** An expanded role for the Lawrence Festival of the Arts includes exploration of a permanent venue space for performance, education and collaboration with local organizations.

“I know the importance of arts,” said Miller Gillespie. “It was clear that we have to do something more.”

**Courtney Richardson | Director | Rocky Neck Art Colony, Gloucester.** To promote inclusivity, Rocky Neck Art Colony is facilitating an evaluation that will explore renaming the organization and, in the spring, will host an exhibit in the spring that will focus on the weight of words.

“How can we be inclusive with a word that turns people off?” asked Richardson. “Thanks to this group for allowing me to get off Rocky Neck and be faced with a mirror to see what my organization looks like.”

**Jay Salois | Owner | VRtical Media, Salem.** Jay will utilize his innovative 360° video technology to increase experiential access to historic and cultural spaces for people in assisted living communities or with limited mobility.

“Participation in ChangeMakers has transformed my view on what my work and this technology can provide,” said Salois.