

## MISSION

The West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts (WCCMA) brings professional music and arts experiences, diverse musicians, and equitable educational opportunity to underserved and low-income communities of Claremont NH, and the broader Upper Valley region. Committed to offering free or low cost performances and workshops, WCCMA provides access to the arts and its benefits for everyone in the community.

## WE BELIEVE

- ... the arts serve as a catalyst for conversation and community building.
- ... music and the arts are necessary to creating a healthy culture.
- ... arts education is necessary to creating a well-rounded citizenry.
- ... in being an incubator for creativity and providing a home base for artists to do their best work.
- ... in providing opportunities for people to gather together, participate in creative experiences, and feel they are part of something momentous and beautiful.
- ... in creating thoughtful and compassionate spaces designed to inspire artists and audiences alike.
- ... art should be accessible to all.
- ... it is our responsibility to remove barriers to participation in the arts for artists and audiences.



## VISION: Weaving Creativity into the Fabric of the Claremont Community

At WCCMA, we envision a community where the arts are deemed necessary to the vibrancy of our quality of life culturally, economically, socially, and educationally. It is with this vision in mind that we embark on a \$2MM capital campaign to build a new home for the arts in downtown Claremont while simultaneously building our programmatic and administrative capacity to better serve our community.



The West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts (WCCMA), with significant support from the City of Claremont and the Claremont Development Authority, is developing a multi-use space for the performance, exhibition, teaching, and creation of music, visual, and culinary arts in downtown Claremont. Located in the long-empty historic former Claremont National Bank Building at 56 Opera House Square, our new home is in a prime location at the heart of the City Center, adjacent to City Hall, offices, retail, and dining establishments and walkable from the homes of half the population. The venue will offer rehearsal and art studios, a state-of-the-art performance venue for WCCMA and resident artists, and new sources of earned revenue through rentals and ticket sales.

The capital project includes a complete renovation of the building, starting with the renovation of the envelope by the Claremont Development Authority, including new plumbing, electrical, and HVAC; and followed by the fit-up by WCCMA. The finished building will be an active center for education and performances, as well as a place for community gathering. The entire project is estimated to cost \$2MM and includes operational reserve funds to allow WCCMA to add staff and programming necessary to best serve our community, incubate artists' work, and grow our audience. Currently the project has major support from NH Community Development





Finance Authority (CDFA) CDBG grant (\$500,000) and additional funding from the Our Kids Commission of the NH Episcopal Diocese, US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development and Business Grant, The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, Capital Regional Development Council, Weller and Michal Architects, Mascoma Bank, and private donors. We have also attained \$400,000 in New Hampshire's Community Development Finance Authority tax credit funds; we are now actively seeking business partners to purchase these credits for Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021 to help make this dream of an art center for Claremont a reality.

## WCCMA CORE PROGRAMS

**Professional Concert Series (since 2008):** Year-round performances by touring artists from near and far, including at WCCMA's flagship Summer and Fall Concert Series at Union Church. Artists are inspiring and award winning performers and composers in all genres of music. Admission is by donation so that everyone in our community can explore new or familiar emerging and established artists.

**Youth Arts Enrichment Initiative (since 2012):** Arts workshops, music lessons, and services to the youth in our community, including matching underserved students with instruments they can borrow for free, and scholarships for lessons and workshops. It also provides student recitals, community ensemble opportunities, and small ensembles for students studying music, a key to developing as a musician and as a person.

**Claremont HopStop** (in partnership with Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College and Claremont Parks and Rec.)

**School Residencies and Community Workshops with visiting artists**

**Art Therapy** (collaborative program with West Central Behavioral Health)

**Music Lessons**

**Ensembles**

**Scholarships**

**Bach Tree (since 2014):** Innovative music education intensive created by celebrated artists Dinuk Wijeratne, Nick Halley, and Artistic Director Melissa Richmond. This ground-breaking program teaches creativity techniques, training in rhythm, composition, and performance. Customized workshops for schools and educational institutions as well as to professional musicians and creatives across disciplines are offered locally and internationally.

**Creative Community Building:** WCCMA is committed to providing a place for artists to gather, cross-pollinate, and collaborate to engage bind our local community and grow our creative economy. We connect instructors with students, creative entrepreneurs to resources, and represent Claremont as an ever evolving creative force for North America.

