

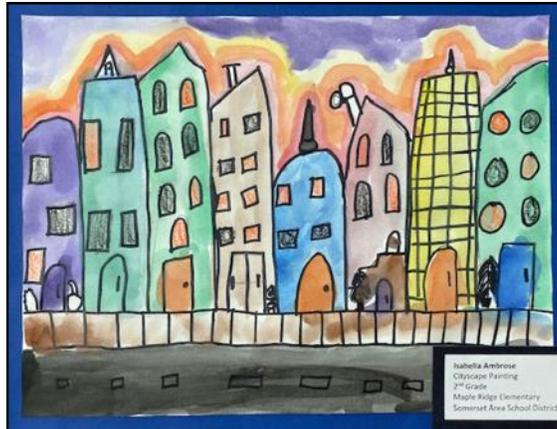
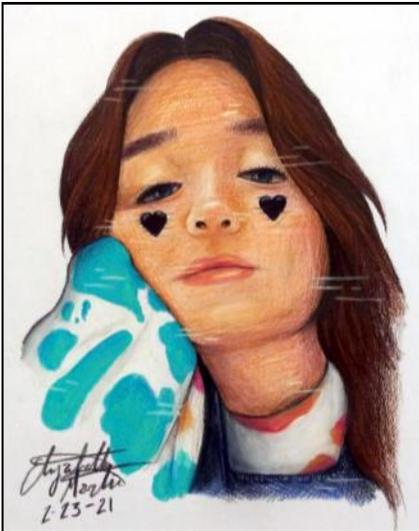
Laurel Arts

Arts for everyone

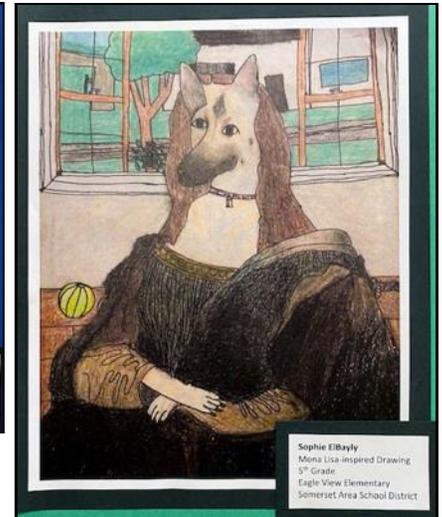
Studio Kids
PRESCHOOL

Laurel
Arts
DANCE

ArtLink • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • March 2021



Three of 12 **Best of Show** winners in the annual Somerset Area School District Show.



Somerset schools art exhibit features over 250 entries

Somerset Area School District is the last of our three school shows for 2021. In spite of school shutdowns (because of Covid-19) students continued to explore art both in and out of school. This show features over 250 entries.

The entries can be viewed on our website, laurelarts.org, virtual shows. The galleries are also open to the public during regular office/gallery hours (noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday.)

Next month we'll present a complete list of winners. Best of show winners for each grade are (7th grade doesn't

have art): Kindergarten - Emersyn Deist (Snowman); 1st Grade - Cameron Hinton (Still Life); 2nd Grade - Isabella Ambrose (Cityscape); 3rd Grade - Amelia Largacci (African Mask); 4th Grade - Alex Ferguson (Picasso Collage); 5th Grade - Sophie ElBayly (Mona Lisa-inspired); 6th Grade - Elly Fletcher (Op-Art American Flag); 8th Grade - Kali Dirienzo (Pop Art); 9th Grade - Jack Field (Oil Pastel); 10th Grade - Lauren Lepley (Metamorphosis); 11th Grade - Avery Zimmerman (Metamorphosis); and 12th Grade - Elizabeth Martin (Colored Pencil Self Portrait.)



String Quartet to perform at Somerset County Club

Laurel Arts is proud to present a *JSO In Your Neighborhood* event to showcase the talents, vision, and orchestral stylings of **The Johnstown Symphony Orchestra Principal String Quartet**. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 19 at Somerset Country Club. Seating is limited to 50; tickets are \$25 and are available at Laurel Arts and Somerset Country Club. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit Laurel Arts. Vouchers for Johnstown Symphony events will not be accepted for this performance. Contact the Country Club direction for dinner reservations.

(See page 3 for more information.)

Upcoming exhibits ...

Through March 25 Somerset Area School District

This show features work by students in the Somerset Area School District. It's always a very large show, so plan to take some time to view in person during regular gallery hours or on our website (www.laurelarts.org.)

April 6-May 4 Uncommon Threads

All things Fiber Arts will be included in this exhibit. Explore the craftsmanship, creativity and skills of fiber artists in the region.

Opening Reception (tentative)
6-8 p.m. Friday, April 9

May 11-June 10 Christopher Boring

Christopher Boring is a Pittsburgh based artist and was graduated from Edinboro University of PA with a Bachelor's in Fine Art. His artistic focus has been on organic objects and scenes with connections to nature, people, legacy, and the beautiful mundane. His work is done in a traditional direct observational style, but with a contemporary twist on concept.

Opening Reception (tentative)
6-8 p.m. Friday, May 21



Located upstairs at
**The Philip Dressler Center
for the Arts**

Office/Gallery Hours:
Noon-6 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

Closed Friday-Sunday except
for special events.



Ice Cream, Ice Cream ...

Imagine these bowls filled with ice cream! Soup'er Bowl will be Scoop'er Bowl this year.

For the last three years, Laurel Arts hosted a Soup'er Bowl fundraiser in March. Because of the pandemic, we cannot host this much-loved event right now, but instead plan to have a Scoop'er Bowl ice cream social outdoors this summer! Look for more information on date and time as our clay studio artists continue the tradition of creating beautiful, handmade, clay bowls for the event. Proceeds will be split between the Laurel Arts Clay Studio and other local charities.

Upcoming exhibits to feature regional artists

Laurel Arts is excited to present three outstanding shows that will fill the galleries at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts through early August.

Uncommon Threads opens April 6 and will be on exhibit through May 4. The show grew out of the Common Threads symposium held for several years at Somerset Historical Center. Works will display craftsmanship, creativity and skills which convey the beauty of all areas of Fiber Arts, and may include examples of basketry, weaving, tapestry, coiling, knitting, crochet, embroidery, lacemaking, rug-braiding, rug-hooking, macramé, textile arts, quilting, spinning, papermaking, or any creative combination of the above. A prospectus is available from Laurel Arts and on our website, www.laurelarts.org (call for entries). Entries are due on or by April 3. For information, call 814-443-2433 or email galler@laurelarts.org.

Along the Path and Around the Bend by Christopher Boring presents a continuation of a series started seven years ago featuring a mix of brand new and previously exhibited artwork. This show opens May 11 and will be on display through June 10. Boring's work depicts images of rocks and wood through still life paintings. The rocks and wood symbolize and represent memories, moments or thoughts about the artist's life. While most of the work focuses on particular memories, a lot of his recent work centers around the emotions those memories stir up. Joy, peace, anger, and sadness are linked to each moment and are, at times, some of the clearest parts of the memories.

Building Bridges, Laurel Arts 11th Triennial, asks artists to communicate the theme with their work. These pieces may reflect a spirit of uniting people, places, ideas, or suggest a particular concern for divisions the artist recognizes. The triennial will be exhibited from June 22 through August 5. For a prospectus, call 814-443-2433, email galler@laurelarts.org or visit www.laurelarts.org.

More about *JSO in your neighborhood*

I Sing America

After a long winter and a long year, this uplifting concert on Friday, March 19 at Somerset County Club is just what you need to reenergize and connect with the pride we have in our shared experiences as members of a vibrant community. Join the musicians in a program curated by our quartet and Music Director James Blachly, showcasing the melody and energy of the work of composers including famed suffragette Ethel Smyth, Gabriela Lena Frank, and Juan Ramirez, as well as the gorgeous music of George Walker. The program concludes with a favorite quartet of Beethoven.

This performance takes place during *Women's History Month* and as we pay tribute to these famed suffragette composers, we also honor the contributions of our local female entrepreneurs, business leaders, and community-focused achievers.

Members of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra Principal String Quartet are Maureen Conlon-Gutierrez, violin; Therese West, violin; Stephen Weiss, viola; and Olga Redkina, cello .

Laurel Arts is thrilled to announce that this event is sponsored by **Aspire Grant & Development** in recognition of showcasing female composers, their status as a nationally certified WBE, with a special nod to Aspire Senior Grant Associate and Chair of the Laurel Arts Board, Brooke Sheeler.

The event is co-sponsored by the **M.J. Miller Family Agricultural Heritage Fund**, in memory of Ken Halverson's contributions to the local barbershop quartet, and in honor of our rural county's musical heritage.

Compliance with state capacity guidelines and social-distancing will be strictly observed, and face-coverings will be required in accordance with state regulations.

NOTE TO MEMBERS: If you have previously provided an email address on your membership form you may receive an automated email to let you know that your membership is about to expire. You can renew your membership online by hitting the Pay Now link. If you have questions, feel free to call the office, 814-443-2433.



Maureen Conlon-Gutierrez, violin



Therese West, violin



Stephen Weiss, viola



Olga Redkina, cello

Our Dressler staff ...

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Executive Director

April Davis
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Mike Baker
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Office Assistant

Senda Harvey
Administrative &
Event Assistant

Alison Leer
Office Coordinator &
Administrative Assistant

This newsletter is published by Laurel Arts for its members and friends.

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The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts

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Somerset, PA 15501
814-443-2433

jmccusker@laurelarts.org

The official registration and financial information of Laurel Arts may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Our Affiliates

NOT ALL AFFILIATES ARE MEETING REGULARLY. CONTACT INFORMATION IS INCLUDED FOR EACH GROUP SO PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Botanical / Culinary Arts

Somerset Garden Club: Contact Andrea Falchek, 814-442-4359, andreaFalchek@yahoo.com

Needle / Fabric Arts

Crochet Guild: Contact Sheena Pile at 444-2419.

Knitting Guild: Contact Susan Barclay, 443-2482.

Performing Arts

Laurel Highlands Chorale: Contact Jan Burkett, 443-3085 for more information.

Mt. Union Sacred Harp Singers: Rehearsal 2nd Thursdays of the month, Kingwood Church of God (Jan-Mar), Mt. Union Church (other months).

Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus: Contact Mike Mitchell, 442-8843, or Larry Shober, 267-4042. Rehearsal 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings outdoors at Grace United Methodist Church, Somerset.

Somerset Auxiliary JSO: Contact Sam Hanson, 814-754-5230, or Gay Reed, 814-279-7134.

Somerset County Community Band: Contact Dave Breen, 701-1515 or email photo@davebreen.com

Visual Arts

Laurel Highlands Photography Club: Contact Roz Pugh, 814-701-1170. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month from September through June, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 1845 N. Center Ave., Somerset.

Gem & Mineral Club: Contact Sue Bittner, 445-6085, or Bob Tutko, 814-886-9418.

Somerset County Artists Association: Contact Dave Greene, 814-926-4223.

Woodcarvers: Contact Jeff Baltzer, 814-442-6617. Meeting 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

Laurel Highlands Chorale plans May mini-concert

After much discussion and taking all things "COVID" into consideration, Laurel Highlands Chorale (LHC) has decided to rehearse for a spring concert. A small group of LHC members will perform a mini-concert series in May. The concert is still in the planning stages, so stay tuned for an update in the next Laurel Arts newsletter, and watch the newspaper for dates and times.

Community Band to begin rehearsing

Somerset County Community Band will begin spring rehearsals at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, March 25 at Suite 111, Georgian Place. The band will continue to rehearse the second and fourth Thursdays. The summer performance schedule may be limited, but performances will be noted in upcoming issues of the Laurel Arts newsletter. For more information about the band (new members are always welcome), contact Dave Breen, 814-717-1515 or photo@davebreen.com.

Somerset Garden Club continues to meet; recognizes member Sheila Croushore

Somerset Garden Club is currently meeting via Zoom. The March meeting was a virtual stroll through Longwood's Spring Show and a brief video of Floral Design instruction.

Next meeting is April 13. Members will be discussing the Spring Plant Sale.

On April 18, Sheila Croushore will be installed as president of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania! She is a truly an outstanding leader, and we are so lucky to be able to say she is from our club! The Convention will be virtual this year.

The club is planning its Annual Plant sale from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 8, at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts. Many of the club's wonderful gardeners will share perennials from their gardens.



Somerset Garden Club member and incoming president of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Sheila Croushore with a display she created.

We salute our affiliates who help to keep the arts alive even during tough times!

April showers bring more than May flowers ...

Pysanky Eggs

Saturday, March 27, 1 to 5 p.m.

Join Instructor Jennifer Miles-Mudery for an afternoon of creating beautiful pysanky eggs. Students will be given step by step instructions to create a one a kind decorative piece using wax and dyes on a hollowed out, real egg. For over 2000 years, the art of decorating eggs has been passed down through generations. Jennifer has been creating pysanky eggs for 28 years. Workshop will be Saturday, March 27 from 1 to 5pm at the Education and Dance Center. Class fee payable to Laurel Arts is \$28 for members; \$35 Non-members. Material fee is \$10. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by March 17.

Homemade Body Care Creations

Wednesday, March 31, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Join instructor Tracy Hostetter for an evening of creating assorted homemade body care items. Tracy owns a hobby farm where she raises goats and other farm animals. She enjoys using the goat's milk to create soaps and other items. During this workshop she will introduce students to creating with mango butter. It is a rich natural fat derived from the seeds contained inside the pits of the mango fruit. This butter provides a multitude of benefits for the body including maintaining softness in skin and hair. Students will be guided in creating a variety of mango butter products including a foaming hand soap and several lip balms and lotion bars. Tracy will have a variety of essential oils available for students to choose their preferred scent. The class is Wednesday, March 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Education and Dance Center.

Class fee for members is \$20 payable to Laurel Arts. Non-members fee is \$25 payable to Laurel Arts. Materials fee is \$5 payable to Tracy Hostetter.

Pre-registration is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register at least one week in advance.

LAUREL ARTS WISH LIST ...

We need **BUBBLEWRAP** (not packing peanuts, please.) Instead of tossing bubblewrap you receive with packages, consider dropping it off at Laurel Arts.

We need three **32" MONITORS** (TV or computer.) Two will be used in the lobby of the Education and Dance Center so that parents/families can view preschool and dance while in session. We also plan to have a video that will run during certain times to showcase Laurel Arts.

Easter Cupcakes

Thursday, April 1, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Cake Decorator Meagan Richter will be showing students how to create a dozen of these festive cupcakes just in time for Easter.

Meagan is the owner of Heirloom Pines Farms. She and her husband

are planning to open a shop in Somerset. Once the shop opens, they will be able to provide the community with their delicious coffees and baked goods created from family recipes.

The workshop will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 1 at the Education and Dance Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$20 for members; \$25 for non-members. Materials fee of \$10 is payable to the instructor. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by March 25.

Laura Schrock's Card Class

Tuesday, April 13, 6 to 8 pm

We are excited to have Laura Schrock back to share her talents for creating detailed and amazing cards. She will instruct class participants in completing a variety of Spring-themed cards perfect for that special someone. Card making is a fun and very popular workshop offered by Laura just a handful of times each year. Her class always fills up quickly so don't miss out. There is a limit of 12 participants. Preregistration is required. Workshop will run from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 13 at the Dressler Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$12 for members; \$15 for nonmembers. Materials fee of \$12 is payable to the instructor. To register, please contact Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 or call/text 814-442-6217.

Create a magical Fairy Garden

Saturday, April 17, 10 am to noon

Join Instructor Debbie Baca for the morning to create your very own magical fairy garden. Students will be painting the tray base and arranging the fairy garden to their liking. We will be using a combination of paint, glue, and, of course, imagination to create extraordinary homes fit for a special fairy.



continued on next page

... April brings lots of classes & workshops, too!

Debbie is also the owner of Red Cloak Designs, a locally-owned custom wood craft shop. Red Cloak specializes in the use of reclaimed barn wood and in making outdoor games and furniture. Visit her shop at Merchant Village or her Etsy store at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/redcloakwooddesigns>. Workshop will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17 at the Education and Dance Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Material fee, payable to the instructor, is \$12. Call/Text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by April 10.

Bob Ross Painting with Al Just

Monday, April 26, 10 am to 3 pm

Certified Bob Ross Instructor Al Just has another beautiful piece picked out for students to paint this month. Al assists students to create beautiful paintings of landscapes, seascapes, wildlife, and florals. He has been teaching for 15 years and currently offers classes at his studio in Johnstown, Cambria County Community Art Center, and Altoona Penn Highlands Community College. Al has several certifications including Bob Ross, Dorothy Dent, Joyce Ortner and has studied with James Sulkowski, Robert Warren, and Valerie Stewart. This class takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, April 26 the Education and Dance Center. The fee for the workshop is \$48 for members; \$60 for nonmembers. This includes all materials. Students only need to bring paper towels, baby wipes and old rags. Preregistration is required by Monday, April 19 and students are asked to pay in advance. A minimum of 4 students is required for the class to run. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.



Laura Schrock's Card Class

Tuesday, May 11, 6 to 8 pm

Join talented card maker Laura Schrock for an evening of creating detailed and amazing cards. She will instruct class participants in completing a variety of all occasion and masculine themed cards perfect for that special someone. Laura's classes have become very popular and they always fill up quickly. Don't miss out! There is a limit of 12 participants. Preregistration is required.

Laura's workshop is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 11 at the Dressler Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$12 members; \$15 nonmembers. Materials fee, payable to the instructor, is \$12. To register, please contact Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 or call/text 814-442-6217.



Classes for our youngest artists

Drop in at Laurel Arts for our all new Maker Mondays! During this session, students ages five and under will take part in games, science experiments, songs, stories, and of course ART! Each week is different so you can come every week! No need to register ... Just drop in.

Ages 1-2: Mondays from 1 to 2 p.m. We ask that parents stay for this age group.

Ages 3-5: Mondays from 2:30 to 4pm. Parents are welcome but are not required to stay.

The cost for each Maker Monday is \$5 to help cover supply expenses. Classes take place at the Education and Dance Center.

Meet the instructor: Classes will be taught by one of our very own dance moms, Tami Skavang. Tami has a degree in Elementary Education. She has taught Kindergarten and Preschool in the past. Tami has five kids that she has homeschooled. She has taught classes in her homeschool co-op for the last 13 years in various grades. She has also been a teacher in her church, including youth groups and Bible schools.

Just My Smile

Laurel Arts is excited to announce that we are a Just My Smile Inc. drop off site! JMS Inc. is a newly incorporated non-profit which focuses on providing essentials to newborns and their families. Our JMS Inc. box is located inside the front entrance of The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday, noon to 6 p.m. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/JustMySmile](https://www.facebook.com/JustMySmile).

Meet a few of our dance alumnae who are making history!

March is Women's History Month, so we thought we'd introduce you to a few of our dance alumnae who have made history in the dance world.

Miranda (Zimmerman) Spada

lives in Buffalo, NY with her husband and two dogs, but she was graduated from North Star High School in 2008. Miranda was our very first Rhythms of Christmas choreographer, and was both Somerset County and Pennsylvania's Outstanding Young Woman for 2008.



Miranda Zimmerman Spada

Miranda received her BFA in dance from the University of Buffalo. She teaches full-time at Tonawanda Dance Arts and is also the competition director. She has created and directs her own mentorship program for dancers at the studio, LEADS – Learning to Exceed and Aspire Through Dance.

This former Laurel Arts dancer is also an adjudicator with Impact Dance Adjudicators and Platinum National Dance Competition which provides her the opportunity to travel all over the country as a guest instructor and judge.

Joanie (Johnson) Rubin credits her professional movement career to the passion and instruction that was instilled in her as a student at Laurel Arts.



Joanie Johnson Rubin

She was graduated from Slippery Rock University in 2004 with a BA in Dance and moved to NYC. There she danced professionally with HT Chen & Dancers, a modern dance company for eight years and held roles in three original company works. While dancing with HT Chen, she had the opportunity to tour and perform at universities and performing arts centers across the United States. Additionally, she danced as a company member with Valerie Green Dance Entropy for

four years. As a professional instructor, she taught dance and creative movement in many of NYC's private and public schools as well as homeless and at-risk youth centers for over 10 years.

Joanie changed course after the birth of her daughter in 2016. Since then she has been helping people have a healthier relationship with how they move and feel throughout their pregnancy and postpartum journey. She is an original founder and former COO of Fit Pregnancy Club in NYC and is

now the founder and CEO of Strong Mom Society, the industry's leading on-demand platform for personalized pre & postnatal corrective exercise.

As a personal trainer, Pre & Postnatal Corrective Exercise Specialist, Diastasis and Core Consultant, Pregnancy Saf Coach, Head Coach at Fit For Birth, Joanie has devoted her career to making the fitness industry a safer, more educated place for birthing bodies.

Angela (Dice) Nguyen attended Laurel Arts Dance Center for 14 years, where she learned versatility as a performer and the



Angela Dice Nguyen
Photo by Jack Hartin Photography

art of quick costume changes while touring locally with the studio company led by Theresa (Kolessar) Moser and Amanda (Maslak) Bergstresser. Anegla went on to earn a BFA in dance from the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University under the direction of Susan S. Stowe. She is the founder and artistic director of The MoveMessenger(s), a

creative vessel for sharing dance and catalyst for her choreographic endeavors (<https://TheMoveMessengers.org/>).

Angela has performed throughout the U.S. and abroad with DanceWorks Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Project.b., August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble, Robert Moses' KIN (guest appearance), Dayton Arts Project, and The Mountain Playhouse (42nd Street and The Pajama Game), among others.

She has received choreographic commissions from various organizations, some including Dance Theatre of San Francisco (San Francisco), Yerba Buena Gardens Festival's ChoreoFest (San Francisco), Dance Brigade's D.I.R.T. Festival (San Francisco), Piel Morena Contemporary Dance (Chicago), Collage Youth Ensemble (Memphis), and Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program (San Francisco). Angela also has worked closely in collaboration with Ahmad Simmons/Pursuit Productions and Princess Grace Award recipient Joshua Manulich to create, perform, and stage their works.

Additional credits include appearances in Summit Entertainment's Sorority Row and The New York Times bestseller Dancers Among Us, by photographer Jordan Matter. She is the creator of a series of short video works under the title "There is a season for everything," documented in Northern Virginia where she resides with her husband and two sons.

Laurel Arts

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- Riggs Industries
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- MJ Miller Family Agricultural Heritage Fund
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Laurel Arts is partially funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Other foundations and agencies providing support to Laurel Arts are: The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies Somerset Borough Somerset County

Thank you to ...