



CHANGING LIVES

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

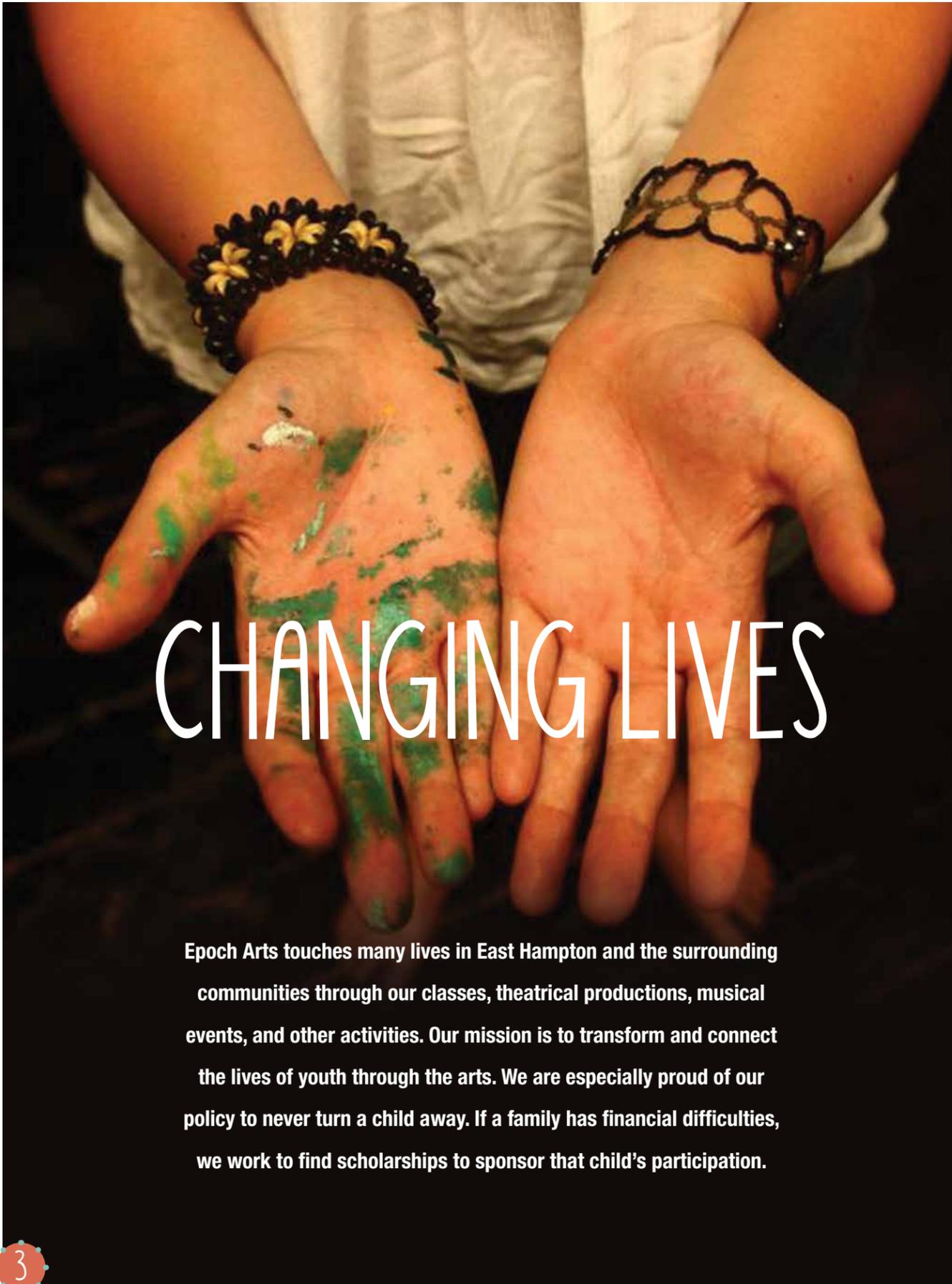
EPOCH
ARTS



“ CHILDREN ARE THE
LIVING MESSAGES
WE SEND TO A TIME
WE WILL NOT SEE. ”

— John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States

There is an overwhelming need for youth programs in our communities. Epoch Arts seeks to fill that need. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to helping young people learn to communicate, collaborate, create and celebrate by experiencing, hands-on, the arts. We provide much more than just a supervised, controlled environment where youth can be kept “out of trouble”. We fill the void with structured artistic activity that fosters creativity, leadership, and social skills, while bolstering a positive self image. Our mission is unique among local arts organizations in addressing the complex issues and social tensions that young people face by creating original student art and performances. Art speaks and touches all of us. And we believe that the arts can speak to the children of our communities in unique, grounding and enriching ways. Through Epoch Arts, students learn valuable skills and techniques helping them grow as people and artists.



CHANGING LIVES

Epoch Arts touches many lives in East Hampton and the surrounding communities through our classes, theatrical productions, musical events, and other activities. Our mission is to transform and connect the lives of youth through the arts. We are especially proud of our policy to never turn a child away. If a family has financial difficulties, we work to find scholarships to sponsor that child's participation.

CLASSES

Each year Epoch Arts offers eight-week courses in the fall, winter and spring in a variety of art forms, including theater, musical theater, improv, visual arts, computer animation, filmmaking, pottery and sculpture, crafts, music, and more. Classes are available for preschool through high school. If a student is unable to afford the registration fee, scholarships are available.



for grades pre-K-12

50-60 students per semester

BREAKING SILENCES

Breaking Silences is a group open to girls grades 7-12. Our goal is to empower girls, celebrate what makes them unique and then help them cope with the pressure to be perfect as they face stereotypes to conform to a given image. Instructors are certified in DCF training and "Youth Mental Health First Aid", which focuses on helping youth ages 12-18 who may be experiencing a mental health challenge or are in a crisis. Breaking Silences is supported and funded by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.



for at risk teen girls

20 students

160 attendees



BROOKSIDE NIGHTS

Brookside Nights is a monthly weekend music venue for teens thirteen and older. Featuring some of Connecticut's best up and coming youth bands, it also offers dance parties with an in-house DJ, Glow Dances, A Masked Ball, Open Mic Nights, Paint and Poetry Nights.

for ages 13+

20-60 attendees per event



ARTS RESPONSE

We believe that the arts can help change our world, and our purpose with "An Arts Response" is to bring critical issues out of the dark and into people's consciousness. Students address the theme with their chosen art form: painting, theater, music, or wherever their heart takes them. The Arts Response theme in 2015 was Joy Through Sorrow. Students responded to how you can find joy even in the toughest situations



all ages

20 students

60 attendees



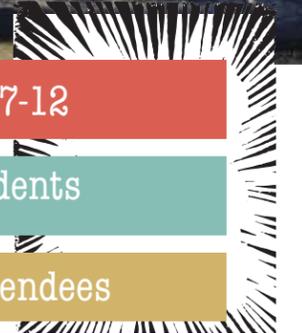
MAIN STAGE & MINI PRO

The theater department develops new and original performances twice a year and is open to students 7th grade and up. Each fall our students collaborate in creating, writing and performing an original one act Mini Production. Our 2015 Spring MainStage production, "Ubuntu", addressed the broad issue of what "community" really means.

grades 7-12

46 students

520 attendees



SUMMER SESSION

A fun-filled week each summer where students K-11th can participate in two or three workshops a day of artistic expression and exploration.

grades K-12

62 students



HAUNTED HOUSE

A big fundraiser for us, Haunted House provides an opportunity for students to develop and act in original scary skits, with a different theme every year. Epoch Arts Haunted House has become a very popular annual attraction in East Hampton.

grades 7-12

55 students

560 attendees



all ages

1,000+ attendees

GIANT TAG SALE

Our biggest fundraiser, the tag sale is an opportunity for members of our community to give away those no-longer-needed items and to find some new treasures, as well as an opportunity for Epoch Arts to promote our programs and introduce our building to a larger audience. Items that are not sold are given away to those in need.



ARTOPIA

This community event included student artwork, local artists' work, live music, art demonstrations, food, kids crafts, silent auction and more.

all ages

60 students

“CREATIVITY IS CONTAGIOUS, PASS IT ON.”

— Albert Einstein



all ages

58 attendees

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE



all ages

20-30 attendees

Epoch Arts hosts a Drum Circle the first Thursday of the month where people of all ages and abilities are welcome to join in the music and fun.

DRUM CIRCLE

DINNER SHOW

30 students

65 attendees



PAINT NIGHTS

Students spend an evening creating an original masterpiece on canvas, ceramic, or wood. We offer 2 separate paint nights, 2nd-5th grade and 6th grade and up.

grades 2-5 &

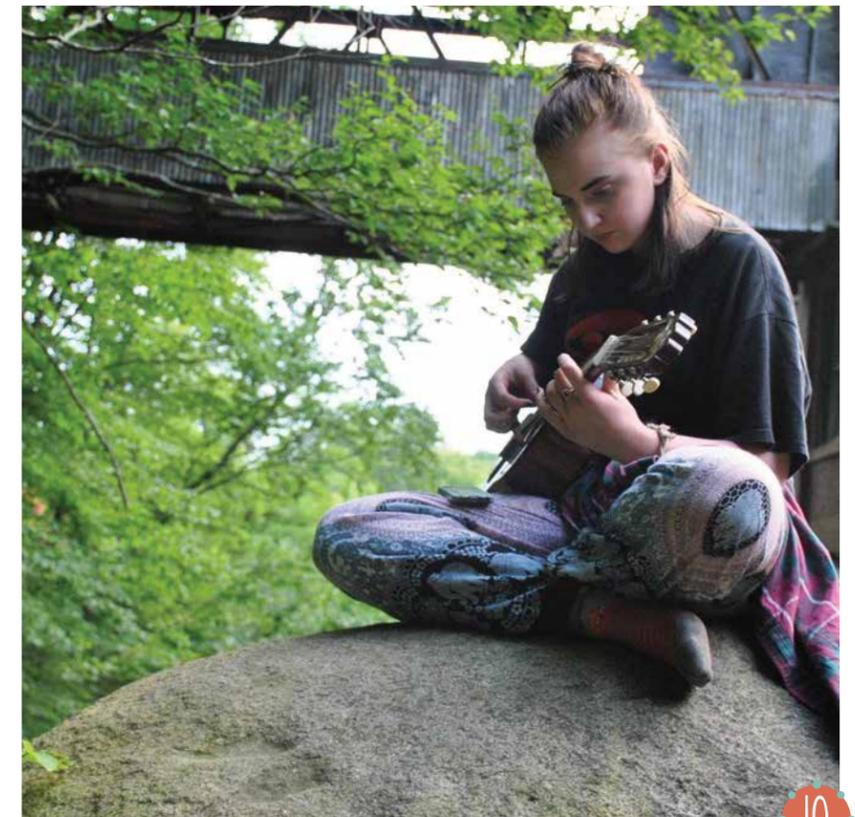
grades 6 & up

HOMESCHOOL CO-OP

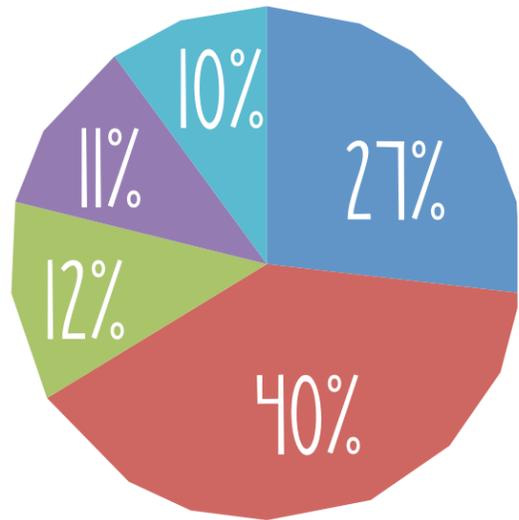
Epoch Arts hosts a homeschool co-op on Fridays for three 8-week sessions per year (Fall, Winter and Spring). In our co-op, parents gather together to evaluate and share their special skills with one another and their children.

all ages

75 students



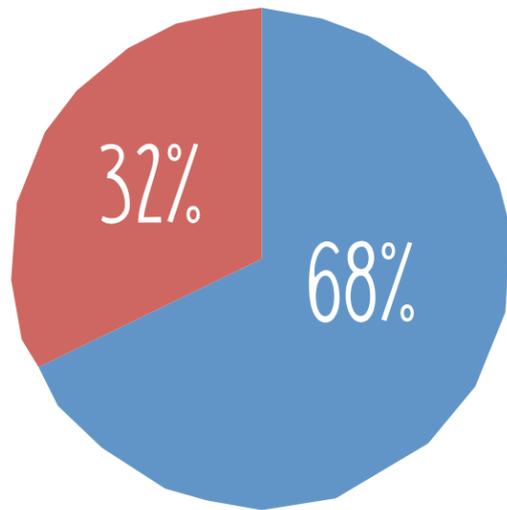
THE NUMBERS



2015 REVENUE SOURCES

- CLASSES
- FUNDRAISING
- GRANTS
- PERFORMANCES
- RENTAL

In 2015 Epoch Art's operating income was \$87,819. The largest percentage of the 2015 income came from fundraising. The annual Tag Sale made up the largest portion of the fundraising revenue, constituting about 22% of the operating budget. The second largest revenue source was from Epoch Arts classes (three semesters throughout the year plus a summer session)



2015 OPERATING EXPENSE ALLOCATION

- GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES
- PROGRAM EXPENSES

Epoch Art's 2015 operating expenses were \$83,102. The majority of 2015 expenses were related to utility, insurance, mortgage payments and general building expenses. This was a bit higher than usual since it included the expense of switching from propane to gas. The remaining expenses were directly program related.

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS
WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO
DO SOMETHING BIG

Epoch Arts is a small but highly effective organization. We're proud of what we have been able to accomplish on our shoestring budget. Currently a large part of our budget comes from fundraisers like our Giant Annual Tag Sale. Last year the proceeds from the tag sale made up approximately 20% of our budget. With more stable and less labor intensive funding, we could do so much more to benefit our kids and our community.

Charitynavigator.org is one of the most respected websites advising people and businesses on how to make sure they choose charities that use their donations effectively. They suggest that donors avoid charities that spend more than 25% of their budget on fundraising and administrative costs. EpochArts makes every dollar that you contribute count! Our staff is mostly volunteer, and nearly 100% of our money goes directly to programs for youth and the upkeep of our building.

- \$50** Buys art supplies for students enrolled in classes and programs
- \$120** Supports the enrollment of a student who would otherwise not be able to enroll
- \$250** Supports one of the set designs for a student production
- \$500** Supports expansions in building and programming

Ways to Donate

Online: PayPal - Proven to be a safe, easy way to pay online.

By Mail: To donate by check please make checks payable to Epoch Arts and mail to:
27 Skinner Street
East Hampton, Ct. 06424

Amazon Smile: AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Epoch Arts every time you shop. It's just like shopping at Amazon.com, with the added bonus that a portion of the purchase price can be donated to Epoch. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and select Epoch Arts as the charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Going forward every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to Epoch Arts.

Gifts-in-Kind: We readily accept gifts of goods or services. In-kind gifts often help us to meet specific operational needs. Epoch is happy to help you determine the availability of potential income tax deductions for your in-kind donations. All donations are tax deductible.

Matching Gifts

Epoch Arts qualifies for many "Matching Gifts". Taking advantage of this gift option through your company may allow you to double or even triple your gifts.

Current Needs:

- Sponsor a tuition waiver student for classes. Give a child whose family cannot afford tuition an opportunity to experience the arts.
- Sponsor our expansion. Materials for the building. We are expanding our space. Building supplies are needed to replace the windows, pave the parking lot, fix up new classrooms, and many other projects.
- Sponsor a program. We offer a wide variety of programs serving students from Pre-K through Grade 12

Donate Equipment

Donated used equipment is always welcomed. We will take just about anything, but we could make particularly good use of:
Audio/video equipment
Digital cameras
Theatrical supplies
Lighting
Costumes
Microphones
Office supplies
Construction supplies

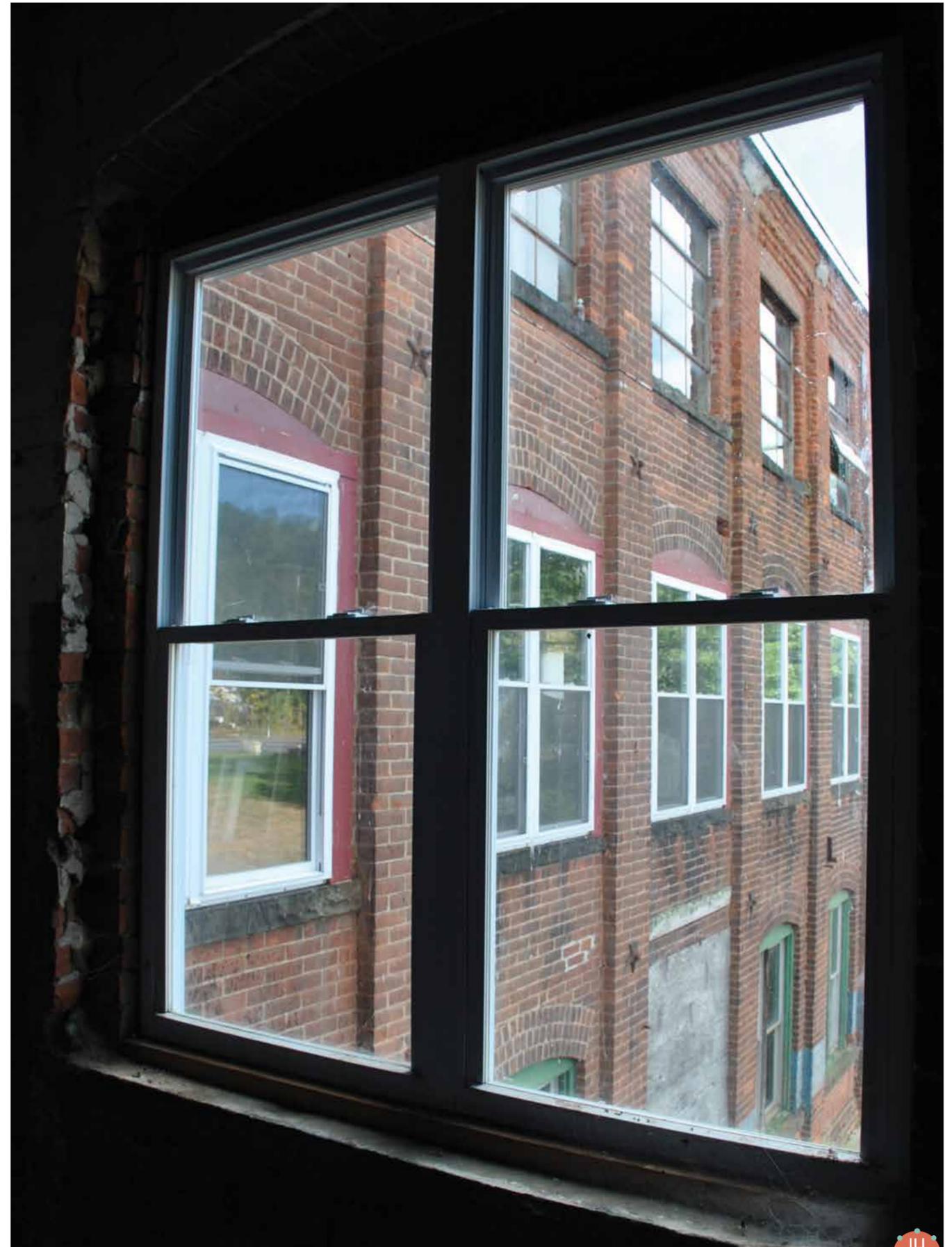
CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF EPOCH ARTS

Our programs are housed in an old factory building in East Hampton CT. We have rehabbed about 20% of the building and made it handicap accessible. In 2014, with funding from a STEAP grant from the State of Connecticut, we replaced the roof. Now we are setting our sights on replacing the old windows with energy efficient modern windows and taking whatever steps will be necessary to bring the rest of the 42,000 square foot building into use. Our vision is to create a space that will become the heart of downtown East Hampton, with a Maker Space, black box theater, and cafe. This historic building can once again be an attractive addition to the town.

“NOTHING HAPPENS
UNLESS FIRST WE DREAM.”

— Carl Sandburg



OUR PEOPLE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Schroth, MD, Board Chair

Dr. Schroth has been working with Epoch Arts since 2003, serving previously as Secretary and now as Board Chair since 2014. She has been a family physician in Higganum CT since 1981.

Derek Johnson, JD, Treasurer

Atty. Johnson is currently a lecturer in Economics at the University of Connecticut and a practicing attorney in New Britain CT. He served on the East Hampton Town Council 2007-2009 and 2011-2013.

Tinamarie Berger, Secretary

Director of Content Marketing at The RecruiterU, Ms. Berger brings business, non-profit management and grant writing experience to our board.

Elizabeth Namen, Artistic Director

Ms. Namen, the founder of Epoch Arts, majored in theater arts at Trinity College, and in addition to her responsibilities at Epoch Arts has instructed students at Oddfellows Playhouse in Middletown and artists at Hartford Stage.

Jeff Burr, Board Member

Mr Burr's experience as an architect helps Epoch Arts in our planning for the future of our building. On the board since 2014, he has been an active member of the Epoch community for over ten years.

Debra Robinson, Board Member

In addition to serving on our board since 2014, Ms. Robinson volunteers in all aspects of the daily work at Epoch Arts, from teaching assistant to stage hand. She has also volunteered at the East Hampton Food Bank for many years.



EPOCH ARTS STAFF

Elizabeth Namen, Artistic Director

Omar Namen, Musical Director and Technical Director
Mr. Namen attended Drexel University studying sound engineering and has volunteered for the organization for the past 16 years composing music, teaching classes, and designing and building sets.

Debra Robinson, Directors' Assistant

Teresa Spooner, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Spooner has managed our administrative staff since 2007. She also helps design and create costumes.

Rachel Martin, Assistant Artistic Director

Ms. Martin co-teaches the girls group Breaking Silences and helps with productions, programs and planning.

Amanda Morris, Art Director

Ms. Morris worked as an art director in advertising for ten years. She is now teaching arts and crafts to students K-6th grade at Epoch Arts and oversees all our art programs.

Jon Schroth, Digital Arts Director

Mr. Schroth runs the film department, teaching classes and organizing film festivals and movie nights. He also created and maintains our website. He is a digital animator with Blue Sky Studios.

Joshua Shook, Technical Staff

Mr. Shook assists on all musical and lighting aspects of productions and events. He is employed in the IT department of Whelen Engineering Company.

Sam Poe Bolton, Staff

Mr. Bolton has the talent to help out wherever he is needed, whether teching for a show, leading poetry nights, directing, or teaching,

Carrye Burr, Breaking Silences Assistant

Ms. Burr has worked with children of a variety of ages and joined the leaders of Breaking Silences in 2015. She has volunteered for Epoch Arts, church programs, and Love 146 for years.



“ YOU MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT YOU GET.
YOU MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT YOU GIVE. ”

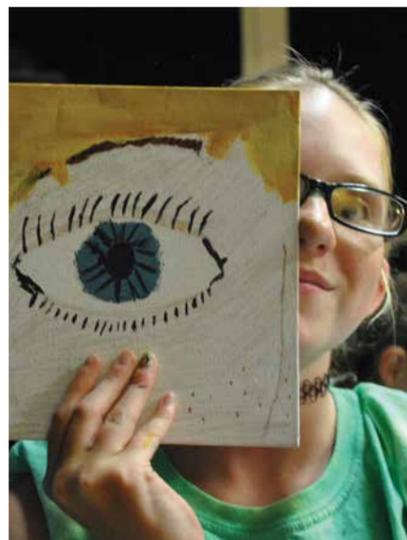
— Winston Churchill

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Epoch Arts is lucky to have dozens of dedicated volunteers who believe in our mission. Volunteers help with every aspect of Epoch Arts. Some of our volunteers are working nearly every day at Epoch Arts, and others just occasionally, but all of their efforts are invaluable.

We foster volunteerism. Many of our students also volunteer as teaching assistants, help with building upkeep (like painting), and lead a variety of events. Young people who have been assigned community service by the court system can fulfill their assignment at Epoch Arts. Money raised through our annual Arts Response goes to a non-profit that is connected with that year's theme. In 2014 we donated to Feed My Starving Children.

Our volunteers include children and teens, seniors, and everyone in between. Some volunteer on their own, some with their families and some, like a work party from Eversource that spent the day with us in July 2015, are sponsored by their employers.



OUR DONORS

Epoch Arts is grateful for the generosity of our donors, both individual and corporate.

In 2015, we received donations, grants and in-kind donations from these businesses and nonprofit agencies:

All Purpose Paving
Angelico's Lake House Restaurant
Anything Goes
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Black Cat Music
Blue Sky Studios
Brian Avery Music
Built By Design
Cheers Package Store
Classic Africa
Cornerstone Church East Hampton
CT Beverage Mart
Dart Tree Services
Defensive Edge
Dollar Plus Cromwell
East Haddam Stage Company
East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission
East Hampton Cub Scout Den 3
East Hampton Food Bank
East Hampton Local Prevention Council
Echo Trading
Eggs Up Grill
Family Dollar Portland
First and Last Tavern
Fit-Trix
Froth Coffeehouse
Gifts of Grace
Governor's Tavern
Gung Ho Chinese Japanese Restaurant
H2O Equipment Co., Inc.
Higher Grounds@Seventy Main
Home Depot
Hope Church East Hampton
It's Only Natural Market
Jerry's Artarama
Kainos Life Ministries
Kid City
La Vita Gustosa
Loco Perro
Luce

Main Street Pizza
Marlborough Country Bakery
MegaPath
Middlesex County Community Foundation
Mimi Design
Papa Z's Restaurant and Pizza
Pierre Sylvain
Pizzeria DaVinci
Po's Rice and Spice
Price Chopper
Price-Rite Cromwell
Radiant Yoga
Ray of Light Farm
Red Door Boutique
Ronald McDonald House
Rossini's Italian Restaurant
Salmon River Music Together
Stop & Shop East Hampton
Sweet Repeats
Swing Bridge Wine and Spirits
Tesoro
The Buttonwood Tree
The Cooking Company
The Music People! Inc
The Time Machine
Tier Technology Services
TLC Home Cooking
Toyo Hibachi Asian Fusion
Tri-Town Portland
Tuscany Grill
United Way of Central and NE CT
Verizon Foundation
Westchester Market
Your Closet or Mine
Youth and Family Services of East Hampton

We appreciate the support that we get from many individual donors as well. And our Giant Annual Tag Sale wouldn't exist without the donations we receive from dozens, if not hundreds of local community members.

LOOKING BACK AT 2015

EVENT CALENDAR 2015

January 3	Winter Classes Started
January 17	Brookside Nights
January 31	Cultural Night: Jamaica
February 6	Poetry/Acoustic Night
February 21	Mainstage Auditions
February 21	Masked Ball semi-formal dance
February 28	Winter Class Share Day
March 13-15	Breaking Silences original play
March 14	Spring Classes Started
March 21	Brookside Nights
April 3	Paint Night
April 18	Brookside Nights
April 25	Arts Response
May 9	Spring Classes Share Day
May 17	Dinner Show
June 5-7	Mainstage production: "Ubuntu"
July 20-24	Summer Session
September 11-13, 18-20	Giant Annual Tag Sale
September 25	Brookside Nights
September 29	Fall Classes Started
October 10	Paint Night
October 16	Brookside Halloween Costume Dance Party
October 23-25, 30	Haunted House
November 8	Artopia - student art show and silent auction
November 13	Brookside Nights Open Mic and Live Band
November 22	Fall Classes Share Day
December 4-5	Mini Production

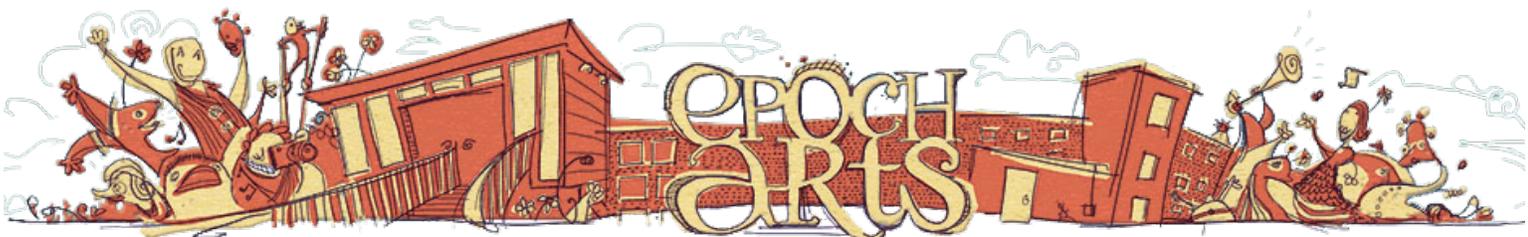


EPOCH ARTS

Serving our youth and
community
through the arts.

EPOCH ARTS
27 Skinner Street
East Hampton CT 06424
860.365.0337

Creative services for this
annual report have been
donated by Teri Prestash.
generatestudios.com



epocharts.org