




**Southampton
Arts
Center**

**2020
Annual
Report**



Letter from the Executive Director

This has certainly been a year like no other.

An unprecedented pause. Followed by reinvention. And ultimately a reaffirmation and strengthening of mission and purpose.

During the pandemic, we asked ourselves the same question each day. How can we best serve and reach our community? The answer took many forms. Creating and providing a new digital landscape for artistic expression. Using SAC's online platforms, building and grounds to celebrate and honor frontline workers and essential small businesses that remained open during the quarantine. Providing free counsel to local artists as they navigated emergency relief.

How could Southampton Arts Center have made it through this extraordinary year without you? The answer, of course, is that we could not. It is remarkable that while we all had challenges of one kind or another throughout 2020, together we saw it through.

Along with my SAC Trustees and colleagues, I am extremely proud that all we collectively accomplished this year squarely aligns with SAC's newly updated Mission of community building through the arts. But most of all we are humbled by the outpouring of generosity from the community.

To those who stepped up and supported our new 2020 Patron's Circle, thank you. Your generosity and leadership

support effectively ensured that our work will continue. In addition, to the 80 artists and collectors who demonstrated their commitment to SAC by donating 105 works to our benefit Collector's Sale, we thank you as well. And to our Friends and Business Circle Members, program

sponsors and donors at every level, your support speaks volumes and sends the message that SAC remains on the right track. We look forward to continuing to welcome you, serve you and inspire you in the coming year.

As this unforgettable year finally draws to a close, if you are in a position to do so, please consider a year-end gift to ensure that we are able to fulfill our Mission of community building for years to come.

With sincere and heartfelt thanks,



Tom Dunn
Executive Director



Mission

Southampton Arts Center is committed to community building through the arts. We present and produce inspiring, inclusive, socially and regionally relevant programs across all disciplines – welcoming, connecting, and collaborating with the diverse members of New York's East End community and beyond.

Vision

Influenced by the rich cultural tradition and artistic history of the region, Southampton Arts Center will drive cultural engagement and economic vitality. We will be distinguished as a destination for multigenerational audiences to have artistic, educational and transformational experiences. Using the arts as a unifier we will provide a platform for the many voices who comprise our region creating mutual understanding and effecting positive change.

Values

We are...

Inclusive: This is a place for everyone. All are welcome.

Mindful: We are invested in an equitable and sustainable future.

Advocates: We are a haven for artists – providing opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and professional development.

Fun: Good energy emanates from 25 Jobs Lane.

Responsive: We don't know everything, so we listen and allow ourselves the space to take action.

Ambitious: We are trailblazers. We push ourselves to experiment, elevate and overdeliver.

Passionate: We love what we do and we're honored to do it.

2020 Overview & Highlights: An Extraordinary Year

Building on 2019's record setting attendance of 50,000 visitors, Southampton Arts Center entered 2020 with a robust schedule planned, setting the stage to continue its history of diverse, high-quality, year-round programming. Then COVID-19 and a global pandemic changed our plans.

SAC IN QUARANTINE



Like most of our peers in the cultural sector, with our doors mandated shut, SAC quickly adapted to digital platforms. We fully utilized every possible means of virtually reaching our community. SAC's Community Art Share kept us creative and connected and our many social media activations and Zoom discussions and programs kept us entertained and informed.

Just as we were all feeling a little cabin fever and Governor Cuomo gave the green light, SAC presented the first quarantine Drive-In Movie on the East End at Coopers Beach over Memorial Day weekend. This unforgettable and joyful evening was a safe and much needed community gathering event.

Serving our community was always top of mind during the quarantine. SAC promoted our essential local Southampton businesses that remained open, honored our graduating high school seniors and front-line workers and offered pro-bono services and resources to local artists.

SAC REOPENS



Knowing it was critical for SAC take a leadership role in reopening and restarting our local economy, once it was safe to reconvene, we were among the first cultural on the East End to reopen our galleries as part of New York State's Phase 2 Reopening.

After an abbreviated showing, TAKEOVER! 2020 was extended as SAC's gallery doors reopened in June. Conceived and Curated by SAC Artistic Director Amy Kirwin, the second iteration of TAKEOVER featured ten artists-in-residence in their own "pop-up" studios – pulling back the curtain on the creative process and once again setting the stage for an interactive and uniquely SAC gallery experience.

2020 VISION was developed during quarantine and presented in collaboration with the New York Academy of Art. Co-Curated by David Kratz and Stephanie Roach, and Edited by Emma Gilbey Keller 2020 VISION asked artists, writers, and creative thinkers to consider three questions of critical importance: Our lives will never be the same, but what will change look like? What do we want to keep as we rebuild? And what must we guard against? It is our hope that 2020 VISION marks one of many beginnings in the necessary process of 'post-traumatic growth' and positive change for our society and our world.

Fortunate to have accessible pristine grounds with improved lighting, walkways and a new outdoor stage, SAC offered a full slate of reduced capacity outdoor programming this summer and fall. Highlights included Unity Fest, a Black Lives Matter-inspired celebration of African American and Afro Indigenous culture on the East End, weekly films (Friday Features and Sunday Docs), plein air workshops, concerts and wellness classes.

SAC's grounds were further animated by the Public Art Project, an open-air sculpture and art installation including Hal Buckner, Eric Fischl, Saskia Friedrich, Alice Hope, Bryan Hunt, Laurie Lambrecht, and Steve Miller. We then moved offsite into the windows of 8 Jobs Lane with our first Storefront Art Project, ALICE HOPE: Priceless.

Southampton Arts Center is an artist-focused enterprise. We look to artists and to the arts broadly – particularly during challenging times – to inspire, to comfort, to challenge and to guide us. The through line of our diverse and compelling slate of 2020 artistic programs is that they were designed to bring us together as a community – both virtually and in-person. So yes, a lot changed this year. But fundamentally, we are more SAC than ever before.

SPECIAL EVENTS



2020 Patrons Circle

As much as we looked forward to spending time with our most dedicated friends at our annual SummerFest gala, government restrictions prohibited us from gathering in large groups. This year called for a new approach! The introduction of our 2020

Patrons Circle provided a new platform for cherished and loyal friends to continue their leadership support when we needed it most.



The Collectors Sale

We were incredibly humbled by the 80 esteemed artists and collectors who donated 105 works of art to SAC's inaugural Collectors Sale. Our theater was transformed into a beautiful gallery for the benefit art sale which continues to raise critical dollars to support SAC's year-round programming. Simultaneously, we launched our new online gallery featuring works available for purchase from the Collectors Sale as well as past exhibitions.



Architecture + Design Takes Flight to Palm Springs

We were given a rare intimate tour from a 3,000-mile vantage point when our annual Architecture + Design Tour went virtual. Lance O'Donnell, principal of o2 Architecture, led us on a tour of the city of Palm Springs, known for its mid-century architecture and design as well as extraordinary beauty, followed by exclusive tours of three singular properties.



2020 Program Sponsors

Takeover! 2020

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FILM at SAC

*Brown Harris Stevens of the Hamptons
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Memorial Day Drive-In

Simone and David Levinson

2020 Vision

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Outdoor Summer Concert

Tish Rehill

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John Lewis: Good Trouble

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SAC's 2020 Outdoor Capital Improvements made possible by Anke Beck-Friedrich and Juergen Friedrich, and New York State Council on the Arts and Empire State Development Corporation under Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council Initiative.

Photos: Select photos courtesy of Jessica Dalene Photography, Tom Kochie, Kerry Sharkey Miller, and PMc for Getty Images

Cover Artwork (top to bottom, left to right): Louise Bourgeois, *Eye Benches II*, 1996-1997, black Zimbabwe granite (Public Art Project, Courtesy of Hauser & Wirth); Rashid Johnson, *Untitled Anxious Red Drawing*, 2020, oil on cotton rag, 38.25" x 50", from the Collection of Simone and David Levinson (2020 Vision); Tim Okamura, *Everybody VS Injustice*, 2020, oil and acrylic on canvas, 90" x 88" (2020 Vision); **Program Sponsor Page:** Saskia Friedrich; *Us*, 2019; plexiglass and wood; 8' x 4' (Public Art Project)

Thank you to all of our generous donors in 2020. We are tremendously grateful!

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Special thanks to Mayor Jesse Warren, the Trustees, and the Village of Southampton for their continued support.

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