

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Edward C. & Ann T.

**ROBERTS**  
FOUNDATION



## WITH OUR APPRECIATION

The Roberts Foundation wishes to thank Elizabeth Normen for her commitment to the Roberts' legacy for nearly 20 years. Elizabeth served as Executive Director of the foundation from 1997 to 2009. Under her direction, the foundation launched the Creation of New Work initiative in 2003. Elizabeth joined the Roberts board in 2012 and established herself as a dynamic contributor until her retirement in early 2018. As the intrepid publisher of *Connecticut Explored*, we know Elizabeth will continue to advocate for Connecticut's rich cultural heritage.

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2018 was a year of great transition as the Roberts Foundation welcomed several new board members. As the year came to a close, the trustees bid farewell to board president Carol Terry and arts representative Freddie McInerney of TheaterWorks. Michael L. Campbell was installed as president and Steve Ginsburg of University of St. Joseph was named arts representative.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2018

Carol Terry  
President

Andrew Lattimer  
Treasurer

Alex Williams  
Investment Committee Chair

Olivia White  
Secretary

Pedro Bermudez  
Michael L. Campbell  
Carlos Hernandez Chavez  
Carrie Hammond  
Freddie McInerney  
Arts Representative

### STAFF

Lisa M. Curran  
Executive Director



2018 Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz – Jay Beckenstein and Spyro Gyra.  
Photo: C'Douglas Images LLC

***We'd like to use our 2018 Annual Report as the opportunity to introduce you to the members of our board who, as we enter our 55th year, are as dedicated to Ned and Sunny Roberts' legacy as they are to Greater Hartford's incomparable arts community.***



Michael L. Campbell takes the stage in *Take Me Along*.

## Michael L. Campbell

*President*

I first received the gift of theatre through my mother at eight years old. She took me to see a production at the Oval in the Grove in Farmington where she told my father, "His eyes got so big during the production I thought they'd pop out of his head!" I started appearing in plays at Farmington High School in my senior year and continued through college. Once I got a taste of the stage, I didn't look back. My first singing roll was in *The Fantasticks* where I fell in love with that musical. I spent most of my theatrical career at the Producing Guild where I held several positions through almost 20 years of service. I started as a Production Assistant but then moved up to Production Manager/Stage Manager and then Business Manager. I often appeared onstage at the Guild in such productions as *Take Me Along*, *Evita* and *The Rothchilds* to name only a few. I still play the piano and sing to myself but I'll always be grateful for what the arts have given me.

## Andrew Lattimer

*Treasurer*

My interest/love of the arts started in elementary school. When I was in 5th grade I was part of a group that put on a musical production of *Grease*. I remember how exciting it was to sing in front of the entire school and then at the night time production for the parents. This is what started my love of the arts. Throughout high school I played the bass clarinet and baritone saxophone.

As an adult I have enjoyed watching my children and their friends play the recorder, flute, saxophone, sing in the chorus and perform in many musical productions from *Annie* to *Hairspray*. To see the joy the arts has brought to my children is both satisfying and pleasing that they are able to share this with me. In addition, my wife and I love going to the Bushnell as it becomes two and half hours of losing ourselves in the performance.



## Rebekah Humphrey

*Interim Investment Committee Chair*

My love of classical music started at an early age—my parents were avid listeners and instilled in me and my siblings a deep appreciation for classical music. As toddlers we started to dance around the house to our favorite composers—Tchaikovsky was an early favorite of mine.

In elementary school, my sister and I were enrolled in ballet lessons to help enhance our performance in our sport of choice, gymnastics. However, dance served as a wonderful foundation for gymnastics and for life. To this day people still ask me if I danced due to my posture.

I vividly remember attending my first play at the Shubert—*Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan*—I fell in love with theater that day. Presently, I am on the Hartford Stage's Stage One board and appreciate the ability of theatre to tell transformative stories, stimulate engaging conversations within communities, and transport us to different worlds.



Becky Humphrey (right) and her sister prepare to take the floor in a gymnastics meet.

## Olivia White

*Secretary*

I was lucky to have arts of all sorts in my life from an early age. Dance lessons were part of my early routine but my talent in that field was, and remains, very hidden. Piano lessons were at the center of my universe until 9th grade when I discovered visual arts. Again I was lucky to be accepted into the High School of Music & Art, a specialized public school in New York City that is now called the Fiorello H. Laguardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts - think "Fame!" As an art major I developed creative skills and creative thinking. I learned lots of art history, respect for others' creative expression, to love museums, that classical music is a joy thanks to the music majors, and nurtured a forever love for the arts. My experience at M & A was life changing and has served me well in my roles as an arts administrator and member of the Roberts board.

On the Roberts board I work to help ensure that kids who are not as "lucky" as I was to experience the joy and benefits of arts in their lives. Roberts board members are passionate, smart and dedicated to advancing excellent arts programs in Greater Hartford. I am so proud to be a part of an organization that appreciates and supports arts organizations large, medium and small and programs that might be experimental or traditional or contemporary or classic. We help make our region a vital, lively and fun place for all to live, work and play. I am lucky to serve on the Roberts board.



Olivia White strikes a pose atop her family's baby grand piano.

## Carlos Hernandez Chavez

When in kindergarten in my native Mexico, I remember well what probably was a student exhibit of bright, colorful drawings. I clearly remember one piece with intense reds, yellows and greens staring at it for a while and thinking, "I want to do this!" Color is what captivated me.

At age ten, when I also got my first guitar, my younger brother and I entered a TV contest where a storyteller read to children seated around him. During the reading, they showed on the screen a series of drawings that illustrated the story. Children were invited to copy the drawings and bring them to the TV office to enter the contest. Every Friday the finalists would be invited back to vie for the top prizes doing yet another drawing live at the TV studio. I won first prize - \$100 pesos - in my age category seven times, and my brother, eight times.

I often reflect on the never-ending question of 'what is art?' What I've learned is that anything that is defined as art, always brings a positive, edifying consequence that makes us human and humane. I continue to grow in the understanding that I am a set of tools and an instrument - an amalgam of life experiences and values; skills, industriousness and knowledge; sensitivity, and empathy - that together, enable me to infuse in my work a higher sense of awareness and purpose on issues that are important to me, and hopefully to the rest of us.



At age nine, Carlos Hernandez Chavez celebrates Three Kings' Day with his new guitar. His father took this photo outside their family home in one of Mexico City's oldest neighborhoods, Colonia Portales.

## Carrie Hammond

Fortunately for me, I was exposed to the arts as an infant. My mother was a jazz pianist so I got to listen to her play with her friends from the day I was born. About age three, she started to teach me to play.

I played piano through high school but also because of the great overall music training one gets learning to play the piano, became the "utility infielder" for our school bands and orchestras. I started on cello in 4th grade and then moved around to different instruments depending on what the band or orchestra needed at any given time. Over time, these include string bass, oboe, harp, percussion and voice.

In college, as an economics and piano major, I became music director of my a capella singing group and my passion for ensemble singing began. Although I flirted with going into arts management after college, I took a corporate job (better for paying off student loans!) but was lucky enough to audition for and get accepted into the Trinity Church Choir (Copley Square Boston) as well as the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, resident chorus of the Boston Symphony while I was in Boston for business school. 25 plus years later, I'm still an active singer and am so grateful that I get to work with some many wonderful musicians around the world as part of this journey.

When I left my corporate job, it was finally time to go into Arts Management and that's what brought me to the Roberts Foundation. I've had the privilege of working with many of the major Hartford arts organizations as either a volunteer or professionally. Being able to bring new art and music to expanding audiences has been the most satisfying way to apply my years of business training to my passion for the arts and meet amazing people. I'm so grateful to the Roberts for leaving this important legacy to our community which enables so many local area artists and performers.



An accomplished vocalist, Carrie Hammond honed her skills in Evanston Township High School's production of *The Fantasticks*.

## Pedro Bermudez

I remember weekly trips to Blockbuster Video, where I'd leave with a stack of tapes from various sections of the store. I couldn't satiate the desire quickly enough. Entire middle school conversations with friends were spoken with dialogue from *Pulp Fiction*, or *Fargo*—edited slightly in case the teacher was around. When the family got a Hi-8 camcorder one Christmas, I started recording the TV set to capture the soundtrack of a movie, and cut in scenes of my siblings acting out everyday moments. The positioning of music next to an otherwise mundane shot lifted the images, as if by magic—it was revelatory. Since those early experiments, I've gone on to work in media as a producer at ESPN, and now as the owner of Revisionist Films, a production company based in Hartford. My obsession has barnacled itself to my subconscious, to become my mother tongue.



Pedro Bermudez is captured on the other side of the camera.

## Steven Ginsberg

*Arts Representative*

I am thrilled to serve the arts community of Greater Hartford by serving as the Arts Representative on the board of the Roberts Foundation. The Roberts Foundation is a necessary and essential part of the creative sector and has spurred so many great art works. The following quote keeps me grounded as to why I continue to work in the arts as a maker and producer of live performance.

“Art can also comfort in times of trouble, heal personal wounds, inspire community participation, and foster a more compassionate society” (Community-Based Arts Organizations: A New Center of Gravity, Chew, 2002).

Bravery, love, imagination, fearless leadership, and profound listening are words that define my artistic quest. As an artist I am attracted to stories that make these words real, alive and relevant. I hope to bring more vibrancy and community to the arts sector while serving on the board of directors for the Roberts Foundation.



Four-year-old Steve Ginsberg dons an underwater costume for some creative playtime.

## Lisa Curran

*Executive Director*

A passion for the arts is part of the DNA in Irish families and mine was no different. Growing up I took both oil painting classes and Irish Step Dancing lessons. In high school I was active in choir, theater and dance, and graduated from college prepared to be an art teacher. But fate intervened when Up With People performed on campus just before graduation. I interviewed, auditioned (with an Irish drinking song) and spent a year performing across the country as part of an incredibly talented international cast.

Working for an arts and crafts company in Louisville, KY, I was able to develop my artistic skills but also learned advertising and promotions. When I returned to Hartford, I spent the next three decades working in marketing, public relations and community relations at Aetna and Lincoln Financial and fortunately these positions offered me a chance to stay active in the city's vibrant arts scene.

Managing the Roberts Foundation these past 10 years has given me the opportunity to support so many of the arts organiza-

tions I experienced as a child. Many of these Hartford institutions hold memories of my first play, concert, opera and art exhibit as well as those of my children. Thankfully Roberts' extensive contributions also have given me the chance to discover new organizations, emerging artists and arts programs that will impact generations to come.



Lisa (Meehan) Curran performs in a feis an Irish Stepdance competition.



Pianist Szymon Nehring performs with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra.

## 2018 Grants

### Excellence in the Arts Program Grants

Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Funding to support the <i>21st Annual Festival</i>	\$2,500
Artists Collective, Inc. Funding to support the <i>11th Annual Jackie McLean Memorial Celebration</i>	\$10,000
Ballet Theatre Company Funding to support <i>Cinderella</i>	\$5,000
Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts Funding to support the <i>Jazzicians program</i>	\$7,500
Capital Classics, Inc. Funding to support <i>Prince of Tyre</i>	\$6,500



Windsor Art Center – *Local Color: Inspired by Nature* exhibition.  
Quilt by Barbara McKie.



Playhouse on Park – *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Photo: Meredith Longo





Hartford Stage – *The Engagement Party*. Photo: T. Charles Erickson

**Charter Oak Cultural Center** \$7,000  
 Funding to support *Growing Up Gonzales*

**CitySingers of Hartford** \$4,000  
 Funding to support the *2018/2019 Concert Series*

**Community Partners in Action** \$5,000  
 Funding to support *40 Years of CPA Prison Arts Program Exhibition at Hartford Public Library*

**Connecticut Ballet** \$7,500  
 Funding to support the *Spring 2018 Bushnell Performance*

**Connecticut Chopin Competition** \$10,000  
 Funding to support the *2019 International Piano Competition*

**Connecticut Choral Artists Inc.** \$7,500  
 Funding to support the *2018/2019 Great Performances Concert Series*

**Connecticut Guitar Society** \$5,500  
 Funding to support the *Guitar Master Series*

New Britain Museum of American Art – *The Beyond: Georgia O’Keeffe and Contemporary Art*.  
 Photo: The Defining Photo



The Hartt School – *Sweet Charity!* Photo: Larry Rowe

Connecticut Summerfest Funding to support the <i>Akropolis Reed Quintet Residency</i>	\$5,000
Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra Funding to support the <i>2018/2019 Concert &amp; Opera Season</i>	\$10,000
CREC/Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Funding to support the <i>Choreographers Showcase</i>	\$5,000
Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz, Inc. Funding to support the <i>2018 Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz</i>	\$20,000
Hartford Chorale Funding to support <i>A German Requiem</i>	\$7,500
Hartford Independent Chamber Orchestra Funding to support the <i>Hartt Connections Concert</i>	\$3,000
Hartford Jazz Society Funding of <i>The 2018 Paul Brown Monday Night Jazz Series</i>	\$7,500
Hartford Opera Theater, Inc. Funding of <i>Speaking Her Truth: Three Operas by Jessica Rudman</i>	\$5,000
Hartford Performs Funding to support <i>Hartford Public School 2018/2019 Education Programs</i>	\$7,500
Hartford Public Library Funding to support <i>Three 2019 ArtWalk Exhibitions</i>	\$6,000
Hartford Stage Company, Inc. Funding to support <i>The Engagement Party</i>	\$25,000
Hartford Symphony Orchestra, Inc. Funding to support the <i>2018/2019 Masterworks Concert Series</i>	\$25,000

Daniel Salazar – *Guitar Under the Stars.*





Connecticut Ballet – *In the Shadow of Women*. Photo: Thomas Giroir

New Britain Museum of American Art Funding to support <i>The Beyond: Georgia O’Keeffe and Contemporary Art</i>	\$15,000
New Britain Symphony Orchestra Funding to support two <i>Spring 2019 Main Stage Concerts</i>	\$5,000
Night Fall Funding to support the <i>2018 Night Fall production</i>	\$7,500
Real Art Ways Funding to support the <i>Real Art Awards and Exhibitions</i>	\$15,000*
Playhouse Theatre Group Funding to support the <i>2018/2019 MainStage Season</i>	\$10,000



Charter Oak Cultural Center – *Growing Up Gonzales*.



Capital Classics' Shakespeare Festival – *Prince of Tyre*.

Connecticut Chopin Foundation – 2018 Chopin International Piano Competition.



TheaterWorks Funding to support the production of <i>Fully Committed</i>	\$25,000
University of Hartford Funding to support Hartt School's production of <i>Sweet Charity!</i>	\$10,000
University of St. Joseph Funding to support <i>Guitar Under the Stars</i>	\$10,000
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art Funding to support <i>Afro-Cosmologies: Faith, the Fact of Creation and New Communities</i> exhibition	\$25,000
Windsor Art Center Funding to support <i>Local Science: Inspired by Nature</i> quilt exhibition	\$2,500
Women Composer Festival of Hartford Funding to support the 2019 <i>Women Composer Festival</i>	\$3,000

**\*reallocated 2015 funds**



Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts – *Choreographers' Showcase*.

## Creation of New Work

Cuatro Puntos

Funding to commission a composition by David Macbride

\$15,000

Total Awarded in 2018

\$332,500

### *Creation of New Work*

Established in 2003, the Foundation's Creation of New Work Initiative seeks to foster creativity in Greater Hartford by supporting the collaboration of local artists and arts organizations. At its December, 2018 meeting, the board considered applications for new works in the visual arts for its *2019 Creation of New Work Award*. The board approved a grant to West Hartford Art League to commission a quilt by internationally renowned fiber artist, EdJohnetta Miller. Miller's quilt design will be recreated as a mural on the Art League's property in West Hartford.

The Foundation will consider proposals in the performing arts this fall.

### *2019 Grants Outlook*

At its December 2018 meeting, the Board set a 2019 grant budget of \$350,000 which reflects the projected performance of the foundation's assets during 2019.

Judy Dworin Performance Project – (US). Photo: Joseph Abad



Night Fall at Hartford's Pope Park. Photo: Bill Morgan

# Financial Statements

## Statements of Support, Revenue, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets, Modified Cash Basis

For the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
Changes in operating net assets:		
Revenues:		
Interest & dividends	\$ 242,994	\$ 241,876
Net realized & unrealized gains/ (losses) on securities	(694,857)	914,702
Less investment and custodial fees	(50,554)	(47,862)
Miscellaneous refund		7,500
Net revenues and (losses)	\$ 502,417	\$ 1,116,216
Expenses:		
Grants	332,500	324,750
Management and General	60,495	50,128
Total expenses	\$ 392,995	\$ 374,878
Change in net assets	(895,412)	741,338
Net assets, beginning of the year	7,698,141	6,956,803
Net assets, end of the year	\$ 6,802,729	\$ 7,698,141



Ballet Theatre Company - Cinderella.



TheaterWorks - Fully Committed.

## *About the Foundation*

Founded in 1964, the Edward C. & Ann T. Roberts Foundation is a private, special purpose foundation. In accordance with the founders' wishes, its mission is to support and encourage excellence in the arts. The Foundation focuses its giving in Hartford, Connecticut and the immediate surrounding area.

Guidelines and information about the application process are available on our website at [fdnweb.org/roberts/](http://fdnweb.org/roberts/). Please see our website for a history of the Foundation and listings of past grants.



Hartford Public Library's ArtWalk exhibit featuring Brian McClure.



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