

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“I Am An Artist Day” Showcases Hartford’s Vibrant Arts Community

Hartford, CT (September 29, 2016) – The Greater Hartford Arts Council, along with sixteen local arts and cultural organizations, hosted “I Am An Artist Day” on September 28th from 11am-2pm at the Old State House. The event featured free interactive arts activities from the participating organizations, all supported by the Arts Council, providing attendees the opportunity to discover their inner artist. The event was preceded by a press conference on the importance of the arts with Mayor Luke Bronin, Kristina Newman-Scott, Director of Culture for the State of Connecticut, and Cathy Malloy, Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

“Today’s event, and our I Am An Artist campaign, are meant to showcase the incredible impact of the arts, highlight our region’s vibrancy, and encourage citizens to embrace their creative side and connect with the arts in their communities,” said Cathy Malloy. “As we all know the arts are vitally important to our communities, adding vibrancy, excitement, connecting citizens as well as contributing significantly to the economy by generating more than \$230 million in economic activity and creating jobs.”

The event is part of an Arts Council initiative to encourage citizens to embrace their artistic side, participate in and support the arts in their communities. Among the interactive activities and displays, Hartford Stage featured a “Shakespearean Insult Wheel” that included lyrical tongue-twisters that Shakespeare meant as insults but are now comical; Hartford Symphony Orchestra hosted an “Instrument Petting Zoo” allowed attendees to sample a variety of instruments; and a fabric collage activity headed by The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts.

“We got some data recently from the National Endowment of the Arts that said that over 70% of Connecticut residents attend performing arts events, movies. Around just under 40% attend exhibitions and, most impressively, 57% of all Connecticut adults identify as artists,” said Kristina Newman-Scott, Director of Culture for the State of Connecticut.

“We are so lucky to have an organization like the Greater Hartford Arts Council to spend every day thinking about how we can make this city more vibrant, stronger, support our artists and arts institutions,” said Mayor Bronin. “Thank you so much for what you do, it’s all the more important in these challenging times, and I believe, deeply, that we’re at a moment where if we all come together to face the challenges head-on, if we step forward, we’re going to take this city to a whole other level.”

For the full list of participating organizations and post-coverage media including videos and photos, please visit LetsGoArts.org/IAmAnArtistDay.

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The Greater Hartford Arts Council is the central voice for the cultural sector in our region. We secure community resources through the annual United Arts Campaign, and responsibly reinvest those dollars through a stringent grant-making process into a wide array of organizations and programs that keep our community strong. We promote the arts as a regional asset and connect citizens to the arts. To learn more about Arts Council programs and services, as well as our United Arts Campaign, visit LetsGoArts.org or follow us @letsgoarts_org on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/letsgoarts_org).