

Arthur Sullivan's AMAZING LEGACY



“It is important that we all do our part, sharing what we know—including both our mind and our treasure.”

— Arthur Sullivan
on the value of being
a youth mentor

Words cannot express how truly grateful the New Hampshire Institute of Art community is to Arthur Sullivan for his extraordinary gift of “time, talent and treasure” over the last 9 years. As Arthur prepares to complete his term as an NHIA trustee, we celebrate the momentous impact that he has had on the growth and stability of the college over his tenure.

When Arthur was first introduced to NHIA in 2006, the college was on the verge of a tremendous period of growth. “The velocity of the expansion in the city was building momentum. It was a very exciting time in our community,” he said. A Manchester native, Arthur had familiarity with NHIA from its days as the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences. “I was honored when asked to be on the board; very few local people knew about NHIA—who the students were, or where the buildings were located.” Over time, people in the area began noticing the students, carrying their portfolios all around downtown Manchester.

Arthur notes that there were a number of changes happening in downtown Manchester at that time, and NHIA played a major role in the town’s revitalization. “This was prior to DYN or SNHU’s arrival in downtown Manchester. The city was not yet considered a college town, so the arrival of the Verizon Center and the Fisher Cats stadium, along with the development in the downtown area and NHIA’s growth was a perfect storm,” said Arthur.

Shortly after his arrival on the board, NHIA experienced an unparalleled growth in all facets of the school’s campus life—from student attendance and academic curriculum to facilities and programs. The board was faced with making strategic decisions in a variety of areas due to the recent surge in admissions and the subsequent urgency for additional resources and residential dorm rooms. “Discussions needed to take place to legitimize the latitude of the campus facilities and offerings so we could really take care of the students and respond to this immediate need for resources,” he said.

As a key member of the facilities committee, Arthur was instrumental in the planning process to renovate the former Manchester High School into what is now the Lowell Street building, a Gold LEED-certified facility that includes classrooms, studio space and dorm rooms. He also played a significant role in the decision to renovate a space in Brady Sullivan Plaza to build NHIA’s first dining hall, a facility he considers with great pride. This, coupled with the addition of dorm rooms in the same building, created a true downtown campus for NHIA.

Arthur’s leadership extended into other areas as well. As the chair of the finance committee and key member of the development committee, he has been responsible for fiscal decisions that would ultimately help to both grow and stabilize NHIA’s financial foundation. Arthur notes that “serving as chair of the finance committee has been a tremendous honor and important for many reasons.” He has taken this role “very seriously” with the goal of serving as a good steward for the \$25 million endowment launched by Margaret

Fuller in 1995, without which” the growth of NHIA would never have happened.” With his strategic support and watchful eye, the endowment did not falter during the economic downturn, and NHIA has maintained its stability. Under Arthur’s helm, the finance committee was also charged with the decision to merge with the Sharon Arts Center, which has proven to be a successful location for NHIA’s low-residency MFA program.

Arthur’s legacy has been significant across all areas of the college. As co-chair of the business campaign, he galvanized statewide businesses, raising nearly \$50,000 in scholarship funds. He has attended a number of openings and fundraising events, showing his support for students and faculty through the purchase of numerous works of art. Recently, the Business Committee for the Arts recognized Arthur’s immense contributions to NHIA and the community by awarding him the distinction of a Leadership in the Arts award.

Perhaps one of his most personally rewarding achievements has been the raising of CDFAs to renovate the former St. Anne’s church into a Youth Arts initiative. St. Anne’s Church had been Manchester’s first Catholic Church and is located in a neighborhood rich in diversity. In 2007, the church was included on New Hampshire Preservation Alliance’s Seven to Save list, which annually documents endangered historic buildings critical to their community. The following year, Arthur and Shane Brady were approached by Dan O’Neil, Alderman-at-Large to purchase the historic St. Anne’s Church—in order to save “this important part of the history of Manchester.” They agreed to the acquisition. This was done strictly for the community of Manchester with the goal of preserving its heritage as a center for neighborhood engagement. Brady Sullivan needed to renovate the church immediately to keep it from deteriorating further. Nearly \$500,000 in repairs were completed through the company’s investment—including a new roof, asbestos

removal, painting, windows and ceiling replastering. With the input from the Friends of St. Anne’s—a local group passionate about the church’s renovation—Arthur decided to donate the building to NHIA. “It was a natural decision,” he said. “The downstairs had a history of housing student classrooms. The nave would be a perfect space for art exhibitions, studio spaces or concerts.” Recently, with Arthur’s raising of \$367,000 in CDFAs funds from area businesses (over \$100,000 of which he purchased with Brady Sullivan’s own funds), the downstairs area will be refurbished into a space for programs for the Youth Arts Initiative,

providing free fine arts classes for underserved middle-school and high-school students in partnership with NHIA art education students, the Granite State YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club of Manchester, and the Manchester School District.

Arthur’s tremendous spirit of generosity has both supported and led the NHIA in countless ways. As an entrepreneur, he has always understood the importance of creativity, and his goal is to “pay it forward” to both those enrolled at NHIA as well as through the launch of the Youth Arts Initiative. His father was his great mentor, and he believes that all kids need role models—something he envisions will be achieved through the Youth Arts Initiative. “It is important that we all do our part, sharing what we know—including both our mind and our treasure.

“I feel very fortunate to have served on the NHIA board. I have seen high and low moments in the school’s history, but

ultimately everything has come out for the best.” Arthur’s mantra has always been to “never, ever give up.” His tenure on the board of trustees has enabled him to become more “deeply involved in the fabric of the community” through his relationships with “such a great, engaged group of board members.” Arthur notes, “this has been one of the most special boards on which I have served.”

We are indebted to Arthur Sullivan for his unwavering dedication. **N**



IMPROVING STUDENT LIFE AT NHIA: (top) Dining Hall at the Plaza; (bottom) Interior lounge space at the Gold LEED-certified Lowell Street Building.