

A Historical Note about the Spring Arts Festival

Katie Greene, retired art teacher and department chair, is remembered by many as the creator of the GSA Arts Festival, but according to Katie, the festival was created before she joined the faculty in 1977 by English teacher and theater director Bob Marshall.

That festival, she said, “was completely in-house and mostly featured student performances in theater and music.”

“Shortly after I came, I changed the Arts Festival to its current form, a collaboration between community and school, and that’s how it continued all the years I was there*, and for most of those years, it was a full weeklong festival.”

The Arts Festival benefited students in many ways, Katie said, but the most important was that it created connections between the school and “a community rich in the arts.”

In 2010, Katie drew on the strength of those connections and led a 13-member consortium** in applying for recognition of Blue Hill as an Imagination Intensive Community.

The application was successful, and Blue Hill was one of six Maine communities to be awarded the honor. Lead partners and donors for the project were the Maine Alliance for Art Education, Maine’s Department of Education, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Betterment Fund, and the Maine Arts Commission.

*Katie Greene retired in 2015. **The consortium included Kneisel Hall, The Blue Hill Concert Association, Peninsula Pan Inc., Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Peninsula Metamorphic Arts and Learning, Bagaduce Music Lending Library, Atlantic Challenge, New Surry Theatre, The Maine Community Foundation’s Learning In Community Arts, WERU’s Community Youth Program, The Blue Hill Public Library, The Bay School, and George Stevens Academy.

Read more about the honor in the Weekly Packet:
<https://weeklypacket.com/news/2010/nov/19/blue-hill-arts-community-garners-state-recognition/#.YqsqYS-B2WY>.