



THE WASSAIC PROJECT

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Dear Wassaic Project Supporter,

Nine years ago when we founded the Wassaic Project as a contemporary arts center, we knew that our relationship with the community was tremendously important to the success of the project. We never anticipated how our commitments would expand from serving artists within this community to engaging artists with our community.

One of our favorite authors, Robert Putnam, wrote about “social capital” in *Better Together: Restoring the American Community*. He defines it as “networks of relationships that weave individuals into groups and communities”. Social capital has proven to be a strong predictor of well-being both for individuals and communities and is key to overcoming economic inequality and restoring trust in public discourse. As you know, there could be no better time for this!

The Wassaic Project is actively building social capital. To us, this mixing and melding of communities and people is one of the most profound things that we do here. Don’t get us wrong, we are very proud of the high level of art that we exhibit and the quality of performances that we bring to the region, but our deepest impact is the relationships that we are building here and the connections that are forming because of our work.

We are gratified to find that our programs bring our neighbors together with local farmers, weekenders, artists, teenagers and children from Webutuck Public School, young adults, and visitors from the region. What these gatherings and connections are doing is creating a common ground for positive exchange. Conversations are taking place that would never have happened before, new relationships are built, opportunities are opened, connections made. We step back and suddenly see an emotional field of optimism, hope, and opportunity where there wasn’t before. Our work is rooted in the values of generosity and inclusiveness, and together with arts programming, the Wassaic Project is opening possibilities of community growth that we simply couldn’t have imagined.

You have been right there with us as a key partner in this heartening work. Thank you for getting us this far. We ask you to support the Wassaic Project this year, not just for the extraordinary art, but for investing in our region’s social capital and building the quality of life for all.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Bowie, Eve, and Jeff
Co-Executive Directors of the Wassaic Project