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### History

Beginning in 2006, Arts in the Valley, was founded by Art Educator, Lorna Pezanelli and BVEF. Quickly becoming the largest showing of student fine art in the Blackstone Valley, the event fostered an appreciation of art and culture. The celebration showcased art curriculum highlighting necessary skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and inventiveness that help to shape future careers.

Lorna spearheaded the coordination of Art Teachers across all of BVEF's member districts to collect and highlight student art. Hundreds of pieces have been showcased every year to the delight of the thousands of community members that have attended.

Each year the event has grown in popularity with close to 2,000 attendees enjoying hundreds of art pieces from 15 school districts at the most recent inperson event.



## **About Us**



A subcommittee of the <u>Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce</u>, the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation grew and developed until its official establishment as its own federal nonprofit organization in 1999.

BVEF continues to expand while honoring its original mission to enrich education by connecting member schools with local businesses to prepare students for the workforce.

With an initial focus of primarily awarding small grants to schools, today BVEF's 15 member and affiliate member school districts benefit from more extensive programming and services thanks to the strong partnerships we have with local businesses.

#### **VISION**

Transform education to prepare students for the workplace and careers of tomorrow.

#### **MISSION**

To partner with school districts, industry, and community partners to expose students to careers as early as possible. Through building supportive networks, providing access to mentors, and delivering career-connected curricula that builds essential skills we will provide equitable opportunities for all students.



Arts in the Valley, Massachusetts' largest K-12 student art show, is a vibrant celebration of creativity that highlights the critical role of arts in education. Taking place on Saturday, May 17th & Sunday, May 18th, from 10 AM to 2 PM at Sutton Elementary School, this one-of-a-kind event connects students, educators, and creative professionals to inspire the next generation of artists and innovators.

Featuring a Fine Arts Exhibit, Arts in the Valley showcases the incredible talents of K-12 students while fostering connections between the arts, education, and community. Sponsors will play a key role in championing creativity and shaping the future of the arts. Join us in making an impact!

Arts in the Valley promotes a deep appreciation for arts and culture by presenting essential art curricula that help shape future careers. This event emphasizes the significance of arts in education and connects professionals in the field with students and educators. Arts in the Valley offers a day rich with engaging workshops, interactive presentations, and a fine art show designed to captivate all attendees.

We invite organizations, businesses, and professionals who value the arts and culture and recognize the importance of art education in career development to participate in this celebration.



# **Event Highlights**

Over 700 participants

300+ fine arts pieces

Representing students K-12 from 15 School Districts