

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Robert McBride

RAMP, [802-463-3252](tel:802-463-3252)

### **Rockingham Arts and Museum Project Celebrates 20 years**

In 1995, NYC visual artist Robert McBride decided that his adopted hometown of Bellows Falls, Vermont could use an infusion of the arts. He created the Rockingham Arts and Museum Project, a nonprofit which came to be known as RAMP and quickly settled into the community as an organization that advocated accessibility to the arts and promoted the value of arts programming as an economic driver.

Over the years RAMP has facilitated and participated in many important projects, including the renovation of the historic Exner Block in 2000 to provide affordable housing for artists; procuring a grant to create the mural on the Flat Iron building; and bringing music and theatre to the region, such as Stone Church Arts, the Yellow Barn and Bread and Puppet Theatre. McBride has long recognized the importance of collaboration with other nonprofits, business and municipal organizations to establish forward-looking initiatives.

“What I enjoy about living in Bellows Falls and Vermont, in general, is that the rural scale naturally encourages access to people, events, organizations, local and state government. I think we often forget what a gift this is, which offers the possibility of making a real difference in our communities. I have

a passion for creativity and the arts and want to share that with my community. If we all contribute our individual creativity and passion, then our communities organically become more vital, both culturally and economically. RAMP firmly believes in its 20-year mantra: Art Makes a Difference!”

To contact, call [802-463-3252](tel:802-463-3252) or email [ramp-vt@sover.net](mailto:ramp-vt@sover.net) or subscribe to the RAMP google list-serve at [www.ramp-vt.org](http://www.ramp-vt.org)

*RAMP's mission: Committed to integrating the arts into the long-term sustainability of the community by creating effective partnerships that initiate and support: accessibility, affordable housing, artist town meetings, public art initiatives and policy making.*