



# Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



## 2014 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant

### Pathways: Past and Present

#### Project Summary

Inspired by the history and architecture of Burlington’s Moran Plant, Vermont artist Catherine Siller organized school residencies with Vermont High School students at CVU and Burlington High Schools. Siller implemented in-classroom demos integrating technology, art, movement, and the history of the Moran Plan.

Built in 1953 and once known for its architecture and its technical innovation, the Burlington’s Moran Municipal Power Plant now stands abandoned, an eyesore in Burlington’s otherwise vibrant, waterfront community. Pathways became an appropriate title for the project based on this melding of history, power and creativity. Eleven students participated in extra-curricular workshops at the BCA Center, developing their own artwork in response to Moran and waterfront history.

Student work was translated into digital projections that were incorporated into a 3-hour movement and interactive technology-based performance with six visiting artists at the Moran Plant site on May 31, 2014. The performance was attended by an estimated 150-200 people, including parents and teachers of students and many community members interested in the future of the plant. The project was and documented on video and in photographs, and Siller compiled the curriculum that she used into a guide that was distributed to the participating schools and that could be used with other students in the future. It also provides details of the work completed in the school and in the workshops. The performance was covered by [WCAX on May 29](#) and in a brief article in the [Burlington Free Press](#). A [30-minute video of the performance](#) is available online

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Students develop digital photo collages for the project.

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