



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2017 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant

Waterway Stage Collaborative

Project Summary

ECHO received a 2017 Local Heritage Grant for Waterway Stage, which combines the power of the performance arts with the joy of scientific investigation to engage students and their communities in their local watersheds. Classrooms (PK – 12th grade) collaborated with expert educators from Very Merry Theatre and ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain to research and perform original plays on the ecology, culture, and history of a selected Lake Champlain Basin topic. During the 2017 season, 12 classrooms from seven schools participated in Waterway Stage, reaching a total of 203 students. Its geographic reach extended as far north as Burlington, south as Brandon, and east as Calais, VT.

Project activities took place from January through April 2017 and included the creation of online curriculum resources for teachers on project tasks; a focus on Vermont’s threatened, endangered, aquatic invasive species, and the theatre arts; the delivery of 35, 1-hour educational program sessions, and the production of nine original plays on the natural and cultural heritage of their local watersheds by PreK–12th grade classrooms.

As a result of the Waterway Stage Collaborative, 203 students and 11 adult mentors increased their knowledge of the natural heritage of their local watershed through the research and production of an original play. These plays were shared with the public via a live performance at Very Merry’s theatre space in Burlington’s Old North End in April 2017.

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Non-federal Match:	\$5,012.33
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