

THE AC SOUNDS OFF ON ...

## Working in the Arts and Embarking on a Journey

STEPHEN SAYS,  
"THANK YOU,  
AND GOODNIGHT"

STEPHEN GRANT

When I left my job at a tech startup back in the summer of 2013 I told myself that I would only apply to jobs that truly resonated with my passions. Though I enjoyed my time learning important Web skills and promoting sustainable wedding practices, it was not the way I envisioned my career going. There was something missing.

My aspiration in life has always been to work in the arts. I have been writing since I can remember and I come from a family of singers, so music has been with me since birth. When I was in college, I combined both of those skills and began blogging and hosting a radio show. I even interned with my favorite music-production company and hosted my own monthly art gathering at a coffee shop in downtown New Haven. It is safe to say that working in the arts is my calling in life and when the opportunity came to make it my career I jumped at the chance.

The Arts Council called me on August 14, 2013, and told me that I got the job as communications manager. This would have been my mom's 47th birthday, so I took it as a sign that I was taking a step in the right direction. I would finally be able to apply all of my passions to an organization that shares the same enthusiasm about local art as I do. When I arrived at my office, I immediately said to myself, "This is where I need to be." I set a goal to collaborate as much as possible and to fully embrace the artist in me. A little over a year later and I can safely say that I have done that.

During my time at the Arts Council I have met amazing artists that make New Haven a fantastic place to discover art. I have had great conversations with the movers and shakers of our city and I am always impressed with the ideas that our arts organizations and artists have. It has been an honor to learn from, work, and share with these amazing talents. Thank you for accepting my ideas and for helping me to fully embrace the artist inside of me.

As they say, the show must go on. For me, the next stop is Sao Paulo, Brazil, where I hope to meet another group of inspiring artists with whom I can share stories about the New Haven arts community. Though I will be miles away, I will always be the biggest cheerleader for New Haven. That will never change because I love this city and I will do my best to make you proud.

If you are interested in following my journey in Brazil, visit the *Stephen Grant: Life in a New World* blog series online at [stephenjgrant.com](http://stephenjgrant.com). ■

*Stephen Grant has been the Arts Council's communications manager.*



Stephen Grant, communications manager extraordinaire.  
Photo by Arts Council staff.

## Bon Voyage and Goodbye to Stephen Grant

CINDY CLAIR

The Arts Council is sad to bid farewell to Communications Manager Stephen Grant, but excited for him as he begins this next chapter of his life in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Since Stephen arrived at the Arts Council a little more than a year ago, he's brought energy, passion, and talent to our team. As our in-house social-media guru, Stephen added Instagram to our social-media portfolio, created the hashtag #ArtNHV as a way to brand all things arts in New Haven, and increased our presence on Facebook and Twitter, in part by sharing some fantastic videos he produced. Stephen moved the online version of *The Arts Paper* to a new, easier-to-read format on ISSUU to better serve our growing number of readers who prefer to access the paper online. After just a few weeks of recording a weekly radio spot for WPKN, Stephen was invited to host a monthly program. This veteran radio deejay slipped easily into to the host chair, interviewing artists and arts managers about projects and events in our region. He invited local musicians to submit recordings for the musical interludes on the show, giving them coveted airtime. Stephen's love of music led him to guest curate a show in our Sumner McKnight Crosby Jr. Gallery in February 2014. *Once in a Lifetime*, a music inspired exhibit based on a Talking Heads song, featured works by many young artists and attracted a capacity crowd to our opening reception. A gregarious people connector, Stephen was one of the most enthusiastic staff voices clamoring for the return of Artspot! He jumped in to help with planning and coordinating our quarterly arts happy hours. And as a writer yearning to support other writers, he worked with *Arts Paper* editor David Brensilver and board member and writer Daisy Abreu to bring about the Council's Writers' Circle project.

We're thankful for all Stephen has contributed to the Arts Council, his numerous efforts to share the work of our organization and the massive number of arts events happening throughout the region. We will miss Stephen's welcoming smile, his ideas, and his enthusiasm. Good luck to you Stephen! ■

*Cindy Clair is the Arts Council's executive director.*

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