



Celebrating 20 Years

Capital Campaign **BUILDING** for **THE FUTURE**

CCS's campus renewal brings sustainability, economic growth, and a creative hub to the region



DRAWING BY MITRA FARMAND '13

CCS IMPACT

\$3 Million+
Economic impact annually

3,000+

Students attended in-person and online workshops

3,500+

Kids attended Cartoon Club kids and youth programs

Over \$300K Property Tax

The only nonprofit paying property taxes in the region

98%

Student retention rate. Well above the national average of 78%. CCS graduates often remain in the area after graduation.

150,000+ Educational Graphic Guides distributed

Creating new learning guides for K12 schools and students.

The Opportunity

"... an arts and culture hub for the state."

– Erika Hoffman-Kiess, Executive Director, GMEDC

As we celebrate 20 years, The Center for Cartoon Studies (CCS) is undertaking a transformational \$3.3 million Campus Renewal Project. This effort will culminate in a two-building historic campus in downtown White River Junction that is fully accessible and climate-resilient. The focus of this campaign is the renovation of the Old Telegraph Building.

CCS had the opportunity to purchase this building and to transform it into an asset for our students and community. Recognized as a priority regional economic development project, this renovation is supported by a broad coalition of partners, including the Two Rivers–Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission, Vermont's Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Town of Hartford, all of whom recognize CCS's profound impact on the region's cultural and economic vitality.

Together with the Old Post Office building, purchased and renovated by CCS 13 years ago, these two historic sites will provide a permanent home for our programs, partnerships, and engagement, ensuring that we can continue to serve as a cornerstone of Vermont's arts ecosystem and support a community of cartoonists whose work reaches audiences worldwide.

Support this capital campaign project >>> cartoonstudies.org/telegraph

WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS

For years, CCS has operated in rented spaces below ground that are vulnerable to flooding. As climate conditions worsen, this model is no longer sustainable. This project will ensure long-term stability and resilience:

- Creating a **fully-accessible campus**
- Moving all programming **above ground** and **protecting vital programs from climate-related risk**
- **Consolidating operations** to create efficiency
- Aligning CCS's campus with its **long-term vision**
- **Securing our campus** in a competitive and limited real estate historic district



ADAPTIVE REUSE *for* CREATIVE USE

The renewed Telegraph Building will support expanded programming, learning, and collaboration, including:

A STATE-OF-THE-ART PRODUCTION LAB is the heart-beat of our campus, and is fully equipped with self-publishing tools and resources. A **new community access program** will give local nonprofits resources for creative work.

A LEARNING CENTER with reconfigurable classrooms for classes, workshops, and public events, and designed for accessibility and collaboration.

STUDIO SPACE for students, offering 24-hour access, individual workstations, and collaborative areas.

AN ARCHIVE OF ORIGINAL ARTWORK for instruction, research, and exhibition.



THE SCHULZ LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTION AND RESEARCH SPACE: An extension of our Schulz Library, featuring manga, zines, comics, and graphic novels.

THE APPLIED CARTOONING LAB works with organizations throughout the country to create educational resources and public education campaigns.

A SPECIALIZED BOOKSHOP: In partnership with a local bookstore, the shop will feature the best the medium has to offer, promote authors, and host book signings. **The only shop of its kind in White River Junction**, it will be a key downtown space for commerce and culture.

Guided by the principle that **the most sustainable building is an existing building**, this project emphasizes:

- Adaptive reuse of a dilapidated historic structure
- Efficient, durable design
- Completion of the **Brownfields environmental program**
- Long-term operational efficiency and sustainability



SUSTAINABILITY & STEWARDSHIP

SUPPORT *the* TELEGRAPH RENOVATION

We are in the **final phase** of this project and invite you to help bring it across the finish line. **Your gift will:**

Secure a fully accessible, above-ground campus

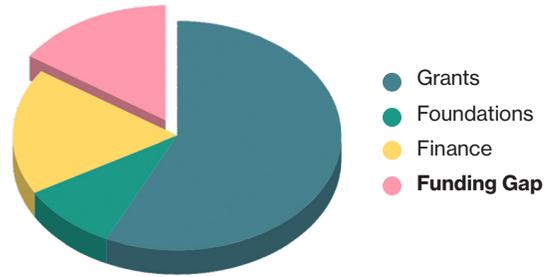
Expand programs that serve students, educators, and the public

Revitalize a long-vacant and dilapidated historic building

Strengthen downtown vitality and the regional economy

Advance the field of cartooning

Empower future generations of artists



Project Budget

Purchase & Subdivision	\$213,198
Architectural & Engineering	\$111,500
Brownsfields Cleanup	\$694,000
Construction	\$1,961,653
Furniture	\$120,000
Salaries & Benefits	\$151,861
Administration & Legal	\$50,000
Total	\$3,302,212

Fall 2026

CCS plans to move into the renovated Old Telegraph Building in fall 2026. As we mark 20 years of education and impact, we invite you to help build the next 20+



For more information or to discuss ways to support this project, please contact: Rita Souther, CCS Grant Writer and Stewardship Manager:

☎ 802.295.3319 ✉ souther@cartoonstudies.org

📍 P.O. Box 125, White River Junction, VT 05001

\$3.3 million

Project Total

Purchase, Cleanup, Construction, etc.

\$2.8 million (85%)

Raised to Date

Including donations, grants, state and federal grants awarded, and pledges

\$500,000

Construction Funding Gap

Remaining need to complete the construction.

Donate today!



Support this project with a gift, grant, or pledge: cartoonstudies.org/telegraph

The CREATIVE ECONOMY



Our project prioritizes local contractors and tradespeople, ensuring that capital dollars circulate within the regional economy, and will free up the Colodny Building – a prime downtown location – for local small businesses and entrepreneurs.

CCS's annual economic impact will grow to over \$3 million, strengthening the local economy. Part of this growth will come from property taxes

[Vermont statute (32 V.S.A. § 3831)] which excludes nonprofit schools founded after 1941.

The new facilities will attract more students and visitors and significantly increase public programming, exhibitions, workshops, and community partnerships.

A dedicated home for the Applied Cartooning Lab will enable it to expand its civic-minded publications and educational campaigns, with national and international audiences. CCS's alumni often remain in the Upper Valley, building studio practices and contributing to the local economy.



Thanks to our funders and project partners:



The Center for Cartoon Studies (CCS) explores the past, present, and potential of comics and is dedicated to providing the highest-quality education to students interested in creating visual stories. CCS's curriculum of art, graphic design, and literature reflects the vast array of skills needed to create comics and graphic novels. CCS emphasizes self-publishing and prepares its students to publish, market, and disseminate their work.

Recognizing the central role that socially responsible organizations play in community life, CCS actively contributes to the cultural and economic vitality of the region.

The Center for Cartoon Studies is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt institution and does not discriminate in its admissions policy on the basis of race, religion, or ethnic origin.



Support this project with a gift, grant, or pledge: cartoonstudies.org/telegraph