



# Thomas S. Stevens

12 Winooski Street, Waterbury, VT 05676 tom@stevensvermont.com Cell: 802.595.0429

## Profile

Community leader, communicator and skilled negotiator, with a passion for developing lasting solutions to statewide and local challenges.

## Experience

### **STATE REPRESENTATIVE, STATE OF VERMONT, 2008-PRESENT**

I represent Waterbury, Bolton, Huntington & Buels Gore. I am currently the Vice Chair of General, Housing and Military Affairs committee. Through my committee work, I advocate for strong communities, working families, labor, veterans and affordable housing. My research, writing and presentations have:

- Led passage of legislation for equal pay and flexible work arrangements, minimum wage, creation of home care worker union and child care provider union, state recognition of Abenaki tribes, and preserving affordable housing.
- In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, worked closely with the administration and federal delegation to secure the return of state workers to Waterbury. Worked closely with the Shumlin Administration and the Federal delegation to secure disaster relief funding for affordable housing, and represented local residents with the Department of Financial Regulation in their fights to gain rightful and timely insurance compensation for their losses. Co-chaired the "Flood Relief Caucus" in the General Assembly.
- Co-Chair, 2015 Study Committee on the Modernization of the Department of Liquor Control.
- Active on national government committees focused on progressive legislation, affordable housing, and addressing extreme weather threats.

### **EDUCATION DIRECTOR, WATERBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 2007-PRESENT**

I coordinate educational programs for children and adult congregants of local church.

- Manage curriculum planning, budget, and volunteer coordination to teach 14-20 children, K-6, working with community members who share their skills.
- Organize guest artist programs (No Strings Marionette Company, The Junk Man).
- Coordinate annual "Empty Bowls" fundraiser for the Waterbury Food Shelf, raising over \$3,500 to date.

### **COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH CONSULTANT, 2011-PRESENT**

I develop and execute outreach plans for small business and nonprofit organizations. In recent projects:

- Organized community outreach events for Vermont Business for Social Responsibility, providing opportunities for small businesses and their employees to learn more about the healthcare exchange.
- Created and executed successful online engagement program, including website, weekly emails and social media content, for Squash Valley Produce.



# Thomas S. Stevens

## **FOUNDER, VERMONT DICTIONARY PROJECT, WATERBURY, VERMONT, 2002-2009**

I created and ran a nonprofit with a mission to provide free dictionaries to 3rd-graders. To do so, I recruited service organizations and individuals as sponsors to fund the distribution of over 12,000 dictionaries to 110 schools around the state over a seven-year period.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VERMONT ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION**

**2008-2009**

Reorganized small statewide nonprofit arts education organization after departure of previous ED. Fundraised in order to design a systemic review of organization with support of board. Coordinated with facilitator to lead review. Reestablished annual arts conference and redesigned website and other communications. Shifted emphasis of program to increase direct advocacy with statewide and federal lawmakers. Program was directly affiliated with Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

## **PRODUCTION COORDINATOR, QUARRYWORKS THEATER, 2001-2006**

I managed production of three theater productions each summer for a nonprofit arts organization. Offseason duties included casting, organizing advertising, and coordinating all cast and crew activities for a children's show, drama and musical. In-season, I directed a children's show and a drama each summer, executing all aspects of creative including set and costume design, lighting coordination, and graphic work for programs and posters.

## **Special Projects**

### **PRODUCTION DIRECTOR, "GOING TO WATERBURY: AN ELEGY" AUGUST-NOV. 2012**

I conceived, produced and directed the art installation and closing ceremony for the Vermont State Hospital prior to its deconstruction in 2014. Over 300 people attended the events over two days, and it received extensive media coverage.

- Recruited and employed local Vermont artists to execute artistic vision of the hospital.
- Raised over \$20,000 to produce the installation.
- Planned and promoted opening ceremony attended by the Governor and the public.

### **DEVELOPER, WATERBURY RECHARGE, 2003-2004**

I conceived and organized a municipal rebuilding program for Waterbury. I recruited community members to advocate for a renovated elementary school, new library, new fire stations and a new municipal building. I directed two visioning and design charrettes, as well as multiple and complementary community meetings.

### **CHAIR, WATERBURY DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP, 2005-2006**

I chaired the working group formed to develop strategy and to plan the application for Downtown Designation. I recruited members for the committee and worked closely with the Village Trustees, Planning Commission and Select Board to promote completion of the application. I researched requirements and needs for the Downtown Designation application, presented during the process to the board and village municipality. I wrote the narrative and the edited the application with members of committee. I arranged, created the agendas and hosted charrettes and community discussions, the results of which were integral to the

# Thomas S. Stevens

application. Finally, I led the final presentation to Downtown Board at the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Downtown Designation granted to Waterbury on November 27, 2006.

## Education

Boston University College for the Arts, BFA Theatre, 1983  
Vermont Leadership Institute, Snelling Center for Government, 2011  
Robert J. Thompson Eastern Leadership Academy, CSG/ERC, 2012

## Skills

**Collaborative Contributor:** Broad experience working in nonprofits and local and state government, managing large and small groups (including boards and committees); work independently and as team member.

**Communications Expertise:** Effective public speaker, skilled in developing oral and written presentations that engage, educate and inform. Experienced creator of print and online outreach materials, including newsletters, advertisements, websites, social media.

- Excellent photographer.
- Experienced with Mac & PC, social media & blogging platforms.
- Planner for political and fundraising events.
- Skilled theater performer, director and speaking coach.
- Expert copyeditor and proofreader.

## Legislative Engagement

- Active on national government committees focused on progressive legislation (State Innovation Exchange), lotteries and gambling (National Council of Legislators from Gaming States), affordable housing (Vermont Statewide Housing Conference), and addressing extreme weather threats (The Council of State Governments).
- Attended the White House Summit on the Family, June 2014.

## Civic Experience

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Waterbury Town Select Board: Chair  | 2006-2008    |
| Waterbury Village Trustees: President   | 2004-2005    |
| Vermont Democratic Party, Executive Comm. Liaison to the House of Representatives | 2014-present |
| Waterbury Democratic Town Committee   | 2002-present |
| UVM Extension: Advisor  | 2003-2007    |

## Community Service

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Downstreet Housing & Community Development: <b>Board President</b> (2015) | 2012-present |
| Duxbury-Waterbury Opportunity Fund: <b>Board Member</b>                   | 2013-present |

Revitalizing Waterbury: **Board Member, Vice President**  
The Children's Room, Waterbury: **Board Member, Treasurer**

2001-2007  
1997-2001