

**Arts Council of Fairfax County 2008 Project Support Grant Program
Project Marketing Description (not to exceed 100 words)**

Art ... For a Change is an educational outreach arts program in visual and performing arts designed to support fine arts curriculum in area schools. Workhouse Artists partner with teachers and students by providing an apprentice series geared to heighten awareness and prepare students for an artistic career. The portfolio work products in this program are authentic and multidisciplinary – an exhibit, a rendering, a performance, an artist statement, and biography. Professional artists facilitate with hands on activities to help students think of themselves as artists; solve real-life problems in the world, by using art as a catalyst for change.

Arts Council of Fairfax County 2008 Project Support Grant Program Organizational Profile (not to exceed one page)

1. Describe the applicant organization's history, mission, and goals.

The Lorton Arts Foundation, Inc. (LAF) was organized in October 2001 as a Virginia non-profit corporation to promote and support the arts in Lorton, Fairfax and neighboring counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Foundation's mission is to promote artistic and cultural creativity by providing a dedicated premiere community for the arts, preserving and exhibiting our unique cultural resources, forming partnerships with other art organizations, public and private schools, and businesses to create a vibrant cultural community. The Foundation executes its mission through The Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton (the Workhouse.) The Foundation works in collaboration with other Fairfax County agencies and commissions, Fairfax County schools, and other arts organizations.

One of the Foundation's primary goals is to reach out to the diverse population in public schools as well as to the community through visual and performing arts education programs to enhance the economic and cultural climate throughout the area. In addition, the Lorton Arts Foundation will provide resident artists with affordable studio and gallery space and develop an artist colony which will offer low-cost housing to artists associated with The Workhouse, including visiting heritage scholars, art fellowship students, interns and faculty, as well as others actively engaged in Workhouse programs.

Since inception, Lorton Arts Foundation has been producing visual and performing arts events to publicize and promote The Workhouse Arts Center, and its associated artists. We have a dedicated staff and volunteer base who have demonstrated their ability to host events. Highlighted previous events are as follows:

- South County Secondary School Partnership** (8/05-Present)-Supplied school with a dance teacher and choreographer (local resident, Suzie Celentano), and a Technical Theatre expert (local resident, Linda Evans) who did workshops on lighting design for theatre.
- Art Under Construction** (2006-2007) – an umbrella project promoting The Workhouse during our construction phase, offering: “Hard Hat Tours,” Spring & Fall 2007 Workshop/Lecture Series in Visual and Performing Arts, and “Art Under The Arches” featuring visual and performing artists along with storytelling, face painting, community art (canvas and mosaic tile), and tours of the campus.
- Celebrate Fairfax!** (2006 & 2007) – participated in the County festival, contributing culturally to the festival and giving The Workhouse an opportunity to showcase our project as well as sell art.
- Art...for a Change** (2006) – a master class series conducted with Woodbridge Senior High School students who created a series of art projects encompassing the Working Artist's Creative Process.

2. Describe the applicant organization's service area (audience served, including size, demographic characteristics, and geographic area).

As The Workhouse is under construction, The Lorton Arts Foundation is currently limited to serving students in schools in the immediate geographic area and when weather permits on its site. The Foundation is reaching out to diverse audiences of all ages from Fairfax and Prince William Counties, as well as the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church.

**Arts Council of Fairfax County 2008 Project Support Grant Program
Schedule of Completion (not to exceed one page)**

Date & School	Artists	Event
Visual Arts Educational Outreach Programs		
Week 1 ~10/8-10/12 At South County Secondary School (SCSS): 2/4-2/8 at Mount Vernon High School (MVHS)	Mara Burk, Maureen Wolford, Wayne Guenther, Marti Kirkpatrick	Artists meet class and present program overview; Mara Burk – “Finding the Artist in You” (artists talk, project assignment)
Week 2~ 10/15-10/19 at SCSS; 2/11-2/15 at MVHS	Mara Burk	Project Follow-up, Discussion, and Q&A
Week 3 ~ 10/22-10/26 at SCSS; 2/18-2/22 at MVHS	Maureen Wolford	“Express Yourself Through Art” (artist talk, project assignment)
Week 4 ~ 10/29-11/2 at SCSS; 2/25-2/29 at MVHS	Maureen Wolford	Project Follow-Up, Discussion, and Q&A
Week 5 ~ 11/5-11/9 at SCSS; 3/3-3/7 at MVHS	Marni Maree	“Art for Change:” (artists talk, project assignment)
Week 6 ~ 11/12-11/16 at SCSS; 3/10-3/14 at MVHS	Marni Maree	Project Follow-Up, Discussion, and Q&A
Week 7 ~ 11/19-11/30 at SCSS; 3/17-3/21 at MVHS	Wayne Guenther	“Successful Portfolios” (artist demonstration, project assignment)
Week 8 ~ 12/3-12/7 at SCSS; 3/24-3/28 at MVHS	Wayne Guenther	Project Follow-Up, Discussion, and Q&A
Week 9 ~ 12/15/07 at LAF; 4/5/08 at LAF	All Artists	Artists Pallete Exhibit and Reception; Best-of-Show Award; Portfolio Critique
Performing Arts Educational Outreach Programs		
Fall Semester 2007	Linda Evans at SCSS Joey Wallen at MVHS	Teach a series of technical theatre workshops as a guest lecturer in the drama department
Fall Semester 2007	Suzie Celentano at SCSS Bobbi Jo Phillips at MVHS	Teach an after-school series of dance for musical theatre workshops
Spring Semester 2008	Linda Evans at SCSS Joey Wallen at MVHS	Act as mentor for a student technical director and light designer for the school spring play/musical
Spring Semester 2008	Suzie Celentano at SCSS Bobbi Jo Phillips at MVHS	Act a choreographer and dance captain mentor for the school spring musical
Fall 2008 – Spring 2008	Caren Hearne & Advanced Drama Students at the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts at Woodbridge Senior High School at Groveton Elementary School	Introduce “Readers Theatre” and “From the Page to the Stage” program to elementary schools students

**Arts Council of Fairfax County 2008 Project Support Grant Program
Narrative Questions (response not to exceed three pages)**

1. Describe the project/activity to be funded and its goals. List locations and dates.

Art...For a Change! is an educational outreach arts program in visual and performing arts designed to complement the fine arts curriculum in area schools based on school need. Workhouse Artists partner with teachers and students by providing an apprentice series geared to heighten awareness and prepare students for an artistic carrier. The portfolio work products produced in this program are authentic and multidisciplinary – an exhibit, a rendering, a group presentation, a performance, an artist statement, and a biography. Professional artists facilitate with hands on activities to help students think of themselves as artists, and solve real-life problems in the world by using art as a catalyst for change.

The Visual Arts component uses an eight/nine week framework to introduce various perspectives of an artists' life – the artist as an individual (self-awareness), the artists as an agent for change (purposeful action in an interconnected world), and the artists as an entrepreneur (product development, productivity, and marketing). During this series, four artists affiliated with Lorton Arts Foundation facilitate discussions, project assignments, review/critique work products, and negotiate meaning about art and its contribution to culture. The program is a journey in the life of an artist, where students keep a reflective journal (augmented with original art); create a Student Artists Palette, an artist statement, a biographical sketch, and a portfolio. The culminating event for this component of the Educational Outreach would be an Exhibition of the students' work with a reception at The Workhouse.

The students will be required to: maintain a visual journal as a way of staying in touch with their daily thoughts through images and words; create an original piece of artwork on a wooden rectangular palette to be donated to the Artist's Palette Project; write a 500 word essay about their art work; write an artist's bio, and an artist's statement to be used in the exhibition catalog; and, attend the artist's reception where the palettes will be exhibited and sold. This component will be implemented at South County Secondary School and Mount Vernon High School.

The Performing Arts component uses a Semester framework to deliver performing arts curriculum which is missing from the fine arts class offering at South County Secondary School and Mount Vernon High School. Linda Evens, an award winning lighting designer will spend thirty hours in the classroom during the first semester teaching a technical workshop. During the second semester, she will act as a lighting design consultant to the Student Light Designer for the Spring Play/Musical, offering thirty contact hours during the master electrician phase of the lighting plot and supervising the electrical load-in.

Suzie Celentano, an award winning choreographer and dancer with the Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre, will conduct an after-school dance workshop series (20 – 90 minute sessions) during the Fall Semester for musical theatre students who want to participate in the Spring musical. These workshops are designed to teach the basics of performance dance, to improve coordination, flexibility, and body strength. During the Spring Semester, Suzie will collaborate with the student production team to choreograph the Spring Musical and conduct dance rehearsals.

The inter-county collaboration between The Center for Fine and Performing Arts at Woodbridge Senior High School (WSHS) and Groveton Elementary School will follow the model of students mentoring students. The Advanced Drama Class at WSHS will go to Groveton Elementary School and introduce "Readers Theatre" during the first/fall semester. Students will explore the possibilities of character development, costumes as a way to mask identity, and plot as narrative. During the second semester, the

drama students will work with the elementary students to work in groups to write a play for the stage. The elementary students will write the play, create props and scenery, and act in the play. As a group both the high school students and the elementary schools students will critique the work.

Our goal with *Art...For a Change!* is to share the experience and expand the understanding of students as to the experience of life as a professional artist, thus encouraging them to explore the many avenues available in fine arts disciplines.

2. Who are the artistic resources and/or individual artists involved in the project/activity? What other partnership agencies/schools are involved in this project/activity, if any?

Mara Burk – Stained & Fused Glass Artist and Education Coordinator with The Workhouse, a project of the Lorton Arts Foundation. Ms. Burk is a successful business woman, running *The Art of Being*, which is an exploration of the emotional tapestry of life through the eyes of artistic creations.

Marti Kirkpatrick – Painter and Gallery Manager with The Workhouse, a project of the Lorton Arts Foundation. Marti is an award winning visual artist working from her home studio in Dickerson, Maryland where she lives with her husband Ed, a photographer and web designer. She has over 16 years of experience working with artists, and the public, presenting art exhibitions. She has served for many years as President, Treasurer and Show Chair of the League of Reston Artists and on the Visual Arts Advisory Panel for the Lorton Arts Foundation’s transformation of the old Lorton Virginia prison into the Workhouse at Lorton Arts Center.

Maureen Wolford – Painter and Multimedia artist, who received her BFA from Moore College of Art and Design. She works with watercolor as well as colored pencil and sometimes combines the two to create dramatic views of flowers and nature. Her work has been exhibited throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area and is always on exhibit at The Loft Gallery in Occoquan, Virginia.

Wayne Guenther – Professional Photographer and staff photographer with The Workhouse, a project of the Lorton Arts Foundation. Mr. Guenther has been an avid photographer for over 40 years, beginning to focus on fine art photography in 1994. He founded Polaris Photography in 2001 after retiring from his “real job,” for full-time artistic endeavors. His work embodies a great variety of subjects with special emphasis on the details of every day life. He is fascinated with reflections, light and color saturation. Mr. Guenther’s work can be seen at Gallery West in Alexandria, Virginia.

The Workhouse (LAF) will work with the school’s Art Boosters Club in activities which promote audience development and student recruitment into fine arts programs. The student artists with the winning Palette will receive a gift certificate to a local arts supply store, and LAF will contribute \$100 to the Art Boosters Fund in the winning artist’s name.

3. How will you measure success in meeting your goals for this project (e.g., by # of participants, attendance as a % of capacity, ticket sales, testimonials, reviews)?

The *Art...For a Change!* project will be a success if we can educate and encourage students about the working life of an artist, and the role that The Workhouse Arts Center and organizations like it play in supporting the arts. The program will also be a success if the students have a greater sense of self and how they relate to the world through collaboration and artistic mediums. Lastly it will be a success if we open a new window or change the perspective of a student as they relate to careers in fine art and culture. We will use evaluation/ feedback questionnaires for all the participants.

4. Describe your organization's ability to carry out this project/activity.

As an organization dedicated to development and support of the arts, we are uniquely qualified to carry out this project. The Workhouse has professional artists in this program who have successfully implemented similar programs in schools. The Visual Artists and Performing Artists have a proven track record with working with students to help them advance their craft/discipline. We have resident champions in the schools at both the administrative and faculty level to help make this program a success. Also, many of the participating artists have children in the Fairfax County School System and want to give back to the school system that guided them in their youth.

5. What are your plans for marketing and promoting your activities?

The program will be marketed to the parents of students attending the school as well as through county wide notification of the project within the school system. Our staff will meet with administrators and fine arts faculty members to identify students who would benefit from this partnership. We will have a booth at the "Back to School" night to provide information and promote the arts programming. Additionally, we will exhibit student work from previous projects to generate student interest.

6. Explain how this project will specifically either engage new audiences in the arts and/or contribute to the vibrancy and quality of life in Fairfax County.

As we artists age, young people with limited experience of fine art continuously enroll in public schools. These newcomers to the art world are on a journey of self discovery which can be enhanced by art appreciation and art creation. This program will enable students – at a very impressionable age – to get a glimpse of life from a new perspective. Interacting with this program will lead to right-brain stimulation, which will inevitably lead to helping students use design, story, symphony, empathy, play, and meaning to guide and shape their world. .