



Arts
Council of
Fairfax
County

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Arts Council of Fairfax County Receives \$50,000 *Our Town* Grant from National Endowment for the Arts *Arts Council is one of 59 projects selected nationwide.*



Photo Caption: Tysons West, Developer: JBG Rosenfeld; © Copyright 2013 Tysons Partnership

Fairfax County, VA –The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced 59 *Our Town* grant awards totaling \$4.725 million and reaching 34 states in the *Our Town* program's third year of funding. The Arts Council of Fairfax County is one of 59 grantees and will receive \$50,000 for ***Imagine Art Here***, a public art community engagement project in Tysons, Virginia. A temporary, portable work of art will be designed to engage people in the discussion of public art and the role of art in Tysons. The project will be installed at 4 locations near the new Silver Line Metrorail stations in Tysons over a one year period. ***Imagine Art Here*** will both elicit a vision for the arts in Tysons, and collect resident, workforce, and retail visitor feedback on the type of facilities, public art and related amenities desired. The artist selection will be made through an RFQ with submissions reviewed by a professional panel with arts, architecture, planning, and community representatives. The selected artist's work will enhance the experience of people passing through Tysons, increase public awareness of the potential for public art, promote

community participation in planning public spaces, and increase livability and vitality in Tysons. The Arts Council is partnering with the Fairfax County Government and the Tysons Partnership to carry out the project.

“Tysons is a progressive and rapidly growing community, and provides a perfect intersection for art and urban life,” says Linda S. Sullivan, president & CEO, of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. “The ***Imagine Art Here*** initiative will enable the residents in Tysons and Fairfax County to provide their ideas and preferences for the inclusion of public art and arts amenities in the future development of Tysons. We thank the Fairfax County Government and Tysons Partnership for their vital roles as project partners.”

“As part of our 35 year transformative plan, the Tysons Partnership is thrilled to partner with the Arts Council of Fairfax County and host the ***Imagine Art Here*** initiative,” states Michael Caplin, Executive Director of the Tysons Partnership. “The NEA’s recognition and award further accelerate the momentum that has begun to transform Tysons into an outstanding cultural place to live, work and play.”

Through *Our Town*, the NEA supports creative placemaking projects that help transform communities into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. The grantee projects will encourage creative activity, create community identity and a sense of place, and help revitalize local economies. All *Our Town* grant awards were made to partnerships that consisted of at least one nonprofit organization and a local government entity.

"This is an exciting time to announce the *Our Town* grants as a national conversation around creative placemaking advances and deepens," said NEA Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa. "The NEA leads on this topic not only through our funding but through webinars, publications, and research. With these resources, we will help to ensure that the field of creative placemaking continues to mature, enhancing the quality of life for communities across the country."

The NEA received 254 applications for *Our Town* this year. Grant amounts ranged from \$25,000 to \$200,000 with a median grant amount of \$50,000. For a complete listing of projects recommended for *Our Town* grant support, please visit the NEA web site at arts.gov.

The input from ***Imagine Art Here*** initiative will inform the Master Arts Plan (MAP). The goal of MAP is to expand community access to and engagement in the arts and culture by planning cultural facilities and public art throughout Fairfax County that reflects its diversity, considers existing facilities, and responds to future growth. In 2010 the Board of Supervisors tasked the Arts Council of Fairfax County, as the official arts agency for the county, with the collaborative leadership of the Master Arts Plan (MAP). A MAP Task Force consisting of Arts Council Board members, community representatives, and government officials was formed to assess existing cultural assets in the county and the growth trends that will inform a plan for future arts facilities and public art.

To obtain more information on ***Imagine Art Here*** and MAP, visit <http://artsfairfax.org/map>

About the Arts Council of Fairfax County

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. It is the only umbrella organization serving and representing all forms of art in Fairfax County. The Arts Council of Fairfax County is the voice of the arts, dedicated to

fostering dynamic and diverse local arts, ensuring that arts thrive by providing vision, leadership, capacity building services, advocacy, funding, education, and information.

The Arts Council is funded in part by Fairfax County, corporations, foundations, individuals, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

About Tysons Partnership

Tysons Partnership, founded in 2010, is a nonprofit association comprised of organizations and individuals committed to the long-term redevelopment of Tysons for today and the future. The partnership is governed by a Board of Directors, made up of 30+ members, divided into six distinct councils, Facilities & Amenities, Finance, Marketing & Branding, Sustainability & Stewardship, Transportation and Urban Design. Tysons Partnership provides a forum in which citizens, business and government leaders work with a spirit of common purpose for the redevelopment of Tysons as a prosperous community, and a great place to live, work and play.

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