



## **Arts Council Hosts Cultural Diversity Panel Discussion**

The Arts Council of Fairfax County will host a Cultural Diversity Panel Discussion and Workshop on August 20<sup>th</sup> from 2PM-4PM at the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce. This panel will kick off plans to implement a new cultural diversity initiative and introduce a new grant category for the FY2016 Project Support Grant made possible from a \$40,000 grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

As the voice of the arts for one of the most diverse counties in the United States, the Arts Council aims to reach out to the many diverse arts groups and artists in Fairfax County, encourage participation and collaboration, and support programming that is reflective of Fairfax County's diverse community.

The Arts Council hopes this panel discussion and workshop will offer continuing support and foster ongoing collaborations between artists and arts organizations. Guest speakers with knowledge of culturally diverse programming will talk about their experiences during the panel discussion that will take place at the first half of the workshop. Guest speakers include:

- **Clay Lord**, Vice President of Local Arts Advancement, *Americans for the Arts*  
Clay Lord is responsible for developing and executing all the programs and services that strengthen and validate local arts agencies and the many other individuals and organizations that advance arts, culture and artists at the local level. Lord has spearheaded several research initiatives that investigated major issue areas in the American arts field including impact measurement, diversity, strategy, advocacy, public goodwill, perception and the psychology of artsgoing including [Counting New Beans: Intrinsic Impact and the Value of Art](#). Lord will serve as our panelist moderator.
- **Laura Connors Hull**, Founder & Producing Director, *Creative Cauldron*  
Laura Hull launched Creative Cauldron, based in Falls Church, in 2002. Her organization provides opportunities for leaning and participation in the performing and visual arts for both children and adults.



- **Laila Abdul-Hadi Jadallah**, Artist & Educator  
[Laila Jadallah](#) is a photographer influenced by her bi-cultural status as a Palestinian-American. Her work reflects a constant reproach as to what constitutes home by photographing the places she has lived and the objects within them.



- **David D. Mitchell**, Program Manager, Urban Arts Leadership Program, *Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance*  
 David Mitchell has been a facilitator and major catalyst in bringing together diverse segments of the performing arts community in Baltimore. In addition to his work for the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, he also serves as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Baltimore Arts Realty Company (BARCO).



“These panelists bring a breadth of knowledge and extensive experience working with various sectors in our community. We expect an enlightening discussion on cultural diversity that will both inform individual artists as well as arts organizations and inspire partnerships and future projects in Fairfax County,” said Lisa Mariam, Director of Grants at the Arts Council.

Arts Council staff will give an overview of the new grant category directly following the panel discussion. There will also be time for individual artists and organizations to pitch project ideas and network with potential partners.

[Lebanese Taverna](#) will graciously provide food for the event.

To RSVP for this workshop, email Michael Poandl at [MPoandl@artsfairfax.org](mailto:MPoandl@artsfairfax.org).

#### 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.

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