

Arts Council of Fairfax County awards ten Project Support Grants totaling \$89,622.

Fairfax County, VA – Ten Fairfax County non-profit arts organizations have been awarded Project Support Grants from the Arts Council of Fairfax County. The **grant awards total \$89,622** and represent disciplines including visual arts, theatre, orchestral, choral, and international music, as well as preschool and elementary age arts education.



Children at the classical theatre summer camp program have the opportunity to learn, grow, and have fun! Photo courtesy of Traveling Players Ensemble.

The recipients are BalletNova Center for Dance, Creative Cauldron, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, Greater Reston Arts Center, Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts, McLean Project for the Arts, NextStop Theatre Company, Traveling Players Ensemble, Virginia Ballet Company and School, and Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

"We are so pleased to announce the funding of ten Project Support Grants. Each project will enliven our community and encourage Fairfax County residents to engage with the arts," says Linda S. Sullivan, president & CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. **"We wish we could fund all of our Project Support applicants, who each year demonstrate the amazing depth of creativity in Fairfax County."**

Project Support Grants are given in three categories; 'Arts in Education,' 'Opportunity,' and 'Partnerships with Individual Artists.' This year, the Arts Council awarded four Project Support Grants in the 'Arts in Education' category for students under the age of 18, four 'Opportunity' grants that take advantage of atypical opportunities, and two 'Partnerships with Individual Artists' grants. According to Grants Director Lisa Mariam, **"This upcoming year we are also introducing a new cultural diversity category called the *Global Arts Initiative*, which will fund projects that are traditional or culture-specific and foster cultural exchange. Because nearly four in ten Fairfax County residents speak a language other than English at home, we feel it is critical to give support to projects that directly engage with and reflect our diverse communities."**

"We are so thankful for the Project Support Grants from the Arts Council because they enable us to partner with critically acclaimed professional artists," said Laura Connors

Hull, Producing Director for Creative Cauldron. **“As we continue to raise the quality of our own art, we also enhance the quality of life for residents of Falls Church, and the entire Fairfax County community.”**

On behalf of Fairfax County, the Arts Council awards over **\$500,000 in grants** to arts organizations and individual artists in the County each year. **In FY14 the Arts Council awarded 67 grants to 47 organizations and 3 artists, contributed to more than 13,000 performances and activities, which were attended by over 1 million people.** The total amount requested for FY14 was \$1,225,497. **“The arts are essential to a thriving community, creating a sense of place and fueling social and economic growth,”** said Sullivan. According to the most recent Americans for the Arts study "Arts & Economic Prosperity IV," the nonprofit arts and culture are a \$79.3 million industry in Fairfax County—one that generates \$2.4 million in local taxes and \$4.9 million in combined local and state government revenue.

To obtain more information on the grants program, visit <http://artsfairfax.org/grants>

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, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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FY15 Project Support Grant Recipients

BalletNova Center for Dance

BalletNova Center for Dance in Falls Church has long been a staple of the dance community in Northern Virginia. It continues to contribute to the arts community with its construction of a new performance space, "Studio F", a 2500 square foot studio theatre designed specifically for dance. With its sprung floor covered in non-stick Marley vinyl dance floor overlay and a performing area of 32' by 40', Studio F will be a tremendous asset for performers across the region. This small theatre space will provide theatrical lighting and a sound system, and will seat 150 people. Studio F will not only be utilized by BalletNova students and performers, but by dancers and actors across Fairfax County.

Creative Cauldron

The Turn of the Screw World Premiere Musical project will adapt Henry James' classic novella into an original work of musical theatre. Writer, performer, and director Stephen Gregory Smith will craft the libretto, and critically acclaimed composer Matt Conner will write the musical score. This will be the first piece created as part of a five-year funding initiative entitled: "Bold New Works for Intimate Stages." Each year, through 2019, Creative Cauldron will commission a new work of musical theatre that is especially suited for performance in small theatres. *The Turn of the Screw* will premiere during Creative Cauldron's 2014-2015 season.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) will continue their tradition of musical excellence and community outreach by presenting a series of six interactive and family-friendly concerts paired with film classics at the Mosaic District in Fairfax. Under the direction of guest conductor Luke Frazier, each concert will feature FSO musicians, guest soloists, and the National Broadway Chorus. Concerts will explore diverse music genres, including classic nursery rhymes, standards by female singers of the 1960s, and unforgettable 80's hits. Four outdoor concerts will be held in Strawberry Park, located next to the Angelika Film Center, and two holiday-themed concerts are planned in one of the Film Center's beautiful theatres.

Greater Reston Arts Center

The Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), in collaboration with the Initiative for Public Art-Reston, will present a public art installation and exhibition by acclaimed artist Patrick Dougherty. Famed for his monumental, site-specific sculptures fashioned from tree saplings, Mr. Dougherty will create a sculpture in Reston Town Center Park, located across from the GRACE gallery, in April of 2015. Utilizing community volunteers and local materials, Mr. Dougherty will produce an immersive sculpture that can be explored by the viewer, inside and out. The work will be complemented by an exhibition at GRACE documenting the artist's sculptural installations from around the world.

Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts

Regional music of the Commonwealth returns to Herndon in their 4-part concert series, *Dominion Notes*. The series will draw audiences young and old to witness the foot-stomping sounds of guitars, fiddles and bass. Genres of music that will be represented include bluegrass (Marty Fair, *Spruce Brothers* band), blues (*Herbie D and the Dangermen*), traditional Appalachian (Jack Hinshelwood, *Celtibillies*), and folk music (*Beyond Borders*). There will also be a special song-writing workshop for school aged children that will be held during the last concert of the series. Additionally, visitors can browse regional artisan crafts and handmade guitars, as well as sample Virginia wines and fresh agri-artisan produce. Through taste, sight

and sound, *Dominion Notes* will give members of the community a chance to explore the traditional Virginian experience.

McLean Project for the Arts

The McLean Project for the Arts presents *Manifesting Phenomena: Drop, Hover, See Through, Spin...*, an exhibition of sculptures by artists who are interested in investigating the many and most basic concepts of physical science. Educational components include new gallery tours focusing on physics, earth science and art for approximately 2,300 Fairfax County elementary students; 12 to 15 in-class sculpture workshops conducted by artists, educators and exhibiting artists; a family workshop; a curator's talk; and a panel discussion by the exhibiting artists. The exhibition will run from January 8 to March 7, 2015.

NextStop Theatre Company

NextStop Theatre Company (formerly the Elden Street Players) is the first major professional theatre to be exclusively dedicated to serving Fairfax County's Dulles Corridor. In their upcoming 2014/15 season, NextStop will expand their community outreach by embarking on their first educational mini-tour. They will mount a fun-filled, hour-long production, then bring it directly to the children of ten (or more) area elementary schools. By demonstrating how fun it is to be an active participant in a live performance, and how distinct that experience is from watching TV or a movie, NextStop will introduce a generation of young students to the magic of live theatre.

Traveling Players Ensemble

The Traveling Players Ensemble will expand their classical theatre summer camp program at The Medeira School campus in McLean. Expansion includes doubling their popular two-week Greek Myths Ensemble, available to (rising) Grades 5-7. They will also extend participation in their introductory Sampler Mini-Camp, previously only available to (rising) Grades 5-6, to children in (rising) Grades 3 and 4. The Greek Myths Ensemble performs original pieces adapted by esteemed educator and playwright Judy White, who also teaches the course, and the Sampler explores a wide variety of acting skills. By expanding the scope and duration of their popular programs, the Traveling Players Ensemble ensures that a greater number of young artists have an opportunity to learn, grow, and have fun.

Virginia Ballet Company and School

In celebration of its 65th Anniversary, Virginia Ballet Company will perform *La Sylphide* in April of 2015. Rarely performed at the pre-professional level, *La Sylphide* is the oldest Romantic ballet, famed for its pointe work and ethereal sylphs. The dramatic power and technical sophistication of this ballet will provide an extraordinary experience for VBC dancers and highlight the vitality of dance in Fairfax County. Additionally, unique aspects of this production will allow for collaboration with many other Fairfax County arts organizations and facilitate the engagement of new audiences. Four performances will be given at the Ernst Community Center in Annandale.

Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

Emphasizing the role of parents as a child's primary teacher, Wolf Trap will provide Artsplay and Baby Artsplay residencies, as well as Family Involvement Workshops to support early childhood development through music, drama, and dance. Taught by Teaching Artists, these programs engage children up to 5 years and their caregivers in multisensory arts experiences to facilitate language, social/emotional and motor skills, and promote understanding of the arts as an integral part of child development. Continuing a successful partnership with county libraries,

Wolf Trap will offer free services to a broad segment of Fairfax County, including families in economically disadvantaged circumstances.

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