

Henrik Sundqvist  
Director of Communications  
(703) 642-0862 x3; [info@artsfairfax.org](mailto:info@artsfairfax.org)

## Douglas Sanderson – 25 Years of Outstanding Civic Service in the Arts



*Fairfax County, VA* – Douglas J. Sanderson was honored at the 2016 Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations' annual awards banquet with a Citation of Merit recognizing his 25 years of pro-bono legal service, tremendous passion, and tireless dedication to the arts in Fairfax County. Olga Hernandez was recognized with the 2015 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year award. Other Citation of Merit honorees were Jim Hart, Phil Rosenthal, and Shirley Ginwright. Sally Sibley received a Special Gratitude Award.

Sanderson, who currently serves as legal counsel to the board of directors of the Arts Council of Fairfax County, has supported the Arts Council in its mission to support, empower, and provide access to the arts in the County since 1991. For over two decades, Sanderson has lent his personal commitment, outstanding legal sensitivities, and professional expertise guiding the Arts Council through artist contracts, lease agreements, organizational policies, and travel visas becoming in part a living history of the Arts Council. Sanderson was first introduced to the Arts Council through Sam Bleicher, his former colleague at his prior law firm, Miles & Stockbridge, who was leaving the legal counsel position and approached him about whether he might be interested in serving.

“Both in his legal capacity and many auxiliary roles, Doug has delivered outstanding support and dedication to the growth of the Arts Council and the local arts community we serve,” said Linda S. Sullivan, president and CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. “He is to be congratulated for his tireless and stellar contributions.”

Over the years, Sanderson has helped to steer the Arts Council through many changes; from a program driven membership organization to a service-driven arts agency benefitting all residents in Fairfax County. In the early days, he assisted youth performers from around the world who performed at the International Children's Festival. Over the last few years, he negotiated legal provisions for the Arts Council's last three leases, as the organization relocated from Annandale, to the City of Fairfax, and to its current office space in Merrifield. Sanderson has provided legal support for the organization's arts education program services and for its temporary public art engagement project, *Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles*. His legal experience in real estate development led to Sanderson also serving on the County's Master Arts Plan Task Force, which is charged to produce a cultural plan for the County's Comprehensive Plan, expanding community access to and engagement in arts and culture. According to Sanderson, “I take great pride in doing my small part in supporting the growth and sustenance of the arts community in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia.”

Sanderson's passion for the arts stems from his early childhood, growing up with parents actively engaged in arts and culture, who encouraged him to enjoy the arts in general and to play the clarinet. "My dad, an art history professor and art dealer, and my mom edited arts and architectural publications together and routinely played classical and sometimes modern music in the house," said Sanderson. "I saw that acting as legal counsel for the Arts Council would be a way to keep in touch and support the arts."

In addition to his support for the local arts, Sanderson served many years as a member of the boards of directors of Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Temple Rodef Shalom, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, and Communities of Faith United for Housing. He also participated in the site selection committee for Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia.

Sanderson is a principal in the 100+ year law firm of McCandlish & Lillard, P.C. He maintains a multi-faceted real estate, family law, and business practice. His services in those areas include legal advice and assistance, family law litigation, finding business and family law solutions without litigation, as well as other methods of problem-solving. Sanderson has practiced law in northern Virginia since 1977. Amongst his many accolades and accomplishments he has been named a "Legal Elite" attorney by *Virginia Business* magazine; a "Super Lawyer" for Northern Virginia and the Washington metropolitan area by *SuperLawyer* magazine; maintains the highest AV rating from *Martindale-Hubbell* legal directory; and has regularly been listed in the directories of numerous *Who's Who* publications.

#### 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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#### CONTACT:

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