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Arts Council Operating Support Grants Exceed \$379,000 to Further the Arts in Fairfax County

Select recipients include BalletNova, Arts Herndon, Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, and 1st Stage



Students at Metropolitan School of the Arts rehearse for its *Academy Showcase* performance. Credit: Glenn Cook

Fairfax County, VA – The Arts Council of Fairfax County has awarded \$379,013 in Operating Support Grants to 41 nonprofit arts organizations in Fairfax County. Operating Support Grants provide critical funds necessary for the basic operation of arts organizations in Fairfax County in recognition of the valuable programs and services they provide to County residents.

Fiscal year 2017 funded organizations offering public programs in a variety of disciplines including arts education, dance, instrumental music, multidisciplinary, opera, theatre, visual art, and vocal music. Operating Support Grants are awarded each year to both emerging and established art organizations.

“We are pleased to issue County support for the arts in Fairfax through a competitive grants process. Organizations receiving general operating support represent our most creative and well managed organizations, which provide a high level of arts service and community reach,” said Linda S. Sullivan, President & CEO, Arts Council of Fairfax County.

“With the grant award, Reston Community Players will provide scholarships to college bound theatrical artists and help Girl Scouts learn about the world of theater backstage. The grant also furthers our ability to work with community organizations on special projects, such as the *LMproject Broadway Bound Summer Intensive*, and to provide unique opportunities for audiences to experience theater in ways they may not otherwise have the chance to, such as our sensory sensitive matinee of *Mary Poppins*,” said Jolene Vettese, President, Reston Community Players.

“This year, with support from the Arts Council, Arts Herndon was able to host one of our most prestigious programs—a literary event featuring Kwame Alexander and Meg Medina. Kwame is the winner of many literary awards, most recently the Newbery award, and Meg Medina is the two-time winner of the Pura Belpré award for Children's and Young Adult literature. Attendees included State Delegate Jennifer Boysko, Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust, Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel and a diverse audience of high school, elementary school, and adult attendees,” said Signe Friedrichs, Arts Herndon.

“We are honored to receive our first Operating Support Grant from the Arts Council, which supports our commitment to provide a comprehensive performing arts academy program, including world-renowned instructors and state-of-the-art facilities, and our goals to expand, teach, and personify performing arts education in our community in Fairfax County and beyond,” said Melissa Dobbs, Founder and Executive Director of Metropolitan School of the Arts in Alexandria, VA. “Our black box theatre, set to debut in January 2017, is just one example of MSA’s passion to build our community arts’ program and bring the arts to our Fairfax County neighbors,” said Melissa Dobbs, Founder and Executive Director of Metropolitan School of the Arts.

The FY17 Operating Support Grant recipients include:

1st Stage, Inc., Acting For Young People, Amadeus Concerts, Inc., American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras, BalletNova, Children of the Light Dancers, The Choralis Foundation, City of Fairfax Band Association, City of Fairfax Theatre Company, Arts Herndon, Creative Cauldron, The Fairfax Ballet Company, Fairfax Choral Society, Greater Reston Arts Center, The Hub Theatre, Initiative for Public Art – Reston, Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, McLean Community Players, McLean Orchestra, McLean Project for the Arts, The McLean Symphony, Metropolitan School of the Arts, Mosaic Harmony, Mount Vernon Community Children’s Theatre, New Dominion Chorale, NextStop Theatre Company, Northern Virginia Chorale, Providence Players of Fairfax, The Reston Chorale, Reston Community Players, Reunion Music Society, Inc., Traveling Players Ensemble, Vienna Choral Society, Vienna-Falls Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, The Vienna Jammers Percussion Ensemble, Inc., Virginia Ballet Company and School, Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Virginia Opera Association, Inc., Voce Inc., Washington Balalaika Society, and Workhouse Arts Foundation.

On behalf of Fairfax County, the Arts Council awarded over \$500,000 in grants to arts organizations and individual artists during FY16, contributing to more than 9,000 performances and activities, which were attended by over 700,000 people. The Operating Support Grants program is one of five grant programs, which help to further the arts in Fairfax County. To learn more about all five grant programs, visit <http://artsfairfax.org/grants>.

About the Arts Council of Fairfax County

The Arts Council of Fairfax County fosters a dynamic and diverse arts scene throughout Fairfax County. We ensure the arts thrive by providing vision, leadership, capacity-building services, advocacy, funding, education, and information. The Council distributes over \$540,000 annually through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and artists of all disciplines. The Arts Council of Fairfax County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and Fairfax County's designated local arts agency. It is funded in part by Fairfax County, corporations, foundations, individuals, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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