

Mini-grants program yields large impact.



Fairfax County, VA – The *Center for Cultural Exchange*, based out of Providence district, is the latest arts organization to have received a \$1,000 *Fast Track Grant* by the Arts Council of Fairfax County. The grant enabled the organization to pay for uniforms and to receive training in the arts of Wu-Style Tai Chi and Tai Chi Ball taught by instructor Tian Meng Yi, a visiting graduate student from Beijing Sports University in China. As a result their nine member strong youth group will perform a Tai Chi fan dance at the Kennedy Center on February 9th, 2015.

“It is amazing to see that with such little seed money, provided by the Arts Council, our students were able to obtain uniforms and critical training by an overseas instructor which has led to our group performing on a national stage.”

— Joana Pei, Youth Leadership Development Program Coach, *Center for Cultural Exchange*

“The *Fast Track Grants* program allows the Arts Council to quickly fund small and mid-sized organizations having immediate needs that could not be foreseen within the regular granting cycles, or to take advantage of short term unforeseen opportunities. The *Center for Cultural Exchange*’s most recent success is a perfect example how we can serve as a catalyst and enabler to the arts in Fairfax County.”

— Linda S. Sullivan, President & CEO, *Arts Council of Fairfax County*

The *Center for Cultural Exchange* is a Chinese cultural arts organization promoting intergenerational activities and cultural performances utilizing the practice and art of Wu Shu, Tai Chi, and Qigong. Ms. Pei explains: “Wu Shu, in Chinese, means “martial arts”, and Qigong translates as “life energy cultivation.” As a result, Qigong is an important internal aspect of Tai

Chi, and Tai Chi is a sub-branch of Wu Shu. Our vision is to enhance people’s understanding of this cultural art form.”

The *Fast Track Grants* program was initiated in 2014 by the Arts Council to allow smaller arts organizations to quickly execute programs and services, and fund unforeseen needs. Since its inception the Arts Council has awarded five grants. Organizations with an operating budget of less than \$400,000 are eligible to apply for up to \$1,000. For more information, visit <http://artsfairfax.org/grants/applicants> or contact Rachelle Etienne-Robinson, Grants Coordinator, at rerobinson@artsfairfax.org or (703) 642-0862 x6.

PHOTO CAPTION: Students from the *Center for Cultural Exchange* performed the Tai Chi fan dance taught by Tian Meng Yi, an instructor visiting from China at a Chinese New Year’s Gala. Photo courtesy of US Wushu Academy.

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Arts Council of Fairfax County



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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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