

Arts Council of Fairfax County Recognized for Innovative Public Art

Americans for the Arts' Public Art Network selected the Arts Council's *Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles* by artist Julia Vogl for its 2015 Year in Review program.



Fairfax County, VA – The Arts Council of Fairfax County was recognized by Americans for the Arts' Public Art Network (PAN) Year in Review program for its visionary *Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles* temporary public art and engagement project with artist Julia Vogl.

Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education, honored 38 outstanding 2015 public arts projects – *Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles* being one of them – at the PAN Year in Review program. The PAN Year in Review is the only national program that annually recognizes the most compelling public art. The works were chosen from 260 entries across the country and recognized at Americans for the Arts' 2016 Annual Convention in Boston.

“These PAN Year in Review selections illustrate that public art has the power to enhance our lives on a scale that little else can. Whether subtly beautiful or vibrantly jolting, a public art work has the singular ability to make citizens going about everyday business stop, think, and through the power of art appreciate a moment, no matter how brief,” said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts.

The Arts Council launched *Imagine Art Here* in 2015 with a series of county-wide public art engagement projects to elicit a vision for the role of the arts in the community and collect resident, workforce, and visitor feedback for future facilities, public art, and related arts amenities.

For *Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles*, 1,000 Tysons' residents, employees, and visitors were asked about their vision for the arts at Tysons and were then able to see the responses displayed in two massive ground murals located at Greensboro Green Park and Tysons West. In addition, responses were illuminated in LED lights on the exterior of the Silverline Center building and displayed on a wrapped shuttle bus.

Artist Julia Vogl was selected from over 130 submissions for the project at Tysons. Vogl, who calls herself a 'social sculptor,' creates public art projects that are derived from dynamic engagement strategies that reflect the community's views on various topics and translates them into innovative installations that feature bold colors, designs, and patterns.

"We are delighted to have *Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles* selected for the 2015 public art Year in Review," said Linda S. Sullivan, president and CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. **"We've had wonderful public participation in this project and great community support. We look forward to continuing *Imagine Art Here* as a public art and community engagement series throughout the county."**

"*Tysons Tiles* achieved everything we hoped for in community engagement and great public art," said Lisa Mariam, project manager. **"We set out to create a project that set a high standard for public art in the county and it is so gratifying to be recognized for our work on a national level."**

Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles was supported through a lead Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts with matching funds from corporate sponsors The ASCENT, Capital One, Intelsat, The JBG Companies and JBGR Retail, The Meridian Group, and Washington Real Estate Investment Trust. In-kind support was provided by AlumiGraphics, Beacon Capital Partners, INADEV, and Severn Graphics.

The Arts Council is currently in the process of planning two new *Imagine Art Here* projects at Seven Corners and Springfield to be carried out in 2017-18. Working with Fairfax County government, National Endowment for the Arts, corporate sponsors, and community partners the Arts Council will continue to engage, inspire, and provide a vision for future public art in Fairfax County.

Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles can be viewed at <http://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/networks-and-councils/public-art-network/pan-year-in-review-database>. To find out more about the artist Julia Vogl, visit <http://www.juliavogl.com>.

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Image Caption: Child playing hula hoop at the Tysons West ground mural art installation by Julia Vogl.

Photo Credit: Vita Images

NOTE: High resolution photos are available upon request.

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Arts Council of Fairfax County

MAPPING THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS IN FAIRFAX

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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