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Laura Dailey
Director of Communications and Advocacy
(703) 642-0862 x7; info@artsfairfax.org

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 Ist 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 Belpre award for Children's and Young Adult literature. Attendees included State Delegate Jennifer Boyso, 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:
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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CONTACT:
Laura Dailey
Director of Communications and Advocacy
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