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ARTSFAIRFAX Awards \$379,129 in Grants to 37 Local Fairfax County Arts Organizations

Fairfax County, VA—[ARTSFAIRFAX](#) awarded \$379,129 in Operating Support Grants to thirty-seven arts organizations in Fairfax County for FY2018. This investment crosses all arts disciplines and supports organizations to create more than 14,000 performances, exhibitions, events and other activities generating an audience of more than 700,000 Fairfax County residents and visitors.

ARTSFAIRFAX congratulates the following Operating Support grant recipients:

- 1st Stage Acting For Young People
- American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras
- Arts Herndon
- BalletNova Center for Dance
- City of Fairfax Band Association
- Creative Cauldron
- Fairfax Choral Society
- George Mason University Foundation, Inc.
- Greater Reston Arts Center,
- Iranian-American Community Center-Pars Place
- Jewish Community Center
- McLean Project for the Arts, Mosaic Harmony
- Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre
- Music for Life, New Dominion Chorale
- NextStop Theatre Company
- Providence Players of Fairfax
- Public Art Reston
- Reston Community Players
- Reunion Music Society
- The Cappies NCA
- The Choralis Foundation
- The Fairfax Ballet Company
- The McLean Symphony
- The Northern Virginia Chorale
- The Reston Chorale
- The Vienna Jammers Percussion Ensemble, Inc.
- Traveling Players Ensemble
- Tysons McLean Orchestra
- Vienna Choral Society
- Vienna-Falls Chorus
- Virginia Chamber Orchestra
- Voce, Inc.
- Washington West Film Festival
- Workhouse Arts Foundation, Inc.

"Over the years our General Operating Support funds have been a consistent source of critical support for arts organizations throughout the county," said Linda Sullivan, President & CEO of **ARTSFAIRFAX**. "With almost half of our arts organizations run by

volunteers, these grants help many of these groups add muscle and the capacity to hire staff and grow audiences to become cultural centerpieces and economic engines in their communities, enriching the quality of life for local residents.”

Operating Support Grants provide organizational stability as a platform for the growth of the arts in Fairfax County. Large or small, Fairfax County arts organizations benefit from both the investment and the visibility these grants provide.

An Operating Support Grant for The McLean Symphony offsets the costs of the all-volunteer chamber orchestra business expenses which include license fees for symphonic work.

Allan Kolker, board member of the symphony stated, “Support from **ARTSFAIRFAX**, together with an all-volunteer organizational structure, has helped The McLean Symphony put on a full schedule of concerts for 46 seasons. **ARTSFAIRFAX** support helps us meet recurring operating expenses such as music rentals and facilities charges. By supporting music rentals, our performance repertoire isn’t limited to works in the public domain.”



Acting For Young People After School Acting Class Photo Credit: Gabrielle Nixdorf



1st Stage: Matthew Sparacino, Michael Crowley, Gary DuBreuil, Amanda Forstrom, Edward Christian, Sam Ludwig, Frank Britton in “The Farnsworth Invention” by Aaron Sorkin, directed by Alex Levy. Photo by Teresa Castracane.

Arts organizations with professional staff such as the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) share the same challenge of raising enough capital to meet its mission of promoting involvement and excellence in contemporary visual arts.

“The **ARTSFAIRFAX** Operating Support Grant does not just provide us with much-needed funds, it also functions as a seal of approval in the community,” says Lily Siegel, Grace’s Executive Director and Curator. “Every time GRACE goes to the community to ask for financial support, the pitch

starts with the statement that **ARTSFAIRFAX** has already put their support behind us. The grant is a true catalyst for fundraising.”

Grants are critical to small organizations like the New Dominion Chorale with no full-time staff. Operating support provides funds to offset the costs of doing business such as accounting or marketing. For more established and larger organizations like 1st Stage, an operating support grant is venture capital to invest in innovation or develop new programs to expand their audiences.

As a public investment, **ARTSFAIRFAX** Operating Support Grants are competitive and require that each organization raise a 2:1 match of private funds. The need for funding is self-evident each year with requests for funding far exceeding the available pool of grant funds. For FY2019, the requests for Operating Support exceeded \$1 million, almost triple the amount of funding available.

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About **ARTSFAIRFAX**

ARTSFAIRFAX 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. **ARTSFAIRFAX** fosters a dynamic and diverse arts scene throughout Fairfax County by providing vision, leadership, capacity-building services, advocacy, funding, education, and information. **ARTSFAIRFAX** distributes over \$500,000 annually through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and artists of all disciplines.