



For Immediate Release  
November 9, 2018

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## ARTSFAIRFAX AWARDS \$92,711 in Grants to 13 Fairfax County Arts Organizations

Fairfax County, VA-ARTSFAIRFAX awarded \$92,711 in Project Support Grants to 13 arts organizations in Fairfax County for FY2019. This investment crosses all arts disciplines and supports organizations, which use the arts to create locally driven arts experiences across Fairfax County.

“ARTSFAIRFAX Project Support Grants are an investment in creative and active communities, helping arts organizations to bring outstanding programs to broader audiences,” says Linda Sullivan, President and CEO of ARTSFAIRFAX.

Project Support Grants range from \$1,000 to \$30,000 and are awarded in three categories: arts in education, opportunity and partnerships with individual artists. Grant funding is provided by Fairfax County and administered through ARTSFAIRFAX. A peer review panel determines eligibility using national best practices.

“What all these grants exhibit is innovation and creativity in engaging the community. Whether it is a large organization like the Fairfax Symphony or a small volunteer chorale group like Voce, each of these 13 grantees bring together the community to experience arts in fresh and unusual ways,” said Sullivan.

The Fairfax Symphony’s Link-Up project is a performance-based introduction to classical music for children in grades 3-5, who attend Title 1 schools. Each child chooses to sing or play a recorder, and after several weeks of instruction, these students perform with the orchestra at the George Mason University Center for the Arts. Link-Up participants tap into multiple skill sets, often simultaneously, in learning to sing or play the recorder. These skills, which research has demonstrated, help them in other subjects like math and language development.

Music experiences can also be intergenerational, and Voce intends to bring this to life with its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary production of “Noye’s Fludde.” Composer Benjamin Britten re-imagined this medieval mystery play of Noah’s Ark as a short opera and a community music-making vehicle. Voce program enlists 75 players and 125 singers

including children, teens, adults, and seniors along with professional singers and musicians in performing this often dramatic and funny opera.

The variety and breadth of approaches to engaging new audiences, nurturing the next generation of artists and students is reflected in each of the 2019 Project Support grants:

**1<sup>st</sup> Stage**—Arts education grant for student matinees with pre- or post-show community conversations with artists about the play’s themes. Preparation includes classroom visits and a curriculum guide to plays.

**American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO)**—Arts education grant for the Junior Ensemble Orchestra, a new program for 20 string players, ages 9-14 who will receive intensive chamber music training and opportunity to play in an ensemble of their peers.

**BalletNova Center for Dance** — Opportunity grant to perform one of Martha Graham’s masterpieces, “Steps in the Street.” The project includes intensive training and lessons on Martha Graham’s extraordinary contributions to dance.

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra**—Arts education grant for Link-Up, a performance-based curriculum of classroom activities that lead up to a culminating concert for students at the George Mason University Center for the Arts.

**Greater Reston Arts Center**—Arts Education grant for Emerging Visions, which will focus on one exhibition and produce related content for educators to integrate into the curriculum for grades K-12.

**Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia**—Partnerships with individual artists grant for Carolyn Dorfman Dance’s “The Legacy Project: A Dance of Hope,” which incorporates dance performance, multi-media presentation and interactive dialogue.

**Mason Community Arts Academy**—Arts education grant for two faculty chamber groups to perform and teach in three different school programs in Fairfax County.

**McLean Project for the Arts (MPA)**—Partnerships with individual artists grant for “Intention/Invention” an exhibition of works by two area artists. These works will be incorporated into MPA’s ArtReach program with student curriculum and the publication of educational workbooks.

**MVLE Inc.**—Arts education grant for “Rookie’s First Feast,” an original production, which explores valuable connections to nutrition, essential for people with and without disabilities. Cast includes both professional performers and people with disabilities.

**NextStop Theatre**—Partnerships with individual artists grant for New Works Networking and Development program. This two-part initiative brings local playwrights and directors together to cultivate relationships between local artists and nurture new work and productions.

**Northern Virginia Youth Winds**—Arts education grant for the City of Fairfax Band Association to add specialized instructors to this middle school level band and wind ensemble for brass, woodwind and percussion students.

**Voce**—Opportunity grant to produce English composer Benjamin Britten’s community opera, “Noye’s Fludde” (Noah’s Flood) and will involve almost 200 local singers and performers.

**Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts**—Arts education grant for Artsplay and Baby Artsplay residencies in Fairfax County Public Libraries. The program emphasizing the role of parents as a child’s first teacher, these classes teach caregivers how to support early childhood development through music, drama, puppets and dance.

As a public investment, **ARTSFAIRFAX** Project Support Grants are competitive and a peer review panel of experts reviews each eligible application. By supporting projects both large and small throughout the county, these grants offer access to a range of arts experiences for residents and visitors, as well as generate new audiences for the arts.

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**ARTSFAIRFAX** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, incorporated in 1964, as Fairfax County’s designated local arts agency. **ARTSFAIRFAX** is funded in part by Fairfax County, corporations, foundations, individuals, the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



NextStop Theatre - Incubating original work like their recent performance “45 Plays 45 Presidents” is the goal of NextStop Theatre, which will use its project grant to bring playwrights and directors together to foster new collaborations.

*Photo by Lock & Company*



Voce - The chorale chamber ensemble 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will include an ambitious production of Benjamin Britten’s “Noye’s Fludde” with some 200 singers and performers.

*Photo Courtesy of Voce*