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Arts Forward Fund Awards \$25,000 to ArtsFairfax

Fairfax County, VA– The Arts Forward Fund awarded a \$25,000 grant to ArtsFairfax to support a diversity, equity, inclusion, and access initiative for the 2021 **WORK-SMART** workshop series. The Arts Forward Fund, a partnership between the Greater Washington Community Foundation, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, and 16 other foundations and individual donors, announced over \$1 million in grants to 43 arts and culture organizations in the D.C. region.

ArtsFairfax’s 2021 **WORK-SMART** workshops will focus on capacity building and provide training to help Fairfax County arts organizations impacted by COVID-19 recover and innovate. The 2021 workshops focus on building inclusion, diversity, equity, and access into our community recovery.

“The Arts Forward grant will help us to reach a new level of focus on diversity, equity, and access through our workshop series,” said Linda S. Sullivan, ArtsFairfax President & CEO. “Fairfax County takes pride in its diverse community and ArtsFairfax is working to help meet the County’s One Fairfax goals. COVID-19’s impact on the arts has moved us all to re-imagine the delivery of programs, how we communicate, and increase our efforts to broaden our reach. The Arts Forward Fund support is a significant boost in this effort.”

The **WORK-SMART** workshops support arts organizations adjusting to a new environment by providing programing focused on audience development, community engagement, partnerships, and monetizing virtual programing. The Arts Forward Fund expands ArtsFairfax’s outreach efforts to tackle tough issues by offering practical solutions to improve access to the arts. ArtsFairfax will model inclusive programing, including engaging diverse workshop advisors and speakers and supporting more inclusive program delivery, including closed caption, material translation, and recordings of the program, all free of charge for the community.

An advisory group of thought leaders from diverse backgrounds are being asked to provide guidance and feedback to ArtsFairfax throughout the planning process.

The ArtsFairfax **WORK-SMART** workshops are offered free to the public and the diversity, equity, inclusion, and access workshops will launch in the spring of 2021. ArtsFairfax encourages arts organizations to join the conversation. Registration begins in February.

About ArtsFairfax

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, Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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