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The arts are in Fairfax: Wolf Trap 50 years of memories

By Dana C. Stewart / Special to the Fairfax County Times

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Washington Ballet, Giselle

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Summer is well underway, and everyone is happy to get out and enjoy the opportunities in the community. As we take steps forward, it is essential to celebrate the arts organizations that have helped shape our community.

For more than 50 years, Wolf Trap has created the standard of art offerings in Northern Virginia and built a loyal audience representing diverse backgrounds and tastes across all arts disciplines. Wolf Trap is a nationally-renowned venue, but for us in Fairfax, it is home. The incredible performances and education opportunities offered in our backyard blend art and nature, creating a lifetime of memories.

We all have our own Wolf Trap story to share. For me, it is my youngest son's first Wolf Trap experience not that long ago. It was pouring rain, but we joined a packed lawn with Wolf Trap die-hard enthusiasts dancing and singing under the dark sky until the show lights turned dim. Fifty years is just the start for our hometown jewel. Check out wolftrap.org and celebrate Wolf Trap with their exciting shows for the summer.

For Art Organizations

ArtsFairfax's new project-based grant, Arts Ignite Recovery (AIR), closes July 21. The grant opportunity supports nonprofit arts organizations in providing activities which engage diverse audiences and create arts opportunities in underserved county areas. ArtsFairfax remains committed to engaging Fairfax County residents in the arts, rebuilding the programming capacity of art organizations, and nurturing new creative collaborations. The AIR grant is open to nonprofit arts organizations based in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax and the City of Falls Church.

At the national level, the president's approval of the American Rescue Plan creates two new grant opportunities for arts organizations through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Our country is on the path to recovery, and the new funding bill will play a significant role in moving the arts community toward economic recovery.

NEA funding will support two separate competitive programs to distribute American Rescue Plan funds to local arts agencies for sub-granting and direct grants to organizations. Visit nea.gov for application information.

Celebrating the Arts

Celebrating Fairfax County visionaries gives us pause to reflect on the work accomplished while looking toward the future. This year the ArtsFairfax's Arts Awards celebrates 10 years of the community's greatest visionaries. This Arts Awards will take place in Fairfax County's newest venue, Capital One Hall, October 15 at noon. The entire community is invited to celebrate five

individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the arts in Fairfax County. The 2021 award categories include Arts Education, Arts Impact, Arts Philanthropy, and ArtsFairfax's premier award, the Jinx Hazel Award. Awardees will be announced later in the summer.

To learn more about the arts in Fairfax County, visit artsfairfax.org.