



## **We ask for your support of the arts in Virginia!**

Since, 1992, Virginians for the Arts has advocated for increased public funding for the arts, including grants made through the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) to arts organizations across the Commonwealth.

The VDOE budget includes an appropriation of \$7.4 million each year of the biennium. This appropriation would fund the arts at \$.86 per capita, bringing us closer to our goal, and the goal of the Virginia General Assembly, of \$1 per capita. We ask for your support for this funding!

### **The VCA supports the arts across Virginia, especially during the pandemic.**

The VCA disbursed more than 1.3 million dollars in pandemic relief funding for different arts organizations. To date, VCA has disbursed about 1.5 million dollars since March 2020.

### **Artists and arts organizations continue to be impacted by the pandemic.**

The arts industry has been one of the hardest hit sectors by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our stages were the first to close, which led to staff reductions and cancellation of events. The Virginia arts industry has experienced a financial loss of \$18.7 million since the beginning of the pandemic.

### **The arts have had a positive impact on recovery across the Commonwealth.**

Despite its challenges, the arts industry has had a positive impact on the individual and economic recovery in communities across the state. Some examples include the Barter Theatre in Abingdon who brokered numerous business and donor relations to convert an abandoned drive-in into a stage for performing. Additionally, the Roanoke Arts Commission gave grants to area restaurants to pay performing artists to perform in restaurants to get artists back to work.

### **Virginia's arts industry creates jobs and stimulates the economy.**

In Virginia, the creative industries provide 125,856 jobs, yielding \$9 billion in compensation to Virginia families. Additionally, Virginia's creative industries add \$17.9 billion to the state's economy, making the arts a critical driver of economic growth. In 2019, the VA arts industry was larger than the agriculture industry!

### **Virginia's arts organizations play an important role in Virginia tourism.**

The arts and culture destinations are crucial to Virginia's tourism market. Cultural travelers in Virginia spend an average of \$943 per trip, 63% more than the average Virginia traveler. Heritage tourism spending pumps \$7.7 billion in the Virginia economy.

### **Arts build communities.**

Arts organizations are anchors for development and revitalization in cities and small towns. Over 39 percent of the VCA's grants are awarded to rural areas.