



## **FY23 Project Support Grant Recipients**

### **1st Stage - *Workshops of Commissioned Solo Work***

1st Stage will conduct public workshop performances of four new solo plays written by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) writers and performers. These plays were commissioned by 1st Stage during the pandemic shutdown to support the artistic community during an uncertain time. To continue supporting this community of artists, 1st Stage is advancing the creative process necessary to the development of these pieces, not only at 1st Stage but at companies across the country. By assigning creative teams such as directors, choreographers, musicians, and designers to each play and shepherding each piece through a full rehearsal process, these pieces will come to life for audiences across the country. The culmination of this project will be a public performance of each of the four pieces. Audience engagement is particularly important in solo work where the audience acts as a second character in the play along with the performer.

### **American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras - *American Youth Prelude Ensemble***

AYPO launched its seventh orchestra, the American Youth Prelude Ensemble, in September 2022. This ensemble was established in response to a large number of students ages 7 to 11 who recently auditioned for the AYPO entry-level American Youth Debut Orchestra and American Youth String Ensemble but were not quite ready for these ensembles. Rather than turn students away and risk their losing interest in music, this new string orchestra was created. AYPO anticipates the American Youth Prelude Ensemble, made up of violinists, violists, cellists, and bassists, will serve approximately 25 to 30 students primarily in grades two through five in its first season. Need-based tuition assistance is available for all qualified students, ensuring their participation. The ensemble will present at least two public performances.

### **BalletNova Center for Dance - *Celebrating Women's History: Harriet Strong, Movement and the Power of Innovation***

"Celebrating Women's History: Harriet Strong, Movement and the Power of Innovation" brings dance and the art of choreography into the public schools using Constance Walsh's filmed dance "Dear Harriet" as inspiration. Students will watch the film, analyzing the movement and choreography to find meaning and learn more about its subject matter. Students will then create their own choreographic studies based on themes surrounding the life and work of Harriet Strong. Led by choreographer and BalletNova Associate Director Constance Walsh and Educational Outreach Coordinator Elizabeth Spatz, this free outreach program aims to bring dance to the schools and foster creativity through movement for students.

### **Capital Wind Symphony - *An Afternoon of Dance with the Capital Wind Symphony!***

The Capital Wind Symphony plans to present a program on October 23, 2022, that provides audiences with a diverse program of concert band dance music and dances. Selections will include dance music in the Latin, Ragtime, Yiddish, and other styles in addition to English and French. The concert will be present at no cost to the public at Capital One Hall.

### **Creative Cauldron** - *Artes Para Todos*

The "Artes Para Todos" project will provide young people attending Falls Church/Fairfax County Title I schools year-round after school drama workshops, and Arts Adventure Camps over spring and summer breaks. The project will specifically reach English learners and young people from homes where Spanish is the first language spoken. Families of those participating will have the opportunity to attend culminating workshop performances presented by the students. They will also be able to attend, at no cost, a bi-lingual touring performance of "Tales from the Andes," and three family-friendly performances at Creative Cauldron.

### **Fairfax Symphony Orchestra** - *Link Up: The Orchestra Sings!*

Link Up: The Orchestra Sings! is an innovative education program for third to sixth grade students. Over three months in their classrooms, students will explore melodies through a range of colorful repertoire, sing, play the recorder and compose music. Highlights include Beethoven's Ode to Joy, Stravinsky's Firebird Suite, Papoulis' Oye, and Copland's Simple Gifts. Link Up provides extensive standards-based teacher and student materials, created by FSO partner Carnegie Hall. Linking the classroom to the concert hall, the program culminates in an interactive concert with the FSO where students sing and play their recorders from their seats in the audience. Link Up engages students in a meaningful musical experience and promotes a lifelong appreciation of classical music, while building skills in reading and math. The program helps fill the critical need for high quality, music education for thousands of students in disadvantaged areas across this region.

### **Gin Dance Company** - *Emergence*

Gin Dance Company presents "Emergence", a performance comprised of three distinct World Premier pieces, each with very different meanings, cultural influences, and styles. First, a collaboration with kinetic sculpture artist, Kevin Reese called "I Am Here". GDC's Artistic Director Shu-Chen Cuff, as a 1st generation immigrant, delves into her experience of the desire, dreams, struggles, opportunities, and celebration of immigrating to the United States. Using the kinetic sculpture design and dance, the audience will get a glimpse into immigrants' life experiences and how they come together within the community. The second performance, "A Cup of Tea", is an Asian culturally influenced work with live music accompaniment by Chinese Dulcimer musician, Chao Tian. Shu-Chen explores the culture and philosophy of the Chinese tea ceremony and reveals that the tea ceremonies and rituals contain an adoration of the beautiful among the sordid facts of everyday life, as well as refinement, an inner spiritual content, humility, restraint, and simplicity through dance. The third performance, "A New Day", is a contemporary ballet with a fun, light-hearted ode to Mozart's humor and playful score to encourage, inspire, and motivate everyone to have a positive attitude and energy to face whatever the challenges come at us.

### **McLean Project for the Arts (MPA)** - *Spring Solos: 3 Solos = 3 x Steam (Science, Engineering, Geometry)*

In the spring of 2023, MPA will present its Spring Solos, free of charge, for all Fairfax County residents and the general public in MPA's acclaimed Emerson and Atrium galleries. Spring Solos will feature the exciting work of three distinct artists: sculptures by artists George Lorio and Chris Combs; and paintings by Josh Whipkey. In George Lorio's sculptures, tree-like forms are presented as metaphorical references to the possibility of healing and regeneration. Built from plywood armatures and found bark and twigs, the works exemplify a partnership between human effort and the natural world. Exuding a calm beauty, these sculptures inspire a meditation on the necessity of valuing our environment. By contrast, Chris Combs' sculptures are made from reclaimed or surplus industrial components. While addressing themes of technology, surveillance, and the destruction of the environment, Combs creates

sculptures which are at once ominous and distinctly playful. Josh Whipkey's small paintings explore anxiety from physical, experiential, and philosophical perspectives. Whipkey's small abstract paintings are full of high frequency color and dynamic geometric lines and shapes. The Spring Solos project will also consist of multiple educational experiences for MPA's diverse audiences as well as ArtReach educational materials and activities.

**NextStop Theatre Company** - *Theatre Adventures In-School Residencies*

NextStop Theatre Company brings its impactful and highly popular theatre education programs directly to four elementary schools in Herndon, serving 200 students through a free, 10-week Theatre Adventures program. Participating students will have the opportunity to learn foundational concepts in theatre under the guidance of outstanding teaching artists, highly qualified individuals who are working professionals in the theatre industry. The program culminates in a Showcase performance for students' families and friends. Bringing our theatre education programs directly into four elementary schools in our region, where more than 50% of students qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch program, will make opportunities for deep and meaningful engagement in the arts available to a broad range of students in our area.

**Public Art Reston** - *Permanent Public Art Project: A Reston Underpass*

Guided by an ambitious, and recently revised public art master plan, PAR will launch a new public art project and engage the Reston community in creative placemaking through the commissioning and installation of art in one of Reston's 22 community underpasses. Building on the success of Ben Volta's "Thoreau's Ensemble," installed at the Colts Neck Rd. underpass in October 2019, these infrastructure enhancement projects allow us to distinguish the community and activate public spaces, while also engaging with school-aged children, their families, and the broader community in the process of art making. Further, an equity opportunity is presented by these underpass projects and their ability to utilize the arts to enhance the community's experience with multi-modal transportation and art that fosters neighborhood pride and public safety. Such public art projects also support the objectives of Supervisor Alcorn and Fairfax County strategic goals around transportation, infrastructure, equity, and accessibility.

**Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art** - *2023 Mary B. Howard Invitational Exhibition*

Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA) presents the 2023 Mary B. Howard Invitational exhibition, guest-curated by DC-based independent curator Deirdre Darden. This exhibition features five regional contemporary artists Holly Bass, Adjoa J. Burrowes, Deborah R. Grayson, Katie O'Keefe, and Britt Sankofa, who were selected through an open call for artists. Guest Curator Deirdre Darden is working with this cohort of artists to develop a group exhibition, for which each artist creates and presents new work. In acknowledgment of the many traumas that have been endured individually and collectively over the past two years, this exhibition will explore the concepts of rest and reprieve as a starting point for the artistic process. The 2023 MBH Invitational exhibition will be free and open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday 11am - 5pm at Tephra ICA in Reston, December 10, 2022 through February 26, 2023.

**The Daily Poetry Association** - *Poetry Alive: Introducing Contemporary Poets to Students at the Fairfax Juvenile Detention Center*

The Daily Poetry Association will continue a program teaching poetry at the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) of Fairfax County. This program would be implemented in coordination between JDC and Poetry Daily staff, and it will take place between February and

May 2023. The program will be modeled after the successful pilot program conducted in spring 2022 by the inaugural Fairfax Poet Laureate, Nicole Tong. JDC students will read contemporary poetry books, study poetic concepts, develop their own poems, and attend a one-hour class session twice a month. George Mason University (GMU) Creative Writing MFA students will teach the sessions under the guidance of Poetry Daily's editorial director, and in conjunction with JDC faculty. Toward the end of the term, a contemporary poet, whose work the students have studied and whose life provides a relatable example of how writing might alter one's world experience will lead a class. At the end of the semester, students will receive a chapbook of their work to celebrate and honor their growth. Poetry Daily plans to build a sustainable, annual poetry teaching program in collaboration with GMU MFA students and the Fairfax County JDC.

**Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts - *Baby ArtsPlay!™ Residencies and Workshops in Fairfax County***

Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts' (Wolf Trap Institute) Baby ArtsPlay!™ residencies and workshops engage children ages three months to three years, along with parents/caregivers and educators. Taught by Wolf Trap Teaching Artists, Baby ArtsPlay!™ provides participants with classes that enhance learning and development through high-impact arts experiences, including music, movement, and drama. Baby Artsplay!™ classes demonstrate the important connection between performing arts and early childhood development. Parents/caregivers attend all sessions with their children and learn strategies for incorporating singing, dancing, drama, and other multi-sensory activities into their child's daily routine to increase engagement and support learning. These programs will take place virtually and in person. Venues for in-person services will be selected throughout Fairfax County by partner organizations that will help to engage a diverse group of participants for multi-session programs.