



FY26 Project Support Grant Recipients

1st Stage - *INDECENT* by Paula Vogel

1st Stage will produce *INDECENT* by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel as the fifth show in the theater's mainstage season. This Obie and Tony award winning play is a powerful, music-infused drama that traverses time, language, and geography to tell a gripping true story. Beginning in 1907 Warsaw and culminating in a scandalous Broadway production of Sholem Asch's 'God of Vengeance', *INDECENT* is an immersive theatrical experience that explores the boundaries of art, love, and freedom.

As part of 1st Stage's Community Conversation series, staff will moderate pre- or post-performance discussions. These discussions provide a safe and intimate forum for audiences to engage one another, artists, and professionals with relevant expertise in conversation about the themes and social issues examined in the productions. 1st Stage will also use developing connections with community organizations and public schools to offer discounted tickets to new audience members and students as well as opportunities to participate in performance development workshops with the production's creative artists.

Artists in Motion/Alchemy Ballet - *Alchemy Ballet Nutcracker Reimagined: Andalusian Nutcracker*

Under the direction of Lorraine Spiegler, Alchemy Ballet's Andalusian Nutcracker reimagines Tchaikovsky's beloved holiday classic through a richly layered cultural lens. Rooted in the historic city of Granada, Spain, this vibrant new production fuses classical ballet with the authentic dance, music, and storytelling traditions of Andalusia—including Flamenco, Moorish, Sephardic, and Middle Eastern influences. With original choreography and musical interpretation, The Andalusian Nutcracker blends tradition and innovation, honoring the Tchaikovsky score while transforming it through the rhythms, movement vocabularies, and visual aesthetics of Iberian and Arab cultures.

Live Flamenco music by legendary guitarist Torcuato Zamora—honored on the occasion of his 90th birthday—opens the performance, supported by Furia Flamenca and other special guest artists. Featuring Alchemy students and pre-professional trainees, alumni, professional guests, and a children's choir, the project will culminate in a cultural celebration hosted by the Spanish Embassy. Rooted in unity, The Andalusian Nutcracker is both a celebration and a bridge—honoring rich cultural heritage while inviting diverse communities to experience the wonder of the season.

ArtSpireVA, Inc. - *Connecting through Dance: ClancyWorks Residencies at West Potomac Academy and Student Performances at ArtspireVA Festivals*

ArtSpireVA will collaborate with West Potomac Arts Academy (WPAA) and ClancyWorks Dance to deliver a ten-part program in Fairfax County, expanding dance, arts education, performance and career-readiness opportunities to underserved populations.

ClancyWorks Teaching Artists will lead residencies in culturally specific dance styles not currently offered at WPA, including Latin Dance (Salsa, Bachata, Merengue), Street and Hip Hop Dance Techniques, Contemporary Modern, and Classical Indian Dance. The program includes financial literacy and career readiness workshops tailored to arts students. The multi-pronged components create a holistic program supporting students' growth as artists and individuals and preparing them for the next phases of their lives while deepening relationships with professionals and Elders. The initiative promotes teamwork, collaboration, problem-solving, and academic and artistic skill-building for all partners.



Community Art For Everyone – *2026 Art in Daily Spaces*

Art in Daily Spaces is CAFE's annual exhibition in Annandale, VA, launched in 2024. The upcoming 2026 event will mark its third installment. Over the course of one month, Annandale businesses and community spaces—including hair salons, cafés, banks, senior living facilities, government offices, and restaurants—will be transformed into temporary art galleries.

The Annandale Gallery Project: Art in Daily Spaces will feature local artists, with one artist assigned to each business and one artist team paired with a public space. In addition to these installations, the 2026 event will introduce a community-built public art exhibition. Through a series of collaborative workshops, local artists will gather to share ideas, reflect on the town's identity, and create a site-specific outdoor artwork.

The goal is to integrate art into everyday life—making it accessible, engaging, and affordable for residents and visitors alike. By showcasing local artists and activating everyday spaces with creative expression, this initiative aims to foster a greater appreciation for the arts while cultivating a more vibrant, culturally rich image of downtown Annandale.

Creative Cauldron – *Bold New Voices Festival*

Creative Cauldron will be producing a festival of staged readings of plays and or musicals written by women or women identifying writers. Four works will be presented, three of them written by women of color. Professional directors of color will be hired to stage these works and a diverse cast of professional actors will be hired to perform them. The readings will be free to the public, and audience members who attend the festival will participate in the final selection of the play or musical that will be premiered as one of the professional productions in Creative Cauldron's 2026-27 season.

Daily Poetry Association – *Poetry Alive! Program Growth*

Poetry Alive! is a therapeutic program for residents of juvenile detention centers and shelters which serves students aged 14-17 at the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). Poetry Daily proposes to expand the Poetry Alive! program with an additional fellow to enrich mentorship and teaching. Modeled after four successful years of this program, George Mason University (GMU) teaching fellows will teach the sessions under the guidance of Poetry Daily's editorial directors, and in conjunction with JDC faculty between February and May 2026. Students will study two books of contemporary poetry, poetic concepts, and write their own poems. 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. Students' work will be published in a hand-bound chapbook as a keepsake of their work and all they've learned.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra – *Link Up: The Orchestra Moves!*

"Link Up: The Orchestra Moves!" is an innovative education program for third- through sixth-grade students. Over several months, students explore how composers and performers move us emotionally and inspire us to move physically, embodied through dance.

The program provides comprehensive, standards-based teacher and student materials created by the FSO and their partner, Carnegie Hall's Weill Institute. Linking the classroom to the concert hall, Link Up culminates in an interactive concert with the FSO at GMU's Center for the Arts, where students perform with the orchestra—singing and playing recorders from their seats.



Little City Concerts – *A Tribute for Trans Day of Remembrance: In Memory of Sam Nordquist*

Falls Church City pianist Mary Voutsas presents a program for Trans Day of Remembrance, featuring the music of DC-based trans/andina composer inti figgis-vizueta, alongside works by Franz Liszt and Gabriel Faure. The concert will be on Saturday, November 22nd at 7:30pm at The Falls Church Episcopal in Falls Church City. Other collaborating artists include percussionist Nik Francis, clarinetist and drag performer Kirby the Drag Queen, painter Zhenya Parish, and composer inti figgis-vizueta.

NextStop Theatre Company – *"Stars on Stage" Theater Residency Program*

NextStop Theatre Company will expand its free, 12-week "Stars on Stage" Theater Residency program in Spring 2026 to serve up to 150 students in grades 3 - 6 at three Fairfax County Title 1 elementary schools.

Through twice-weekly after-school sessions, students will rehearse and perform a fully staged musical with guidance from a team of professional teaching artists. Students will receive hands-on instruction in acting, singing, dancing, character development, and stagecraft, while also boosting literacy skills through character analysis, vocabulary building, and expressive oral reading. Each residency will culminate in multiple performances at each school, reaching more than 2,600 school community members (including many students and families with limited access to live theater).

Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art – *Festival Programming Series*

The Festival Programming Series offers free, high-quality arts engagement opportunities during the 35th annual Tephra ICA Arts Festival, a flagship outdoor event in Northern Virginia. Building on a successful 2024 pilot and an ArtsFairfax-supported expansion in 2025, the project deepens the Festival's impact, fostering meaningful connections between 200+ exhibiting artists and thousands of visitors.

Programming in 2026 will include eight hour-long artist demonstrations in an expanded Programming Hub, a juror-led walking tour highlighting Artist Awards of Excellence winners, two artist-facilitated drop-in workshops in the Festival Art Park, and a new on-demand audio guide narrated by regional arts professionals. A robust social media campaign will amplify the experience, featuring livestreamed artist interviews, behind-the-scenes content, and real-time coverage to extend engagement beyond the weekend.

Demonstrations and workshops invite audiences of all ages to observe, learn, and create alongside professional artists. The mobile audio guide, accessible via QR codes at artist booths, allows visitors to explore at their own pace and will remain available year-round on Tephra ICA's website, broadening access after the Festival ends.

Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation – *From Archives to Art: Their Stories Lead Us*

Their Stories Lead Us is a public history and arts education project led by the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation to develop a series of interpretive walking tour scripts and materials highlighting the untold stories of African American and women trailblazers in Falls Church. Through research, narrative writing, and creative presentation, the project will produce original, script-based walking tours, supported by archival images and print/digital materials for community engagement. This initiative aims to preserve cultural memory, promote inclusive storytelling, and activate the Tinner Hill Historic and Cultural District as a living site of community engagement and historical awareness through public programming and artistic interpretation.



Virginia Ballet Company and School – Adaptive Dance Program

The Virginia Ballet Company and School has launched its Adaptive Dance Program, providing quality dance education and performance opportunities to 6th-9th graders with diverse physical, intellectual, sensory, behavioral, and adaptive needs.

The project expands our Youth program to reach children in elementary through high school, and adds adaptive programming for Adults by building a partnership with the Adult Day Program, Chimes, and other adult adaptive programs in our community. This furthers the goal of broadening the accessibility of dance to any and all who want to partake. The project also includes 3 additional performance opportunities for our Youth program to engage with their peers and their community, and live their dream of dancing in costume on stage. The Adaptive Dance Program aims to foster a love of dance, promote inclusion, and expand our mission to ensure that all individuals have access to the transformative power of the arts.

Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts – Wolf Trap Institute 2025-2026: Fairfax County Community and Center-Based Services

Working in partnership with community centers and service-based organizations, Wolf Trap will provide a blend of arts-based services accessible to all residents, with a focus on families with children aged three months to six years old. Direct services will include a blend of Baby Artsplay!™ and Artsplay!™ Family-Based Residencies, Baby Artsplay!™ Center-Based Residencies, and Family Involvement Workshops.

Wolf Trap Institute's arts-based early childhood education programs demonstrate the vital connection between performing arts and the growth and development of our youngest learners. With support from ArtsFairfax, Wolf Trap Institute is able to offer these residencies and workshops free of charge. Parents/caregivers and educators 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. Adults learn to facilitate developmentally appropriate performing arts experiences for and with their children/students in a child-friendly learning environment.