

For Immediate Release

November 16, 2023

Contact: Megan DuBois
Cultural Arts Manager
City of Fairfax
Commission on the Arts
Phone (703)273-6097
megan.dubois@fairfaxva.gov

The City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts awards \$22,700 in Project Support Grants to 12 Art Organizations providing access to quality arts in the City of Fairfax

City of Fairfax, VA—The City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts awarded \$22,700 in project support grants to 12 arts organizations in Fairfax for FY 2024. These programs will allow city residents of all ages to experience everything the arts has to offer without having to leave the City!

The City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts' grant program provides funding to organizations for activities that are not otherwise funded by the City of Fairfax through a direct grant from the City Council. The projects must provide any or all of the following...

- Educational programs that increase understanding and appreciation of the arts
- Access to high-quality art for the citizens of Fairfax
- Opportunities for artists to develop skills and demonstrate their abilities
- Support of emerging art organizations and activities

The Commission on the Arts Grant program is funded through a grant from the City of Fairfax and the Virginia Commission for the Arts Creative Communities Partnership Grant.

For FY 2024, the Commission on the Arts is proud to support a diverse group of organizations.

Acting for Young People – Young Playwrights Festival Young playwrights will submit original short plays and have their development mentored by professional playwrights. Plays will be rehearsed and play readings performed in festival format, featuring professional actors, teaching artists and students from the AFYP program.

Cathedral Brass - "Day of Brass" The Cathedral Brass will provide a high-impact opportunity for high-school and advanced middle-school brass players to participate in a "Day of Brass" event focused on student enrichment and development. Registered students will rehearse together as a large ensemble and receive instruction on brass music performance. During master classes and rehearsals, students will learn about their instrument, how to improve their technique, and work with concepts that they can take back to their individual programs. Students will perform at the concluding concert, which will also feature performances by each guest clinician, along with the Cathedral Brass.

DanceArtTheatre - Transformations Dance Festival Local Dance Showcase, featuring a variety of companies and choreographers, coming together to present an unforgettable display of talent

and creativity. 8-10 choreographers are chosen to present work alongside other dancing professionals in a celebration of our area's rich talent. Most small companies do not have many opportunities to perform due to a lack of performance space, and the cost of facility rental. This gives small companies an opportunity to have their work produced at no cost to them. This also brings the dance community together in a collaborative evening of dance showcasing a variety of dance styles.

Fairfax Academy's Music & Computer Technology (MCT) – MCT Fest Students from the MCT program will exhibit original music. The entire show is developed, performed, managed, and executed by the MCT I & 2 Students. This includes creating the schedule, setting up the gear, running live sound, MCing the event, coordinating tickets, special guests, marketing, and promotions.

Fairfax Academy's Musical Theatre and Actors Studio – Cry Baby the Musical This jumping, jiving Tony nominee is a rebellious teen comedy event! Based on the cult classic, 1990 John Waters film, Cry-Baby features a delightfully demented book from the writers of Hairspray and a rockabilly score from the co-founder of Fountains of Wayne and the executive producer of "The Daily Show."

Fairfax Art League - The FAL Art Education Project In December 2023, February 2024, April 2024 and June 2024, Fairfax Art League volunteers will conduct painting workshops for the general public either at Old Town Hall or at Green Acres, on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Jazz4Justice – Graham Breedlove in Concert Each year, Jazz4Justice presents a December concert with an acclaimed artist to add to the excellence and diversity of the arts in Fairfax City. Last year we presented the Eric Byrd Trio, winner of the #1 Jazz Album at the 2021 WAMMIES. The previous year we presented Wycliffe Gordon, nationally acclaimed jazz trombonist. This year, we will present Graham Breedlove. The event will take place in partnership with Cinema Arts Theatre located in Fair City Mall.

Mason Community Arts Academy – Spring Recital Live music concert performance by advanced Academy music students and select Academy music faculty – including piano and strings, mainly classical music genre curated for the general public to expand their experience and appreciation; a video component for livestreaming and subsequent recorded video social media posts to maximize accessibility to the community at large.

Music to Free - Handbell Concert Music to Free will present a Christmas concert on December 1 at the Sherwood Center. The repertoire will demonstrate that Handbells, as an instrument, are more versatile than most people are aware. Since Handbells are so frequently used in a church setting, this concert will highlight how far the instrument has advanced in the last 20 years due to the creativity of handbell composers and arrangers.

Next Reflex - "Soft Landing" This performance is the landing point of the April "Flight", performance. We would program the April "Flight" performance in Old Town Square for 5pm and then would invite or hopefully entice the audience to the ticketed performance In Old Town

Hall. Both performances will focus on natural elements, one acting as a pre-performance event for the other.

Shoestring Theatre Company – *Dispatches from Appalachia* This is an evening of one acts based upon actual news events torn from the pages of the award- winning Big Stone Gap Post. The plays, written by retired Post editor, Glenn Gannaway, bring two very different stories to the stage -- Finding Wentz -- the mystery that surrounded the disappearance of coal mining heir E.L. Wentz; Tomorrow Might Be Sunday -- four people trapped in a hotel during a major flood in Appalachia.

Virginia Opera – *Frida Kahlo and The Bravest Girl in the World* An interactive bi-lingual 35-minute opera that tells the story of Mariana, a young girl living in Mexico City who has her portrait painted by Frida Kahlo. At first, Mariana is nervous about meeting Frida because of strange rumors about the eccentric artist. But Mariana quickly befriends Frida and learns two important lessons in the process: that art can happen anywhere and how important it is to be brave even when you feel scared. This work is based on the children's book of the same title by author and illustrator by Laurence Anholt. Amidst the fun and discovery of characters through our artists, children are given a unique opportunity to strengthen academic and social skills through the art of opera. It is designed to travel through the community, reaching audiences in places accessible to them and their parents. Virginia Opera hopes to offer this program to schools, libraries, after-school providers, and community venues. Additionally, a free study guide will be provided.

###

The City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts was established in 1979 by the City of Fairfax Council to encourage, promote and to provide opportunity for artistic expression within the city. Since then, the Commission on the Arts has been working to continue the enrichment of the community through funding, information, encouragement, exhibits, education and coordination.