

For Immediate Release

December 31, 2018

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City of Fairfax, Commission on the Arts awards \$13,940 in Project Support Grants to 8 Art Organizations providing access to quality arts in the City of Fairfax

City of Fairfax, VA—Commission on the Arts awarded \$13,940 in Project Support Grants to 8 arts organizations in Fairfax for FY2019. 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 project grants range from \$400-\$3000. 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

For FY 2019, the Commission on the Arts is proud to support a diverse group of organizations putting on wonderful programs this year.

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.

O'Neill-Malcom Branch Comhaltas Eireann - CCE Irish Festival Featuring traditional Irish Music and Dance held in September every year.

City of Fairfax Theatre Company - *The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence* Coinciding with the Spotlight on the Arts Festival. The City of Fairfax Theatre Company will present their spring show in Old Town Hall. *The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence* is a play by Madeleine George, finalist for the 2014 Pulitzer Prize, and award winning play.

Fairfax Art League - A Child's Introduction to Art FAL's youth outreach program at the Main Street Development Center exposes elementary children to famous artists and helps inspire and promote their creativity. Each year the committee plans topics and instruction to stimulate interest in the arts of all types. After a short lesson children create their own artwork or structure (painting, structure, e.g.) in the style or other element of the artist presented.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra - Acclaimed cellist Amit Peled and the Peabody Peled Cello Gang will visit Fairfax High School. In a total immersion format, students will hear cellists playing in hallways, classrooms, the cafeteria, the library and other locations during the school day—al culminating in a jam session for the entire student body where Amit Peled will be accompanied by six members of his "Cello Gang." The concert will include Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

Main Street Child Development Center will create a full-year music experience for the students. Through a partnership with the Wolf Trap Institute for early Learning Through the Arts, Main Street will participate in a residency with an arts educator. Wolf Trap has created a nationally recognized program that provides preschools with top arts educators that teach students in the classroom and provide resources for the classroom teachers to carry on the arts the arts education. The students also attend a performance at Wolf Trap. Main Street then uses this training to create unique experiences for the children and families resulting in an end-of-year-performance by the students.

Mason Community Arts Academy will use the funds to create a concert program that feature its faculty artists and student ensembles. The program will consist specially of music repertoire representing under-recognized and under-performed composers, to include works by female composers as well as composers of color. This concert will give the student ensembles a valuable opportunity to demonstrate their artistic excellence and to explore new repertoire.

Shoestring Theatre Company – *Haint So* Coinciding with the Spotlight on the Arts Festival. The City of Fairfax Theatre Company will present their spring show *Haint So* in the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center.

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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 co-ordination.