




# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 15, 2023

**TO:** County Executive, Bryan J. Hill  
Deputy County Executive, Chris Leonard  
Deputy County Executive, Rachel Flynn  
Deputy County Executive, Ellicia Seard-McCormick

**CC:** Fairfax County Arts Committee Members

**FROM:** Leila Gordon, Chair, Fairfax County Arts Committee 

**RE:** Summary of Activities – June 2022 to July 2023

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Please find attached a summary of the Fairfax County Arts Committee's efforts of the past fiscal year. It's been a year of significant progress toward the goals and objectives set forth in our charge memorandum of August 22, 2022 as well as in the Countywide Strategic Plan theme areas of Cultural and Recreational Opportunities, Effective and Efficient Government, and Housing and Neighborhood Livability.

We are pursuing ongoing efforts as described in the summary and anticipate reporting out on our progress with respect to Supervisor Palchik's Board Matter and continuing to work with colleagues on the Public Art Master Plan, COVID-19 Memorial Project and developer-related arts options. We had a robust discussion about storage issues at our most recent meeting, for example.

There are a couple of personnel issues to consider – Leon Scioscia has departed from the Workhouse Arts Foundation. I intend to invite his successor to join us. We will also need to consider a new Vice-Chair for the Committee. I am happy to discuss that with you at your convenience.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the attachment. We feel very energized as the arts take their place on the "stage" of Fairfax County's present and future vibrant growth and development.

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Fairfax County Arts Committee  
July 2022 to June 2023



## **FAIRFAX COUNTY ARTS COMMITTEE**

### **Annual Summary of Activity – July 2022 through June 2023**

#### **I. Committee Charge Area: Master Arts Plans**

In fulfillment of its charge to support the County's strategic planning, One Fairfax policy, and the Comprehensive Plan Visual and Performing Arts policy, the County Arts Committee worked to accomplish key milestones listed.

1. Acceptance of "Fairfax County Master Arts Plan: Facilities"
  - a. Scheduling and delivery of briefing to Board of Supervisors Economic Initiatives Committee regarding the Master Arts Plan for Facilities. Meeting held on March 14, 2023.
  - b. Board feedback incorporated and final vetting of the plan document occurred between March 2023 and June 2023.
  - c. Board of Supervisors acceptance of Master Arts Plan: Facilities and recognition of MAP Task Force members occurred on July 11, 2023.
2. Establishment of a Public Art Master Plan Task Force with ArtsFairfax
  - a. Summer 2022: Established list of interested parties to invite.
  - b. Final Public Art Master Plan Task Force established; first meeting held September 19, 2022.
  - c. Task Force representation from planning and development professionals, visual arts experts, public art experts, ArtsFairfax and County staff. Public Art Master Plan Task Force meetings held September 19, October 17 and November 28 in 2022. Meetings in 2023: January 23, February 27, April 3. Smaller working groups established for spring and summer 2023 efforts that occurred offline.
  - d. Coordinated efforts with Fairfax County GIS team to develop a Public Art Locator App. App launched officially July 13, 2023.
  - e. Draft outline of plan established by April 3, 2023. Anticipated timeline to completion: 18 months.
3. Support to a Board of Supervisors request for planning and implementation for COVID-19 Memorial Project and coordinating with Chairman Jeff McKay's office.
  - a. Reviewed County site options; selected memorial plaza area in front of Herrity and Public Safety Headquarters buildings.
  - b. Established a Call for Submissions managed by ArtsFairfax that was open from February 2023 to mid-April 2023.
  - c. Established an Artist Selection Committee to review submissions. Selected four finalists in April 2023.
  - d. Finalists presentations occurred in late June 2023; artist team of Gusevich + Pirrone chosen. Press release announcing artists selected issued August 2023.
  - e. Contract development with County staff and artist team: beginning in July 2023 and continuing.

4. Provide consultation support to County arts-related projects.
  - a. Ongoing: Original Mount Vernon High School Theater Renovation; also providing support to solicitation of “Operator” proposals in response to request from Supervisor Dan Storck.
  - b. June through November 2022: Provided support, data and engagement results related to BXP (Boston Properties) Block J proffer proposal for land dedicated to an arts center. Provided inputs at public meetings convened by Supervisor Walter Alcorn. Board of Supervisors acceptance of the proffer occurred on January 24, 2023.
  - c. Ongoing: Discussion with Supervisor Kathy Smith regarding arts venue potential in development space at Westfields.

## II. Capital One Seasonal Lists – Community Arts Partnership

To fulfill the role defined by the County’s Memorandum of Understanding with Capital One Hall, the Committee completed several activities.

1. Approved the Season 3 and Season 4 lists of possible rental organizations as vetted and recommended to the Committee by ArtsFairfax: June 2022 and 2023 respectively.
2. Rebranded the MOU-directed community use program to “Community Arts Partnership.”
3. Revised and clarified rental package components for the Community Arts Partnership in discussion with Capital One Hall. Implementation will occur with Season 4. Achieved inclusion of orchestra shell setup/breakdown as part of technical support package.
4. Worked with Capital One Hall to present a mobile music performance event at County facilities in September 2023.

## III. Ongoing Committee Efforts

In its June 6, 2023 meeting, the Board of Supervisors requested that the County Arts Committee tackle the following issues as outlined in a Board Matter presented by Supervisor Dalia Palchik:

1. Establishment of useful resource information and tools that describe the full array of arts offerings available in the County.
2. Assessment of gaps in the County’s arts activity geography, services, and participant engagement, and that does so in the context of both County and regional resources.
3. Best practice recommendations that can support the ongoing sustainability of existing and expanded County arts ecosystem components.
4. Financial and other means by which those gaps can be addressed.

We will also pursue implementation of the [Master Arts Plan: Facilities](#) per the Board of Supervisors acceptance.

The Committee anticipates presenting an interim report to the Board of Supervisors on the above in the Health and Human Services Committee Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on October 17, 2023.

## IV. Administrative Notes

1. Committee meetings were held September 26, 2022; January 30, 2023; June 21, 2023. Interim small group meetings and discussions occurred in the context of the work described above.
2. New representatives from McLean Community Center (Betsy May-Salazar) and Workhouse Arts Foundation (Rachel Kizielewicz) will be serving and/or invited to serve on the committee. Two current representatives will also be liaisons to the Tysons Community Alliance (Ashley Morris and Lloyd Tucker) and we will request participation from Katie Cristol, the new CEO of the TCA.