



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of September 26, 2009**

DATE: August 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Virginia Commission for the Arts Grant Award

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the County Manager to accept \$10,000 in state grant funds awarded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts.
2. Appropriate \$10,000 in state grant funds from the Virginia Commission for the Arts (101.364901) to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources expenses (101.86001) to support the creation of a census and on-line directory of the individual artists who live or work as an artist in Arlington.

ISSUES: The County Board is being requested to authorize the County Manager to accept a grant for \$10,000 from the Virginia Commission for the Arts. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (DPRCR) has been awarded a State grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts in the amount of \$10,000 for the creation of a census and on-line artist directory housed on the newly launched www.arlingtonarts.org website. The directory will facilitate professional development of artists within the County and promote growth and income through this new marketing tool.

BACKGROUND: This is the second year that a grant category called “Services to the Field” was offered by the Virginia Commission for the Arts to support the work of local arts agencies that provide services to artists and arts organizations, that focus on the development of the arts as a whole in a community or region, and that work to integrate the arts more fully into the community or region. In addition to the “Services to the Field” grant, DPRCR receives an annual \$5,000 Local Government Challenge Grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts to help support Arlington’s grant program for local artists.

DISCUSSION: www.arlingtonarts.org is Arlington’s principal conduit of information regarding arts and cultural activities that are presented by Arlington-based artists and arts organizations. It is the main public information source for the arts in Arlington. Arlingtonarts.org is operated as a service to artists for marketing to the public, and for accessing information on the availability of services and capacity-building opportunities for artists. The site is connected to

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Mary Briggs, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

www.arlingtonva.us through links and is searchable from the County site. As a result of a 2008 grant received by Arlington County to redesign the arlingtonarts.org website, an artists' directory will further enhance service to the community and support for Arlington's artists.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Virginia Commission on the Arts will provide \$10,000 in grant funds to the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources for this project. The County will meet grant matching requirements primarily through staff resources included in the adopted FY 2010 operating budget of the Cultural Affairs Division of the DPRCR. There is no increase to net tax support of the DPRCR as a result of accepting this grant.