



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 7, 2007**

DATE: June 12, 2007

SUBJECT: Arlington Commission for the Arts Grant Recommendations

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the allocation of \$279,077 for the financial support of Arlington arts organizations and artists as recommended by the Arlington Commission for the Arts.

ISSUES: Which Arlington-based artists and arts organizations should receive County funding and support to provide services to residents and how should those funds be distributed?

SUMMARY: As directed by the "Policy for the Support of Arts Organizations and Artists", the Arlington Commission for the Arts has administered the County's annual arts granting process for Fiscal Year 2008. As a result of that process, the Commission is recommending for the County Board's approval that 28 Arlington organizations and 2 individual artists receive \$279,077 in financial, facilities, and technical services support.

BACKGROUND: In December 1990, the County Board approved the "Policy for the Support of Arts Organizations and Artists." Through this policy, the Commission was empowered to make decisions regarding the distribution of facilities and technical services and recommendations to the Board regarding the distribution of direct financial support to Arlington arts organizations and artists.

The Commission has submitted its recommendations (see the attached letter of June 1, 2007) for this direct financial support to the Board for final approval. The recommendations submitted by the Commission total \$279,077, the amount appropriated by the Board for this program in Fiscal Year 2008.

DISCUSSION: The Commission received 40 grant applications requesting a total of \$547,508 as well as requests for facilities and technical services. Of the 40 applications, 36 were from non-profit arts organizations; and 4 from individual artists. Thirty applications are recommended to receive County financial support.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

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

In determining its decisions and recommendations, the Commission followed the guidelines outlined in the policy and developed a fair and comprehensive process for the distribution of the County's arts resources. This process required all potential grantees to submit applications for support to the Commission. Advisory panels of art experts and staff reviewed the applications. Formal recommendations to the Commission were made by both the panels and staff.

The Commission also reviewed each application and in a meeting with the panel chairs and staff made final determinations regarding their decisions and recommendations. Applicants were notified of the Commission's actions and were given the opportunity to appeal the Commission's decisions.

Two types of financial support grants are recommended: 1) General operating grants and 2) project grants. General operating support is awarded to assist organizations with the expenses involved with overall administration and program offerings. Project grants support specific projects planned by an organization or individual artist.

The Commission is recommending that the following groups receive general operating support:

American Century Theatre	\$ 7,348.20
Andrew Keegan Theatre	\$ 4,746.44
Arlington Artists' Alliance	\$ 1,685.57
Arlington Arts Center	\$17,425.58
Arlington Players	\$ 8,067.67
Bowen McCauley Dance	\$10,830.95
Center Dance Company	\$ 4,524.69
Classika-Synetic Theatre	\$50,000.00
Educational Theatre Company	\$ 6,588.16
Encore Stage and Studio	\$ 7,705.98
Firebelly Productions	\$ 2,543.47
Hesperus	\$ 7,734.63
Jane Franklin Dance	\$ 4,755.12
Metropolitan Chorus	\$ 6,928.69
Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia	\$ 8,551.34
Potomac Harmony Chorus	\$ 4,536.12
Signature Theatre	\$50,000.00
Teatro de la Luna	\$22,952.22
Washington Balalaika Society	\$ 7,581.92
Washington Shakespeare Company	\$21,320.25

Total, General Operating Support Grants **\$255,827.00**

Financial support is complemented by access to space and services, which the Commission has awarded to many of these organizations under this program. Additionally, The Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus, Charter Theatre, Dominion Stage, Indian Dance Educators Association, and Los Quetzales Mexican Dance Ensemble, received general operating support in the form of facilities and services only.

The Commission recommends that the following organizations and individuals receive project grant support for these specific projects:

Arlington Arts Center	Development Planning	\$ 3,250.00
Arlington Independent Media	2008 Rosebud Film and Video Festival	\$ 7,500.00
Charter Theatre	Organizational Development Plan	\$ 4,500.00
<i>Sub-Total, Arts Organizations Project Grants</i>		<i>\$15,250.00</i>
Shinji Turner-Yamamoto	SEEDING Environmental Mural Installation	\$ 5,000.00
Neelam Patel	Identities Poetry and Film Project	\$ 3,000.00
<i>Sub-Total, Individual Artists Project Grants</i>		<i>\$ 8,000.00</i>
<u>TOTAL, GRANTS PROGRAM</u>		<u>\$279,077.00</u>

Staff assisted the Commission through the process of developing their decisions and recommendations, and is satisfied that the policy was implemented appropriately and supports the Commission's recommendations.

FISCAL IMPACT: The funds for this program were allocated in the FY 2008 budget.