



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 19, 2008**

DATE: June 13, 2008

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: As part of the regular process, the County Board is being requested to review the Arts Commission's recommendations for final approval regarding County funding and support for Arlington-based artists and arts organizations.

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 2009. As a result of that process, the Commission is recommending 33 grant applications totaling \$279,077 in financial, facilities, and technical services support for the County Board's approval. Of the 33 grants, 30 applications are from Arlington organizations (four organizations were successful in receiving both a general operating grant and a project grant) and three applications are from individual artists.

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 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 2009.

DISCUSSION: The Commission received 44 grant applications requesting a total of \$919,130 as well as requests for facilities and technical services. Of the 44 applications, 33 were from non-profit arts organizations; and 11 from individual artists. Thirty-three applications are recommended to receive County financial support, of these, 30 applications are from organizations and three are from individual artists.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Norma Kaplan, 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. The Commission received and reviewed one appeal. After review and reconsideration, the Commission voted to uphold its current recommendation.

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	\$ 6,096
Andrew Keegan Theatre	\$ 8,043
Arlington Artists' Alliance	\$ 2,698
Arlington Arts Center	\$ 20,426
Arlington Philharmonic Association	\$ 3,386
Arlington Players	\$ 6,510
Bowen McCauley Dance	\$ 7,923
Center Dance Company	\$ 3,963
Charter Theatre	\$ 1,855
Classika-Synetic Theatre	\$ 50,000
Dominion Stage	\$ 650
Educational Theatre Company	\$ 5,260
Encore Stage and Studio	\$ 7,613
Firebelly Productions	\$ 1,799
Jane Franklin Dance	\$ 3,008
Metropolitan Chorus	\$ 5,696
National Chamber Ensemble	\$ 721
Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia	\$ 5,694
Potomac Harmony Chorus	\$ 2,982
Signature Theatre	\$ 50,000
Teatro de la Luna	\$ 25,426
Washington Balalaika Society	\$ 5,596
Washington Shakespeare Company	\$ 12,232
<i>Total, General Operating Support Grants</i>	<i>\$237,577</i>

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, 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:

Arts Organizations – Project Grants

Andrew Keegan Theatre	Executive Director – Salary Support	\$ 10,000
Bowen McCauley Dance	Resource Development Director – Salary Support	\$ 2,500
Educational Theatre Company	Director of Arts Partnerships – Salary Support	\$ 4,000
Washington Shakespeare	Development Director – Salary Support	\$ 10,000

Individual Artist – Project Grants

Ubaldo A. Sanchez Hernandez	Alfombra Mosaic/Mural	\$ 5,000
Lara Beaudry Byer	Amazing Mothers – Ceramic Images of Mothers Overcoming Challenges	\$ 5,000
Bolormaa Jugdersuren	The Mongolian Songs and Music Arts	\$ 5,000

Sub-Total, Arts Organizations and Individual Artists Project Grants **\$ 41,500**

TOTAL, GRANTS PROGRAM **\$279,077**

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 appropriated in the FY 2009 adopted budget.