

BLACK ROCK
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

FISCAL YEAR 21 OVERVIEW

presented for 2021
Maryland Arts Day

OVERVIEW

It is safe to say that 2020 was anything but normal. A global health pandemic, political unrest, racial injustice—and more—all converging at once. BlackRock Center for the Arts has been at the center of this “perfect storm”, showing up—in earnest—to support our local community and beyond.

In spite of COVID-19, BlackRock has been able to remain open and operate as a cultural center primarily through support provided by the Maryland State Arts Commission. We continue to serve as an anchor for our community—one of the most diverse in the nation—and have even been able to extend our arts education outreach and open a food and essential supply distribution center.

MISSION

BlackRock Center for the Arts brings inspiring performing and visual arts experiences to diverse audiences in a welcoming and intimate setting, providing opportunities to explore, celebrate and engage in the arts.

GOALS

- Present programs and artistic experiences of the highest quality to attract, retain and grow participation in the arts.
- Facilitate opportunities for engagement, development and life-long learning in the range of artistic disciplines.
- Reflect, celebrate and engage the diversity of our communities through programming and participation at all levels of our organization.
- Ensure the future of the arts in our community through sustainability of programs and resources.



FISCAL YEAR 21 OVERVIEW

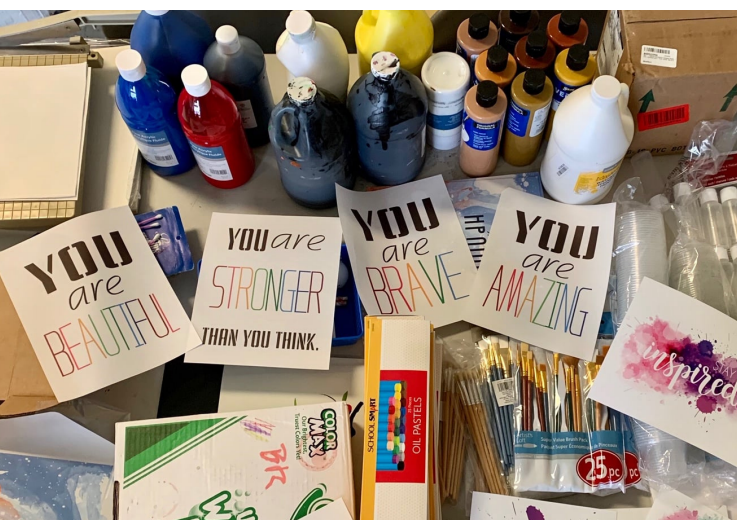
BlackRock is facing its most challenging time with optimism, innovation, and commitment—and our staff draws inspiration daily from our supporters. Life as we know it has been upended for all of us, but we know for certain this crisis will pass, and with your support, BlackRock will reopen stronger than ever.

ART EDUCATION AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Like everything else, education at BlackRock has changed. But throughout all the transitions one thing has remained constant--the need and value of personal expression, social and emotional learning, and critical thinking offered through art.

650 STUDENTS

Developed an at-home art curriculum, BlackRock in a Box, available to over 650 students. This program provides critical literacy practice, alternatives to academic advancement, art therapy, and lessons in mindfulness. Students make strong connections and have an opportunities to express themselves through interpretation of a theme.



ART PERFORMANCES FOR ALL

We are the premier site in Upcounty Montgomery County Maryland for musical, theatrical, dance, cultural events, and performances. All of which are curated and presented with accessibility, community, inclusivity, and intimacy in mind.

20 PERFORMANCES

Supported award-winning and internationally renowned artists giving access to over 20 exceptional and varied virtual performances and outdoor (physically-distant) events, providing our community and families with a sense of normalcy in this abnormal world.



EXPRESSION THROUGH VISUAL ARTS

Through virtual events and interactive galleries, BlackRock offers a diverse range of visual art exhibits that keep us connected and current.

In Fiscal Year 21, BlackRock was able to showcase 15 exhibits, 12 of which were virtual. These exhibits ranged from textile arts to handcrafted and wood turning to award-winning photo journalist solo shows.

We also showcased the talents of Montgomery County students through Youth Art Month and Quotable Quarantine.

155 STUDENTS

Quotable Quarantine was a curated collection of artwork submitted by 155 local students in grades K-12. They were asked to create an image of the experience during COVID-19. The virtual exhibit is being reproduced as a formal print publication.



COMMUNITY AND FAMILY EVENTS

BlackRock has the distinct honor as serving as a central, natural gathering place for our community, one of the most diverse in the nation. Our community events were built with this diversity in mind.

The gatherings looked much different than past years. However, with comprehensive and transparent safety protocols and policies, we were able to gather with our family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate our heritage, diversity, and shared love for the arts.

HISPANIC HERITAGE DAY

BlackRock played host to a wide variety of vendors, performers, artists, restaurants, and government representatives as part of Hispanic Heritage Day. Over 100 families joined throughout the day, contributing to our sidewalk chalk art exhibit.



THE UPCOUNTY HUB AT BLACKROCK

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ADDRESSING RACIAL INJUSTICE THROUGH THE ARTS

Celebrating diversity has always been a core value at BlackRock. However, 2020 challenged us to speak up against racial injustice in a new and more public way.

In addition to making public statements regarding the death of George Floyd and so many other innocent black persons, BlackRock continued its effort to promoting art by persons of color. In FY21, BlackRock formed ten partnerships and showcased six black artists—a number that will only continue to grow.

1,000 FAMILIES

The Upcounty Hub at BlackRock provides much needed food and essentials on a weekly basis to approximately 1,000 families who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

6 SHOWCASES

- Artist Spotlight Ryan "OPM" Green
- National Black Poetry Day
- Artist Spotlight: Fella Morgan-Bey
- Cheriss May: Beyond the Protest
- NAACP ACT-SO Montgomery County Poetry Read-IN
- The Finding Fellowship Series





BLACK ROCK

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

We are overwhelmed. But we have hope.

There will be new sounds that fill our halls. The voices of volunteers. The music of phenomenal artists. The echo of dancers feet in an empty theater. The laughter of families on our front lawn.

It is for this kind of physical, emotional, and social health of our community that we request the financial support from our state legislatures.



@blackrockcenter