



Fiscal Year 2024 Grants Awarded

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FY23-24 General Operating Support II Grants (GOS II)

\$3,205,572 awarded for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

GOS II Grants provide general operating support to non-profit arts and/or humanities organizations located in Montgomery County, MD that have had both cash operating revenue and expenses of at least \$150,000 for the past three completed fiscal years, have a full-time paid director, and can provide an annual audit. Twenty-two organizations received FY24 awards in this category.

- **Adventure Theatre, Inc., dba Adventure Theatre MTC**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$144,302) – Adventure Theatre MTC educates and inspires new generations of theater artists and audiences with exceptional theatrical experiences.
- **ArtStream, Inc.**, Chevy Chase, Maryland (\$39,015) – Through collaborative performance and lifelong learning opportunities, ArtStream enables people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to gain the skills and confidence to engage with the world. ArtStream's staff believe that when people make their own choices and are engaged, stimulated, challenged, and inspired, they surpass both their own and others' expectations. ArtStream's Vision: To build an inclusive world where everyone can perform their art out.
- **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Inc.**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$203,690) – Founded in quality symphonic music of all eras that nurtures the human spirit, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) is committed to engaging, inspiring, educating, and serving its audiences and to enhancing Maryland as a cultural center of vitality and importance.
- **Bender JCC of Greater Washington, dba Bender JCC**, Rockville, Maryland (\$65,226) – The Bender Jewish Community Center (JCC) is an all-inclusive community rooted in Jewish values. JCC's arts and cultural programming illuminate the human experience through film, music, gallery exhibits, and literary events. Workshops and classes present the community with the opportunity to try something new in a comfortable, welcoming supportive place.
- **CityDance Productions, Inc., dba CityDance**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$110,597) – CityDance is a nonprofit dance institution dedicated to developing the next generation of dance artists and innovators. CityDance trains young dancers for professional careers, nurtures talent and achievement through dance, and works to advance the field of professional dance. Anchored in a belief that diversity advances excellence, CityDance works to create opportunities that promote equitable access to dance education and performance.
- **Friends of the Library Montgomery County, MD, Inc.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$66,111) – Friends of the Library strengthens, promotes, and champions Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), enabling MCPL to better serve the learning interests and needs of diverse and changing communities.
- **Germantown Cultural Arts Center, Inc., dba BlackRock Center for the Arts**, Germantown, Maryland (\$89,867) – 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. Overarching goals are to present programs and artistic experiences of the highest quality to attract, retain, and grow participation in the arts; facilitate opportunities for engagement and life-long learning in a range of artistic disciplines; and reflect, celebrate, and engage the diversity of local communities.

- **Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc.**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$118,894) – Glen Echo Park Partnership for the Arts and Culture presents vibrant artistic, cultural, and educational offerings at the Park, and promotes the Park as a unique destination for the region's diverse population.
- **Imagination Stage, Inc.**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$271,342) – Imagination Stage (IStage) empowers young people to discover their voice and identity through performing arts education and professional theatre.
- **Levine Music, Inc., dba Levine Music**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$161,981) – Levine Music is the region's preeminent center for music education committed to developing a lifelong love of music in everyone, regardless of age, ability, or means. Levine is founded on three pillars: Education, Performance, and Community. Levine Music's goals are to provide the cognitive and social benefits of arts education; create a new generation of music appreciators; spur community redevelopment; provide mentors to students; and offer scholarships and free outreach programs for hundreds of children with limited financial resources.
- **Maryland Youth Ballet, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$136,101) – Maryland Youth Ballet's provides the metropolitan region with: high caliber classical ballet training to prepare young dancers for professional careers in the performing arts; high quality of classes for adults; professional-quality ballet performances; opportunities for financially disadvantaged children to be exposed to ballet, full-training scholarships for those with dance potential; and the opportunity for young children with physical disabilities to experience the joy of dance.
- **Metropolitan Ballet Theatre, Inc., dba Metropolitan Ballet Theatre and Academy**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$62,872) – Metropolitan Ballet Theatre provides arts opportunities for all through exceptional dance education, community outreach, and inspiring performances.
- **Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts, Inc., dba VisArts**, Rockville, Maryland (\$115,477) – VisArts transforms individuals and communities through the visual arts.
- **Montgomery County Historical Society, dba Montgomery History**, Rockville, Maryland (\$26,046) – Montgomery History collects, preserves, interprets, and shares the history of all of Montgomery County's residents and communities.
- **National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale of Montgomery County, Inc., dba National Philharmonic**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$119,787) – National Philharmonic engages, inspires, and unites diverse communities through outstanding music performances and innovative education programs.
- **Olney Theatre Corporation, dba Olney Theatre Center for the Arts**, Olney, Maryland (\$429,368) – Olney Theatre Center produces and curates theatrical performances for the diverse audiences in its community, and educates, learns from, supports, and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers. The Theatre's vision is to become an arts and culture powerhouse, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity in its community.
- **Round House Theatre, Inc., dba Round House Theatre**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$236,491) – Round House is a theatre for everyone. Round House enriches the community through bold, outstanding theatrical and educational experiences that inspire empathy and demand conversation.
- **Sandy Spring Museum, Inc., dba Sandy Spring Museum**, Sandy Spring, Maryland (\$35,228) – Sandy Spring Museum supports community-generated cultural arts and educational programs. The museum gathers community to build a sense of place and belonging.
- **Strathmore Hall Foundation, Inc.**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$600,000) – Strathmore presents and produces exemplary visual and performing arts programs for diverse audiences; creates dynamic arts

education experiences; and nurtures creative ideas and conversations that advance the future of the arts.

- **The Writer's Center**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$60,864) – The Writer’s Center empowers writers and those who aspire to write through workshops, events, and creative collaboration. The Writer’s Center also supports and celebrates those who publish.
- **Washington Conservatory, dba Washington Conservatory of Music**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$63,103) – The Washington Conservatory of Music provides exceptional musical learning and listening experiences for their students and for the community.
- **Washington Revels, Inc., dba Washington Revels**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$49,210) – Washington Revels uses performance, education, and community engagement to revive, sustain, expand, and celebrate cultural traditions -- in music, dance, storytelling, and drama – that bind people together in spirit and joy. Washington Revels strives to illustrate the world's common humanity, connecting all people in a community that stretches across ethnic, cultural, and religious divisions.

FY24 General Operating Support I Grants (GOS I)

\$1,181,254 awarded for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

GOS I Grants provide general operating support to non-profit arts and/or humanities organizations located in Montgomery County, MD that have had both annual cash operating revenue and expenses of at least \$50,000 for the past three completed fiscal years and at least one part-time paid staff member. Thirty-five organizations received FY24 awards in this category.

- **After School Dance Fund**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$23,000) – After School Dance Fund (ASDF) provides artistic, technical, and financial support for the establishment and maintenance of after-school Latin dance clubs to strengthen the social-emotional development of youth by promoting health, exercise, heritage, and unity through Latin dance education.
- **Akhmedova Ballet Foundation, Inc. dba Akhmedova Ballet Academy**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$42,500) – The Akhmedova Ballet Academy provides high quality ballet training utilizing the Vaganova Method with personal and artistic mentoring to prepare young, talented dancers to become strong and fully developed artists ready to take their places in major dance companies around the world.
- **Artpreneurs, Inc., dba Arts on the Block**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$47,500) – Arts on the Block (AOB) empowers youth to imagine and shape fulfilling futures, join the creative workforce, and contribute to the quality of life in our communities. AOB achieves its mission by providing real-world experiences in the arts and entrepreneurial training geared toward opening new pathways to learning and achievement. A nonprofit social enterprise with a nearly 20-year history, AOB is a hands-on art apprenticeship program offering youth and young adults the opportunity to learn about art, design, and business by engaging them in paid public art commissions.
- **Arts for the Aging-Maryland, Inc., dba Arts for the Aging, Inc.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$47,500) – Arts for the Aging (AFTA) engages older adults and caregivers with diverse abilities and backgrounds in health improvement and life enhancement through regular participation in multi-disciplinary arts.
- **Bel Cantanti Opera Company, dba Bel Cantanti Opera**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$22,500) – Bel Cantanti Opera provides performance opportunities to aspiring young professional singers and prepares them to make the transition from musical conservatory/university to the professional opera stage and brings those performances to the community at an affordable ticket price.
- **Boulangier Initiative**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$22,540) – Boulangier Initiative advocates for women and all gender marginalized composers by fostering inclusivity and representation and expanding and enriching the collective understanding of what music is, has been, and can be. Boulangier Initiative promotes music composed by women through performance, education, research, consulting, and commissions.
- **Cantate Chamber Singers, Inc., dba Cantate**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$23,000) – Cantate stimulates awareness and appreciation of sacred and secular choral music through innovative programming, creative outreach, and collaborative performances with other artists and ensembles.
- **Carpe Diem Arts, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$24,500) – Carpe Diem Arts inspires creative self-expression that empowers individuals, strengthens communities, and builds better futures, while also supporting the livelihoods of master teaching and performing artists who reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.

- **Chevy Chase Historical Society**, Chevy Chase, Maryland (\$18,000) – The Chevy Chase Historical Society collects, records, interprets, and shares materials relating to the history of Chevy Chase, Maryland, one of America's first streetcar suburbs. Founded in 1981, the organization provides resources for historical research and sponsors a variety of programs and activities to foster knowledge and appreciation of the community's history.
- **Clancy Works, Inc., dba ClancyWorks Dance Company**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$49,000) – ClancyWorks Dance Company increases public understanding of the arts by presenting high quality dance performance and educational programs; expands the relevance of dance in people's lives by demonstrating that creative movement can be used to solve conflicts, develop community cohesion, improve academic achievement, and promote civic responsibility; and nurtures leadership skills and artistic excellence in emerging artists.
- **CREATE Art Center, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$49,000) – CREATE Arts Center sparks creativity, fosters learning, empowers individuals, and facilitates community connections through the visual arts.
- **Dance Exchange, Inc.**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$50,000) – Fueled by generosity and curiosity, Dance Exchange expands who gets to dance, where dance happens, what dance is about, and why dance matters. Dance Exchange harnesses the power of creativity and inquiry through dance to connect communities, to deepen our understanding of ourselves and to foster a more embodied, resilient, and just world.
- **Docs In Progress, Inc., dba Docs In Progress**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$37,720) – Docs In Progress seeks to create community through documentary film. Their mission is to educate, inspire, and transform the way people view their world by providing emerging and established artists of all ages with the tools to tell stories through documentary film. Docs In Progress also seeks to deepen the public's experience, understanding, and appreciation for documentary as a form of art and expression as well as expose a larger audience to new content.
- **Flying V, Ltd., dba Flying V**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$46,000) – Flying V is a performing arts organization that creates intersectional, niche-based art to provide spaces of belonging for artists and audiences. Flying V shares and interprets modern mythologies that affirm individuals' unique identities and their relationship to the world. Their work and how it is created is rooted in care for, and accountability to, those same individuals.
- **Gandhi Brigade, Inc., dba Action Youth Media**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$27,600) – Action Youth Media creates communities where young people build the confidence and media skills to express themselves and to promote community building, multicultural understanding, and the common good.
- **Glen Echo Pottery, Inc.**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$23,750) – Glen Echo Pottery's mission is to build and sustain a strong, inclusive ceramic arts community focused on both individual learning and collaborative pursuits of excellence in clay. Anchoring their programs in strong instruction and inspiration, Glen Echo Pottery strives to create opportunities for all participants to share their skills, artistry, and joy with others within and beyond the bounds of their studio.
- **Glorystar Music Education and Cultural Foundation, dba Glorystar Children's Chorus**, Potomac, Maryland (\$23,000) – Glorystar Children's Chorus (GCC) provides music education and choral arts to children and youth with a rich repertoire of East Asian and Western music. GCC celebrates their community's Asian cultural heritage and creates an inclusive and enriching learning environment for singers to build connections within the community.
- **Inscape, Inc., dba Inscape Chamber Orchestra**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$13,500) – Inscape Chamber Orchestra performs concerts that engage audiences with new and compelling concert experiences, including premiering and recording new works by American composers.

- **InterAct Story Theatre Education Association, Inc., dba InterAct Story Theatre**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$23,000) – InterAct Story Theatre is a theatre and multidisciplinary arts education organization. They create meaningful, accessible, interactive theatre and arts learning experiences for kids and the people who love them, especially those who experience economic, social, or geographic barriers to equitable arts access. InterAct Story Theatre believes that the arts help foster communication and understanding helping us to express our ideas, hopes, emotions, and experiences when words alone are not enough.
- **Kalanidhi Dance, Inc., dba Kalanidhi Dance**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$50,000) – Kalanidhi Dance inspires appreciation for Kuchipudi dance through artistic excellence, creative performances, high quality educational programs, and collaborations. The organization is grounded in the belief that dance, like music, knows no geographic boundaries, linguistic barriers, racial differences, or class divisions.
- **Lumina Studio Theatre**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$46,000) – Lumina Studio Theatre provides unique opportunities for young actors of any level of experience who seek to perform Shakespeare, other plays of the classical repertory theatre, and modern plays that focus on the beauty of language. Lumina provides a disciplined and rigorous professional setting where actors are trained in a comprehensive, performance-focused program of theatre arts based on Rudolf Steiner’s Creative Speech and Drama techniques, as well as the techniques of Stella Adler and Michael Chekhov.
- **Marlow Guitar International Incorporated**, Rockville, Maryland (\$46,000) – Marlow Guitar International (MGI) creates community through music by drawing people together for entertainment, education, and inspiration. MGI brings people together to experience classical guitar music from around the world through performances, educational events, and outreach.
- **National Capital Historical Museum of Transportation, Inc., dba National Capital Trolley Museum**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$24,500) – The National Capital Trolley Museum (NCTM) preserves and interprets the heritage of electric and interurban railways and environs for the benefit of present and future generations, while supplementing its collections with national and international objects to enhance its interpretive programs. The Museum acquires and manages collections of objects related to the history of electric street railways; administers real and personal property; operates an electric railway for interpretive purposes and publishes histories of electric railways.
- **New Orchestra of Washington, Inc., dba New Orchestra of Washington** Rockville, Maryland (\$24,010) – Reimagining what have been the limited definitions of “classical music,” the New Orchestra of Washington (NOW) welcomes audiences into a transformative musical experience. NOW creates “great music without labels,” representing the robust cultural diversity of the local community, making orchestral music accessible. NOW is guided by six values—collaboration, representation, education, access, technology, and experimentation (CREATE)—to foster innovative, inclusive programming; nurture enriching partnerships; and infuse the global flavors of all music.
- **Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$49,000) – Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd. is an award-winning nonprofit, community-based organization founded in 1974 to preserve buildings, objects, and information important to Rockville’s heritage. Peerless Rockville advances its goals through education, example, advocacy, and community involvement.
- **Photoworks, Inc.**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$23,000) – Photoworks offers lectures, courses, gallery exhibitions, and community outreach for photographers and students in the Metro region. Photoworks facilitate photographers at all levels to grow to their visual potential. Their goals are to be a preeminent photography community; to preserve traditions and explore the frontiers of visual expression in photography; and to be a financially stable organization with the means to adapt to the changing photography environment.

- **Puppet Company, dba the Puppet Co.**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$23,000) – The Puppet Co. presents professionally produced puppet theater reflecting excellence in both performance and visual experience. As a center for exploration of the Puppet Arts, the Puppet Co. brings professional puppetry performances to its audience and supports puppetry education through classes, workshops, demonstrations, publications, and exhibitions.
- **Silver Spring Town Center, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$36,390) – Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. (SSTCi) educates, entertains, and inspires residents of all ages by activating public spaces with arts and cultural events that embrace the region’s diversity and build community connections.
- **So What Else, Inc.**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$46,000) – So What Else seeks to improve the lives of children and families living in underserved communities by providing high-quality programs in literacy, visual and performing arts, as well as athletics, food security, and access to other necessities. The organization inspires young people to give back to the community by creating volunteer opportunities.
- **Story Tapestries, Inc.**, Poolesville, Maryland (\$50,000) – Story Tapestries uses arts as a powerful tool to create accessible, open spaces and opportunities for individuals to reach their highest potential and to work together for a more inclusive community. Story Tapestries accomplishes this by providing innovative, custom-designed performances, workshops and hands-on community and educational experiences; designing programs that develop skills, connect individuals, elevate diverse voices, and celebrate youth, families, adults, and seniors.
- **Sutradhar Institute of Dance & Related Arts**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$25,000) – Sutradhar Institute of Dance & Related Arts has a mission to help nurture generational immigrants find a sense of identity, meaningful connection, and an access point for cultural exchange. A gathering space where ideas as well as tea is exchanged, the name Sutradhar means “thread-bearer,” connecting audience, performer, and society through ideas that focus on bridging worlds. Sutradhar has taken on projects that tackle broader American notions of prejudice – often latent and buried in immigrant communities struggling to survive.
- **Theatre Consortium of Silver Spring, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$49,000) – The Theatre Consortium of Silver Spring manages the Silver Spring Black Box Theatre for culturally diverse resident companies and other artists and organizations for the enrichment of the community in and around the Silver Spring Arts and Entertainment District. Theatre Consortium of Silver Spring offers performance space for their resident companies, artists, and other arts organizations, presenting high quality, diverse, and reasonably priced performance art across disciplines.
- **The Victorian Lyric Opera Company**, Rockville, Maryland (\$25,744) – The Victorian Lyric Opera Company (VLOC) makes operetta relevant for the community.
- **Young Artists of America, Inc., dba Young Artists of America**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$50,000) – Young Artists of America (YAA) is reimagining the landscape of arts education by delivering transformative, innovative, and inclusive arts programming that propels students in their personal and artistic development, while bringing exceptional performances to the community.

FY24 Advancement Grants (AG)

\$470,606 awarded for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Advancement Grants provide support to non-profit arts and/or humanities organizations located in Montgomery County, MD that have had both allowable annual cash revenue and expenses of at least \$50,000 for the last three completed fiscal years. Grants support organizations in attaining fiscal stability and long-term viability, including long-term planning and technology improvements critical to an organization's arts and/or humanities mission. Twenty organizations received FY24 awards within this category.

- **Arts for the Aging-Maryland, Inc., dba Arts for the Aging, Inc.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$7,500) – Arts for the Aging seeks funding to review current strategic goals and conduct a situational analysis to crystalize strategy for the next four years. While recent strategic work has improved the sustainability of contributed and earned revenues, visibility, Board and staff capacity, program expansion, and dismantling organizational inequities, a re-examination and prioritization of ongoing and new opportunities – particularly addressing the pandemic – is paramount.
- **ArtStream, Inc.**, Chevy Chase, Maryland (\$15,000) – ArtStream will engage an arts non-profit fundraising consulting team, Board, staff, and key stakeholders to create a new fundraising plan that will focus on increasing and diversifying individual donations. All funds raised from the planning and implementation project will be allocated to ArtStream's creative performing arts programming for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, including Autism.
- **Bel Cantanti Opera Company, dba Bel Cantanti Opera**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$7,245) – Bel Cantanti Opera will purchase equipment to offer live streaming of its 2023-2024 opera performances to an online audience. Live streaming performances will allow Bel Cantanti Opera to reach people who are unable to attend live performances in theaters.
- **Boulanger Initiative**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$15,050) – Boulanger Initiative will hire a consultant to create a strategic and fundraising plan, outlining the next three, five, and ten years. The plan will allow Boulanger Initiative to have a clear trajectory for the future as they grow, expand, and further their work to promote an inclusive and equitable musical sector.
- **Cantate Chamber Singers, Inc., dba Cantate**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$7,200) – Cantate will use funds to redesign its website as part of a complete rebranding campaign focused on accessibility. Updated site design will be easily readable and navigable on multiple devices and in several languages, while a streamlined back end will enable Cantate staff to update pages nimbly in response to community need.
- **Clancy Works, Inc., dba ClancyWorks Dance Company**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$39,000) – Funds will support the cataloging and preservation of the ClancyWorks (CW) Video Archive, which includes systematizing 20+ years of organizational knowledge so it is virtually accessible and useful to the public. With the goal of enhancing the website to host the digitized video archive for use in CW's online programs, the project will allow CW to deepen their work with Montgomery County partners.
- **Friends of the Library Montgomery County, MD, Inc.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$8,481) – Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC) seeks funds for technology upgrades of hardware and software, as well as an overdue migration from Google Drive to a more secure server on SharePoint. The need for technology upgrades was highlighted in FOLMC's most recent annual technology best practices review, conducted in alignment with their strategic plan, used to assess current technology and effectiveness to support FOLMC and to enable technology to better engage their community.

- **Gandhi Brigade, Inc., dba Action Youth Media**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$21,000) – Action Youth Media will hire a consultant, ArcStratta, to evaluate the impact of after-school and summer programs. The project is a major phase of the 2020-2025 strategic plan. The project has two parts: 1) the final impact assessment report; and 2) the customized internal evaluation tools, such as surveys and analysis tools, that can be used the following year.⁶
- **Germantown Cultural Arts Center, Inc., dba BlackRock Center for the Arts**, Germantown, Maryland (\$14,490) – BlackRock Center for the Arts will hire a consultant to guide Board and staff through a strategic planning project, including conducting a landscape analysis and selected stakeholder assessments, facilitating Board and staff focus groups, and creating a finalized three-year strategic plan.
- **Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc.**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$58,849) – Funds will be used to conduct a conditions assessment of the former Crystal Pool basin, used to contain the diving area and locker rooms when the Park was a privately-operated amusement park. This study will allow Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture to gauge the structural integrity of the area, mitigate safety and deterioration risks, enhance safety measures, and determine future programming-related site uses. This study will help ensure public safety and create more usable space in the Park for artists and the community.
- **Imagination Stage, Inc., dba Imagination Stage**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$31,906) – Grant funds will be used to purchase equipment and hire contractors to repair the roof and smoke hatch of Imagination Stage’s (IStage) venue, ensuring the safety of everyone who enters the building. This upgrade was recommended by Capital Coating and is part of a larger facility master plan IStage is initiating to fortify the safety, security, and finishes of the IStage building, while also minimizing its environmental footprint.
- **Metropolitan Ballet Theatre, Inc., dba Metropolitan Ballet Theatre and Academy** Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$28,000) – Metropolitan Ballet Theatre & Academy (MBT) seeks funding for MBT’s new Business Consultant Project. In FY24, MBT’s Business Director will retire after nearly 20 years at the organization. To prepare for the Business Director’s retirement, MBT will shift this position to a consultant role. The consultant will oversee the transition.
- **Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts, Inc., dba VisArts**, Rockville, Maryland (\$31,125) – A new IT infrastructure project will modernize the Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts’ (VisArts) 14-year-old wireless and data management systems to keep pace with the organization’s increased operational and programmatic growth, creating new data ports for increased wireless connectivity throughout the building, migrating all data from an obsolete physical server to the cloud, and training VisArts staff to utilize these new technologies to improve performance and service to the community.
- **National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale of Montgomery County Inc., dba National Philharmonic**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$18,694) – The National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale of Montgomery County (NatPhil) is making steady progress to become a multicultural, anti-racist arts and cultural leader. Funds will provide additional support for NatPhil’s administrative and artistic teams to engage in comprehensive formal training and coaching in advancing racial equity and the development of a strategic plan.
- **New Orchestra of Washington, Inc., dba New Orchestra of Washington**, Rockville, Maryland (\$10,800) – Funds will be used towards New Orchestra of Washington’s (NOW) Strategic Development Planning as the next phase of their organizational growth strategy. This new phase will be led by Edgar Herrera, a consultant with 20 years of experience in orchestra administration and a successful record in development. He will guide NOW’s strategy and tools to turn audiences into patrons—creating a sustainable fundraising model for the next decade.

- **Round House Theatre, Inc., dba Round House Theatre**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$44,352) – Round House Theatre is poised to enter the second phase of their Capacity Building Consultancy with TRG Arts. Grant funds will support ongoing consulting services as Round House develops new strategies to strengthen demand, management, audience development, and organizational capacity. These strategies will build on successes and lessons learned during the first year of the consultancy while considering ongoing shifts in the industry as Round House Theatre adapts to a more sustainable business model.
- **Sandy Spring Museum, Inc., dba Sandy Spring Museum**, Sandy Spring, Maryland (\$30,064) – Funds will support the purchase of equipment and furnishings that will enhance the capacities of traditional artists in Montgomery County, the majority of whom are BIPOC and immigrant community members. The requested equipment will empower traditional artists to 1) hold music and dance rehearsals; 2) record, edit, and livestream digital content; and 3) have a professional meeting space. The equipment will be accessible 24/7 to accommodate the working lives of traditional artists.
- **Story Tapestries, Inc.**, Poolesville, Maryland (\$36,050) – Story Tapestries (ST) will develop their capacity to reach a wider audience following strategies designed to maximize equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Experts in marketing, PR, and digital optimization will provide training, services, and guidance to heighten awareness of ST’s mission and to enhance connectivity with a growing audience base.
- **Washington Revels, Inc., dba Washington Revels**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$17,000) – Funds will aid Washington Revels (WR) with a necessary website upgrade, software support to improve fundraising capacity, improved network security, and purchase of necessary hardware/software to improve streaming capability and provide more accessible virtual programming. Funds will also assist WR’s new strategic planning process centered on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- **Young Artists of America, Inc., dba Young Artists of America**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$28,800) – Grant funds will be used for Phase 2 of Young Artists of America’s (YAA) project to research and create a Master Community Engagement and Recruiting Plan, with a focus on developing school and community relationships and programming in under-resourced communities that will help connect YAA with young, talented, and committed aspiring performing artists from all corners of Montgomery County.

FY24 Programming & Capacity Building Project Grants (PCBPG)

\$398,188 awarded for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Programming & Capacity Building Project Grants provide support for non-profit arts and/or humanities organizations or groups that may or may not have 501(c)(3) status. Grants support high-quality programs open to the public and capacity-building projects. Forty-six organizations received FY24 awards within this category.

- **AmazIng Theatre Company Inc., dba AmazIng Theatre Company**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funding supports the production of a *10-Minute Play Festival* in Sandy Spring, showcasing the work of new playwrights, actors, and directors.
- **Association of Russian Speaking Theatres Corporation, dba Association of Russian Speaking Theaters**, Potomac, Maryland (\$8,280) – Funding supports *CONSTELLATION*, a hybrid international festival of literary creativity involving competitive reading (recitation), to be held on the organization’s Facebook festival page and in person. The age of participants ranges from 7 to 99 years old.
- **Best Medicine Rep, Inc.**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$4,900) – Funding supports the world premiere production of the play *Civilizing Lusby* by Artistic Director John Morogiello. Set in Port Leonard, Maryland, shortly after the Civil War, two men try to make a killing on a railroad venture from Baltimore to Drum Point by buying up all the land around present-day Lusby. Described as a tragedy with jokes, the play was developed at Great Plains Theatre Conference and the Kennedy Center.
- **Bethesda Blues & Jazz Foundation, Inc.** Bethesda, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funding supports *Connecting with Communities: Youth Jazz Messengers*, a project that focuses on recruiting youth to participate in the Bethesda Blues & Jazz Youth Orchestra (BBJYO) by providing monthly youth jazz workshops, a one-day summer jazz camp, and BBJYO performances with a guest artist in under-resourced communities in the County.
- **Bethesda Little Theatre Incorporated, dba Bethesda Little Theatre**, Olney, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funding supports *Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better*, an original musical revue of songs from shows currently being performed on- and off-Broadway, consisting of solos, duets, trios, small groups, and ensembles in a gameshow style, matching up songs from musicals before 1980 against songs from musicals after 1980 in an “old-versus-new” format.
- **DC Beauty of Beijing Opera, Ltd.**, North Potomac, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funding supports a fully-costumed Beijing Opera and associated capacity building workshops to broaden the community’s cultural horizons.
- **DC South Asian Arts Council, Inc.**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funding supports the 11th annual *DC South Asian Film Festival* (DCSAFF) showcasing independent cinema by South Asian filmmakers located in the U.S., South Asian countries, and around the world. The festival will include documentary and short films with South Asian content created by South Asian artists with English subtitles, as well as post screening and panel discussions with filmmakers, film production workshops, and associated cultural programs.
- **Ebong TheatriX**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$9,200) – Grant funds will support *FestivET2023*, a theater festival that celebrates diverse values and promotes inclusion by improving community access to theater for the County.
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc., dba F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival, Inc.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funds support a public festival honoring an outstanding American writer. Events include book clubs discussing the Honoree’s work, readings by winners of adult and student short story contests, an art contest, a discussion of Fitzgerald on his birthday, and a free evening reading in honor of

the writer. Additional activities include student workshops, the Honoree's master class on writing, a keynote talk, morning and afternoon workshops, and a tour by a local historian on F. Scott Fitzgerald's Rockville.

- **FocusMusic**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,700) – Funds will support folk/acoustic/world/words-that-matter music (FAWW) and Local Cream Showcase shows and will help develop joint projects with other non-profits that produce FAWW in the County. Live shows will be streamed for accessibility.
- **Four Seasons Dancers, Inc.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$9,200) – Funds support *Dances of the World*, a globally inspired annual performance featuring original choreography inspired by traditional cultures. Presented in collaboration with other arts organizations, this project feeds into the other Four Seasons Dancers' platforms: Project Connect, the Holiday Program, and Four Seasons Dancers Junior Troupe.
- **Free Theatre Corp, dba The Free Theatre**, Germantown, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funding supports a full-scale musical, creatively led by students with artistic professionals serving as resources. The production's Director, Choreographer, Music Director, Stage Manager, and Production Designers will be high school-aged students.
- **Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre**, Poolesville, Maryland (\$7,350) – Funding supports *A Winter's Eve*, a dance production highlighting varied joyous cultural observances of the holiday season. *A Winter's Eve* combines excerpts from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, with an original adaptation of Raymond Briggs' short story, *The Snowman*.
- **interPLAY Orchestra**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$10,000) – interPLAY hosts an artistic platform where people with disabilities are celebrated for their abilities and negative stereotypes are destroyed. Funding supports hybrid rehearsals and performances and video production costs.
- **Kolot HaLev, Inc.**, Kensington, Maryland (\$9,200) – Funding supports *A Time to Embrace – Songs of Comfort and Hope*, a presentation of choral selections inspired by the Psalms and other Jewish writings, featuring living, contemporary composers as well as traditional melodies.
- **Live Garra Theatre**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funding supports *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, a performance series. The title refers to a spiritual sung by enslaved people in the South to pass along secret directions to runaways who journeyed on the underground railroad to freedom.
- **Mayur Dance Company**, Potomac, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funding supports *A Trinity*, a stage production that brings together the three energies of creation, preservation, and destruction, as represented by the Hindu figures Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh. Mayur Dance Company will incorporate the physical foundations and traditional poetry of their dance form and their contemporary sensibilities and perspectives on these pillars of their culture.
- **Montgomery Philharmonic, Inc.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funding supports a season of concerts featuring a diverse blend of traditional classical standards as well as music by underrepresented composers, including music composed by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and women. Montgomery Philharmonic aims to offer a representative orchestral musical canon to youth, adults, and seniors.
- **Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, Inc.**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$6,175) – Funding supports a youth concerto competition and free community concert at the Sligo Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Takoma Park. Three middle school and/or high school soloists will be selected to perform a movement of a concerto, or a single-movement work, accompanied by the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra (MSO). The MSO will also perform an additional major orchestral work by a Black composer as part of their Juneteenth commemoration concert.
- **National String Symphonia**, Germantown, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funding supports the 11th season of the National String Symphonia, including four concerts of string orchestra music in Montgomery County.

- **NIH Philharmonia**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$4,750) – Funding supports a series of free concerts that will present symphonic music. Each performance will be a community outreach concert with a unique theme and will include carefully selected orchestral music pieces that reflect that evening's theme. Each piece will be introduced by Music Director Dr. DALimonte with interesting historical context to enrich the experience.
- **Olney Community Band, dba Olney Concert Band**, Olney, Maryland (\$1,530) – Funding supports new performance opportunities for the band, with the goal of increasing audience size, community visibility, band membership, and replacing past performance opportunities that were eliminated during and after the pandemic.
- **Open Circle Theatre**, Rockville, Maryland (\$9,500) – Open Circle Theatre brings live, immersive theatrical experiences to chronically ill and disabled communities. Funds will support the live staged performance and interactive programming associated with *The Grieving Project*, a spoken word musical about finding your voice.
- **Rockville Brass Band, Inc., Silver Spring, Maryland (\$8,360) – Funding supports a joint concert with a youth music organization based in Montgomery County, a clinic and a concert with student musicians.**
- **Rockville Little Theatre**, Rockville, Maryland (\$6,555) – Funding supports a production of *The Grapes of Wrath*, a quintessential story of hope and survival that follows the Joad family's epic journey from the dust bowl of Oklahoma to the promised land of California.
- **Rockville Musical Theatre**, Rockville, Maryland (\$9,263) – Funding supports Rockville Musical Theatre's presentation of Sondheim's *Into the Woods* and Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein* at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- **Sherwood Community Chamber Choir Incorporated**, Damascus, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funding supports the creation of the Sherwood Community Youth Choir for 7th-8th graders. Both the 4th-6th grade and 7th-8th grade Youth Choirs will perform with the Sherwood Community Chamber Choir in joint concerts during the 2023-2024 school year.
- **Six Degree Singers**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funding supports Six Degree Singers' winter series *A Home Remade*, as well as the spring series *All Earth's Splendor*, about the beauty of nature and its power to heal through music, artwork, and outdoor activities.
- **Soul in Motion Players, Inc.**, Boyds, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funding supports *Soul In Motion 40*, the 40th anniversary of Soul in Motion in the Arts. The event will highlight the collaborative performances of several dance ensembles from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.
- **Sweet Adelines International, dba Capital Accord Chorus**, Rockville, Maryland (\$9,761) – Capital Accord Chorus will partner with Harmony's African American Legacy Organization to present an a cappella concert honoring Juneteenth. Activities include chorus capacity-building, a facilitated dialogue of singers from diverse community organizations, and rehearsals for the concert.
- **Symphony of the Potomac**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funding supports the production and rehearsals for four orchestral concerts of classical music to be performed at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center (MCCAC) under the direction of Music Director, Maestro Joel Lazar.
- **Tagore Music Group of Greater Washington, DC, Inc.**, North Potomac, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funding supports performances including drama, music, and poetry, centered on the pansophic Indian Nobel-laureate poet-philosopher Rabindranath Tagore.
- **Takoma Park Folk Festival, Inc.**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funding supports the *Takoma Park Folk Festival* (TPFF) an annual community event featuring performances by local musicians, craft vendors, and associated activities and games.

- **The Civic Circle**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,400) – Funding supports The Civic Circle Board’s retreat focused on professional development and strategic planning, ensuring that the newly expanded Board has the skills to usher The Civic Circle cohesively and effectively through a rapid growth period.
- **The Kentlands Community Foundation, Inc., dba Kentlands Community Foundation**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$9,200) – Funding supports Kentlands Community Foundation’s arts programming growth and outreach. Musica Viva Kentlands seeks to promote diversity in its musicians while growing the organization’s online and physical presence. The Kentlands Community Players will strive to provide a diverse cast and theater experience.
- **The Montgomery Playhouse, Inc., Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$9,500)** – Funding supports *MISS BENNET*, a sequel to Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*. Set two years after the novel ends, *MISS BENNET* continues the story, only this time with bookish middle-sister Mary as its unlikely heroine.
- **The Village Youth & Family Center, Inc., dba Vikara Village**, Rockville, Maryland (\$9,500) – Vikara Village uses movement and the expressive arts to help individuals alleviate stress. Funding will support a trauma-informed arts and yoga training clinic, designed to educate instructors to better serve vulnerable clients. The clinic will be open to the public.
- **Torcu-Art, dba TorcuArt**, Potomac, Maryland (\$9,200) – Funding supports the *TorcuArt Festival*, featuring the folkloric and musical traditions of Southern Spain, including flamenco music and dance with local and guest artists, art, and cultural food offerings.
- **Trinity Chamber Orchestra, Inc.**, Germantown, Maryland (\$8,924) – Funding supports new musical compositions, participation in conducting competitions for musicians, and audience development. To expand its organizational capacity, the orchestra will add an Audience/Publicity Assistant, create a strategic plan, develop staff skills, and upgrade its technology to provide online programming and improve recording and distribution.
- **UpRooted Dance, Inc. dba UpRooted Dance**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funding supports *Untethered and Unseen – The Mysterious Life of Hilma af Klint*, a dance and multimedia performance.
- **Urban Artistry, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$9,800) – Urban Artistry, Inc. has relied on grassroots, ad hoc approaches for their branding and marketing. The organization will use funds to invest in their external presence to match the impact and value of their professional, community-centered cultural programming with the goal of reaching more people.
- **Vessel, Inc.**, Derwood, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funding will support *The Homecoming Intensive*, featuring industry Hip-Hop dance artists originally from the DMV area. This event will be a three-day intensive, including advanced classes, a dance cypher, and a Q&A panel.
- **Washington Metropolitan Gamer Symphony Orchestra**, Rockville, Maryland (\$9,440) – Funding supports live-streaming equipment upgrades to provide higher quality performance streams and videos-on-demand (VODs). With upgraded equipment, the organization aims to heighten accessibility for viewers.
- **Wheaton Wonders, Inc., dba Wheaton Arts Parade**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$9,800) – Wheaton Arts Parade (WAP) operates an art gallery in Wheaton's Arts & Entertainment District. Funding supports local artists who will curate exhibits.
- **Wildwood Summer Theatre**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funds support the production of *Head Over Heels*, presented by people aged 14 to 25.

Word/Dance/Theater, Inc., dba Word Dance Theater, Bethesda, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funds will support the *Sophia Series*, exploring the intersection of body science and movement for well-being through interactive workshops available free to the public, and a training program for dancers to learn how to guide people of all ages and stages of life in movement

FY24 Artists & Scholars Project Grants (ASPG)

\$272,636 awarded for January 1, 2024 – December 30, 2024

Artists & Scholars Project Grants provide support to individual artists and scholars who reside in Montgomery County, MD. Projects can focus on the creation of new work, a phase of a larger project, a public event or program, or professional development. Fifty-five artists and scholars received FY24 awards within this category.

- **Adrienne Clancy**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding will support the creation of contemporary dance inspired by Hawaiian oral histories about the volcano goddess Pele, to be performed alongside original hula choreography.
- **Alexander (Sasha) Bondarev**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will be used to create an original children's album fusing jazz, pop, electronic, and classical.
- **Alyscia Cunningham**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds will support *SEEING WITHOUT SIGHT*, a documentary film that includes stories of girls and women who have vision loss (blind, deafblind, or low vision).
- **Amita Sarin**, Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will be used to complete, present, and promote *A SACRED PIECE OF HOME: WASHINGTON D.C.*; a series of 30 -minute documentaries about places of worship created by local immigrant communities.
- **Andrew Hladky**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will be used to develop a new body of artwork consisting of sculptural paintings and sculptures made with oil paint and bamboo sticks. Each work will feature interplay between the 3-dimensional body of the piece and its surface image.
- **Barb Ziselberger**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds support *The Materiality of Collage*, a cohesive series of abstract artworks focusing on the material aspects of line and texture in the medium of collage.
- **Bonnie Kennedy** Germantown, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds support the expansion a figurative oil paintings series, experimenting with scale and abstraction.
- **Camille Silberman**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds support Silberman’s writing of a fiction book with themes of ancestral knowledge (i.e. foraging and herbal medicine) to awaken the reader to their own inner power, regain one's sense of control, and connection to ancestry.
- **Carrie Rose**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding will support the twelfth season of the *Origins Concert Series* featuring a new composition by the applicant, premiered at each concert.
- **Charlie Barnett**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funding will support a workshop performance of a new play, *Breseis*, a drama set in the present day based on a character from Homer's *Iliad*.
- **Chris Wallis**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds support *Man For The Job*, a short film that follows Andrew on the day his father and sister come over for dinner. To overcome the generational trauma their father has caused, Andrew must decide if the life he wants exists only in his daydreams or in the real world.
- **Cintia Cabib**, Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will be used to pay for sound editing and sound mixing of the documentary *Bird Walk*. The film focuses on the birds and birders who have flocked to the RedGate Park in Rockville, Maryland, where 170 bird species have been identified.
- **Cory Oberndorfer**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will be used for the creation new artwork of varying sizes, including oil paintings, watercolors, and plaster and resin sculptures."
- **Daniel Gustein**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$4,500) – Funds support the creation of a series of thematically linked poems that refer to a difficult two-year period in the grantee’s life, when their best friend was shot to death and their brother died of cancer.
- **Danielle Mysliwec**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the production of a new body of abstract paintings for a solo exhibition, exploring the structure of weaving with the malleable properties of oil paint to produce tactile, visual, and associative abstractions.

- **Dinah Myers Schroeder**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding will support a body of work elevating Black women, emphasizing their strength, resilience, highlighting the many roles of Black women as nurturers, providers, educators and more, while dispelling the “angry Black woman” stereotype.
- **Elizabeth G. Hill**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds support *Traceries*, a video recording of works for solo piano and voice, featuring compositions by Florence B. Price and William Grant Still, largely unheard early compositions by classical Black American composers.
- **Elzbieta Sikorska-Pettit**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will be used to complete a series of large-scale multi-media drawings in preparation for a solo exhibition, focused on layers of meaning in nature, in connection to human history and the environment.
- **Fabiola Alvarez Yurcisin**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds support a new phase of a larger body of work, exploring shelter from the lens of those most affected by our current housing, immigration, and climate crises, exploring the journeys humans and birds take while searching for a home.
- **Franklyn Johnson-Williams**, Burtonsville, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds support *The Beat Goes On*. Students will be led to play drums as healthy way to relax, process and deal with negative external pressures, and gain better control of their lives. This program will reinforce life skills such as teamwork, social cohesion, self-discipline, self-esteem, confidence, and perseverance.
- **Hedieh Ilchi**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds support the creation of paintings to be exhibited at VisArts, investigating how the language of abstraction, through chance and control, can evoke the sublime. The artwork will include imagery derived from Persian paintings and illuminated manuscripts.
- **Heidi Martin**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding will support the recording of music composed by the grantee, influenced by Abbey Lincoln’s journals.
- **Holly Stone**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds will be used for the creation of new acrylic paintings, acrylic collage, and/or mixed media works. The artwork often expresses (but is not limited to) feminist ideas.
- **James O’Sullivan**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the completion of a book length work-in-progress entitled *The Dalton Brothers*, a collection of linked short stories that tells the survival story of three brothers growing up with parents suffering from addiction.
- **Jerry Truong**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds support the creation of 8 charcoal drawings on wood, highlighting the unrealized dreams of those lost at sea. Using the Vietnamese view on ancestry, the artworks offers insight about American perceptions of migration, and blends ancestral altar elements with landscapes, representing the journeys of Asian and Latin American immigrants.
- **Joanne Miller**, Chevy Chase, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds support a photography project located at the historic Silver Spring residence where Rachel Carson authored *Silent Spring*, a book that launched the modern environmental movement. Miller will photograph wildlife, trees, and native plants through the changing seasons.
- **John P Wysong**, Derwood, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the recording of an album featuring original music.
- **Kenneth Janjigian**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of a written work about an artist struggling with his creativity and his past.
- **Khaleshia Thorpe-Price**, Montgomery Village, Maryland (\$4,000) – Funds support an interactive performance about trickster tales from the Gulla Geechee Culture. In this cultural context, tricksters provide engaging, relatable, and instructive experiences for young audiences, highlighting community, cultural preservation, and the African Diaspora.
- **Kris Harris**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Building the Engine*, a dance work exploring Queer identity navigation. It is anchored by research in gender studies, rock and roll, Queer theory, and the applicant’s personal trans/non-binary experience.

- **Laura Sturza**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of *The Adventures of an Almost 50, Never Married Wannabe Wife*, a book about never giving up on lasting love. In it, a woman passes her last marriage deadline, goes out on over 100 first dates, and finally finds the kindhearted man she marries.
- **Leila Cabib**, Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will support the creation and printing of 12 illustrated bookmarks, the reproduction of six architectural sketches through giclée printing, and the creation of a shop page to sell these products on the artist's website.
- **Leslie Shampaine**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will be used to create an interdisciplinary curriculum, talk-back guide, and accompanying edited clips of the applicant's new documentary *Call Me Dancer*. Teachers, facilitators, and arts educators will engage Montgomery County students and adult learners with these project materials at screenings, in classrooms, and at other public presentations.
- **Lilliane Blom**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funds support *What did Nonna use to Say?*, an illustrated picture book for a young audience. In English and Italian, the book celebrates the ties that bind us across generations, distance, culture, and time.
- **Madeline Maxine Gorman**, Chevy Chase, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Tooth and Claw*, dance set to a reimagined ABBA song. Inspired by metaphors of labor and success, the piece explores what it means to work and truly rest in America. The project includes original choreography, live music, opportunities for students, and a community workshop.
- **Malachi E. Robinson**, Montgomery Village, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *The Poppaw Queen* documentary about the history of the Queen Family, rooted in colonial Maryland, centering on Mary ("The Poppaw Queen") who endured a harrowing abduction into slavery that sparked a legacy of resilience.
- **Mat Tonti**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of a graphic novel about motherhood, antisemitism, business, ethics, focused on Glikl, a Jewish businesswoman who lived in 18th century Germany.
- **Mei Mei Wei**, Rockville, Maryland (\$4,900) – To support a project exploring themes of resilience through the life stories and music of five remarkable composers. Despite facing immense personal and professional challenges, each of these composers persevered.
- **Melissa Scholes Young**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of *Down by the Water*, a heroine's journey novel, *Thelma & Louise*-style, of a transformative canoe trip down the Mississippi River.
- **Nizette Brennan**, Kensington, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will be used to design, create, and install a new, hand-carved stone bench for the use and enjoyment of the Montgomery County community at Glen Echo Park where sculptor Nizette Brennan works and has her studio.
- **Oliver Mertz**, Silver Spring Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding will support the creation of *Appelbaum*, a new graphic novel about dealing with emotional trauma, social anxiety, and understanding one's Jewish identity. It is also a follow-the-clues mystery story, told in a neo-noir style.
- **Ori Z. Soltes**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will be used for the creation of 25 poems and drawings that will accompany the poems --which will appeal to both children and adults--inspired by the morning walks and the life of a small dog.
- **Peter Hoffman Kimball**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will support the creation of a short documentary examining the experiences of Deaf actors in Montgomery County, highlighting some of the unique challenges they face while also demonstrating the contributions they bring to artistic work.
- **Robert Guttenberg**, North Potomac, Maryland (\$3,850) - Funds will be used to produce a script for an original musical and to arrange for its' premiere performance on a stage located in Montgomery County. Songs for the musical were composed last year with funding from a previous grant.
- **Robyn Shrater Seemann**, Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding will support the relaunch of a storytelling podcast last produced in 2022. Seemann will create new stories while maintaining the

original format, showcasing the perspectives of a contemporary, observant Jewish woman, combating negative stereotypes, providing positive representation, uplifting women, and the community.

- **Sandra D. Davis**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a visual arts project entitled *Made from Scraps*, a celebration of reusing, recycling, and repurposing. During enslavement, the African American family thrived on scraps from the enslaver. What we consider soul food today are recipes that are celebrated.
- **Sarah Beth Oppenheim**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of *Wolver Maroon*, a dance theater work embodied in layers of Woman as artist, mother, object craven need, abject compromise lead, and howling animal.
- **Seema Reza**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding will support the creation of *Light Multiplies*, informed by personal experience and more than a decade of community-based grief and trauma work. *Light Multiplies* asks: must trauma be passed down? Can we not only heal ourselves but heal up? How do we break the curses of our grandmothers? Through visual art and hybrid text, *Light Multiplies* is equal parts memoir/critical inquiry/self-examination.
- **Shacara West**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$4,636) - Funding supports professional development. West will obtain Vocology Certification, to deepen West's understanding of the anatomy of the voice, how it produces sound and how to properly habilitate it, equipping West with the ability to properly analyze the voice, and finer tune their ability to train it.
- **Shahryar Rizvi**, Burtonsville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the development of professional pitch materials for a new TV series. These materials are a "mini bible", which lays out the series visually in a slide deck, as well as a pilot script.
- **Shanthi Chandrasekar**, North Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) – Funding supports the creation of a new series of artwork based on diagrams, concepts and ideas from cosmology, human anatomy and neuroscience, juxtaposing images to explore the idea of the human body as a threshold between the cosmic and quantum realms.
- **Sharon Gelman**, Rockville, Maryland (\$4,750) - Funds will be used for the completion of a polished manuscript of the debut literary novel, *Freedom Does Not Fall From the Sky*, which tells the stories of South African and American characters whose lives have been profoundly altered by apartheid, their efforts to end it, and the tremendous human cost of significant political change.
- **Suneeta Misra**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funds will be used to develop scripts for community theater and short films relevant to the South Asian immigrant experience. One script is tentatively titled *Retribution*, about the challenges faced by four aging South Asian actresses who have been rivals in their professional and personal lives.
- **Susan Donnelly**, Kensington, Maryland (\$5,000) - To support the creation of *ALLIANCE*, a new film about a successful Jewish farming colony in America. *ALLIANCE* centers on forty-three families who traveled across the ocean in 1882 to create a first-time social experiment—the Alliance Colony, fleeing from the persecution of a tyrannical Russian czar to the desolate fields of a new world.
- **Ting Wang**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$1,000) - Funding supports a professional development project. Wang will attend an *Art Omi* writer's residency based in Ghent, NY to work on and complete their translation of a collection of short stories by acclaimed Chinese writer SU Tong (a finalist of the *Man Booker International Prize* in 2011 who is nicknamed "King of Short Stories" in China) titled *Butterfly and Chess and Other Stories*.
- **V. Kuroji Patrick** Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports filming, editing, and arranging original music for *Patches and Friends*, a television pilot and first season of a new show, with an emphasis on the music

FY24 Wheaton Cultural Project Grants (WCPG)

\$142,883 awarded for January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Wheaton Cultural Project Grants support impactful projects within the Wheaton, MD community and provide professional opportunities for artists and scholars to work in Wheaton. Montgomery County, MD-based non-profit arts and humanities organizations, groups, artists, and scholars are invited to apply for cultural projects taking place in Wheaton. Eleven organizations and four individuals, a total of fifteen grantees, received FY24 awards within this category.

- **Fata Antoinette Togba-Mensah**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$10,000) – Funds support the *Artist Vibe*, showcasing a variety of artistic talent each month, from March to December, led by organizer Fata Togba-Mensah. Artistic talent will encompass visual arts, literary arts, and the performing arts. Participants will share their culture, and talents with the community and expand their reach.
- **Brian Frankel**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$10,000) - Funds will be used to produce the 10th Annual *Wheaton Film Festival (WFF)*, which has been held in Wheaton continuously from 2015 to 2023. The *WFF* includes educational panels, networking events, film screenings, and content highlighting local businesses.
- **Carpe Diem Arts, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$8,441) - Funds support *Ukes on the Move*, introducing third grade students to music-making via the ukulele. Each student will receive a ukulele and songbook to keep. In addition to learning to play and write songs, students will present performances at school and at the Wheaton Senior Center, including a jam session with seniors.
- **Clancy Works, Inc., dba ClancyWorks Dance Company**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$10,000) - Funds support *Moving Wheaton: Cultural Connections*, " an in-school residency program for students at JFK High School (a Wheaton Public School) emphasizing fun, safety, self-expression, empowerment, community, and creative collaboration. The program will culminate in a free in-person performance in Wheaton, where students will be invited to perform with Clancy Works' artists.
- **DC South Asian Arts Council, Inc.**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$10,000) - Funds support the 2nd Annual *DC South Asian Music and Dance Festival*. The two-day festival will feature local musicians and dancers in various categories/genres, who will compete in different age groups. International performers will also be featured in the festival's opening and closing performances, and throughout the program.
- **Docs In Progress Inc., dba Docs In Progress**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$10,000) - Funds support *Village Reels*, an intergenerational filmmaking program, bringing together local high school students and seniors 55+. Taught by Docs, Reels was created in the belief that if we do not know about our past, we are destined to repeat it. There are many local stories hiding in plain sight, with students waiting to tell them while learning about filmmaking.
- **InterAct Story Theatre Education Association, Inc., dba InterAct Story Theatre**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$10,000) - Funds support season 9 of the *Wheaton Family Theatre Series*, a free performing arts series for children and families in Wheaton. The Wheaton Family Theatre Series presents 7 arts programs throughout the year, featuring a variety of artistic disciplines and cultures as well as original theatrical work by InterAct Story Theatre.
- **Laura Sturza**, Rockville, Maryland (\$8,157) - Funds support *Tell Us Your Story*, a memoir writing class series for older adults. Participants learn skills such as writing first drafts, using prompts, employing emotion and sensory details, writing dialogue, building drama, developing characters, editing, and offering thoughtful/positive feedback. Students read their work aloud in class and at a public event.
- **Leila Cabib**, Potomac, Maryland (\$10,000) - Funds will be used to provide free cartooning and graphic novel creation classes for children, a cartooning class for seniors, animation workshops for children and for seniors, and *create a mini-comic book* workshops for children and for seniors throughout 2023. The students' artwork will be displayed at the Wheaton Library.

- **Mayur Dance Company**, Potomac, Maryland (\$10,000) - Funds support dance performances showcasing Odissi - an Indian classical dance form - highlighting its traditional vocabulary by combining it with poetry. A Pallavi in Odissi is a pure dance item that elaborates on a visual motif and mood through characteristic movements. Along with the accompanying music, the show will explore the essence of the selected poems.
- **New Orchestra of Washington, Inc., dba NOW**, Rockville, Maryland (\$10,000) – Funding supports live orchestra performances taking place at Wheaton Library’s Social Hall and will include storytelling in English and Spanish. Children and families will experience the transformative power of live orchestra music in a safe, accessible environment, performed by high caliber musicians.
- **Sutradhar Institute of Dance & Related Arts**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$10,000) – Funds support a new multi-disciplinary Kuchipudi dance project about the hidden song of trees by drawing on the story of the Tulsi tree and Patanjali Yoga Sutras showing the 'rootedness' of society as a tree system, as well as the story of Gauri Devi in 1974, who said to gun-wielding loggers - "Brothers! This forest is like your own mother, put down your axe!"
- **The Civic Circle, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$6,285) – Funds support arts-based curriculum built on seven “steps to democracy” for two groups of Wheaton students in Grade 3-5. Students will complete social studies activities, hear from civic youth mentors, write, and perform their own civic songs, poems, and stories.
- **Urban Artistry, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$10,000) – Funds support *The Professional Development & Sustainability (PDS) Exchange*, an annual forum dedicated to sustaining holistic artistic excellence through professional development. The *PDS Exchange* shares resources and essential tools to build healthy, mutually beneficial networks for artists to direct economic and cultural benefits back into their communities.
- **Wheaton Wonders, Inc., dba Wheaton Arts Parade**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$10,000) – Funds support *The Wheaton Arts Parade*, allowing participants to walk with art, watch the floats, bands, dancers, and artists on streets. The community festival is a venue for local artists to exhibit and sell their work and be valued by the community

FY24 Arts Residencies in Schools Grants (ARSG)

\$66,000 awarded for January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Arts Residencies in Schools Grants support individual teaching artists based in Montgomery County, MD trained in curriculum-based art techniques to serve students from communities that have traditionally received insufficient resources and have limited access to arts education throughout the school year. Grantees are required to collaborate with a classroom teacher to develop an arts program for students during the school day. The program must benefit students in a public or non-public elementary, middle, or high school located in Montgomery County, MD. Eleven teaching artists received FY24 awards within this category.

- **Adrienne Clancy**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$6,000) - Funds will support two residencies occurring at Einstein High School (EHS). One residency will allow dance students to focus on partnering work in dance. In collaboration with EHS Faculty and a teaching assistant, Clancy will work with a core group of students to create work using improvisation, partnering, and the elements of dance. The second residency will focus on African Diaspora dance styles. In collaboration with EHS Faculty and a teaching assistant, the Clancy will work with students to explore the historical relevance the African Diaspora has on current choreography.
- **Arianna Ross**, Poolesville, Maryland (\$6,000) – Funds support a residency occurring at Galway Elementary School. First grade students will work with the applicant to deconstruct a traditional folk tale and create their own fractured folk tale. Students will explore the power of word choice, understand the elements and structure of a story, and develop their dramatic skills as they weave their own exciting tale of adventure.
- **Carien Quiroga**, Damascus, Maryland (\$6,000) - Funds support a residency occurring at Sequoyah Elementary School. Students will work with Quiroga to create a large-scale glass mosaic mural that will be permanently installed in the Media Center. During this collaborative mosaic mural making residency, students will research the history of glass and learn the process of glassmaking.
- **Emma G**, Chevy Chase, Maryland (\$6,000) - Funds support a residency occurring at Neelsville Middle School. Emma G will work with 3 groups of 6th-8th graders for a series of 18 sessions to develop youth empowerment through songwriting. During the sessions students will explore the elements of songwriting, with an emphasis on understanding rhythm and rhyme. The goal is for students to become effective and confident communicators.
- **Khaleshia Thorpe-Price**, Montgomery Village, Maryland (\$6,000) - Funds support a residency occurring at Whetstone Elementary. Students will explore and experience multiple theater-based strategies that will differentiate the pre-writing activities and the overall narrative writing process as participants create, refine, and perform original monologues.
- **Leila Cabib**, Potomac, Maryland (\$6,000) - Funds will support two residencies occurring at Glenallan Elementary School. One cartooning residency involves third-grade students writing and illustrating their own original fables in graphic novel format. Each student will complete one page in pen ink and color. The students' artwork will be displayed at the school and on the school's website. The second residency involves fourth graders learning about the history, science, and creative possibilities of two- and three-dimensional animation as they create three optical toys with paper, pens and pencils and an animated GIF using *Stop Motion Animator* on their Chromebooks. The students' GIFs will be displayed on the school's website.
- **Marcie Wolf-Hubbard**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$6,000) - Funds support a residency occurring at Flower Hill Elementary School, involving series of art sessions with grades 1 and 2. Students will construct their own community on a large-scale map in mixed media and repurposed materials. The artist residency coincides with students' social studies classes studying geography and how location makes their community unique.

- **Mary Ruth McGinn**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$6,000) - Funds support a residency occurring at Georgian Forest Elementary School. Second graders will write and perform poetry using theatre and creative writing techniques. Poetry and theatre will enhance children’s understanding of vocabulary, increase their ability to use figurative language, build self-confidence, develop self-respect, create positive group dynamics, and encourage self-expression.
- **Noa Baum**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$6,000) - Funds support a residency occurring at Sequoyah Elementary School. Fourth and fifth grade students will learn to create and tell stories of their own. Exploring the wide world of descriptive language and understanding the ins and outs of character traits will help students weave their own colorful tales.
- **Praneetha Akula**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$6,000) - Funds support the “Talking Hands” residency occurring at JoAnn Leleck Elementary School, integrated into students regularly scheduled music classes. Fourth and fifth grade students will explore Indian Classical dance, and learn to use facial expressions, hand gestures and body movements to tell a story.
- **Valerie Baugh-Schlossberg**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$6,000) - Funds will support two residencies. One residency, occurring New Hampshire Estates Elementary School, will support student’s literacy and social-emotional learning. Programming includes a 25-minute kick-off storytelling performance for grades 1-2 and a 4-session residency, entitled *Moving Through My Feelings*, for all 1st grade students combined into 2 large groups. The second residency, occurring at Dr, Ronald McNair Elementary School, support 4th grade student’s literacy and social emotional growth. Programming includes back-to-back performances (entire school) and a 3-session residency entitled *Moving Through My Story*, for 4 classrooms of 4th graders.