



## **Fiscal Year 2025 Grants Awarded**

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## **FY25-26 General Operating Support II Grants (GOS II)**

**\$3,335,608 awarded for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026**

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-one organizations received FY25 awards in this category.

- **Adventure Theatre, Inc., dba Adventure Theatre MTC**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$122,701) – Adventure Theatre MTC educates and inspires new generations of theater artists and audiences with exceptional theatrical experiences.
- **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Inc.**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$120,720) – The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) performs the highest quality symphonic music of all eras that nurtures the human spirit. The BSO is committed to engaging, inspiring, educating, and serving diverse audiences, and to enhancing Maryland as a cultural center of vitality and importance.
- **Bender JCC of Greater Washington, dba Bender JCC**, Rockville, Maryland (\$60,796) – The Bender Jewish Community Center (JCC) hosts a vibrant and robust array of arts and culture programs that engage the senses and enrich the community. The Bender JCC is committed to sustaining excellence in all presentations, including concerts and music lessons, art exhibits and classes, films, and literary events.
- **CityDance Productions, Inc., dba CityDance**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$111,151) – CityDance is 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 (\$131,947) – 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 of the County.
- **Germantown Cultural Arts Center, Inc., dba BlackRock Center for the Arts**, Germantown, Maryland (\$114,739) – 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. BlackRock facilitates opportunities for engagement and life-long learning in a range of artistic disciplines; reflecting, celebrating, and engaging the diversity of local communities.
- **Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc.**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$124,506) – 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. The Partnership seeks to inspire creativity and offer shared artistic experiences in a welcoming historic and natural setting within a National Park.
- **Imagination Stage, Inc.**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$267,410) – Imagination Stage (IStage) empowers young people to discover their voice and identity through performing arts education and professional theatre. IStage envisions a future where theatre experiences are a fundamental aspect of children's lives,

nourishing their creative spirit, inspiring them to embrace the complexity and diversity of their world, and helping them overcome their challenges with hope, courage and, above all, creativity.

- **Levine Music, Inc.**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$170,595) – Levine Music provides a musical home to people of all ages, musical, physical, cognitive abilities, and financial means. Levine Music is a welcoming community where children and adults find lifelong inspiration and joy through learning, performing, listening to, and participating with others in music.
- **Maryland Youth Ballet, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$141,484) – Maryland Youth Ballet 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; affordable, professional 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 (\$72,954) – 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 (\$160,397) – VisArts transforms individuals and communities through the visual arts.
- **National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale of Montgomery County, Inc., dba National Philharmonic**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$131,646) – National Philharmonic engages, inspires, and unites diverse communities through outstanding music performances and education programs, centering access, inclusion, collaborative creativity, innovation, educational engagement, and inspirational connections.
- **Olney Theatre Corporation, dba Olney Theatre Center for the Arts**, Olney, Maryland (\$409,499) – Olney Theatre Center produces and curates theatrical performances for the diverse audiences in its community, educates, learns from, supports, and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity in its community.
- **Round House Theatre, Inc.**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$310,384) – 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.**, Sandy Spring, Maryland (\$57,397) – Sandy Spring Museum connects diverse communities and advances social equity through shared and inspiring experiences of our region's cultural heritage.
- **Story Tapestries, Inc.**, Poolesville, Maryland (\$61,950) – 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 provides innovative, custom-designed performances, hands-on community and educational experiences; designing programs that develop skills, connect individuals, elevate diverse voices, and celebrate youth, families, adults, and seniors.
- **Strathmore Hall Foundation, Inc.**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$600,000) – Strathmore amplifies distinctive and diverse artistic voices, curating experiences to enrich every life and shape stronger communities.
- **The Writer's Center, Inc.**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$58,933) – 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.

- **The Washington Conservatory of Music**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$64,003) – The Washington Conservatory of Music provides exceptional musical learning and listening experiences for their students and for the community.
- **Washington Revels, Inc.**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$42,396) – 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, connecting all people in a community that stretches across ethnic, cultural, and religious divisions.

## **FY25 General Operating Support I Grants (GOS I)**

### **\$1,291,480 awarded for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

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 FY25 awards in this category.

- **Action Youth Media, Inc., dba Action Youth Media**, Silver Spring, MD (\$30,000) – Action Youth Media provides inclusive spaces where young people find their unique voices, gain self-confidence, and learn the media skills they need to be thriving community members. Action Youth Media promotes filmmaking to middle and high school students as a life-giving creative activity and a path to rewarding and sustainable careers.
- **After School Dance Fund**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$23,250) – 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 (\$47,000) – 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 (\$48,500) – 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 entrepreneurial training geared toward opening new pathways to learning and achievement. AOB is a hands-on art apprenticeship program offering art, design, and business education through paid public art commissions.
- **Arts For The Aging-Maryland, Inc., dba Arts for the Aging, Inc.**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$50,000) – 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.
- **ArtStream, Inc.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$50,000) – Through collaborative performance and lifelong learning opportunities, ArtStream enables people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to gain the skills and heighten confidence, centering inclusivity, enabling everyone to perform.
- **Bel Cantanti Opera Company**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$21,000) – 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, offering performances for the community at an affordable ticket price.
- **Boulanger Initiative**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$24,500) – Boulanger Initiative advocates for women and all gender-marginalized composers by fostering inclusivity and representation to expand and enrich the collective understanding of what music is, has been, and can be. Boulanger Initiative promotes music composed by women through performance, education, research, consulting, and commissions.

- **Cantate Chamber Singers, Inc., dba Cantate**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$45,500) – Cantate builds community by presenting classical choral chamber concerts, including a focus on new works and inclusion of young artists of color.
- **Carpe Diem Arts, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$25,000) – 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 (\$21,620) – 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, offering a variety of programs to foster knowledge and appreciation of the community's history.
- **Clancy Works, Inc., dba ClancyWorks Dance Company**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$50,000) – ClancyWorks Dance Company increases public understanding of the arts by presenting high quality dance performance and educational programs; 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.
- **The Dance Exchange, Inc., dba Dance Exchange** 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.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$43,375) – Docs In Progress seeks to create community through documentary film, educating, inspiring, and transforming 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 with documentary as well as expose a larger audience to new content.
- **Flying V, Ltd.**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$50,000) – 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.
- **Glen Echo Pottery, Inc.**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$23,500) – 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 (\$25,000) – 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 (\$20,020) – 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.**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$25,000) – InterAct Story Theatre is a theatre and multidisciplinary arts education organization, creating meaningful, accessible, interactive theatre and arts learning experiences for kids, especially those who experience economic, social, or geographic barriers to equitable arts access.
- **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 (\$50,000) – 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 (\$47,500) – 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.
- **Montgomery County Historical Society, dba Montgomery History**, Rockville, Maryland (\$47,000) – Montgomery History collects, preserves, interprets, and shares the history of all of Montgomery County's residents and communities.
- **National Capital Historical Museum of Transportation, Inc., dba National Capital Trolley Museum**, Colesville, Maryland (\$23,750) – 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.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$24,500) – Reimagining what have been the limited definitions of classical music, the New Orchestra of Washington (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 (\$47,000) – Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation protects the history and heritage of the City of Rockville through education, advocacy, and leading by example.
- **Photoworks, Inc.**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$24,250) – Photoworks offers lectures, courses, gallery exhibitions, and community outreach for photographers and students, helping photographers at all levels grow to their visual potential, preserving traditions while adapting to the changing photography environment.



- **Puppet Co., dba The Puppet Co.,** Glen Echo, Maryland (\$22,908) – The Puppet Co. presents professionally-produced puppet theater reflecting excellence in both performance and visual experience to excite the public about the potential of puppetry.
- **Silver Spring Town Center, Inc.,** Silver Spring, Maryland (\$41,807) – 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 (\$47,500) – So What Else improves 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 and food security. The organization also inspires young people to give back to the community by creating volunteer opportunities.
- **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. By sharing stories through three cultural rivers – South Indian dance, East Indian martial arts, and North Indian visual arts – the Institute brings disparate groups to the table of dialogue, understanding and harmony.
- **Theatre Consortium of Silver Spring, Inc.,** Silver Spring, Maryland (\$50,000) – 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 (\$18,000) – The Victorian Lyric Opera Company (VLOC) makes operetta relevant for the community. VLOC’s vision is to be the leading regional light opera company, reflecting the community on and off stage.
- **Young Artists of America, Inc.,** 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.

## **FY25 Advancement Grants (AG)**

**\$269,109 awarded for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

*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. Eight organizations received FY25 awards within this category.

- **Adventure Theatre, Inc., dba Adventure Theatre MTC**, Glen Echo, Maryland (\$13,574) – Funding supports the replacement of outdated lighting with modern LED lighting that will significantly lower power usage and eliminate the need to purchase color modification gels, saving unnecessary expense, and helping to make the theater eco-friendly.
- **Arts For The Aging-Maryland, Inc., dba Arts for the Aging, Inc.**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$12,000) – Funds support improvements to Arts for the Aging (AFTA)'s website. With external technology consultants, AFTA will refresh and modernize their website design, functionality, and improve the security of their IT infrastructure.
- **The Dance Exchange, Inc., dba Dance Exchange**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$65,000) – Funds support the strategic planning process involving staff, Board, stakeholders, and consultants that will lead to the creation and implementation of a 50th Anniversary Capacity Building and Capital Campaign.
- **Docs In Progress, Inc., dba Docs In Progress**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$10,000) – Funds will be used to bolster the organization's technology infrastructure. Docs in Progress will purchase new cameras and new computers.
- **Imagination Stage, Inc.**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$100,000) – Funding supports Imagination Stage working with a revenue enhancement consultancy and campaign management firm.
- **Metropolitan Ballet Theatre, Inc., dba Metropolitan Ballet Theatre and Academy**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$14,915) – Funding supports technological enhancements, including the purchase of a new sales system, desktop computers, printers, scanners, and sound equipment.
- **Montgomery County Historical Society, Inc., dba Montgomery History**, Rockville, MD (\$53,620) – Funds support architectural plans to ensure that the organization's new space is accessible, sustainable, and inclusive.

## **FY25 Programming & Capacity Building Project Grants (PCBPG)**

**\$387,141 awarded for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

*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 FY25 awards within this category.

- **Amazing Theatre Company, Inc.**, Gaithersburg, MD (\$9,800) – Funding supports *Scars*, a new play written by Percy Thomas, reveals the impact of antisocial behavior within a family as it is passed on to children, and as it develops through social interactions in the community.
- **Anna H. Wang Concert Series**, Silver Spring, MD (\$9,800) – Funding supports a musically collaborative program. Violinist Paul Huang will present a recital featuring violin, piano, and chamber music with a percussion ensemble.
- **Best Medicine Rep, Inc.**, Gaithersburg, MD (\$5,820) – Funding supports *Blame It On Beckett*, by Artistic Director John Morogiello, an examination of office politics within the literary office of a small, professional theater.
- **Bethesda Blues and Jazz Foundation**, Bethesda, MD (\$9,600) – Funding supports jazz music performances by the Bethesda Blues and Jazz Youth Orchestra.
- **Bethesda Historical Society**, Bethesda, MD (\$8,730) – Funding supports capacity building, using grant funds to purchase desktop computers and related office equipment, providing workstations for contract staff and volunteers. The desktops will be used for cataloging collections, centralizing record/data, improving office workflow and addressing other administrative needs.
- **Bethesda Little Theatre**, Olney, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports *Sing Me a Rainbow*, a musical revue. The theme is all the colors of the rainbow (and more), comprising a wide range of musical numbers from Broadway, the movies, standards, pop, rock, and country, featuring solos, duets, small and large ensembles, many of which will be choreographed.
- **Community Building Art Works**, Rockville, MD (\$9,900) – Funding supports *A Day of Belonging*, a community gathering providing veterans, active-duty military, their spouses, caregivers, and community members with a day of professionally-facilitated expressive arts workshops, performances, readings, and visual art exhibits showcasing artwork created by artists from military and veteran communities, held in partnership with Strathmore.
- **DC South Asian Arts Council, Inc.**, Gaithersburg, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports the *DC South Asian Festival*, which includes screening independent films, book discussions, poetry recitations, dance performances, music performances, and panel discussions.
- **Ebong TheatriX**, Bethesda, MD (\$9,600) – Funding supports a two-day, in-person theater festival.
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc.**, Rockville, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports a literary festival, featuring a *County Library Book Club Discussion* of the Honoree's work, short story contests for students and adults, a free evening reading in honor of the honoree, writing workshops and masterclasses for both students and adults, a bus tour about F. Scott Fitzgerald's life in Rockville, and an art contest.
- **FocusMusic**, Rockville, MD (\$5,820) – Funding supports folk/acoustic/world/*words-that-matter* music performances, and *Local Cream Songwriter* showcases.

- **Four Seasons Dancers, Inc.,** Rockville, MD (\$9,200) – Funding supports *Dances of the World*, a globally-inspired annual performance featuring original choreography influenced by traditional cultures. The program presents a sample of dances from around the globe, with couture costumes that enhance the visual experience.
- **Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre, Inc.,** Poolesville, MD (\$10,000) – 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 traditional ballet, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, with an original adaptation of Raymond Briggs' short story *The Snowman*. This production merges a Christmas classic with broader cultural representation.
- **Institute of Musical Traditions, Inc.,** Silver Spring, MD (\$3,088) – Funding supports the purchase of lighting equipment, replacing old, damaged lighting.
- **InterPLAY Orchestra, Inc.,** Derwood, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports performance production costs for three live concerts, providing people with disabilities inclusive musical experiences. The organization strives to create a safe space for artistic learning and expression, where negative stereotypes about disabilities are challenged, and people are celebrated for their abilities.
- **Kassia Society for Music, Inc.,** Burtonsville, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports a four-concert series featuring premieres by ensemble members; chamber music classics; lesser-known works by marginalized composers such as Dora Pejacevic and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor; and works by contemporary composers including Marc Chan, Ioana Ilie, and Richard Ratner, centering melodic, tonal music outside the academic mainstream.
- **Kentland Community Foundation,** Gaithersburg, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports a series of programs: The Gaithersburg Artist Collective visual arts program, performing arts programs led by the Kentlands Community Players, screenings of independent films led by the Kentlands Film Society, free live orchestral concerts presented by Musica Viva, and *Kentlands Under the Lights*, a community festival with local musicians.
- **Kolot HaLev, Inc.,** Kensington, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports a concert entitled *Sweet Singer of Israel – Psalms that Inspire Our Lives*, a presentation of choral selections drawn from the Psalms, featuring contemporary composers as well as traditional music.
- **Live Garra Theatre,** Silver Spring, MD (\$9,100) – Funding supports programming and production costs for theatrical presentations.
- **Mayur Dance Company,** Potomac, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports a traditional Odissi performance (a mix of theatrical and abstract/rhythmic pieces), with original choreography, the organization's interpretation of this ancient dance form, and contemporary sensibilities.
- **Montgomery Philharmonic, Inc.,** Rockville, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports seven concerts, including outreach to youth and seniors in underserved communities. The organization aims to impact the community with quality orchestral music, perform a wide repertoire, present music composed by women and BIPOC composers, and grow the orchestra's talent.
- **Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, Inc.,** Takoma Park, MD (\$6,802) – Funding supports a youth concerto competition and free community concert. The Montgomery Symphony Orchestra will select three middle and/or high school soloists who will perform a movement of a concerto or a single-movement work with the orchestra. The concert will also include at least one orchestral work by a Black American composer in honor of Juneteenth.

- **NIH Community Orchestra**, Potomac, MD (\$4,729) – Funding supports performances by underrepresented composers, including females, LGBTQ+, and those of color. The orchestra aims to perform more diverse composers to stretch their members both musically and culturally, while also encouraging audiences to engage with a wider range of classical music.
- **NIH Philharmonia**, Bethesda, MD (\$4,850) – Funding supports a series of eight free concerts presenting symphonic music to Montgomery County residents. Each piece is introduced to the audience by Dr. DALimonte, who provides historical context to enrich the experience.
- **Orfeia Vocal Ensemble**, Silver Spring, MD (\$3,325) – Funding supports the development and recording of the *Learn a Song* series, recorded at the Sandy Spring Museum, and shared on YouTube, Instagram, and other media platforms. Each video will focus on a different folklore region of Bulgaria and demonstrate the stylistic and cultural differences of the region.
- **Rockville Brass Band**, Silver Spring, MD (\$7,760) – Funding supports music performances featuring 30 musicians. The band aims to improve and diversify its membership, increase outreach to youth, as well as increase its community impact and national reputation.
- **Rockville Musical Theatre**, Rockville, MD (\$9,310) – Funding supports family-friendly performances of *The Little Mermaid*. The theatre will also present *Sweeney Todd*. Activities also include workshops covering technical skills and DEI education.
- **Sherwood Community Chamber Choirs Incorporated**, Damascus, MD (\$4,750) – Funding supports a new Upper Choir for 7th – 8th graders. The choir already established the created Sherwood Community Lower Youth Choir for 35 Olney-area 4th – 6th grade students in 2022. Both youth choirs will perform in joint concerts during the 2024-25 school year.
- **Sweet Adelines International, dba Capital Accord Chorus**, Silver Spring, MD (\$4,608) – Funding supports engagement with diverse communities of Montgomery County through a cappella music performed in the barbershop style. Workshops, rehearsals and performances will build on learning and relationships that emerged from year one of the chorus' *Culture of Belonging* project.
- **Symphony of the Potomac**, Glen Echo, MD (\$9,600) – Funding supports four classical orchestra concerts at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center (MCCAC), featuring approximately 50 volunteer musicians and 14 paid professional musicians, all under the direction of Music Director, Maestro Joel Lazar.
- **Tagore Music Group of Greater Washington DC, Inc.**, North Potomac, MD (\$9,300) – Funding supports four short plays. The contents of the plays will be substantially different from one another, showcasing the creativity of the Nobel-laureate poet/philosopher/playwright Rabindranath Tagore.
- **Takoma Park Folk Festival, Inc.**, Takoma Park, MD (\$9,600) – Funding supports *The Takoma Park Folk Festival*, an annual community event held in Montgomery County coordinated by a team of volunteers. The event hosts local musicians from a variety of genres, local craft activities, vendors, as well as games to join the local community together. The Festival has been a 45-year event in Takoma Park.
- **The American Friends of Lafayette**, Gaithersburg, MD (\$9,400) – Funding supports the creation and presentation of an interactive music-theatre experience designed to recreate the historic reception of and performances for the Marquis de Lafayette upon his visit to Maryland in early October 1824. This event, coinciding with the bicentennial of Lafayette's visit to Montgomery County, celebrates this historic leader in the American and French Revolutions, and features poetry, prose, and musical outpourings given by the State of Maryland to honor him.

- **The Civic Circle**, Silver Spring, MD (\$4,410) – Funding supports capacity building initiatives. The Civic Circle will retain nonprofit coach and consultant Bob Wittig to help the organization recruit and hire its first paid Executive Director, supporting a smooth transition from a founder-led organization to an organization with long-term sustainability. Wittig will work closely with the Board to conduct an organizational financial assessment, identify strategies to help The Civic Circle absorb anticipated expense increases, and develop an Executive Director job description.
- **The Free Theatre Corp**, Germantown, MD (\$9,800) – Funding supports a musical theatre production. The show title will be chosen by the student company. Students will lead the entire production. The Director, Music Director, Choreographer, Stage Manager, and all Design leadership roles will be held by students.
- **The Menare Foundation, Inc.**, Germantown, MD (\$7,760) – Funding will support an interpretive plan and docent training program to instruct staff and docents in historical interpretive standards and practices. The Menare Foundation will also hire a local, nationally recognized, historian to lead docents and staff through the process.
- **The National String Symphonia**, Germantown, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports four concerts featuring string orchestra music in Montgomery County.
- **The Printmaking Legacy Project, Inc.**, Rockville, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports two documentary film projects. The first, covers Lloyd Menard, who created a national model for print programs at the University of South Dakota-Vermillion, one of the first printmaking residencies where visiting artists collaborated with students to produce and exchange print portfolios. The second, focuses on Menard’s mentor, Rochelle “Roci” Toner, an openly gay woman who forged a path in the 1970s as a feminist printmaker, creating imagery that centered gender inequality.
- **The Village Youth & Family Center, Inc., dba Vikara Village**, Silver Spring, MD (\$9,800) – Funding supports *Exploring Expressive Arts*, a collaborative project between Vikara Village, Create Arts Center, and Pride Youth Services. The intersectionality of art disciplines will foster creativity and develop healthy avenues for self-expression for youth. Students explore the creative and performative arts by participating in art therapy and trauma-informed movement.
- **Trinity Chamber Orchestra**, Germantown, MD (\$9,500) – Funding supports concerts featuring composers who have written works specifically for the orchestra, as well as publicity and advertising costs. The orchestra will collaborate with partners to encourage young artists and complete a strategic plan that involves both the orchestra and external stakeholders.
- **Urban Artistry, Inc.**, Silver Spring, MD (\$9,800) – Funding supports capacity building initiatives. Urban Artistry seeks development support to increase the impact of the current development team, growing beyond grassroots membership with in-kind assistance, to keep up with the organization’s programmatic expansion.
- **Vessel, Inc.**, Derwood, MD (\$9,016) – Funding supports the *Homecoming Intensive*, featuring a line-up of industry Hip-Hop dance artists who are originally from the DMV area. *Homecoming Intensive* includes eight advanced classes, a dance cypher, and a Q&A panel.
- **Vika Visual Arts Association**, Silver Spring, MD (\$9,700) – Funding supports the *Mind Your Art Business* program, specifically designed for emerging visual artists. Through professional development workshops, art supplies, and strategic exposure throughout the year, the program prepares artists for a successful career.
- **Wheaton Wonders, Inc., dba Wheaton Arts Parade**, Wheaton, MD (\$9,300) – Wheaton Arts Parade operates a non-profit, artist-run art gallery in Wheaton that showcases local artists. Funding supports costs to operate the gallery for one year, exclusive of rent.

- **Wildwood Summer Theatre**, Bethesda, MD (\$9,500) – Funding supports the presentation of the musical *Alice By Heart*.
- **Word/Dance/Theatre, Inc., dba Word Dance Theatre**, Bethesda, MD (\$7,363) – Funding supports the free *Sophia* workshops, exploring areas of health and wellness that intersect with a philosophy of dance as a healing experience. Funding will also support the organization’s newly trained *RESTORE: Movement for Wellness* teacher who works with memory care patients at Rockville Village, guiding seniors in movement sessions that incorporate the concepts put forth in the *Sophia* workshops.

## **FY25 Wheaton Cultural Project Grants (WCPG)**

### **\$166,960 awarded for January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025**

*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. Fifteen organizations and three individuals, a total of eighteen grantees, received FY25 awards within this category.

- **APOYOnline Association for Heritage Preservation of the Americas, Inc.**, Rockville, Maryland (\$9,500) – Funding supports *MANITOS A LA OBRA* is a multilingual (English, Spanish, and Portuguese) hands-on workshop aimed to expose Latino families, specifically elementary school-aged children, to cultural heritage preservation and STEAM careers in the arts and humanities, empowering intergenerational audiences to care for their own cultural heritage and heirlooms.
- **Brian Frankel**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$9,400) – Funding supports the 11th Annual Wheaton Film Festival. The festival has run continuously in Wheaton from 2015-2024, and offers film educational panels, networking opportunities, film screenings, and an awards presentation.
- **Carpe Diem Arts, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funding supports *Ukes on the Move*, introducing third grade students to music-making via the ukulele. The project will help young people build motor skills, understand teamwork, collaboration and enhance confidence. Students receive a ukulele, a songbook, and perform at school for the public.
- **Clancy Works, Inc., dba ClancyWorks Dance Company**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$9,600) – Funding supports the *Moving Wheaton: Cultural Connections* project, offering workshops and performances, in training with ClancyWorks Teaching Artists, to honor self-expression, empowerment, community, creative collaboration.
- **DC Beauty of Beijing Opera Ltd, dba DCBBO**, North Potomac, Maryland (\$5,460) – Funding supports an opera performance in Wheaton to broaden the cultural horizon of the community.
- **DC South Asian Arts Council Inc.**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$9,100) – Funding supports the 4th Annual *DC South Asian Music and Dance Festival*. The festival will feature local musicians, dancers and international performers.
- **Docs In Progress, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$9,700) – Funding supports *Village Reels*, an intergenerational filmmaking program for local high school students, created in the grantee's belief that if we do not know about our past, we are destined to repeat it. Designed to help students learn about filmmaking, storytelling and realize that they have a voice.
- **Ebong TheatriX**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$9,300) – Funding supports a theater festival that celebrates diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) through short monologues entitled *VOICES* and a discussion designed to engage the community about role of theater in promoting DEI.
- **Fata Togba Mensah**, Germantown, Maryland (\$8,600) – Funding supports *The Artist Vibe*, a seasonal show highlighting the work of local visual, performing, and craft artists from marginalized communities. The Artist Vibe will consist of five episodes filmed live in Wheaton, and local youth will take on production roles.
- **InterAct Story Theatre Education Association, Inc.**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$10,000) – Funding supports Season 10 of *The Wheaton Family Theatre Series*, a free performing arts series for children and families



in Wheaton that presents arts programs throughout the year, featuring a variety of artistic disciplines and cultures as well as original theatrical work by InterAct Story Theatre.

- **Leila Cabib**, Potomac, Maryland (\$9,700) – Funding supports free cartooning, graphic novel creation and kamishibai (paper theatre) multi-session classes. The project also includes an animation workshop and a *Create a Mini Comic Book* workshop for children aged 8+ at the Wheaton Library. The student's artwork will be displayed at the library.
- **Mayur Dance Company**, Potomac, Maryland (\$9,200) – Funding supports senior dancers choreographing and teaching Odissi to younger students, as well as a free performance under the artistic director's guidance at the Wheaton Recreation Center. Choreography will draw from both traditional dance and the student's creative vision.
- **New Orchestra of Washington, Inc., dba NOW**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$10,000) – Funding supports two live orchestra performances taking place at the Wheaton Library. Performances will be bilingual, in English and Spanish.
- **Sutradhar Institute of Dance & Related Arts**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$9,100) – Funding supports *Raga of Dawn*, an interdisciplinary music and dance collaboration that exposes social division, patterns of prejudice between groups within the South Asian and Persian community. *Raga of Dawn* features Carnatic vocalist Raman Kalyan, Iranian santur, Ahmed Bohrani, and the Sutradhar Dance Company.
- **The Civic Circle, Inc., dba The Civic Circle**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$9,300) – Funding supports civic arts programming for older youth, building on previously successful pilot programs involving students at schools in Wheaton.
- **Menare Foundation, Inc., dba The Menare Foundation**, Germantown, Maryland (\$9,800) – Funding supports *The Rooted Wisdom: Harper Cabin*, a podcast series focused on the Harper Cabin located in Wheaton. The episode will trace what this 1870s cabin has witnessed across time and place, from the free Black community of Jonesville to its current home at Brookside Nature Center, and its impact today.
- **Urban Artistry, Inc.**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$9,700) – Funding supports the *International Soul Society Festival (ISSF)* celebrating the full spectrum of urban arts and its many influences. The annual festival creates opportunities for collaboration among global artists and the Wheaton community.
- **Wheaton Arts Parade**, Wheaton, Maryland (\$9,700) – Funding supports the *Wheaton Arts Parade*, a multidisciplinary festival featuring both visual and performing arts, providing an opportunity for the community to buy local art and see local performers and art exhibitions.

## **FY25 Arts Residencies in Schools Grants (ARSG)**

**\$60,989 awarded for January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025**

*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. Twelve teaching artists received FY25 awards within this category.

- **Adrienne Clancy**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,820) – Funding supports a residency for Einstein High School (EHS) dance students focusing on partner work and multicultural dance forms. In collaboration with EHS Faculty and a teaching assistant of a different cultural background, the grantee will work with a core group of students to create work using improvisation, partnering, and the elements of dance.
- **Arianna Ross**, Poolesville, Maryland (\$5,640) – Funding supports a residency for first grade students at Galway Elementary School. Students will work with the grantee to deconstruct a traditional folk tale and create their own fractured folk tale as they explore the power of word choice, understand the elements and structure of a story, and develop their dramatic skills.
- **Carien Quiroga**, Damascus, Maryland (\$6,000) – Funding supports a unique collaboration between Kindergarten and fourth grade students at Flora Singer Elementary School. Led by the grantee, students will create a large-scale glass mosaic mural inspired by their personal heritage and traditions. The mural will reflect the school community as a celebration of the many cultures and voices it represents.
- **Emma G**, Chevy Chase, Maryland (\$5,059) – Funding supports activities that will focus on songwriting as a self-empowerment tool, exploring personal narratives and creative writing as students write lyrics and explore musical concepts such as melody, rhythm and song structure. The grantee will work with 3 classrooms of fifth grade students for 5 sessions and engage the entire school in back-to-back performances.
- **Heidi Mordhorst**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$2,998) – Funding supports a residency at Cloverly Elementary School. Second graders will develop social-emotional awareness by exploring poetry about friendships and kindness. Using color, weather and nature metaphors, children will express their emotions and experiences of welcome, belonging, and exclusion through their own short, free-verse poems.
- **Khaleshia Thorpe-Price**, Montgomery Village, Maryland (\$2,300) – Funding supports *Creating a Narrative Residency* which will introduce students to alternate methods of approaching and creating unique and engaging narrative writing.
- **Leila Cabib**, Potomac, Maryland (\$6,000) – Funding supports an animation residency for fourth graders at Glenallan Elementary School. Learning about the history, science and creative possibilities of two- and three- dimensional animation, students will create three optical toys with paper, pens, pencils and an animated GIF using Stop Motion Animator. The students' GIFs will be displayed on the school's website.
- **Mary Ruth McGinn**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,760) – Funding supports a poetry residency, supported by music, visual art and theater, to strengthen writing skills and social emotional learning for fifth grade students at Georgian Forest Elementary School.
- **Noa Baum**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,880) – Funding supports a storytelling residency for fourth and fifth grade students at Sequoyah Elementary School. Students will explore the wide world of descriptive language and the ins and outs of character traits as they create their own colorful tales.

- **Praneetha Akula**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$4,379) – Funding supports the grantee’s work with Highland Elementary School where the school will enjoy professional performances. Pre-K students will then participate in the *Talk with your Hands* residency, using classical Indian dance to increase social emotional development, literacy and fine/gross motor skills.
- **Regie Cabico**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,753) – Funding supports *When I Say Poetry You Say Rocks: An Introduction to Spoken Word Poetry Writing*. Workshops will utilize improvisation and experimental wordplay so students can access imagery and figurative language for ELL high school students.
- **Valerie Baugh-Schlossberg**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$5,400) – Funding supports a 5-session residency *Moving Through My Story*, for 5 classrooms of fourth graders at Jackson Road Elementary School, conducted during their weekly SEL time.

## **FY25 Artists & Scholars Project Grants (ASPG)**

**\$360,450 awarded for January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025**

*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. Seventy-four artists and scholars received FY25 awards within this category.

- **Ada Ari**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports workshops for children combining storytelling, geography, movement, and music, creating a hands-on experience rooted in African culture.
- **Alexander Atienza**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Terrazzo Jungle*, a film inspired by the paintings of Alex Colville, set in the present, and influenced by the philosophy of Charles Taylor, exploring themes of modernity, anomie, and nostalgia.
- **Alix Evans**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Cœur de Cour*, featuring vocal and instrumental collaborators. The project includes an exploration of medieval courtly love, medieval music and ancient languages.
- **Alix Philogene (Philo)**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Hours in the Lab*, a hip-hop album depicting the story of an artist's struggles working as a practicing lawyer while maintaining a career in music, merging music and law to push African-Americans and other marginalized groups to learn about the law, and artists to learn about their intellectual property rights.
- **Alla Borovskaia**, Olney, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Garden of Inspiration*. The grantee will create floral-shaped wall sculptures made of wool fibers, incorporating photographs of community members. Participants will be invited to share their stories during the creation process.
- **Allysa Mulrain (Bonnie)**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports recording sessions for a debut EP, blending opera, jazz, rap, pop, and rock. The lyrics focus on feminist and pro-Black themes, addressing mental health. As a female singer-songwriter of Caribbean descent, the grantee aims to amplify voices from historically marginalized communities.
- **Alyscia Cunningham**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Seeing Without Sight*, a documentary film that includes stories of girls and women who have vision loss (blind, deafblind, or low vision). They share their insight on what they feel is the essence of beauty without the sense of visual sight.
- **Amber Cruz**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of new paintings and ceramic sculptures. By referencing pop culture imagery in both mediums, the work aims to create tactile, visual experiences that resonate with contemporary discussions on feminine desires for escapism within the domestic landscape.
- **Amir Sharifi**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a project benefiting elementary school children, who will learn about microtonal music, fostering cultural appreciation through Middle Eastern and Greek musical traditions. The grantee will study advanced Oud techniques and Makam music with Spyros Koliavasilis.
- **Amy Finkelstein**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a tintype self-portrait project that challenges traditional gender assumptions while honoring the grantee's father, creating a dialogue between past and present through photography. The grantee will wear their late father's suits to explore identity, memory, and gender. Funds will cover tintype workshops, chemicals, and framing.
- **Barbara Ziselberger**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Ephemeral Forms*, an in-depth exploration of paper fibers and sculpture techniques, culminating in the creation of a series of unique handmade paper sculptures.

- **Beverly Ress**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$4,989) - Funding supports the creation of artwork fusing drawing and sculpture. The drawings will be ephemeral and play with layering, illusion, and light. Most of the work will be drawings on vellum film. The vellum will be layered, twisted, opened, or folded into simple 3D forms.
- **Bisagna Suh**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$4,750) - Funding supports *The Dinner Table*, a contemporary fiction novel set in the Washington DC area, exploring themes of ambition, identity, and resilience. Nehbi, a Cameroonian-American singer, and Semir, a Muslim Ethiopian-American filmmaker, chase their dreams and confront exploitation.
- **Brendan Smith**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$4,400) - Funding supports *The Places We Forgot and Then Misremembered*, a mixed-media series that explores unanswered questions about the originality of art, the unseen vagaries of algorithms, future directions and perils posed for artists from AI programs.
- **Brian Frankel**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Healing*, a documentary film featuring local residents across age, gender, place of origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and economics. The film will explore various forms of healing. There will be a free public screening.
- **Caroline Bock**, Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the writing, editing, and polishing of a new linked short story collection, which will include flash fiction and full-length short stories.
- **Carrie L. Rose**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the thirteenth season of the *Origins Concert Series* in Silver Spring, Maryland. Concerts will include a new composition by the grantee.
- **Cecily Bumbray**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Indigo*, an EP of new, original songs from the grantee, a vocalist and songwriter fusing spiritual jazz and soul music.
- **Clare Winslow**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of a new body of artwork, expanding the scale of acrylic paintings and incorporating stencil techniques.
- **Daria Pomerantseva**, Chevy Chase, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *The Threads of Migration*, a journalism and fashion project that delves into the experiences of female immigrants through recorded interviews.
- **David S. Reed**, North Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the grantee researching and writing a book about public sector workers in America.
- **Deborah Tomlin**, Potomac, Maryland (\$4,960) - Funding supports the creation of a new paintings and drawings based on breast cancer.
- **Duke Tang**, Clarksburg, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *The Road of Searching*, a symphonic poem that blends Western music, American folk melodies, and the Eastern music, featuring traditional Chinese instruments.
- **Elisabeth (Lisa) Swenton-Eppard**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$3,600) - Funding supports a professional development project: The grantee has been a tap dance artist for 38 years who teaches, directs, produces, and choreographs. The grantee will work with a professional executive coach who is also a tap dancer.
- **Fiona Rose Murphy**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Waiting for MetroAccess*, an original play loosely adapted from Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. The play will explore timely issues affecting the disabled, queer community in the DMV.
- **Genevieve McGahey**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a forum for Montgomery County freelance classical singers. The forum will provide an opportunity to gather, network, helping attendees navigate the challenges of balancing artistic pursuits with outside careers.
- **Gwydion Suilebhan**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$3,600) - Funding supports *Punching Up: Jews, Comedy, and Belonging in America*, a history of Jewish American life over the last century as revealed by the work of Jewish American comedians.
- **Jacqui Crocetta**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Water Works*, a new series of artworks created in response to water-themed sources of inspiration such as: ocean ecology; the climate crisis; myths; rituals; and personal stories collected from a diverse group of contributors.

- **Jackie Hoysted**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports an immersive art installation combining audio-reactive videos and tactile interactive soft sculptures. The visuals dynamically respond to audio. Participants engage with sculptures, exploring themes of interconnectedness and interdependence.
- **James Kennedy**, Rockville, Maryland (\$4,000) - Funding supports compositions and recordings of experimental music using continuous pitch and time, rather than traditional discrete notes and meter.
- **Jason Green**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Making Your Mark*, a film exploring the complex history of signatures as symbols of empowerment to tools of oppression. The film examines how signatures have shaped identity, democracy, and injustice. By tracing their evolution from documents to digital, the film challenges viewers to reconsider the power and responsibility of leaving one's mark.
- **Jeanne Shaheen (Genie Ghim)**, Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of artwork highlighting preconceptions of ocular senses, using kinetic colors and celestial shapes. This optical experience encourages the viewer to question an internal skepticism and divergent or harmonious way of seeing based on societal influences and environmental culture.
- **Jessica Novakovich**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a newly choreographed work that blends classical dance, contemporary dance and folk styles of movement, all to the music of Mussorgsky.
- **Jessica Phillips-Silver**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Finding Calm*, a collection of songs that teach young people and their families about the brain science and music. Science-based messages are carried through grounding rhythms, soothing voices and instrumentals, drawing listeners into a state of embodied calm.
- **Joel Garcia Gutierrez**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Zoves*, a video game highlighting a collection of stories involving a secret set of individuals who bare crystal pendants used to find their romantic partners. When their destined partner is found, the crystals fuse together, and it is passed down to the next of kin. Featured in *Zoves* are characters of different ages and backgrounds.
- **John Becker**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Deep End*, a comedy and mystery video series about how the absurdity of human behavior often escalates into tragedy. Strangers at a campground in Maryland discover they're surrounded by mysterious conspiracy theorists in the woods.
- **J. Jordan Bruns**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$4,915) - Funding supports the creation of paintings blending spray paint with oil paint, centering Montgomery County's landscapes, its natural and urban environments.
- **Joshua Fishbein**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports new choral and organ compositions.
- **Justin K. Valenti**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$4,675) - Funding supports the creation of abstract artwork that focuses on movement, color, depth and scale through experimentation with a variety of fluid art techniques and materials, increasing awareness of the neurodivergent community.
- **Karen Deans**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of large-scale abstract landscape oil paintings that explore the human relationship with the natural world as a counterpoint to the digital excess that can weaken the connections that nurture community.
- **Katherine (Rita) Mortellaro**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Incongruity*, a time travel novel in which the protagonist, Irene, accidentally invents a time machine and then must contemplate what it means to mourn the loss of people and events that might cease to exist because of her actions if she goes back in time.
- **Keith Kozloff**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Embracing the Anthropocene* a visual art exhibit exploring humanity's fraught relationship with our planetary home. It consists of wall-mounted works whose subjects suggest past geologic events, animals divorced from their habitats, and earthly guardian spirits.
- **Khaleshia Thorpe-Price**, Montgomery Village, Maryland (\$4,900) - Funding supports *Belle's Book Club*, an interactive, arts-integrated approach to reading comprehension for children.

- **Laura Sturza**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the memoir *Better Late: The Making of a Midlife First-Time Wife*. The memoir chronicles a woman's journey of overcoming an emotionally abusive father, an eating disorder, and a series of heartbreaks to fulfill a long-held dream, marrying for the first time at 53.
- **Lena Goldweber**, Kensington, Maryland (\$4,600) - Funding supports performances of operetta arias and musical theater songs in settings where people over 65 gather, weaving together stories and song in a performance.
- **Lizbeth (Betsy) Packard**, Silver Spring (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of new work that includes themes of journaling, re-use, conservation of materials, and the handmade.
- **Ljiljana Becker**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Perunika*, a new music theatre project for a children's choir, harp, clarinet, and a dancer. The project is commissioned by the 3State Concert Series as part of their *Sound in Motion VII* collaboration with choreographers, dancers and musicians from Maryland and Washington D.C.
- **Lynn Alleva Lilley**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$3,286) - Funding supports *Estuaries and Stars*, a photographic body of work that will become a photobook. The photographs are being made mostly during low tide at a state park. The night sky will also appear with feelings of disorientation, mystery and wonder.
- **Madeline Maxine Roman**, Chevy Chase, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the grantee participating in Pentacle's Tour Ready Lab to prepare *Tooth and Claw*, an evening-length dance. This professional development program includes virtual seminars, one-on-one coaching, and a showcase opportunity during the 2025 APAP booking conference in New York City.
- **Marguerite de Messieres**, Boyds, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a series of paintings using hyper-saturated color, texture, and monumental scale to describe the conflicted, shifting perceptions and relationships in rural spaces, and the desolate beauty of local construction sites.
- **Matthew Russo**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the creation of new paintings, centering play and speculation, represented materially in oil paintings that drift between abstraction and representation.
- **Mei Mei Wei**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *East Meets West*, a music exploration of five Chinese and American composers.
- **Melanie Figg**, Takoma Park, Maryland (\$3,275) - Funding supports a book of poetry.
- **Melissa Scholes Young**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a book about Becca, who abandons her suburban home and twenty-year marriage to canoe the Mississippi River. She joins a band of vigilante pirates seeking justice for the unpunished crimes of men that reveals the high price women must pay for freedom.
- **Michelle Penn**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a professional development project. The grantee's one-on-one training with a dance mentor will introducing a new approach, a holistic and embodied practice of movement.
- **Milana Borovskaia**, Olney, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports free creative educational events promoting community connection through learning, supporting immigrant artists, and promoting traditional art through hands-on experiences.
- **Muneer Nasser**, Montgomery Village, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the recording of a collection of original songs with live musicians.
- **Nabil Abdulkadir**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Closing Time*, a short film set in Silver Spring, Maryland, following Sammi as he faces the decision to sell his late mother's Ethiopian restaurant. A chance encounter with a former customer forces Sammi to reflect on family legacy, cultural identity, and the emotional weight of preserving tradition.
- **Natalie Jean**, Kensington, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Unbreakable Spirit*, an album, blending country and pop, that celebrates the strength, resilience, and the empowerment of women. Each track

will highlight different aspects of womanhood, from overcoming adversity to embracing self-love and individuality.

- **Nishi Chawla**, Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Refugee-ing/Skinning*, a collection of short stories about the diverse lives, experiences, dilemmas, and existential situations of refugees from across the globe who have settled in Montgomery County in Maryland.
- **Peter Kimball**, Bethesda, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Cinema in Sign*, a short documentary that combines a general examination of the history of deaf filmmakers with a more personal, specific examination of the work of one prominent local deaf filmmaker, Gary Brooks.
- **Rachel Weissman**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$4,500) - Funding supports a series of videos. The grantee interviews musicians from different cultures about the music that they know and love. All the questions are written by music students in grades 4 and 5. Videos are offered for free on YouTube. Arts integration lessons accompany the videos.
- **Richard Stack**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *The 27th Out*, a book about the evolution of baseball's most pressure packed position, the closer. The history of relief pitching, the skills and personalities of successful closers, and strategies leveraging the position are examined. Interviews with coaches and closers offer insights to enhance fan enjoyment and expand young pitchers' ambitions.
- **Robyn Shrater Seemann**, Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Fish Shiva*, a play about themes of identity, family, loss, friendship, finding oneself, and healing old wounds, both within and without the context of ritual and family – and the interplay of these on an individual and family.
- **Ruth Becker**, Chevy Chase, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a series of mixed media 3D artworks that explore the expansiveness of moments by suggesting a softened gaze and shift of focus, reconstructing blurred or peripheral glimpses as fully-articulated, dimensional experiences of light, presence, and color.
- **Sarah Avery**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports the writing of a novel.
- **Sarah Cosgrove Gaumond**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *North Wind*, a full length play that explores loss, grief, addiction, and recovery through the eyes of its three characters, Doc, Rose, and Hannah.
- **Sharon Lee Minor King**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Women Who*, a series of events focused on African American artists and African-centered Aesthetics, or *Africology*. The events will be curated from an African-centered perspective.
- **Sukanya Mukherji**, Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a free Odissi dance performance in Montgomery County set to new music. The project will be video recorded for future use.
- **Suneeta Misra**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports *Retribution*, about the challenges faced by four aging immigrant South Asian actresses who have been rivals in their professional and personal lives. The grantee plans to use the script for both a film and a stage play.
- **Susan J. Goldman**, Rockville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a catalog, documenting the grantee's mid-career retrospective, providing an overview of the origins of the artwork from 1990's to 2024, documenting dialogue with color through contemporary printing practices, including woodcut, intaglio, screen and digital printing.
- **Susanna Mendlow**, Silver Spring, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a cello music video incorporating the music of *Final Fantasy IX*. Designed to spark interest in the cello through popular media, the video features an engaging story and a cello-only rendition of a classic song from the gaming community.
- **Thanuja Rajshreee Asanga Kumari Domask**, Potomac, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a new Sri Lankan choreographic work to be performed at the CityDance Studio Theater at Strathmore.
- **Trisha Gupta**, Burtonsville, Maryland (\$5,000) - Funding supports a quilt-making and storytelling project about the Forest Haven Asylum and the individuals who suffered abuse while there. The project will engage local activists as storytellers to preserve and commemorate civil rights histories.