

ARTS INSIDER

December 2025



Proclamation - "Charles County Arts & Culture Month" - December 2025

CHARLES COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE

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Dear CCAA Members and Friends,

Happy December! As I write this letter the snow is falling, and our world has become a "winter wonderland" . . . just in time for the Holiday Season!

And now, some late-breaking news for all of us . . . please consider this "A Call to Arts"!

Next Tuesday morning, December 9, 2025 (time TBD), the long-awaited official briefing to the Charles County Commissioners will take place, conveying the results of the recent county-led effort to develop a new Charles County Public Arts & Cultural Master Plan. We will hear the results of the recent countywide survey, the 3 community input sessions, interviews, and statewide research. Most importantly, we will hear firsthand the proposed plan forward for the arts in Charles County. Please make every effort to attend this key briefing in person at the County Government Building in La Plata - or virtually. Click on the links below to review ahead of time the upcoming briefing (13 pp), and the full Master Plan (113 pp) that will be presented next Tuesday, December 9:

- **Briefing to County Commissioners:** [2025.11.27 Commissioner Presentation for Master Plan - Charles County Public Art and Cultural Master Plan.pdf](#)
- **Full Master Plan to County Commissioners:** [CharlesCounty_PublicArtCultural_MasterPlan_LoRes.pdf](#)

On November 15, we had a truly wonderful time at our annual Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) Annual Grant & Membership Reception, held at the historic Old Waldorf School. That evening, we were delighted that The Honorable Reuben B. Collins II, President of the Charles County Commissioners, joined us at the reception. We were extremely honored to receive a County Proclamation naming this month as "Charles County Arts & Culture Month - December 2025." We were thrilled to present over \$77,000 in CCAA Arts Grants to 16 very deserving nonprofit organizations in Charles County. Our CCAA Arts Grants will support their general operations, special programs and projects, and educational endeavors, over the coming year.

Congratulations again to our CCAA FY 2026 Arts Grantees:

- Charles County Youth Orchestra
- Chesapeake Choral Arts Society
- Children's Voices of Southern Maryland
- Life Journeys Writers Guild
- Mattawoman Creek Art Center
- Neighborhood Creative Arts Center
- Port Tobacco Players
- Charles County Senior Centers - Department of Community Services
- Friends of Chapman State Park
- Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities
- Korean American Cultural Arts Foundation
- Music Teachers Association of Charles County
- Nanjemoy Community Center
- Charles County Public Schools - Department of Fine and Performing Arts
- Grace Lutheran School
- Mt. Hope Nanjemoy Elementary School

On November 29, the CCAA participated in "Small Business Saturday" with a CCAA information table at the historic La Plata Train Station. It was great fun spreading the word to everyone! My sincere thanks go to Joselle and Rich Gilpin for inviting our CCAA participation, and to Ann Benbow and Lew McIntyre for their volunteering their time to support this community event.

Hope to see you next Tuesday, December 9, in La Plata!

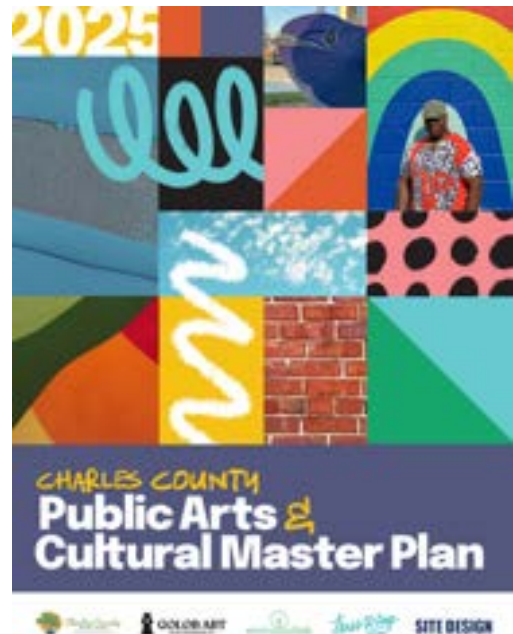
Enjoy all the wonderful arts events being presented by our Charles County arts community this month, and
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Diane Rausch
CCAA President



[Briefing to County Commissioners](#)



[Full Master Plan to County Commissioners](#)

CCAA Receives County Proclamation from County Commissioners

- Charles County Arts & Culture Month, Dec 2025



County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2025-86

Charles County Arts and Culture Month

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, over 4,500 state agencies and councils, and over 110,000 nonprofit organizations, designated the month of October 2025 as National Arts and Humanities Month; and

WHEREAS, arts and humanities embody much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind; and

WHEREAS, arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of every American - in our families, our communities, and our country; and

WHEREAS, the arts and culture industry also strengthens the U.S. economy - generating \$151.7 billion in annual total economic activity, \$29 billion in government revenue, 4.3% of the annual GDP, and the full-time equivalent of 5 million jobs nationwide; and


WHEREAS, since its inception in 1987, the mission of the Charles County Arts Alliance has been to promote ALL the arts in Charles County - the performing, visual and literary arts - which include music, drama, dance, visual arts and literature; and

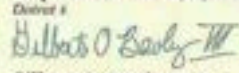
WHEREAS, since 1987, the Charles County Arts Alliance has served as the designated arts council of Charles County, Maryland, and in this capacity, has led the overall development of the Charles County arts community for nearly four decades, through strategic planning (Arts Vision 2020), investing over \$1 million in grants to support Charles County arts organizations, and presenting ArtsFest, our annual free countywide arts festival, among its notable achievements

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim December 2025, as Charles County Arts and Culture Month and encourage all residents to celebrate, participate and enjoy the many outstanding arts and cultural performances, events and activities being presented in Charles County during our upcoming holiday season.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND


Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President


Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., Vice President


Gilbert O. Bowling, III


Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.


Amanda M. Stewart, Ed.D.



Attest:



John Adedokun, Assistant Clerk to the Commissioners

CCAA Celebrates the Arts! Awards \$77,550 in CCAA Grants at Annual Reception on Nov 15



CCAA Celebrates the Arts! Awards \$77,550 in CCAA Grants at Annual Reception on Nov 15

On November 15, 2025, the Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) held its annual Grant & Membership Reception, welcoming the arts community for an evening of celebration from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. The event brought together grantees, members, and supporters to honor the individuals and organizations whose creativity and commitment continue to strengthen the arts throughout Charles County. The reception served as a special moment to reflect on the past year's accomplishments while looking forward to new artistic endeavors ahead.

The CCAA Board and staff worked tirelessly to transform the venue into a cozy fall-themed setting, and their efforts were evident throughout the evening. Seasonal décor, thoughtful arrangements, and a friendly ambiance made the space feel inviting and celebratory. Laughter and conversation filled the room, reflecting the camaraderie and shared passion for the arts that have long defined the Alliance's community events.

Guests enjoyed a wonderful spread prepared by Rucci's, which catered an assortment of fresh sandwiches and delightful cannolis. Complementing the menu, the CCAA offered an array of cookies, soft-served beverages, and wine for grantees and their guests to enjoy. The warm aromas and generous selection of treats added to the welcoming, communal atmosphere, allowing attendees to mingle comfortably as they shared stories and connected with fellow supporters of the arts.

The highlight of the evening was the formal presentation of our CCAA Arts Grant awards for FY 2026. Each Grantee was invited to the front to receive their grant checks, offering a brief speech of gratitude for the CCAA's continued support over the years. Many shared their plans for future projects and reaffirmed their dedication to advancing the arts in Charles County. Their heartfelt words underscored the impact of the CCAA's mission and the importance of investing in local artists who bring creativity, culture, and inspiration to the community.



Congratulations



**CHARLES COUNTY
YOUTH ORCHESTRA**



**CHESAPEAKE CHORAL
ARTS SOCIETY**



**CHILDREN'S VOICES OF
SOUTHERN MARYLAND**



**LIFE JOURNEYS
WRITERS GUILD**



**MATTAWOMAN
CREEK ART CENTER**



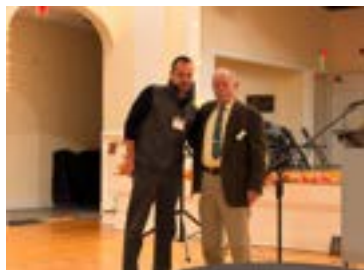
**NEIGHBORHOOD
CREATIVE ARTS CENTER**



**PORT TOBACCO
PLAYERS**



**CHARLES COUNTY SENIOR CENTERS
- DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



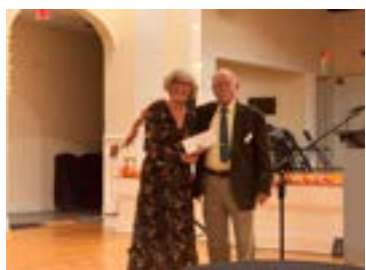
**FRIENDS OF CHAPMAN
STATE PARK**



**IVY AND PEARLS OF
SOUTHERN MARYLAND
COMMUNITY CHARITIES**



**KOREAN AMERICAN CULTURAL
ARTS FOUNDATION**



**MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION OF
CHARLES COUNTY**



**NANJEMOY
COMMUNITY CENTER**



**CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS - DEPARTMENT OF
FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS**



**GRACE LUTHERAN
SCHOOL**



**MT. HOPE NANJEMOY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



CCAA Annual Grant & Membership Reception 2025





*CCAA Participates in La Plata
"Small Business Saturday" on Nov 29*

Scenes From La Plata "Small Business Saturday"



Featured Solo Artist: Joi Lowe at the Government Building

Joi Lowe's work is heavily influenced by African and Afro-American culture, with a special focus on the bond between mother and child. She finds joy in working with natural and found materials, most recently creating with organic resources and recycled plastics.

A graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland and the American Montessori Society, she is also an active member of the Unified Committee for African American Contributions (UCAC) and the St. Mary's County Arts Council.

Recent Exhibitions:

- Moments in Nature (Sept. 2024), Historic Sotterley, Hollywood, MD
- More, Embracing Excess (June 2024), Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center, Dowell, MD
- Changing of the Chesapeake (March 2023), Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, MD

Her work continues to honor cultural heritage, environmental awareness, and the deep connections that shape our lived experiences.





Featured Solo Artist: Mylika "MJ" Radford at UMD Charles Regional Medical Center

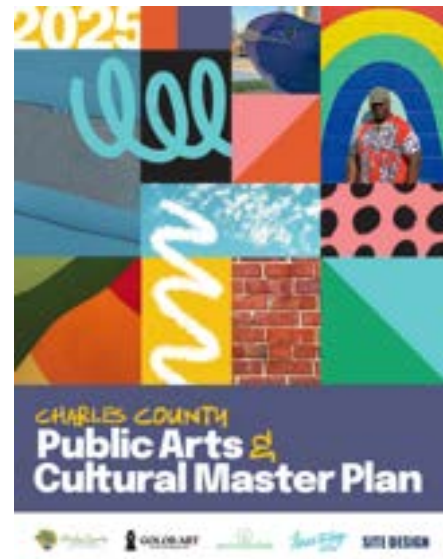
MJ Radford rediscovered her passion for the arts in 2023 as a creative outlet from the demands of being an "attorneypreneur." Beginning with acrylics and paper mâché, she ultimately found her greatest joy in pencil and freestyle sketching. A Detroit native now living in Charles County with her husband, MJ is at the exciting start of her artistic journey and is eager to share her work with the community.

In addition to creating art, MJ enjoys spending time with family and writing. She authored her first self-help creative non-fiction book, *Mind(in)g Me*, where she shares her story of raising a child while working full time and attending law school.

MJ hopes her art inspires others to embrace wellness, free their minds, and find joy in creating.



A Call to Arts! Be There on Dec 9! Charles County Public Arts & Culture Master Plan - Presentation to County Commissioners



A Call to Arts! Be There on Dec 9!

Charles County Public Arts & Culture Master Plan - Presentation to County Commissioners

On December 9, the Charles County arts community is invited to attend in person or virtually the formal presentation of the Charles County Public Arts & Culture Master Plan to the County Commissioners. This major milestone represents several months of engagement with Charles County artists, cultural organizations, community members, and local leaders who believe in strengthening the role of the arts in the county's future. The presentation marks an essential next step in elevating the creative ecosystem and ensuring the arts remain a vital part of Charles County's identity.

The Master Plan outlines a strategic framework designed to expand artistic opportunities, support local artists, enhance public art, and increase access to cultural experiences for residents of all ages. Through recent community input sessions, a countywide survey, interviews, and research, the plan reflects the diverse voices, needs, and aspirations of those who contribute to Charles County's creative landscape. The December 9 presentation will give the public a first look at the proposed vision to guide arts growth for years to come.

Residents, supporters, and members of the arts community are strongly encouraged to attend this December 9 meeting. Consider this A Call to Arts! Attendees will have the opportunity to hear directly from those who helped shape the plan and learn how its recommendations will influence funding, programming, public art installations, partnerships, and arts education. This gathering represents a unique chance to show solidarity and enthusiasm for the cultural future of Charles County.

This event is a vital reminder that the arts thrive when the community stands behind them. By showing up on December 9, attendees help emphasize the importance of continued investment in creativity, culture, and artistic expression. The CCAA invites everyone to join in supporting this transformative plan, one that will inspire innovation, nurture local talent, and strengthen the cultural heartbeat of Charles County for generations to come.

Celebrate the Holidays - Support Local Arts & Culture!



[Free - Donations Accepted!](#)



[Click Here For Tickets!](#)



[Click Here For Tickets!](#)

Celebrate the Holidays - Support Local Arts & Culture!



[Click Here For Tickets!](#)



[Click Here For Tickets!](#)



[Click Here For More Info!](#)

Celebrate the Holidays - Support Local Arts & Culture!



[Click Here For Tickets!](#)

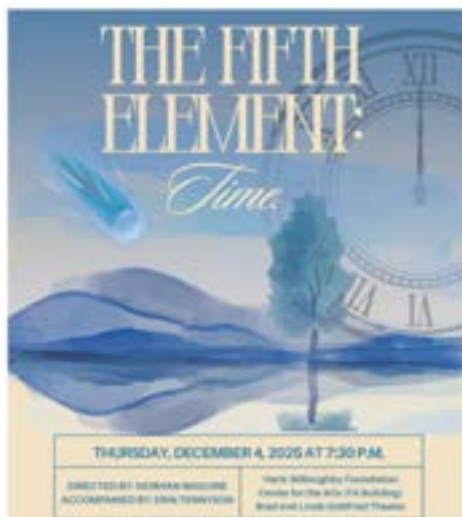


[Donations - \\$5 Per Car](#)



[Click Here for Info!](#)

Celebrate the Holidays - Support Local Arts & Culture!



[Click Here For Tickets!](#)



[Click Here For Tickets!](#)



[Click Here For Tickets!](#)

Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) - The Council Connect

Current Grant Opportunities



THE COUNCIL CONNECT

November 2025

Each fall, I feel my creative energy stir with the shifting daylight and cooler air. I lean into it, channeling that urge into new projects! Lately, that's looked like playful gouache paintings for my 8-month-old's nursery, and, at work, exploring fresh ways to tackle challenges, like making our programs more accessible and reshaping internal workflows.

I also welcome the season's theme of gratitude. In my new(ish) role as Senior Program Director, I'm thankful to connect with so many grantees across the state. From this perspective, I get to see both the collective impact of your work and the countless ways people meet big challenges every day with creativity and heart.

Your energy, persistence, and ingenuity open up exciting new possibilities for Maryland artists and communities to make, share, and experience art together daily. And I'm grateful for this season, for this view, and for the endless potential of the creativity and community that we're building together.

Jess Porter
Senior Program Director
Maryland State Arts Council



Current Grant Opportunities



PAAM Grant - Conservation

Deadline: December 12

[Learn more about program](#)



Touring Grant (for rostered artists)

Next deadline: December 31 (Rolling)

[Learn more about program.](#)



PAAM Grant - New Artworks

Deadline: December 12

[Learn more about program](#)



AiE Grant (for rostered artists)

Next deadline: January 5, 2026 (Rolling)

[Learn more about program.](#)



Performing Artist Touring Roster

Next deadline: December 31 (Rolling)

[Learn more about program.](#)



Mid Atlantic Tours Roster Announced!

Mid Atlantic Tours brings performing arts ensembles to communities across the mid-Atlantic region, in partnership with [Ibermúsicas](#). Non-profit presenters in our region can book an artist from our annually-curated roster and receive grant support of up to 50% of the artist fee. This year's roster artists are: Las Áñez from Colombia and Fabiana Cozza from Brazil.

[Las Áñez](#) is a duo who blend folklore and the avant-garde. Both sisters sing on all their songs, half of which are composed and arranged by each of them, and they are the producers of their first three albums. Juanita plays the cuatro and percussion, and Valentina is a pianist and percussionist.

[Fabiana Cozza](#) is a singer and samba artist. She brings the ancient samba in her hands and in her voice, an echo from the terreiros where the old Afro traditions meet, the colors of Bahia and rhythm from the samba circles in Rio de Janeiro.

Bring Las Áñez and Fabiana Cozza to your communities!

VIEW THE PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND TIMELINE HERE!



Mid Atlantic Presenter Initiatives Program Launch

Mid Atlantic Presenter Initiatives (MAPI) opens the former Special Presenter Initiatives program, which was limited to specific states and jurisdictions, to the larger mid-Atlantic region. Now, eligible engagements can take place all across our region in states including Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia, and the Native nations that share this geography.

The program supports performing arts engagements including public performance and community engagement at small and mid-size arts and community organizations.

[For the program guidelines and timeline, visit our website.](#)

Image: Saxophonist Brian LeNair performs "For God So Loved The World" with the Philadelphia Heritage Chorale under the direction of Dr. J. Donald Dumpson at a Special Presenters Initiative.

Credit: Garrett Thomas.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

PLATINUM CIRCLE

- Lorretta J. Hopkins
- Diane Rausch

SILVER CIRCLE

- Ann Benbow
- Keith Linville
- Roy & Kathy Jenkins

CORPORATE

- dbF, a Media Company

ARTS SPONSOR

- Ronald Brown
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- Edward L. Sanders Insurance Agency, Inc.
- William & Dianne Shisler

ARTS ACTIVIST

- Gabriel Gallagher

FAMILY

- Richard & Margery Coppola
- Ricky & Ellen Flowers-Fields
- Laurie & Joe Fialkowski
- Tanika & Roderick Mance
- Barbara McCarthy
- John & Mary Lou Rutherford
- John & Lucy Snell
- Pamela Vincent
- Chancy & Sandra Wood

INDIVIDUAL

- Christopher Albert
- Nikki Bradburn
- Brooke-Lynn Chapman
- Jaden Hendricks
- Barbara Hufford
- Kenneth Jameson
- Dimitri Nassar
- Deirdre Pender
- Thomas Savoy

YOUTH

- Ada Donohue
- Mariah Harris
- Munachimso Nkemakolam
- Tobi Ojo
- Julia Pender
- Jael K. Potter
- Alex Urso
- Kristy Wells

SENIOR

- Burkey W. Boggs
- Thea Bradley
- Claire Brooks
- Toi Brooks
- Carol Y. Charnock
- Carol Corbett
- Jerri Corbett
- Dorothy Crown
- Mary Evelyn Dashiell
- Chris Dudley
- Cecelia Dunay
- Florence Foster
- Richard Gilpin
- Joselle Gilpin
- Sally Marie Goldsmith
- Doris Hall
- Billie Harley
- Ruth Hein
- Elvernetta Henderson
- Renée Jefferson-Copeland
- William Jones
- Rona Kelley
- Robert Kyle
- Carlyle Lancaster
- Dorothy Lancaster
- Addison Likins
- Beverlie J. Ludy
- Mary Mangino
- Ivette Marcucci
- Dr. L. McDonald
- Karen McIntyre
- Lew McIntyre
- Henry McPherson

SENIOR (cont'd)

- Robert Medley Sr.
- Yvonne J. Medley
- Connie Miller
- Dara Mills
- Kathleen Noel
- Marie C. Parham
- Shirley Ann Perez
- Ann Cameron Siegal
- Dorothea H. Smith
- Jill Smithson
- Richard Thompson
- Evans Thorne
- Paul Toscano
- Zsuzsanna Volkman
- John Wilson

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

- Charles County Public Library
- Charles County Youth Orchestra
- Chesapeake Choral Arts Society
- Friends of Old Waldorf School
- Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities
- Life Journeys Writers Guild, Inc.
- Maryland Writers Association
- Mattawoman Creek Art Center
- Music Teachers Association of Charles County
- National Association of American African Dance Teachers
- Neighborhood Creative Arts Center
- Opening Night Productions
- Port Tobacco Players
- Southern Maryland Decorative Painters

CCAA MEMBERSHIP FORM



The mission of the Charles County Arts Alliance is to stimulate, promote, encourage and provide recognition of the arts and the creative spirit in Charles County, MD

Show Your Support for the Arts by Joining the CCAA!

The benefits of CCAA membership last year-round:

- CCAA Arts Insider monthly E-newsletter
- CCAA Arts Newsflash weekly E-update of arts events
- CCAA voting privileges
- And most importantly, the satisfaction that comes from actively supporting the arts in Charles County!

Membership Categories (check one):

- Platinum Circle - \$500 ☐
- Gold Circle - \$300 ☐
- Silver Circle - \$200 ☐
- Arts Patron - \$150 ☐
- Arts Sponsor - \$125 ☐
- Arts Activist - \$80 ☐
- Family - \$50 ☐
- Individual - \$30 ☐
- Senior (+60) - \$20 ☐
- Youth (under 18) - \$10 ☐

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Date Submitted:

Full Name:

Organization/
Business:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Business & Nonprofit:

- Corporate - \$500 ☐
- Business - \$250 ☐
- Nonprofit Organizations - \$75 ☐
- Other (Donations) _____ ☐

Want to volunteer? We'd love the help!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ArtsFest | <input type="checkbox"/> Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget/Finance/Audit | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative/Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Galleries | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical/IT Support |

The CCAA is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

All membership dues and donations are 100 percent tax - deductible.

Charles County Arts Alliance, Inc.
P.O. Box 697, White Plains, MD 20695
www.charlescountyarts.org / 301-392-5900
info@charlescountyarts.org

CCAA SPONSORS



United Way
of Southern Maryland

