

# ARTS INSIDER

March 2025

INSIDER

CHARLES COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE



*“Spring Bouquet” by Connie Miller*

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Dear Members and Friends,

Happy March! It's been a long cold winter, the snow was fun, and spring is finally around the corner! I'm starting to think about cherry blossoms . . . .

The Charles County Arts Alliance's new year of 2025 is in full swing, with many activities and actions vying for our attention.

In January, we submitted our annual CCAA Community Arts Development (CAD) Grant Application to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) for FY 2026. Every three years, this is a major effort of time.

In February, we kicked off our plans for ArtsFest 2025, to be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, in Indian Head. We announced our ArtsFest "early bird" registration period, and it was very successful. Our Scholarship Committee also met and reviewed a truly outstanding set of CCAA Arts Scholarship applications from Charles County high school seniors intending to major in the performing, visual and literary arts at four-year colleges/universities.

For this month of March, we are continuing to plan for our upcoming CCAA Annual Membership Meeting, to be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at the Old Waldorf School. In addition to honoring our CCAA Arts Scholarship recipients that day, a reminder that this year is an "election year" for the CCAA Board of Directors. Our CCAA Board is an all-volunteer Board that serves for a two-year term of office. The next CCAA Board two-year term runs from July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2027. Our CCAA Board members are community-minded nonprofit leaders, and are very dedicated to the mission of the CCAA. They contribute many volunteer hours to ensure the successful execution of our many CCAA programs and events, including attendance at monthly Board meetings and two all-day Board retreats each year. If you are interested in nominating yourself (self-nomination) for the next CCAA Board two-year term, please read our "Election Year" article in this newsletter. It provides all the details: qualifications, next steps and timeline, and self-nomination submission requirements. The deadline for submission of all self-nominations is **March 20, 2025**.

Speaking of the "mission" of the CCAA . . . do you know it? Our CCAA purpose and mission statement was developed during the inception of our nonprofit organization in 1987.

Unbelievably, it has not been changed or amended over the past four decades! It was enshrined in our CCAA Bylaws, and has served us very well - it has stood the test of time. I'd like to share it with you again, just as a friendly reminder:

"The purpose of the CCAA shall be to stimulate, promote, encourage and provide recognition of the arts and the creative spirit in Charles County, Maryland. The mission of the CCAA is to promote all the arts: music, visual arts, drama, dance and literature."

Have a wonderful March!

**Diane**

Diane Rausch  
CCAA Acting President



# ***Spotlight on Youth Art: Julia Pender's Rising Star in Filmmaking***

## **Spotlight on Youth Art: Julia Pender's Rising Star in Filmmaking**

As we celebrate Youth Art Month this March, the Charles County Arts Alliance is proud to shine a spotlight on an extraordinary young artist who is making waves in the world of filmmaking, Julia Pender. A senior honor roll student and president of the National Honor Society at Westlake High School, Julia is proving that passion and perseverance can turn creative dreams into reality.

### **A Storyteller with a Purpose**

Julia's journey in film began in 2021 when she enrolled in virtual acting and screenwriting courses through The Kendrick Academy. Over the next year, she refined her storytelling skills and, in 2022, wrote her powerful screenplay, *No Pressure*, during a six-month class. This compelling story centers on the struggles of high school senior Breonna as she grapples with academic and familial pressures, shedding light on the often-overlooked issue of teen mental health.

Under the guidance of mentor and actress Karan Kendrick, Julia took the bold step of transforming *No Pressure* into a short film in the summer of 2023. Before its production, she successfully copyrighted her original work through the U.S. Copyright Office and secured official registration with the Writer's Guild of America (WGA). Her commitment to the project earned her International Movie Database (IMDB) film credits as a writer, executive producer, and actor.

### **Global Recognition and Impact**

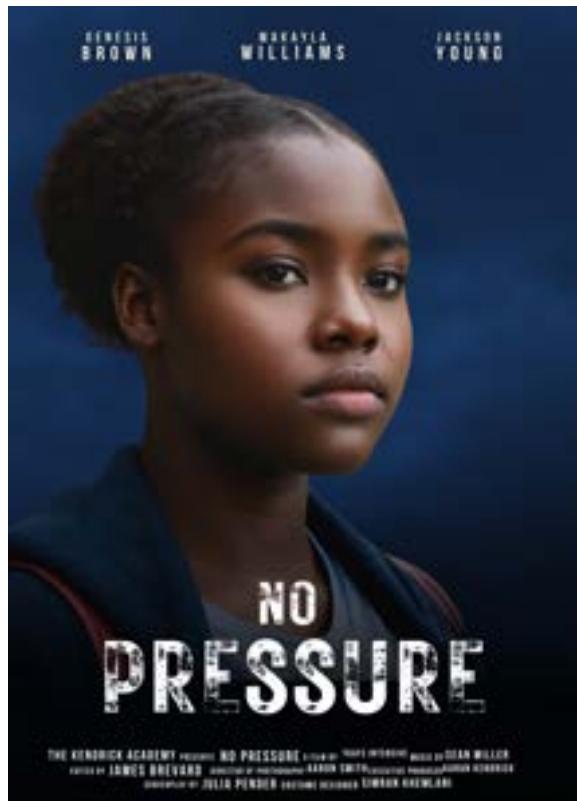
Since its release in the fall of 2023, *No Pressure* has been met with critical acclaim. In the summer of 2024, Julia submitted her film to FilmFreeway.com, a global portal for film festivals, leading to remarkable achievements. The film received an Honorable Mention from the Athens International Monthly Art Film Festival in Greece and was selected for three prestigious festivals across the United States—including a nomination for Best Picture. Later this year, Julia and her family will be traveling to attend these festivals and witness her work taking center stage. Beyond accolades, *No Pressure* has ignited meaningful discussions about mental health, providing a platform for young people to voice their experiences and connect with vital resources. Julia's commitment to storytelling as a tool for awareness and empowerment reflects her deep dedication to social impact through art.

### **Looking Ahead**

As Julia prepares for her next chapter, she plans to pursue a degree in Film and Moving Image, continuing her mission to amplify underrepresented voices. With her talent, determination, and vision, she is on track to becoming a transformative force in the film industry. Julia Pender's story is an inspiring reminder of the power of young artists to create meaningful change. We celebrate her achievements and look forward to witnessing the incredible contributions she will make to the world of film.

For more information about *No Pressure*, visit <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt30718250/>.

# *Spotlight on Youth Art: Julia Pender's Rising Star in Filmmaking*



Written by Alexandria Gonzalez

# ***CCAA ArtsFest 2025 Early Bird Registration Closed, Regular Registrations Opened!***

## **CCAA ArtsFest 2025 Early Bird Registration Closed, Regular Registrations Opened!**

The early bird registration for ArtsFest has officially ended, and regular registration has now begun! We are thrilled to announce that there are still spaces available for both inside the pavilions and on the village green. For those opting for a pavilion spot, 8-foot tables will be provided by Indian Head. Additionally, plenty of space is available on the village green, where 10x10 tent vendors are welcome to bring their own setup.

It's been so exciting to receive a variety of registration applications, especially seeing so many familiar names from previous years. We're looking forward to another fantastic event, and I hope you all will share the news with your family, friends, and on social media to help spread the word about the availability of spots. This event is shaping up to be one to remember!

Organizing ArtsFest has truly been a wonderful experience, and I am grateful for the support and participation of everyone involved. It's been a joy working with the vendors, local businesses, and the amazing town of Indian Head. Together, we are creating a special atmosphere that brings our community closer while showcasing the amazing talent and creativity we have to offer.

As we continue the planning process, we encourage everyone to secure their spots soon before they fill up! With your help spreading the word, we are certain that this year's ArtsFest will be a huge success, and we can't wait to see you all there for a day of creativity, fun, and community spirit.

Written by Mackenzie Coulby



# CCAA Staff Field Trip to Indian Head

## CCAA Staff Field Trip to Indian Head

Alexandria and I went down to Indian Head Village Green to canvas the other side of the village green, with plans to expand the space for this year's ArtsFest. To our surprise and delight, we were able to measure out 58 vendor spots, which meant the event would be much bigger than previous years. It was exciting to see how much potential the area had for growth and to know that this year's event would be able to accommodate more participants.

Although the weather was absolutely freezing, Alexandria and I pushed through, shivering as we worked to finalize the layout. Despite the cold, we were motivated by the goal of making sure this year's ArtsFest would be bigger and better, offering a more inclusive experience for both vendors and attendees. We knew it would all be worth it once the event came together, and we were determined to get everything just right.

We took into account the feedback we received from last year's event and made changes to the layout to better accommodate the suggestions we had heard. It was important to us that the layout not only allowed for more vendors but also provided a more enjoyable and accessible experience for everyone involved. By adjusting the space and ensuring better flow, we hoped to make this year's ArtsFest even more successful.

After seeing the possibilities unfold and how much could be achieved in this expanded area, we felt a great sense of accomplishment. We were very happy with how everything was shaping up and confident that the event would be a great success. The increased vendor spots and revised layout would surely make this year's ArtsFest an unforgettable experience for everyone.

Written by Mackenzie Coulby



# *"Election Year" for CCAA Board of Directors - Self-Nominations Welcome!*

## **"Election Year" for CCAA Board of Directors - Self-Nominations Welcome!**

This year (2025) is an "election year" for the CCAA Board of Directors! Are you interested in volunteering to help lead our amazing nonprofit arts organization for the next two years as a Board member? If yes, this month (March 2025) is "nomination month" for you! CCAA Board volunteer service includes attending monthly Board meetings and two all-day Board retreats each year, and supporting CCAA programs and events in the community.

The CCAA is currently accepting self-nominations from CCAA current members for the next two-year term of the CCAA Board of Directors, FY 2026 - FY 2027 (July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2027). The deadline for CCAA Office receipt (not postmark) of all self-nominations is **March 20, 2025**. Per our CCAA Bylaws, the elected positions of the Board of Directors are as follows:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Directors (up to 9 maximum)

Per our CCAA Bylaws, the qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors are as follows:

- Only CCAA members may serve on the Board.
- Designated representatives of organizations are ineligible to serve on the Board unless they are CCAA members in their own right.
- To run for a Board seat of the CCAA, an individual must be a Charles County resident, current member in good standing and have maintained their membership for one calendar year prior to the year of the election.
- To run for the position of President, Vice President or Treasurer, an individual must have served on the Board of Directors for at least one calendar year or is completing the unfinished term of a Board member who has resigned before the end of their term

## **Next Steps and Timeline**

As noted above, the self-nomination process will close on **March 20, 2025**. The proposed slate of candidates for the new CCAA Board of Directors will be included in our next Arts Insider newsletter (April 2025). The election will be held at our upcoming CCAA Annual Membership Meeting, to be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at the Old Waldorf School in Waldorf. No nominations will be taken from the floor during this meeting. On July 1, 2025, the new CCAA Board of Directors will take office for the next two-year term.

# *"Election Year" for CCAA Board of Directors - Self-Nominations Welcome!*

## **Self-Nominations - Submission Requirements**

All self-nominations submitted to the CCAA Office by **March 20, 2025** must be typed, one-page maximum length, using no smaller than 12-font. Each self-nomination must specifically address the following five items below (i.e., five separate responses). Late or incomplete self-nominations will not be accepted.

1. For which position on the CCAA Board of Directors are you self-nominating?
2. Why are you interested in serving as a CCAA Officer or Director?
3. Qualifications and skills you would offer to the CCAA Board of Directors if elected.
4. Your present and past CCAA or other activities in which you have provided volunteer leadership and service.
5. What are your current and long-range goals for the Charles County Arts Alliance?

Written by Diane Rausch



# *Save The Date! Nonprofit Institute 15th Annual Conference on April 10*

## **Save The Date! Nonprofit Institute 15th Annual Conference on Apr 10**

Save the date for the Nonprofit Institute 15th Annual Conference on April 10th! This highly anticipated event will bring together nonprofit leaders and professionals for a day of learning, networking, and sharing. With a keynote speaker and breakout sessions, the conference promises to offer valuable insights and practical tools to help organizations thrive in the ever-evolving nonprofit sector.

The Nonprofit Institute offers a variety of programs designed to support the unique needs of nonprofit organizations. Through its wide range of services, the institute fosters collaboration, professional growth, and operational excellence among nonprofit leaders and their teams. One of the core offerings is the Monthly Executive Director Network Meetings, which bring together nonprofit leadership to discuss operational challenges and share valuable lessons learned. This forum allows executives to gain insights from peers facing similar issues and explore solutions that can strengthen their organizations.

In addition to the Executive Director Network Meetings, the Nonprofit Institute organizes Monthly Nonprofit Community Calls, which provide a space for nonprofit professionals to connect, share information, and collaborate. These calls create a sense of community and support, helping organizations stay informed about sector trends and best practices. Affinity Groups further enhance this sense of connection by offering networking opportunities for professionals focused on specific areas such as volunteer coordination, fundraising, and marketing/communications. These specialized groups encourage knowledge-sharing and foster a collaborative environment for solving sector-specific challenges.

The Nonprofit Institute also provides valuable Professional Development Classes covering key topics such as nonprofit leadership, strategic planning, fundraising, marketing/communications, and governance. These classes equip nonprofit professionals with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a constantly evolving sector. Regular communications, including a resource-rich monthly e-newsletter, ensure that members stay up-to-date with the latest trends, tools, and opportunities available to nonprofits. By engaging with the Nonprofit Institute, organizations can expect a wide range of positive outcomes, including stronger boards, more effective outreach, financial growth, and more.

Written by Mackenzie Coulby



# *“MD Arts Day” in Annapolis on February 13*

## **“MD Arts Day” in Annapolis on February 13**

Maryland Arts Day, 2025, held on Thursday, February 13, was reported to have more than 500 enthusiastic advocates for the arts descending upon Annapolis to personally appeal to their state Delegate and Senate representatives—calling on each one to support Maryland’s robust arts communities, programs, nonprofits/organizations and arts education. Our themed request to each one was to put your voting power and your voice where your promise to support the arts is!

The Maryland Arts Day mantra was: An Investment in the ARTS is an Investment in a Vibrant Community.

The day opened with a continental breakfast, a meet-and-greet, and networking opportunities. Representing the Charles County Arts Alliance, I was in the company of Exec. Dir. Yvonne J. Medley, of Life Journeys Writers Guild (LJWG); Exec. Dir. Monique Walker of the National Association of American African Dance Teachers (NAADT); Exec. Dir. Katie Brinkley of Arts Council of Calvert County (ACCC) and we networked with the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) Exec. Dir. Steven Skerritt-Davis and MSAC’s program directors Emily Sollenberger Dobbins and Laura Weiss—to name a few.

Next came its opening program with remarks from The Honorable Bill Ferguson, President of the Senate, followed by remarks from several other State Representatives; the recipient of the Sue Hess Award, Pamela Simonson Parker, co-founder of the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAPPA), and a riveting call to arts activism and diversity from keynote speaker Lady Brion, Exec. Dir. of Black Arts & Entertainment District & Maryland Poet Laureate.

And then it was off to the races! Monique Walker, Yvonne Medley and during many of our visits, Calvert’s Katie Brinkley comprised our group. Each representative promised their empathy and support. And we promised to keep track!

### \*The Representatives we visited in District 28:

- The Honorable Arthur Ellis (State Senator)
- The Honorable Debra Davis (State Delegate)
- The Honorable Edith Patterson (State Delegate)
- The Honorable C.T. Wilson (State Delegate)

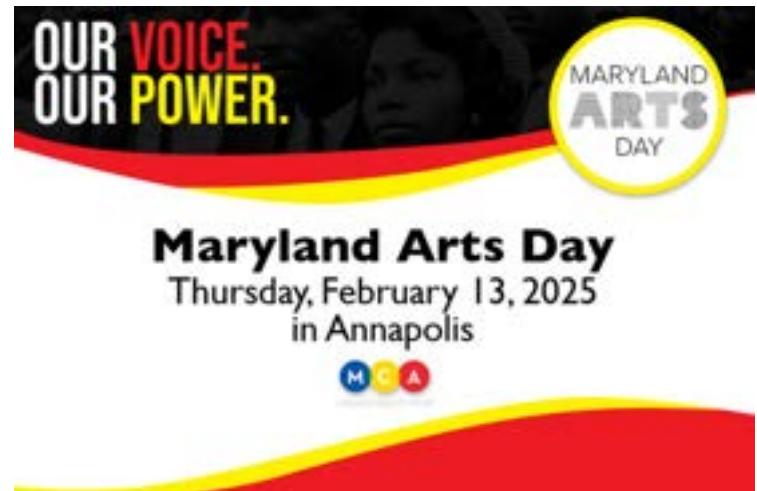
### \*The Representative we visited in District 27a:

- The Honorable Kevin M. Harris (State Delegate)

### \*Bullet Points: We gave our Elected Officials printed materials outlining each request/concern:

- Please reject the proposed elimination of the funding formula for the Maryland State Arts Council found in the 2025 BRFA.
- Please support fully funding MSAC at the mandated level of \$31 million.
- Please support fully funding the Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program at \$3 million.
- Please vote Yes on House Bill 961—a bill to strengthen public artists’ rights.

## *“MD Arts Day” in Annapolis on February 13*



**MSAC Exec. Director Steven Skerritt-Davis &  
LJWG Exec. Director Yvonne Medley**



**CCAA Board mem. Robert Medley, Ex. Dir. Katie Brinkley, LJWG Exec. Dir.  
Yvonne Medley, Del. Edith Patterson, MSAC Board mem. Monique Walker**

Written by Robert G. Medley, Sr.

## MSAC - Upcoming Grant Opportunities

### Creativity Grants for Projects

The Creativity Grant for Projects in Maryland aims to strengthen the vitality and sustainability of artists and small organizations, offering vital support for arts projects and collaborations within the community. These grants create opportunities for independent artists and arts organizations to address the growing needs of their local communities through meaningful arts initiatives. With a commitment to fostering innovation and cultural development, this program ensures that diverse artistic expressions are encouraged, supported, and accessible across Maryland.

Two distinct funding options are available to applicants: the Project-Planning Grant and the Project-Implementation Grant. The Project-Planning Grant is designed to assist artists and organizations in the early stages of research and development for a proposed arts project. On the other hand, the Project-Implementation Grant is meant to support the actual execution of an event, program, or arts project. Both grant types help ensure that artists and organizations can move forward with their creative endeavors in a structured, sustainable manner.

Applications for the Creativity Grant are accepted on a rolling basis, from July 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025, with a monthly review process. To apply, applicants must meet specific criteria: they must be independent artists or Maryland-incorporated 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations that have been in operation for at least one year. Additionally, units of Maryland local government, colleges, and universities are eligible. If an organization applies through fiscal sponsorship, it must operate within a Model A sponsorship, where the fiscal sponsor houses all assets, liabilities, and exempt activities related to the project.

Applicants should carefully review the program's Guidelines to ensure eligibility and understand the requirements for submitting an application. It's important to note that the application forms in Smart Simple have been updated for FY25, and the application ID number should begin with "2025." If the ID number does not reflect this, applicants are advised to start a new application, as drafts from previous years will not be accepted for submission.

For More Information: <https://msac.org/programs/creativity-grants/creativity-grants-projects>

Written by Mackenzie Coulby



# *Launch of New "Standards for Excellence" Program on Feb 20*

## **Launch of New "Standards for Excellence" Program on Feb 20**

On February 20th, a new version of the Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector was officially launched, along with an expanded set of program resources. This update marked a significant milestone for the nonprofit community, as it provided leaders with updated tools and resources to help guide their organizations forward. The session aimed to inform nonprofit leaders about how these standards had evolved and how they could benefit from them in 2025 and beyond.

During the session, attendees learned about the updates made to the Standards for Excellence code. The revisions were designed to ensure that nonprofit leaders could continue to benefit from best practices in nonprofit management and governance. The changes to the benchmarks were also highlighted, showcasing how these updates would support organizations in meeting their goals while maintaining high ethical standards. The session also covered the new resources and tools, as well as the accreditation process, providing participants with the knowledge they needed to take full advantage of the program.

The Standards for Excellence program had been a core initiative of Maryland Nonprofits since its inception in 1996 and had expanded its reach across the country since 2001. The 2025 re-release of the program came after a thorough revision process, which involved collaboration with nonprofit leaders from diverse backgrounds. Their input ensured that the new version of the standards would be accessible and relevant to a wide range of organizations, reflecting the evolving needs of the sector.

The updated program emphasized ethics, equity, and transparency, and introduced practical tools to support nonprofit leaders in their day-to-day operations. Among the new resources were 49 educational packets, along with updated tools, samples, and models designed to help organizations navigate the complexities of nonprofit governance and management. By reinforcing the importance of accountability and high-quality service delivery, the Standards for Excellence aimed to strengthen nonprofits' ability to achieve their missions and foster trust within the communities they served.

Written by Mackenzie Coulby



# THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

## PLATINUM CIRCLE

- Diane Rausch
- Lorretta J. Hopkins
- Clarissa Stroud

## GOLD CIRCLE

- Keith Linville

## SILVER CIRCLE

- Ronald Brown
- Roy & Kathy Jenkins

## CORPORATE

- dbF, a Media Company

## ARTS PATRON

- Ann E. Benbow
- Linda & Stephen Dent Mitchell

## ARTS SPONSOR

- Nancy Owens
- Edward L. Sanders Insurance Agency, Inc.
- William & Dianne Shisler

## BUSINESS

- Business Training Works, Inc.

## NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

- African American Heritage Society of Charles County
- Charles County Board of Education
- Charles County Public Library
- Charles County Public Schools
- Charles County Youth Orchestra
- Charles County Fair
- Chesapeake Choral Arts Society
- Friends of Old Waldorf School
- Lew & Karen McIntyre, Authors
- Life Journeys Writers Guild
- 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
- Phoenix International School
- Port Tobacco Players
- Southern Maryland Concert Band
- Southern Maryland Decorative Painters

## FAMILY

- Michael & Marcela Cacace
- Richard & Margery Coppola
- Ricky & Ellen Flowers-Fields
- Cindy Johnson
- Gale Kladitis
- Barbara McCarthy
- John & Mary Lou Rutherford
- John & Lucy Snell
- Pamela Vincent
- Chancy & Sandra Wood

## INDIVIDUAL

- Monika Barilla
- Stephanie Berry
- Mary Evelyn Dashiell
- Alexandria Gonzalez
- Alicia Hancock
- Jaden Hendricks
- Barbara Hufford
- Kenneth Jameson
- Dimitri Nassar
- Beverly Taylor
- Cathy Thompson



# THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

## SENIOR

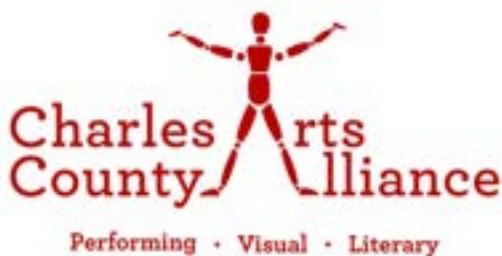
- Susie Bender
- Thea Bradley
- Claire Brooks
- Ron Brown
- Rose Burroughs
- Cheri Burch
- Carol Y. Charnock
- Carol Corbett
- Jerri Corbett
- Joan Creighton
- Dorothy Crown
- Holly Dilatush
- Chris Dudley
- Cecelia Dunay
- Patricia Duncan
- Gwendolyn A. Fleming
- Richard Gilpin
- Joselle Gilpin
- Richard Gold
- Penelope Gold
- Sally Marie Goldsmith
- Doris Hall
- Sharon Hanley
- Billie Harley
- Ruth Hein
- Renee Jefferson-Copeland
- William Jones
- Robert Kyle

## SENIOR (cont'd)

- Carlyle Lancaster
- Dorothy Lancaster
- Beverlie J. Ludy
- Mary Mangino
- Ivette Marcucci
- Karen McIntyre
- Lew McIntyre
- Henry McPherson
- Robert Medley
- Julie Anne Meisel
- Connie Miller
- Dara Mills
- Kathleen Noel
- Marie C. Parham
- Shirley Ann Perez
- Joyce Reid
- Sandy Rohde
- Ann Cameron Siegal
- Dorothea H. Smith
- Jill Smithson
- Southern Maryland Women's League
- Richard Thompson
- Evans Thorne
- Paul Toscano
- Mary Whyte



# 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 important, 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

**Business & Nonprofit:**

Corporate - \$500

Business - \$250

Nonprofit Organizations - \$75

Other (Donations) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Renewal

New Member

Date

Submitted:

Full Name:

Organization/

Business:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

**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

Charles County Arts Alliance, Inc.

P.O Box 697, White Plains, MD 20695

[www.charlescountyarts.org](http://www.charlescountyarts.org) / 301-392-5900

[info@charlescountyarts.org](mailto:info@charlescountyarts.org)

# *Master Calendar - FY 2025*

## **JANUARY**

**18** CCAA Board Winter Retreat  
**31** CCAA Scholarship Applications Due

## **FEBRUARY**

**22** CCAA Scholarship Panel Meeting  
**22** CCAA Board Meeting

## **MARCH**

**1** ArtsFest 2025 Regular Registration Registration Open  
**15** CCAA Board Meeting

## **APRIL**

**19** CCAA Board Meeting

## **MAY**

**4** CCAA Annual Membership Meeting Scholarship Reception  
**17** CCAA Board Meeting  
**30** ArtsFest 2025 Registration Closes

## **JUNE**

**12** CCAA Board Meeting and ArtsFest 2025 Final Walk-Thru in Indian Head  
**14** ArtsFest 2025 in Indian Head

# CCAA SPONSORS



CHARLES COUNTY  
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