

ARTS INSIDER

February 2026

INSIDER

CHARLES COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE



"Enough Already" by Addison Likins

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Dear CCAA Members and Friends,

Happy February! I hope all of you survived our major nationwide snow storm/ice storm last weekend, are staying warm during this extended aftermath of bitter-cold days, and are bracing for the next storm!

During this winter season, the CCAA has been very busy with administrative work and detailed planning for our next two signature programs: our Arts Scholarship Program 2026, and ArtsFest 2026.

Last month, our Arts Scholarship Program officially kicked off with our announcement that CCAA Arts Scholarship applications are now available for downloading and submission. We recently attended the Charles County Scholarship Fair held at St. Charles High School, and our CCAA table attracted many students who were unfamiliar with and interested in our Arts Scholarships. This year, we are awarding a total of eight (8) scholarships in the amount of \$2,000/each for highly talented Charles County high school and home-schooled seniors who plan to attend a four-year college and major in one of the arts disciplines - performing, visual and literary arts. It is a competitive program. We look forward to receiving and reviewing the upcoming Arts Scholarship applications, announcing the winners, and celebrating their achievements at our CCAA Annual Scholarship Reception in May, and our public presentations by CCAA Board members at the high school "senior awards night" ceremonies also held in May.

This month, we are kicking off ArtsFest 2026, and are making "early bird" discounted registration applications available for downloading and submission. ArtsFest will take place on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm, on the Village Green in Indian Head. This year's ArtsFest will be even bigger and better than last year's event. We are adding a third performance stage at the south-end of the Village Green (near the Navy Base gate) for dance groups. We are inviting some new surprise "mobile vans" to the Village Green for fun exploratory hands-on activities for children. We plan to greatly expand our online, print and community advertising to make our longstanding annual event even more well-known across the Southern Maryland region and beyond. And of course, we will add more food trucks! Stay tuned for more details in the weeks and months ahead.

At the moment, even though many of us are "snow-bound" in our homes, and there have been numerous event cancellations, rest-assured that the arts community in our county remains extremely busy with online rehearsals, classes and planning activities - the show must go on! I'm looking forward to escaping from my own "cabin-fever" in the near future to experience the arts in person, and I'm sure you are too. As we all know, the arts are essential . . . for our well-being, for nourishing our souls, and for expanding our horizons.

Read all about it and more, in this issue of the Arts Insider. Stay warm!



Diane Rausch
CCAA President





Kimberly De Jesús Alfonso
Charles County Commissioners Gallery

Kimberly De Jesús Alfonso was born and raised in the island of Puerto Rico. Growing up surrounded by nature led her to her fascination with animals and art. She volunteered with animals from a young age. Occasionally she dived into arts and crafts with her grandmother, who is a crochet artist. She was interested in drawing. Learning on her own proved to be difficult. Eventually, she moved on pursue other passions. She completed a Bachelor's in foreign languages at the University of Puerto Rico. She then pursued a Master's in linguistics at Alliant International University. She has been a language teacher for 17 years in Washington, DC. Her family knew art was always in the back of her mind. In December of 2021, they gave her art lessons as a birthday present, which reignited her passion for art. A year later, she entered the Fine Arts graduate program at the Academy of Art University, where her main focus has been researching, drawing, and painting endangered animals. Her artworks are sold and exhibited at Mattawoman Creek Art Center, and Clarity Coffee House in Southern Maryland.





Addison Likins
Charles Regional Medical Center Gallery

Over the past 10 years, Addison Likins has been selected for over 20 Juried Shows at the Maryland Federation of Art galleries in the Lowe House of Delegates and the Annapolis Circle Gallery, winning an honorable mention in the # Women's juried show in 2019 and the Juror's Award in the Spring Member Show of 2021, along with the Conley Award for 3-D Art.

In September 2021, his sculpture "Dance Like No One is Watching" was accepted and installed at Oxon Hill Manor near National Harbor for a two-year-long show. His sculpture, photography, and poetry were selected for the December 2018 juried show at the Pepco Edison Place Gallery, Washington, DC. He currently is showing photographs in juried shows at the Hill Center Gallery, Washington, DC.

Addison Likins was one of the artists featured in the 2021 "Artist of Maryland, Visual Art" edited by the First Lady of Maryland, Yumi Hogan, in spring 2021, and was selected for the 2021-2022 virtual show, Mattawoman Creek Art Center's Maryland Regional Virtual Exhibition Series #2: Southern Maryland. He took third place in Sculpture, photography, and poetry in the Beacon Arts art show. Over the years, he has had numerous solo exhibitions with the Charles County Arts Alliance, Mattawoman Creek Art Center, Fredericksburg Creative Arts Center, and Maryland Federation of Art.

He received his Bachelor's degree from James Madison University and has attended Ferrum College, the University of Virginia Graduate School, and the University of Maryland. He is a sculptor, print journalist, and photographer, was a high school and college teacher, structural designer/engineer, and senior management analyst.



“Art Transforms Lives and Strengthens Communities.”

The Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) is preparing to participate in Maryland Arts Day 2026, the state’s largest annual gathering of arts professionals and advocates. Hosted by Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA), this important statewide advocacy event will take place on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at St. John’s College in the Francis Scott Key Auditorium in Annapolis.

Maryland Arts Day brings together more than 500 artists, educators, administrators, volunteers, trustees, and community leaders from every county in Maryland and Baltimore City. The event provides a powerful opportunity for arts advocates to connect directly with lawmakers from every legislative district and demonstrate the essential role the arts play in Maryland’s economic and cultural vitality.

The day will begin with networking and a morning program that includes greetings from legislators, presentation of the Sue Hess Legacy Arts Advocate of the Year Award, a keynote address, and an overview of the state budget for the arts. Participants then receive advocacy talking points and best practices before heading to meetings with their legislators and legislative staff in Annapolis.

Advocacy Priorities for 2026

At Maryland Arts Day 2026, CCAA and arts advocates across the state will be urging legislators to:

- Fully fund the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) at the mandated level of \$31.8 million in the FY 2027 state budget
- Fully fund the Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program at \$3 million
- Vote YES on Senate Bill 41 and House Bill 387, legislation that protects artist rights by prohibiting the waiver of copyright protections in state-funded public art contracts and requiring the registration of state-funded public art with MSAC

Why This Matters for Charles County

State arts funding is essential to the work of the Charles County Arts Alliance. As the county’s designated arts council, CCAA has awarded over \$1 million in arts grants to local nonprofit organizations and schools since 1987. In 2025 alone, CCAA awarded \$77,550 in arts grant funding to other nonprofit organizations in Charles County, and \$14,000 in arts scholarships to talented high school seniors pursuing arts-related majors at four-year colleges/universities. The CCAA also partnered with the Children’s Aid Society of Charles County to provide “back to school” Art Boxes filled with creative supplies to elementary school children.

CCAA Administrative Director Alexandria Gonzalez is coordinating CCAA attendance at Maryland Arts Day 2026, and encourages Charles County artists and community advocates to participate as well. Help us make the case for sustained investment in the arts. Together, we can ensure a strong and vibrant future for the arts in Charles County and across Maryland!



CCAA Connects with Future Artists at the Charles County Scholarship Fair

CCAA Connects with Future Artists at the Charles County Scholarship Fair

The Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) was pleased to participate in the Charles County Scholarship Fair held on Thursday evening, January 15, 2026, at St. Charles High School. The event welcomed graduating seniors and their families, offering students the opportunity to explore scholarship options and plan for their educational futures.

At the fair, we had the pleasure of speaking with many students about CCAA's Arts Scholarship Program and the wide range of opportunities we offer to support young artists in Charles County. Representing CCAA were Lew McIntyre and Karen McIntyre, CCAA Board Members, along with Alexandria Gonzalez, Administrative Director, and Mackenzie Coulby-Carrera, Program Specialist. Karen McIntyre is serving as CCAA Scholarship Committee Chair this year.

Throughout the evening, we saw a noticeable increase in interest from future artists eager to learn more about pursuing creative studies after high school. We were also encouraged to meet students who were not planning to pursue the arts themselves, but then took the time to share information about CCAA's scholarships and programs with their friends who are passionate about the arts.

St. Charles High School had a great turnout, and the open layout of the fair allowed students to move easily between scholarship providers, creating meaningful opportunities for conversation and connection. Many students appreciated the chance to ask questions directly and learn more about the variety of resources available to them, including on-site FAFSA registration and workshops.

We are grateful to St. Charles High School for hosting such a welcoming and well-organized event, and look forward to continuing our CCAA outreach efforts to connect students with meaningful arts education scholarship opportunities.



CCAA Arts Scholarship 2026 Applications Now Open!



The poster features the CCAA logo at the top left, followed by the text 'CHARLES COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE'. Below this is the main title 'ARTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2026' in large, bold letters. A red starburst graphic on the right says 'Now Open!'. Underneath the title, it says 'SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ARTISTS IN CHARLES COUNTY'. A paragraph follows: 'The Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) is proud to offer scholarships to graduating high school seniors pursuing higher education in the arts. These scholarships support students who demonstrate artistic talent, commitment, and a passion for creative expression.'

ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES:

- Visual Arts
- Music
- Theatre
- Dance
- Creative Writing
- Film & Media Arts
- Other fine & performing arts disciplines

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a Charles County resident
- Must be a graduating senior from a Charles County public, private or parochial high school, or home-school program
- Must plan to pursue higher education in an arts-related field
- Demonstrated artistic achievement and commitment to the arts

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
March 27, 2026, by 12:00 PM

HOW TO APPLY:
www.charlescountyarts.org

CONTACT US:
301-392-5900
ccaascholarships@gmail.com

CCAA Arts Scholarship 2026 Applications Now Open!

The Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) is now accepting applications for its Arts Scholarship Program, awarding eight \$2,000 scholarships to highly qualified and talented high school seniors pursuing a degree in the arts.

This competitive program is open to Charles County public, private or parochial high school seniors, or home-schooled seniors, pursuing an arts-related major at a four-year college or university with an arts major for the Fall 2026 semester. Scholarships support students studying visual arts, music, theatre, dance, creative writing, film, or other fine and performing arts disciplines who demonstrate both academic achievement and artistic talent.

Applicants must have a minimum weighted GPA of 3.0 and submit a complete application package, including a detailed resume, a 300-word essay outlining their intended college, arts major, and educational goals, two letters of recommendation, and an official transcript. Students must also submit either an audition-style video or a portfolio, depending on their artistic discipline.

Since 1987, the Charles County Arts Alliance has remained committed to supporting artists at every stage of their journey. The Arts Scholarship Program reflects this mission by helping young artists take the next step toward higher education and creative careers.

Application Deadline: March 27, 2026, by 12:00 noon

Apply and view full guidelines: www.charlescountyarts.org

Electronic submissions are now being accepted!

Students are encouraged to apply early and carefully review all requirements before submitting.

CCAA 2026 ArtsFest Early Bird Registration Now Open!



CCAA ArtsFest 2026 is just six months away! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 13, 2026, and get ready for another exciting celebration of the arts.

Early Bird Registration is now officially open. Artists and Vendors are encouraged to submit their Early Bird Registration Form by **March 7, 2026** to take advantage of early pricing and secure their spot.

When completing the form, please ensure all handwriting is clear and legible so CCAA staff can easily contact you if needed.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mackenzie Coulby-Carrera, CCAA Program Specialist, at ccaoffice2@gmail.com.

Click on the photo below to download the Early Bird Registration Form!

Early Bird Registration Form
Vendor: \$40 fee by **March 7, 2026**
Non-Profit Organization: \$20 by **March 7, 2026**

REGISTRATION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Schedule: June 13, 2026, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Indian Head Village Green and Pavilion

Please complete this entire section: (all handwriting must be legible)

Organization or Individual Name:
Point of Contact:
Street Address:
Mailing Address (if different):
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Primary Phone (cell/home/work):
Alternate Phone (cell/home/work):
Email Address:
Website:
Special Requirements (handicap access, etc.):
Describe your booth display:

Site preference: Inside Pavilion _____ Outside on Village Green _____ No Preference _____

Number of booth spaces required: _____ x registration fee = \$ _____

Number of 8'x 4' Table space required: _____ x registration fee = \$ _____

PLEASE NOTE:

- Electricity is not available.
- Fees are based on one 10' x 12' tent space outdoors, or one 8' table space indoors (tent provided by Indian Head).
- For tent spaces outdoors, you are responsible for providing all popup tents, canopies, tables, chairs, display hardware, etc.
- All vendors and exhibitors are encouraged to create, demonstrate, and actively engage the public throughout the day. Hands-on activities are also encouraged to engage the public - for children and adults.
- Cancellation due to weather will be determined by 6:00 PM on Friday, June 12. All vendors and exhibitors will be notified by TEXT MESSAGE ONLY. Please be on the lookout.
- Vendors and Exhibitors not in their booth spaces by 11:00 AM will not be allowed to enter. All participants agree to remain in their space until they are directed by a CCAA representative to close down, at 4:30 PM or 5:00 PM.

By signing this form, you agree to all terms and conditions. Please mail or email this completed form and your payment to Charles County Arts Alliance, PO Box 687, White Plains, MD 20699. OR pay through PayPal on the CCAA website <https://charlescountymd.org>

ArtsFest 2026 is made possible by a cooperative agreement between the Charles County Arts Alliance and the Town of Indian Head. Funding for ArtsFest is provided in part by the Charles County Department of Tourism and the Maryland State Arts Council.

Support Local Arts & Culture!



[For More Information Click Here!](#)

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Friday, February 6, 2026

5:00 - 8:00 pm

St. Mary's County Arts Council, 22660 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD, 20650

Join us on February 6th from 5 to 8 PM for a special First Friday Opening Reception! "Let it Snow" is a wintery art show featuring the work of our gallery artists in a wide variety of media. Come meet the artists and our staff members!

Questions? Email our Gallery Manager Melanie at gallery@smcart.org.





Date: February 7, 2026

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Admission: Free admission

90+ Indoor & Outdoor Booths!

Valentine Makers Market Rescheduled to March 14 (9am-2pm)

The Valentine Makers Market at Annmarie Garden has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 14, due to icy conditions.

Presenting the Belated Valentine Makers Market: Defrosted Edition. The Belated Valentine Market at Annmarie is the perfect place to find unique gifts, small-batch treats, and spirits for that special someone in your life. All items are handcrafted, handmade, and homegrown, all made with the secret ingredient - LOVE. Food truck TBA. Market is FREE and pet-friendly.

[For more info click here!](#)



Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) - "The Council Connect" and Current Grant Opportunities



THE COUNCIL CONNECT January 2026

Happy New Year! I hope your January is off to a great start. For me, 2026 kicked off with the heartbreak of the Baltimore Ravens missing the playoffs for the first time in years (for anyone who doesn't know this, on top of being a performer and arts administrator, I'm an avid football fan). But I'm trying to look beyond that! With the start of the new year comes that hopeful, Ted Lasso-esque sense of resolutions, goals, and trying something new.

In that spirit, the Grants for Organizations (GFO) program - one of the programs I oversee with Emily Sollenberger - is trying something very new this year! We launched a completely overhauled program this past fall that really focused on simplifying the entire process for grantees. One change I'm looking forward to now is 'Staff Conversations,' where we have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Maryland artists and arts administrators and hear about their successes and challenges firsthand - my favorite part of the job!

I look forward to connecting with these organizations and hearing about the incredible impact they are making each and every day.

Laura Weiss
Arts Services Program Director
Maryland State Arts Council



Current Grant Opportunities



Performing Artist Touring Roster
Next deadline: February 28 (Rolling)
[Learn more about program.](#)

Calling All Young Maryland Artists!

ART POSTER CONTEST!



Contest Theme: "No Judgement, Just Help"

"No Judgement, Just Help" is more than our theme—it's the mission of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. This critical resource ensures no Marylander faces mental health challenges alone.

We're asking Maryland students to illustrate this message of hope. The winning artwork will become the official 2026 Children's Mental Health Matters Campaign poster, inspiring people statewide to reach out for support.

ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

Create original artwork that reflects the theme, "No Judgement, Just Help." The art piece should encourage openness, challenge stigma, and inspire others to seek help when they need it.

Format:

- Square formatting, 14" x 14" preferred
- Background should be filled in and empty space kept to a minimum
- Two-dimensional artwork only

CONTEST RULES

- The contest deadline is February 6, 2026.
- One entry per student.
- Artists may collaborate on an art piece.
- Completed consent form must be included for each submitted piece of artwork.

Submit Your Artwork!



Visit childrensmentalhealthmatters.org to learn more and submit your artwork!



Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation - Upcoming Mid Atlantic Tours



The music of the Añez twins is designed to be performed live with a loop pedal and small instruments. The duo's concerts include songs from their four award-winning albums, which have captivated audiences in ten countries across the Americas and Europe with their unique blend of folklore and the avant-garde. The Añez sisters are Juanita and Valentina Añez Rothmann. 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.

To meet Fabiana Cozza is to meet the great rhythm of samba. This Brazilian diva goes beyond the samba that travels the world and parades each Carnival. 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. The samba that fathered Bossa Nova finds a home in this singer. Now her mission is to show the world the gift she received from her father, a great samba musician who gave his daughter a living heritage.



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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- Nancy Owens
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- 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

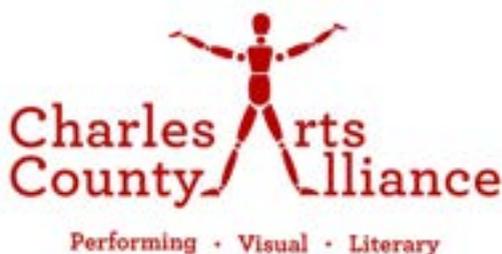
SENIOR (cont'd)

- 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 Concert Band
- 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 or Renewing in 2026!

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

Business & Nonprofit:

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

New Member Renewal

Date Submitted:

Full Name:
(Exactly as you wish it to appear in print)

Organization/
Business:
(Only if Applicable)

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 |

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

