A MESSAGE FROM
Governor Larry Hogan

Dear Friends,

Maryland has always been a national leader in championing the arts. Fifty years ago, a group of dedicated and visionary individuals came together to establish the Maryland State Arts Council. Committed to making the arts accessible to all citizens, they knew then what we recognize now: the arts enrich our culture and are vital to achieve an outstanding quality of life.

The First Lady and I share a passion for the arts in Maryland and are proud to support the state's continued investment in hundreds of non-profit arts organizations, community programs, and individual artists. The arts fuel the economy of our cities, towns, and regions and help make Maryland a rich and culturally diverse place to visit, work, and live. The return on this investment is abundant: $54 million in state and local tax revenue, more than $1 billion in economic impact, and 14,500 full-time-equivalent jobs.

The council's innovative programs and initiatives contribute to the advancement of our communities, the education of our children, and the strength of our economy. These programs foster knowledge of our history and traditions and create opportunities for our citizens to fully explore the arts. We are also proud to recognize the talent and commitment of our artists through our annual Individual Artist Awards.

From the mountains of Garrett County to the shores of Worcester County, Maryland communities are working to support affordable studio housing for artists, restoration of historic theaters and performance spaces, and creating new entertainment venues and galleries. Today, we have 25 Arts & Entertainment Districts throughout the state that allow communities to share their unique culture and perspectives with locals and visitors alike, and from 2018 through 2020, Salisbury will host the National Folk Festival—a distinction that recognizes our dedication to the arts.

The arts are at work in Maryland, creating opportunities and enriching our daily lives. Thank you to the artists, advocates, arts organizations, and cultural institutions around the state for your continued partnership. I look forward to seeing what the arts will bring to Maryland in the next 50 years.

Sincerely,

LARRY HOGAN, GOVERNOR
A MESSAGE FROM THE
Chair and Interim Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2017 was another tremendous year for the Arts in Maryland: a reflection of our state’s sustained and collective public support. The arts not only help to create vibrant communities; last year they accounted for more than a billion dollars in economic activity in our state.

Ever since the Maryland State Arts Council came into being in 1967, we have been committed to providing resources for artists and arts organizations. This past year — FY 2017 — the MSAC granted more than $13.8 million through our Grants for Organizations program. These funds delivered unrestricted operating support to nearly 300 organizations across the state.

We are equally committed to the Community Arts Development program that provides support to the statewide network of local arts councils. In FY 2017, the Council awarded more than $3 million in grants to Maryland’s 24 designated local arts councils. With the addition of Oakland designated on July 1, 2017, Maryland now boasts 25 Arts & Entertainment Districts across all regions of our state.

The Council has continued to foster key partnerships with Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Arts Education in Maryland Schools and other service organizations to promote the advancement of the arts and arts education in our state. Through our combined efforts with these and many other arts advocates and patrons, we are confident that the arts in Maryland will continue to thrive. While our work and the challenges we face are ever-changing, our core values of excellence, access, inclusion and integrity are there to guide us. Our many accomplishments are made possible thanks to the leadership of Governor Larry Hogan, First Lady Yumi Hogan and the continued support of the Maryland General Assembly. With our many partners, we look forward to continuing the growth of vibrant artistic communities throughout our state.

In looking ahead to 2018, the future of the arts in Maryland is bright. As we embark upon the celebration of our 50th anniversary, we are very much honored to have been chosen to host the National Folk Festival in Salisbury, Maryland for the years 2018 through 2020. In addition, we are delighted to host once again the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Conference in Baltimore during the fall of 2018.

As the Maryland State Arts Council undertakes the process of selecting our next Executive Director, we’d like to applaud the tremendous service and contributions made by our former Executive Director, Theresa Colvin. Her 16 years of stewardship and vision have been essential to the strength that the MSAC enjoys today. In this year of great strides and great changes, the Maryland State Arts Council looks forward to a thriving future firmly committed to our mission: “To encourage and invest in the advancement of the arts for the people of Maryland.”

SHELLEY MORHAIM
CHAIR

JULIE MADDEN
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Facing: The Columbia Orchestra. Summer Pops Concert for Columbia’s 50th birthday at the Chrysalis at Merriweather Park.
THE MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL (MSAC) was founded to encourage and invest in the arts for all Marylanders. With a celebrated record of commitment to innovation, collaboration and leadership in the arts reaching back five decades, the MSAC continues its work to build an even stronger creative community for the citizens of the state. Under the authority of the Maryland Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts, the MSAC’s core values represent an ongoing commitment to increasing access and inclusion to the arts for every resident and to enhancing fairness in policy and programming initiatives. Through its dynamic array of grants and public programs, the MSAC strives to strengthen Maryland arts organizations, support and honor Maryland artists, cultivate creativity and foster equitable access to artistic experiences statewide. Significantly, the MSAC serves to mobilize the arts as tools for ensuring creative economies and placemaking in rural, suburban and urban communities across the state.

The Council comprises an appointed body of 17 citizens who serve without salary. The governor appoints 13 to serve three-year terms. The Senate President and Speaker of the House of Delegates each appoint a legislator and private citizen to serve. Funding for the MSAC is supported through an annual appropriation from the State of Maryland, grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and contributions from private, nongovernmental sources.
$1.16 BILLION
ANNUAL STATEWIDE
ECONOMIC IMPACT
OF THE ARTS*

*Access the Maryland State Arts Council’s Economic Impact of the Arts in Maryland FY 2015 study at msac.org/publications.

14,564 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT JOBS

$422 MILLION IN SALARIES

$54 MILLION IN STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVENUE

$3.37 IN TOTAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY GENERATED BY EVERY $1 OF MSAC GRANTEES’ OPERATING BUDGETS

9.2 MILLION PEOPLE ATTENDED ARTS VENUES, EVENTS, CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS, SPENDING $449 MILLION
Pekingese Dragon by Nicole Fall, 2017 Individual Artist Award recipient. Photo by Joe Hyde.
Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble performs Incredible Feets! Photo courtesy of Washington County Museum of Fine Arts.
THE MSAC’S COMMITMENT TO MARYLAND’S RESIDENTS and diverse communities is one that is longstanding and ongoing. Imagine Maryland, the MSAC Strategic Plan for 2014–2019, reinforces this commitment and demonstrates a holistic and innovative vision for the future of the arts throughout the state.

OUR VISION
Building upon a tradition of excellence, the Maryland State Arts Council will provide leadership that:

• Supports artists and arts organizations
• Cultivates creativity
• Communicates the value of the arts in shaping our distinctive cultural identities
• Ensures access to arts experiences
• Stimulates creative placemaking that encourages thriving communities

OUR CORE VALUES
• Excellence in artistic practice and expression
• Access to the arts and to the Arts Council for every citizen of our state
• Inclusion of diverse voices that reflect the people of Maryland
• Integrity in policy development and program implementation ensuring fairness

OUR APPROACH
• Communicate the public value and impact of the arts for Maryland citizens and communities
• Enhance resilience and effectiveness of artists, arts organizations and the MSAC
• Help arts organizations adapt to changing technologies, demographics and audience participation
• Extend MSAC impact through strategic alliances

OUR GOALS
• Strengthen Maryland arts organizations
• Honor and support Maryland artists
• Cultivate creativity through lifelong arts education
• Encourage equitable access to artistic experiences statewide
• Employ the arts as drivers of creative economies and placemaking
• Advance MSAC’s capacity to serve Maryland citizens and communities

ACCESS THE FULL STRATEGIC PLAN AT MSAC.ORG/PUBLICATIONS
**A BROAD BRUSHSTROKE**

**Maryland State Arts Council Programs**

**GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS (GFO)** support a broad range of non-profits, arts programs and units of government, such as museums, galleries, festivals and performing arts centers, which enable public access to the arts.

**COMMUNITY ARTS DEVELOPMENT (CAD)** ensures local arts accessibility through grants to Maryland’s 24 local arts councils.

**ARTS IN EDUCATION (A&E)** supports arts experiences for Maryland students and teachers by providing grants for performances and workshops in schools, offering professional development opportunities for teaching artists and administering Poetry Out Loud, the national poetry recitation contest.

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT (A&E) DISTRICTS** promote community involvement, tourism and neighborhood revitalization by offering tax-related incentives that attract artists, arts organizations and other creative enterprises to locate within a district. In Fiscal Year 2017, there were 24 A&E Districts across 17 Maryland counties.

**MARYLAND FOLKLIFE** documents, safeguards and promotes living cultural traditions through a statewide partnership network, Apprenticeship and Project grants, as well as the annual Maryland Traditions Folklife Festival and state heritage awards.

**INDIVIDUAL ARTIST AWARDS (IAA)** honor and support the creative contributions of Maryland-based artists annually with grants of up to $6,000.
MARYLAND PRESENTING AND TOURING supports Maryland-based performing artists and presenting arts organizations through the Maryland Presenters Network, Maryland Touring Grants and Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster.

THE MARYLAND PUBLIC ART INITIATIVE (MPAI) positions communities to gain cultural, social and economic value through public art by requiring integrated public art enhancements to state-funded construction and renovation projects.

THE MARYLAND ARTIST REGISTRY is a dynamic, online platform that connects artists of all disciplines with curators, organizations, businesses, educational facilities and others that seek or offer arts services.

THE MARYLAND MARKETPLACE is an online portal that provides Maryland-based artists with the opportunity to sell their art, nurturing their talents and supporting their livelihoods.

Facing page, first column: River Concert Series at St. Mary’s College of Maryland. Photo by Calm Reflections Photography; Artist Caroline Jasper takes part in Paint It! Ellicott City 2016. Photo by John Wisor. Second column: Magical Experiences Art Company presents Restored in Beauty at The Chimes School. Photo by Michael Susco; FY 2017 Maryland Traditions Apprenticeship Award recipient Gary Bartz (left) of Baltimore City passed down his knowledge of jazz performance to Todd Marcus. Photo by Edwin Remsberg Photographs. Third column: Salisbury Festival. Photo courtesy of Salisbury A&E District; Adriane Fang in Grains. Photo by Zachary Handler.

This page, clockwise from top left: Bon Voyage!: A Happenstance Escapade performed by members of Happenstance Theater. Photo courtesy of Happenstance Theater; Blue Soils of Annapolis. Photo courtesy of the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County; Jennifer Hamilton Pottery; Akua Allrich. Photo by Edwin Remsberg Photographs.
The Festival Symphony Orchestra rehearses under the direction of Richard Rosenberg during the first day of the 2017 National Music Festival at Washington College. Photo by Philip Rosenberg.
MARYLAND IS HOME TO A BROAD ARRAY of distinctive arts institutions and organizations that are beloved locally and known worldwide. They work to explore, promote and further the arts in all forms — from the fine arts, theater and dance, to the literary arts, music and the folk and traditional. Together, they engage a diverse array of audiences in meaningful and innovative ways.

Recognizing that these organizations are the backbone of the statewide arts infrastructure and represent the limitless power of the arts, the MSAC is committed to strengthening them as a means of enriching and inspiring the lives of Maryland’s residents and their communities.

The GFO granting program provides unrestricted general operating support to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations, as well as units of government, that produce or present ongoing arts programming that is open to the public. This support helps arts organizations to achieve high standards of excellence, which they in turn use to educate, create jobs, revitalize and bolster economic sustainability for their communities. GFO grants are reviewed and awarded on the basis of three evaluation criteria: artistic merit, organizational effectiveness and service to the community. Peer advisory panels consist of arts professionals who rate awardees after thorough evaluation.

THE MSAC AWARDED $13,897,739 IN GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS TO 285 ARTS ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS ACROSS THE STATE.
Joe’s Movement Emporium. Photo by Teresa Castracane Photography.
CATCHING UP WITH BROOKE KIDD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOE’S MOVEMENT EMPORIUM

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF JOE’S MOVEMENT EMPORIUM?
Joe’s is a cultural arts hub, integrating arts and production, education and job training to create an equitable economy. We strive to make dance accessible for learning, wellness and community building. We have evolved from a dance artist collective to a performing arts center and a place of arts commerce and opportunity. Our main audiences include regional artists, families and local businesses, especially those based in Prince George’s County.

WHAT SORTS OF PROGRAMS DOES JOE’S OFFER?
The Emporium side of Joe’s is a collective of 20 artists — of which, some are non-profit organizations — sharing space to rehearse, teach and present a variety of exciting offerings. Our “On Stage at Joe’s” program allows collective artists use of our theater to affordably produce their artistic pieces.

Joe’s markets the individual artist programs alongside our education and production programs, such as Club Joe’s, which will be celebrating its 20th year as a daily after-school arts education program. After-school programs are absolutely critical to serving the greater academic, behavioral and work-readiness needs of students in public schools. It’s an education structure that deserves massive funding. Joe’s is also involved with the Ability Project, which brings dance education to high schools, enabling students with intellectual disabilities to experience the art form first hand.

In addition, CreativeWorks is a job-training program offering technical and digital technology for young people from 17 to 22 years old. High school seniors and recently out-of-school youth enter a two-year program of training and support to secure college enrollment and full-time employment. Too many high school graduates lack support systems to navigate the pathway to economic independence. CreativeWorks provides the exposure and coaching needed to boost student motivation and career aspirations. It is so satisfying to see young adults excited about creative industries — jobs in theater tech, mass communications or music production.

HOW DID JOE’S BEGIN?
World Arts Focus was established as a way to umbrella the performing, teaching and directing activities that I was involved with. We still have so much to learn from artistic practices across the world, and we need to continue supporting new artists in culture-specific traditions. Eventually, a space was needed to anchor this work, so I teamed up with a couple of artists and Joe’s was founded in 1995. What’s important to me is to provide space to create, to reduce segregation of class and race, to improve education and to demonstrate that the performing arts business is worthwhile and secure.

HOW DOES THE MSAC GFO PROGRAM SUPPORT JOE’S?
We received our first MSAC grant in 1993, which served to validate the work we had been involved with and, of course, supported the development of the organization. Since then, the annual GFO grants are the most consistent source of funding we build upon, totaling nearly $1 million over the years. That’s huge! Without it, and the networking opportunities supported through the MSAC, we would not be as strong. I’m grateful for the MSAC’s leadership in understanding that the arts influence not only the economy through tax revenue and economic impact, but also the community by creating a sense of space and cultural heritage for all.
Through an assessment of community needs, local arts councils meaningfully invest in projects, initiatives and organizations to ensure the greatest local impact and access to the arts. Ensuring that the MSAC support reaches the local level, the **COMMUNITY ARTS DEVELOPMENT (CAD) PROGRAM** provides grants and technical assistance to each of Maryland’s 23 County Arts Councils and Baltimore City. The funds re-granted by the 24 local arts councils support artists, arts organizations, schools and audiences through a variety of programming and events, such as festivals, workshops and concerts, among many others.

**CAD IN FOCUS**

**MAPPING PUBLIC ART IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** With approximately 800 works of public art — many placed in and around parks, community centers, libraries and schools — Montgomery County found itself confronted with the challenges of managing a vast and varied collection while curating and placing new pieces in a thoughtful and deliberate way. In response, and with the support of **MSAC CAD funding**, the **ARTS & HUMANITIES COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY** in 2014 began work on a “Public Art Roadmap” that charted “new directions for public art in the County — where it should be located, what types of projects should be developed and how it should foster community life, economic vitality and cultural diversity.”

Completed in late 2016, the project’s report, *Public Art Roadmap: Creating a Vibrant Public Art Ecosystem in Montgomery County*, underscores the importance of ensuring greater public art accessibility and inclusivity for all residents in the county. For example, the Roadmap project has identified that public art initiatives can be mobilized to address social issues related to demographic changes, diversity, income inequality, gentrification and aging populations. Indeed, the Roadmap suggests that there is strong potential for “artists to engage with these issues” and great opportunity for supporting “the urban fabric that the County believes it needs to be successful.”

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Public Art Roadmap cover, artwork Red Orchard Wall by Michael Enn Sirvet. Photo courtesy of the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Facing page: Victoria McConnell pin basting a bargello quilt at the Fiber Arts Center of the Eastern Shore. Photo by Kay Butler.
WEAVING TOGETHER
FIBER ARTS CENTER OF THE EASTERN SHORE
Supported by a CAD grant to the Caroline County Council of Arts, FACES serves as a “destination for the area’s many quilt and fiber art enthusiasts, visitors and residents to view historic and recent works by quilters and fiber artists from Maryland’s Eastern Shore and Delmarva Peninsula.” Located in the center of Denton, it offers a retail space, artist studios and workshops on quilting and crocheting, as well as exhibitions that highlight the history and traditions of these wide-ranging art forms.

A recent initiative, the FACES Online Directory and Marketplace Project, increases public access to fiber artists, their artwork and their expertise. The Online Directory includes a web page for each artist or business member containing their information, photos of them and their work, and a description of their activities and the services they provide. Along with an events calendar for announcing fiber arts festivals, workshops and group meetings and an extensive social media campaign, the Online Marketplace is a space for artists to feature, promote and sell their fiber artwork.

The Executive Director of the Caroline County Council of Arts, Marina Dowdall, points out that they have found that “small artist businesses, particularly those that depend primarily on selling products at fairs and farmer’s markets, need assistance with online technology, marketing and networking opportunities. Providing these resources helps fiber artists connect to wider audiences, giving them an opportunity to expand their business. Our outreach coordinator visits Eastern Shore fiber artists, groups, and businesses to train and set them up on our online FACES resources.”

See: http://creativemoco.com/PublicArtRoadmap.

See: https://fiberartscenter.com/about/.

THE MSAC AWARDED $3,082,198 IN GRANTS TO MARYLAND’S 24 LOCAL ARTS COUNCILS.
It is well known that the arts cultivate young imaginations and encourage the next generation of innovative thinkers. Maryland’s statewide arts education infrastructure aims to increase access to the arts for students and teachers. The MSAC positions the arts as a tool for creative learning and innovation, as well as for promoting diversity and inclusivity in a globally connected state.

The ARTS IN EDUCATION (A/E) program provides grants to schools to facilitate artist residencies and performances that heighten arts interaction and engagement for the next generation. Funding is also provided to support professional development programs for teachers and artists who train them in arts education and arts integration strategies via arts discipline-specific instruction.

The ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM provides grants to Maryland schools that cover half the cost of a residency in performing arts, poetry, playwriting and visual arts. The VISITING PERFORMERS PROGRAM supports performances in music, dance, theater and puppetry. Maryland schools interested in working with artists who provide residencies and performances may browse the two online rosters of artists approved by the MSAC. These artists specialize in harnessing the arts for integrated learning experiences and are available to lead hands-on, intensive arts workshops.

INTEGRATING AND ELEVATING THE ARTS IN TEACHING Supporting the next generation of innovative thinkers calls for a greater investment in teachers who wish to integrate the arts into their curricula. The MSAC furthers their professional development through $20,000 in grants to the MARYLAND CENTER FOR CREATIVE CLASSROOMS (formerly Maryland Artistry in Teaching Institute), which has this year assisted 192 Maryland teachers in fostering greater student learning through the arts. A grant of $20,000 to the TEACHING ARTIST INSTITUTE has helped 21 artists build their capacity to contribute to student learning in and through the arts.

Magical Experiences Art Company presents The Muses of Greece at The Delrey School. Photo by Kintz.
Since 2005, the NEA and The Poetry Foundation have partnered with U.S. state arts agencies to support the **Poetry Out Loud (POL)** program, which fosters student engagement with poetry and its oral recitation. Celebrating its 12th anniversary in 2017, POL has reached more than 3 million students and 50,000 teachers from 10,000 schools in every state, Washington, DC, the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. This means that each year, for well over a decade, more than 300,000 students learn at least one poem by heart!

Through the POL program, the MSAC fosters a deeper understanding of the art, meaning and possibility of poetry, and it connects thousands of students to the literary arts, promoting its importance as a vehicle for creativity and expression. The POL competition begins at the school level, with winning students advancing to the regional and state competitions. A panel of judges scores students’ recitations in categories such as level of difficulty, dramatic appropriateness, voice and articulation, and overall performance. In 2017, Maryland’s POL program grew to include four regional competitions, sending ten students to the State Finals with more than 9,000 participants statewide. Over the course of 12 years, 116,000 Maryland students have competed.

**Maryland’s Poetry Out Loud Champion: Angeline Faieq**

Rising senior Angeline Faieq of Baltimore County’s George Washington Carver Center for Arts & Technology is the 2017 Maryland Poetry Out Loud Champion. Angie won the title on March 18, 2017 at the Maryland Poetry Out Loud State Finals, which took place at the Baltimore Museum of Art. “Being the 2017 State Champion is incredibly humbling and I am so grateful to have been a part of such an amazing and enlightening experience! I continue to be inspired by my fellow champions and my love for language and poetry has become even more prominent in my life. When hearing my name among the top three winners, I could actually feel my heart flutter. I was already excited just to be a part of the competition and to have gotten so far, but as I heard my name announced as the state champion, it was surreal. I couldn’t stop smiling and I spotted my teacher and family in the crowd grinning back at me. I’m still amazed,” she says.

Angie learned about the Poetry Out Loud program through her teacher, Rebecca Mlinek. The 2016-2017 school year was the first time Poetry Out Loud was introduced at Carver by Mrs. Mlinek. Angie recalls, “She came to me personally and advised that I should really consider being a part of it. Excited and flattered, I signed up not knowing how, in just a few months, this competition would completely change my life.”

She chose her poems after hours of browsing the POL poem database, finally selecting “Tarantulas on the Lifebuoy” by Thomas Lux, “What You Have to Get Over” by Dick Allen and “In the Desert” by Stephen Crane. Angie says she felt an immediate,
inexplicable connection to the works: “I was in love with each writer’s voice and style and each poem holds a place in my heart. I noticed that the poems talked about kindness, perseverance and acceptance.” Her favorite is Dick Allen’s poem. “I felt a deep and personal connection in the poem that has actually moved me to tears. It’s honest and powerful and it will always find a way to shine through in my everyday life.”

Angie credits her teacher, Mrs. Mlinek, for her success. “She spent countless days after school helping me with recitation. She told me that it’s so much more than memorization. It’s about sharing the poem and pulling in the audience, not just speaking it.”

Angie plans to compete in the 2017-2018 program and encourages Maryland students to participate and for teachers to register their high school if they are not already participating. Angie’s experience has taught her many lessons.

Mrs. Mlinek plans to continue the program, stating: “Poetry is so significant to opening your mind and learning about the world in new ways. Reading and writing poetry is artistically captivating, and it allows expression of thought, emotional and intellectual development, as well as unity.”
**MARYLAND TRADITIONS** is the folklife program of the MSAC that serves to identify, document, support and present the diverse living cultural practices and expressions — or folklife — of communities and individuals across the state. Access to MSAC folklife resources is made possible through ongoing documentation, grants and public programs as well as through its statewide infrastructure of partners. To encourage local engagement, Maryland Traditions partners with Coastal Heritage Alliance (Chesapeake Tidewater), Frostburg State University (Mountain Maryland), the National Council for the Traditional Arts (Metro DC and statewide), University of Maryland, Baltimore County (Metro Baltimore and statewide), Sandy Spring Museum (Montgomery County) and the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art (Lower Eastern Shore). The program receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Folk Arts Infrastructure Initiative.

**MARYLAND TRADITIONS APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS** provide funding support for masters to teach apprentices in particular cultural traditions, fostering the passing on of traditional knowledge and skills from one generation to the next. Grants totaling $14,000 were awarded to seven apprenticeship teams in an array of living traditions, such as oyster patent tonging and traditional Korean drumming, among others.

**MARYLAND TRADITIONS PROJECT GRANTS** support organizations throughout the state to develop projects and public programs that center on folklife. Project grants totaling $20,000 were awarded to four organizations, including Baltimore County’s Asian Arts & Culture Center at Towson University, which curated a cross-cultural exhibition focusing on karaoke traditions in East Asia. Maryland Traditions staff works closely with grant recipients to provide technical assistance as a means of strengthening and promoting cultural traditions throughout the state.

**MARYLAND TRADITIONS PROJECT GRANTS** support organizations throughout the state to develop projects and public programs that center on folklife. Project grants totaling $20,000 were awarded to four organizations, including Baltimore County’s Asian Arts & Culture Center at Towson University, which curated a cross-cultural exhibition focusing on karaoke traditions in East Asia. Maryland Traditions staff works closely with grant recipients to provide technical assistance as a means of strengthening and promoting cultural traditions throughout the state.

**THE ANNUAL MARYLAND TRADITIONS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL** celebrates Maryland’s rich folklife, promoting its importance and wide-ranging forms to the public at this free all-day event. Hosted by the Creative Alliance in East Baltimore, the 7th Annual Maryland Traditions Folklife Festival was held on June 10, 2017. Festivalgoers learned from dozens of traditional artists and gained deeper insights into traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremonies, Beijing Opera and Native American round dance, to name a few.

**THE MARYLAND TRADITIONS HERITAGE AWARDS** honor the state’s folklife and the people and places that are integral to keeping it alive. At the 2016 awards ceremony and concert, awardees included NEA National Heritage Fellow and master of traditional Cambodian music, Chum Ngek (Montgomery County); maple syrup making (Western Maryland); and Trimper’s Rides and Amusements (Ocean City). From 2011 to 2016, the program was known as the Achievement in Living Traditions and Arts Awards.

**THE MARYLAND FOLKLIFE CENTER** Plans for a potential Maryland Folklife Center were launched in June 2015, when the MSAC organized an event for more than 100 Maryland Traditions stakeholders to envision its aims and functions. Currently, a statewide feasibility study is being conducted by a team of consultants at Goucher College. The study, to be released in 2018, will outline how such a center could serve as a venue for folklife performances, demonstrations and exhibitions, as well as for research and discussion.
Members of Anne Arundel County’s Performing Arts Center For African Cultures (foreground) hosted a community drum circle at the 2017 Maryland Traditions Folklife Festival.

Photo by Edwin Remsberg Photographs.
MARYLAND ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS

ALLEGANY COUNTY
CUMBERLAND
FROSTBURG

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
ANNAPOLIS

BALTIMORE CITY
BROMO TOWER
HIGHLANDTOWN
STATION NORTH

CAROLINE COUNTY
DENTON

CECIL COUNTY
ELKTON

DORCHESTER COUNTY
CAMBRIDGE

FREDERICK COUNTY
FREDERICK

GARRETT COUNTY
GRANTSVILLE

HARFORD COUNTY
BEL AIR
HAVRE DE GRACE

KENT COUNTY
CHESTERTOWN

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
BETHESDA
SILVER SPRING
WHEATON

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
GATEWAY

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
LEONARDTOWN

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC STEVENSEVILLE

WASHINGTON COUNTY
HAGERSTOWN

WICOMICO COUNTY
SALISBURY

WORCESTER COUNTY
BERLIN
SNOW HILL
MARYLAND BOASTED 24 Arts & Entertainment (A&E) Districts across the state in FY 2017, representing a diverse array of urban, suburban and rural communities looking to the arts as a way to enhance economic sustainability while promoting local distinctiveness and fostering a strong sense of place. Once designated by the state, tax incentives help attract and retain artists and other creative enterprises within district boundaries. As designated A&E Districts, localities are better positioned to leverage their rich cultural heritage and wide-ranging artistic assets to foster community involvement, tourism and revitalization for residents and visitors alike.

As an award-winning, national leader for 15 years, the impacts of MSAC’s A&E District program have been demonstrated by visible revitalization and significant economic enhancement. A&E Districts help to create dynamic and sustainable communities, as well as places and spaces that promote both the development of sustainable resources through arts and culture and the importance of the arts to wider audiences.

Moreover, A&E Districts greatly contribute to what the NEA has termed creative placemaking, or in essence, “giving the arts a seat at the community development table.” In its recent publication, *How to do Creative Placemaking*, the NEA notes that: “Arts and culture is moving from the periphery of public policy conversations to the core. It is an exciting time for district enthusiasts who can help us see, imagine, and experience how arts, culture, and entertainment can help achieve broader community ambitions and make places more interesting.”

Fueling this countrywide movement, Maryland is acknowledged as a national leader for recognizing the value of the arts and utilizing arts programming and projects in creative placemaking throughout the state.

**2017 AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT: WHEATON**

Presented biennially, this award celebrates the accomplishments of one of Maryland’s A&E Districts, showcasing its work toward strengthening community vibrancy and promoting tourism and revitalization. The 2017 award recognizes Wheaton’s stellar efforts toward highlighting and preserving the unique mix of artistic and cultural traditions within its District through an extensive range of initiatives and partnerships, its creation of an artist relocation program and its thoughtful approach to developing a strategic plan that will guide the District during a period of substantial redevelopment in coming years.

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Knowing Your Water by Nicole Salimbene, 2017 Individual Artist Award recipient. Photo by Nicole Salimbene.
INDIVIDUAL ARTIST AWARDS
Advancing Artistic Excellence

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST AWARDS (IAA)

Maryland’s artists are a wellspring of creativity, imagination and innovation for the state. They are instrumental in connecting diverse individuals and experiences, and they contribute greatly to the cultural vitality and economic sustainability of Maryland communities large and small. Each year, the MSAC’s Individual Artist Award (IAA) program celebrates these contributions by recognizing a number of exceptional artists. Through a process administered by MSAC’s partner, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, panels of out-of-state, discipline-specific experts make award recommendations based solely on artistic merit. Awards of $1,000, $3,000 or $6,000 honor artistic achievement and support the further advancement of awardees’ careers.

The IAA program reviews work from artists in a total of 18 competition categories that represent a broad range of visual, literary and performing arts disciplines, rotating on a three-year schedule. In FY 2017, the IAA program honored and supported artists in the following categories: Poetry; Visual Arts: Sculpture; Classical Music: Composition and Solo Performance; Dance: Choreography and Solo Performance; and World Music: Composition and Solo Performance.

$245,000 WAS AWARDED TO 88 MARYLAND ARTISTS.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE AWARDS

2018
NON-CLASSICAL MUSIC: COMPOSITION
NON-CLASSICAL MUSIC: SOLO PERFORMANCE
PLAYWRITING
CRAFTS
PHOTOGRAPHY

2019
CREATIVE NON-FICTION/FICTION
THEATER: SOLO PERFORMANCE
VISUAL ARTS: MEDIA/DIGITAL/
   ELECTRONIC ARTS
VISUAL ARTS: PAINTING
VISUAL ARTS: WORKS ON PAPER

2020
POETRY
VISUAL ARTS: SCULPTURE
DANCE: CHOREOGRAPHY
DANCE: SOLO PERFORMANCE
CLASSICAL MUSIC: COMPOSITION
CLASSICAL MUSIC: SOLO PERFORMANCE
WORLD MUSIC: COMPOSITION
WORLD MUSIC: SOLO PERFORMANCE
SPOTLIGHT ON QUYNN JOHNSON

Quynn Johnson is a dancer and choreographer living in Landover (Prince George’s County). She is a two-time MSAC Individual Artist Award honoree in the category of Dance: Choreography, receiving the award in 2014 and again in 2017.

Photo by Kofi Handon of Loves Life Photography.
WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED WITH DANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY?
I started learning dance at the age of 5 in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. I immediately loved moving my body, and with tap I got to make tons of sound with my feet. As a kid, I tap danced everywhere: grocery stores while pushing the cart, the mall, my living room and at my desk, everywhere! I had no idea it would become my outlet and my career.

In 2001, I moved to Washington, DC, to attend Howard University, and it was there that I had my first opportunity to teach and choreograph tap dance at an area dance studio. I was so nervous and would work at home to practice fusing steps together before showing my students. Now with my adult company, SOLE Defined, my goal is to create choreography that challenges my fellow artists and me to present our best.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BASICS OF GOOD CHOREOGRAPHY?
That’s a tough question. I think it’s up to the choreographer. With my choreography, I like to tell a story or connect to an emotion. I think good choreography is like a good book: it has a beginning that sets the tone, a middle that pulls you in like a rollercoaster and an ending that leaves you wanting more. As a tap dancer, it can be easy to do complicated rhythms that amaze, but it’s important to remember the musicality of what you’re playing on your feet.

“Connect and express” is the motto that guides my work. As an artist I want to tell stories with my work and express an idea with my movement. Anyone can do a step, but it is the emotion or energy you put behind it that takes the dance further. The importance of choreography is to confront issues, share ideas and to express a point of view. I call it “edutainment”: educating the audience while entertaining.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF CHOREOGRAPHY LOOK LIKE?
On one hand, the future of choreography is bright. Artists are confronting social issues and moving conversations forward through movement. On the other hand, the lack of funding makes it difficult to present your work and maintain your artistry. Choreography cannot continue to grow without support.

WHY IS MSAC’S IAA PROGRAM IMPORTANT?
Being awarded the IAA felt amazing! It’s great to be recognized for your hard work and ideas. Having the financial support with the award inspires me to expand my artistry and reach more audiences and, of course, pay the necessary bills. Without this support it will become significantly harder to pay for things, such as presenters conferences, rehearsal space, costumes, travel and operational support. All of these are key to being a performing artist. I’m a teaching artist as well, and these funds allow me to bring my art into the classroom, exposing youth to a positive form of self-expression.
The MSAC’s Presenting and Touring program encourages long-lasting collaboration between performing artists and the organizations that publicly present them. Drawing on the state’s extensive networks of performing artists, agents and professional arts presenting organizations, the program greatly strengthens the statewide performing arts infrastructure and promotes a diversity of artistic expressions and audience experiences.

**MARYLAND PRESENTERS NETWORK** Advancing the arts throughout Maryland, this network of professional arts presenting organizations provides resources and networking opportunities to individuals and organizations in the presenting and touring field. Professional development opportunities include an annual convening of the Network in the fall for organizations to receive education on best practices.

**MARYLAND TOURING GRANT** Eligible to Maryland non-profit presenting organizations, the Maryland Touring Grant helps to subsidize the costs associated with presenting any performer on the Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster, which comprises a diverse pool of 52 artists.

**MARYLAND PERFORMING ARTIST TOURING ROSTER** Maryland-based performing artists apply for inclusion in the roster through a competitive peer-review process. The roster is a tool for increasing professional opportunities for its artists, who can then give performances supported through the Maryland Touring Grant.
MARYLAND TOURING ARTIST: WESTMINSTER RINGERS

The Westminster Ringers of Carroll County is a non-profit handbell ensemble, which plays advanced repertoire at the highest level of musical sensitivity and technical clarity. While the tradition of handbell ringing is firmly rooted in churches, the ensemble works to advance the knowledge, awareness and viability of the art of handbell ringing, reaching audiences beyond those involved with church and school groups. As a result, the group's repertoire is vast in genre — classical, secular, original, holiday and sacred music, as well as numerous toe-tapping melodies. The Westminster Ringers perform on seven octaves of Malmark Handbells and seven octaves of Malmark Choirchimes, as well as assorted percussion, keyboard and wind instruments. As a community ensemble, they expand the horizons of the secular repertoire by commissioning either original pieces or arrangements of handbell music.

18 MARYLAND COUNTIES WERE SERVED THROUGH 31 MSAC PRESENTING AND TOURING GRANTS, TOTALING $75,526.

Public art brings high cultural, social and economic value to Maryland communities. It provides important opportunities for celebrating and reflecting upon our shared histories, memories and ever-changing culture, as well as adding pride and interest to our unique places and spaces across the state. In 2013, the Maryland Public Art Initiative (MPAI) was passed and requires state-funded construction and renovation projects to incorporate public artwork. The MSAC is dedicated to upholding the importance and growth of public art initiatives as part of its ongoing strategic vision to support placemaking, community building and tourism, as well as the sustainable economic development that results from such efforts.

**MARYLAND PUBLIC ART INITIATIVE**

In partnership with the UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE, the MSAC led a nationwide Call-to-Artists for a public art sculpture for the university’s new Health Science Facility III building. The finalist artist, Eric Peltzer, designed Stochastic Interactions, a kinetic sculpture that will rotate in the wind. The work is in fabrication and will debut in late 2017.

**PUBLIC ART PROJECT (PAP) GRANTS**

To promote the statewide infrastructure for public art, Maryland’s local arts councils and arts and entertainment districts are encouraged to apply for MSAC PAP funding. These grants support the artistic commission and installation of art in public spaces. Projects can include the creation of murals, mosaics and sculpture as well as functional art, such as signage, benches or bike racks and streetscape improvements for sidewalks and squares.

This year, the MSAC’s PAP program saw the exciting culmination of several PAP projects, including one in Anne Arundel County and one in Prince George’s County. In ANNAPOLIS, artist Anne-Marie Esson created a 14-panel hand-cut tile mosaic, Blue Sails of Annapolis. The work reflects a fresh vibrant energy along the downtown waterfront.
In **LARGO**, *Wind Vane of the Helinium Autumnale* is the first installation of the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council’s Environmental Public Art Program. The team included: sculptor Howard Connelly, Art Works Now’s Nehemiah Dixon III and Barbara Johnson, and photographer Krista Schlyer. The artwork design was inspired by children’s artwork from Chance Academy of Mount Rainier. The environmental sculpture created with recycled metals is kinetic and utilizes wind energy for motion. The project also included a conservation photography component.
THIS ENTERPRISING ONLINE REGISTRY reflects the extensive breadth of 2,051 Maryland artists and their artistic mediums, including music, video and the literary arts. Managed by Maryland Art Place, it serves as a convenient catalogue that is free to join, connecting artists with curators, presenters, buyers, organizations, businesses and other stakeholders. The registry also allows for Maryland artists to access and sell their work on the Maryland Marketplace.
MARYLAND MARKETPLACE

Bringing Maryland's Art Home

BRINGING HOME THE WORK OF MARYLAND'S ARTISTS has never been easier! This online portal for purchasing artwork features crafts, paintings, music and more made by 465 creative and innovative artists from across the state. The online marketplace provides artists with the opportunity to nurture their talents and support their livelihoods.
REVENUES
General Funds Appropriation ........................................................................... $17,439,735
Federal Funds
   Basic State Plan Component ....................................................................... $588,800
   Arts Education Component ........................................................................ $29,000
   Underserved Communities Component ................................................. $77,400
   Poetry Out Loud ......................................................................................... $20,000
   Maryland Traditions Program ................................................................. $40,000
Special/Other Funds
   Artists in Education Program
      FY 2017 Revenues .............................................................................. $265,661
      Prior Year Deferrals ............................................................................ $34,339
      Preservation Funds ............................................................................... $2,000,000

TOTAL REVENUES ......................................................................................... $20,494,935

EXPENDITURES
Grants for Organizations ................................................................................. $13,897,739
Community Arts Development Program ......................................................... $3,082,198
Arts in Education Program ............................................................................ $588,164
Individual Artist Awards Program ................................................................ $239,000
Arts Resource Center ..................................................................................... $33,000
Maryland Traditions ....................................................................................... $247,605
Administration ............................................................................................... $2,407,229

TOTAL EXPENDITURES .................................................................................. $20,494,935
Season IV by Trace Miller, 2016 Individual Artist Award recipient.
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| ANNE ARUNDEL          | A & E Districts Technical Assistance | $2,500       |
|-----------------------| Arts in Education                    | $1,800       |
|                       | Grants for Organizations              | $572,710     |
|                       | Community Arts Development            | $144,300     |
|                       | Individual Artist Awards              | $11,000      |
|                       | Maryland Touring Grant                | $2,000       |
|                       | **ANNE ARUNDEL TOTAL**                | **$734,310** |

| BALTIMORE CITY        | A & E Districts Technical Assistance | $2,500       |
|-----------------------| Arts in Education                    | $365,600     |
|                       | Community Arts Development            | $147,253     |
|                       | Grants for Organizations              | $7,087,788   |
|                       | Individual Artist Awards              | $104,000     |
|                       | Maryland Touring Grant                | $12,400      |
|                       | Maryland Traditions                  | $63,000      |
|                       | **BALTIMORE CITY TOTAL**              | **$7,782,541** |

| BALTIMORE COUNTY      | Arts in Education                    | $16,075      |
|-----------------------| Community Arts Development            | $157,975     |
|                       | Grants for Organizations              | $198,755     |
|                       | Maryland Touring Grant                | $11,642      |
|                       | Maryland Traditions                  | $19,000      |
|                       | **BALTIMORE COUNTY TOTAL**            | **$403,447** |

First row: The Next Ice Age’s Ian Lorello and Julia Choi perform at the closing of the Pandora Rink at Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. Photo by Kim Zaruba Photography. Second row: Dorchester Center for the Arts; Frederick Children’s Chorus. Third row: Chesapeake Chorale. Fourth row: Baltimore Concert Opera; InterAct Story Theatre.
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**SOMERSET TOTAL**  $121,715

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**TALBOT TOTAL**  $538,435

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**WASHINGTON TOTAL**  $361,716

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**WICOMICO TOTAL**  $253,370

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**WORCESTER TOTAL**  $139,035

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MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

SHELLEY MORHAIM
Chair, Baltimore County

JOAN M. G. LYON
Secretary-Treasurer, Garrett County

BARBARA BERSHON
Vice Chair, St. Mary’s County

CAROLE ALEXANDER
Anne Arundel County

AILEEN CARLUCCI
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ALEX CASTRO
Kent County

ANTHONY CORNWELL
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CARLA DU PREE
Howard County

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Montgomery County

JULIE MADDEN
Howard County

DOUGLAS MANN
Anne Arundel County

JACK RASMUSSEN
Montgomery County

ROBINSON S. ROWE
Montgomery County

CAROL TRAWICK
Montgomery County

GARY VIKAN
Baltimore City

DELEGATE ALONZO WASHINGTON
Prince George’s County

ANNE WINTER WEST
Baltimore County

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ART

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Chair, Montgomery County

ALEX CASTRO
Montgomery County

JAN GOLDSTEIN
Montgomery County

RAND GRIFFIN
Howard County

PATRICIA MOTE
Anne Arundel County

KATHY O’DELL
Baltimore County

LILIAN TIEN
Baltimore County

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Maryland State Archives

ELIZABETH HUGHES
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NANCY KURTZ
Maryland Historical Trust

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Maryland State Arts Council

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Chair, Montgomery County

ALEX CASTRO
Montgomery County

JAN GOLDSTEIN
Montgomery County

RAND GRIFFIN
Howard County

PATRICIA MOTE
Anne Arundel County

KATHY O’DELL
Baltimore County

LILIAN TIEN
Baltimore County

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