

ARTS INSIDER

December 2024

INSIDER

CHARLES COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE



"A Winter Walk" by Cecelia Dunay

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Dear Members and Friends,

The holiday season is a time of good cheer, giving, and gathering with friends and neighbors to celebrate good times and promises.

The Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) recently exemplified that spirit with its annual Grant and Membership Reception held on November 16, 2024, at the historic Old Waldorf School. The Reception was the grand conclusion of a process that opened with the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) providing funds to community arts organizations for the promotion of local arts through efforts such as giving grants. Over a dozen nonprofit arts organizations in Charles County took advantage of this wonderful opportunity by submitting grant applications to the CCAA describing projects or efforts they want to fulfill for 2025. Our Board of Directors assembled as a Grants Committee to review the applications. The committee members paid attention to the artistic merits, service to the community, and the ability of the organization to complete what the organization was seeking to achieve. After careful review and deliberation, the Grant Committee decided if an organization should receive a grant and in what amount on a matching basis. Happily, all the grant applications were truly worthy of approval.

Members of the organizations receiving grants and our CCAA members were invited to our Grant and Membership Reception to receive the grant funds requested, share exciting information about their 2025 plans, and take advantage of the occasion to interact as fellow arts organizations.

This year the CCAA gladly awarded \$90,300 on behalf of the MSAC to fourteen local organizations involved in the arts. Charles Countians will have much to look forward to as the following organizations execute their arts plans in the coming year: the Charles County Youth Orchestra, Chesapeake Choral Arts Society, Children's Voices of Southern Maryland, Life Journeys Writers Guild, Mattawoman Creek Arts Center, Neighborhood Creative Arts Center, Port Tobacco Players, Charles County Senior Centers, Ivy and Pearl of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Korean American Cultural Arts Foundation, Music Teachers Association of Charles County, Nanjemoy Community center, the Historic McConchie One-Room School, and Charles County Public Schools.

Be sure to look at our Newsflash and Newsletter to keep abreast of how the organizations will be using the funds granted to promote and bring the arts to Charles Countians in 2025 through music, theatre, dance, the visual arts, and various arts oriented educational activities.



RON BROWN

PRESIDENT, CHARLES COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE

CCAA Annual Grant and Membership Reception

On November 16, we hosted our annual CCAA Grant and Membership Reception, a celebration of the impact of the arts in our community. A few board members and the staff arrived at the old Waldorf school two hours early to set up for the event. Diane Rausch had brought all the decorations and floor plan the night before, setting up the rest of the team for success.

Alexandria Gonzalez came with the food and the sound system, Mackenzie Coulby arrived with the Arts Vision 2028 board and the CCAA membership table supplies. Joselle Gilpin and her husband came and helped set up the tables and decorations, while Cindy Johnson set up the bar with wines and hot apple cider. Ron Brown helped everyone who needed help, making tasks easier. Everyone worked especially hard because we only had two hours to prepare.

This year, we were thrilled to receive 13 applications from nonprofit organizations for the Community Arts Development (CAD) grant and an additional application from the Charles County Public Schools - Department of Fine and Performing Arts for the Arts in Education (AIE) grant. We are pleased to announce that all 14 applications were fully funded, receiving the full amount they applied for, furthering our mission to support and nurture local arts initiatives. The reception kicked off at 2 p.m., with a captivating performance by the Flute Choir of Southern Maryland. The ensemble delighted attendees with their featured piece, "Spooklight" by Nicole Chamberlain, setting a festive tone for the event. Guests enjoyed a selection of cheese, wine, and finger sandwiches, providing a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for conversation and celebration. Once everyone had gathered and enjoyed refreshments, CCAA Past President Diane Rausch took the stage to introduce each of the grantees.

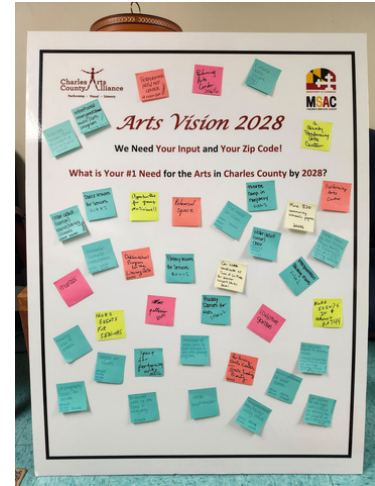
Each grantee had the opportunity to speak briefly about their projects and the impact of the grant funds. They shared their excitement and gratitude for the CCAA's ongoing support, which makes their artistic endeavors possible. The personal stories and heartfelt thanks from the grantees were a highlight of the reception, illustrating the power of community partnerships in advancing the arts. It was a powerful reminder of how much these grants contribute to the cultural vibrancy of our area.

In addition to the grant presentations, the Arts Vision 2028 Board was featured at the reception, and we were thrilled with the high turnout. Many attendees shared their thoughts on the #1 need for the arts in Charles County, sparking engaging conversations about the future of the local arts scene. The feedback was invaluable as we continue to work toward shaping a bright and inclusive arts landscape.

As the event came to a close, the cleanup was not as easy as we had expected. Despite the challenges, we were able to give an ample amount of food away to anyone who wanted it. We sorted out all the decorations and packed everything into three cars. As we wrapped up the evening, we took a moment to thank each other for the wonderful work. We truly appreciated the amount of time and effort everyone put into making this event such a success, leaving the event feeling hopeful for another successful grant and membership reception next year.

Written by Mackenzie Coulby

CCAA Annual Grant and Membership



U.S. District Courthouse in Greenbelt Gallery: Celebrating Local Talent

For over 15 years, the Greenbelt Courthouse has provided a platform for Southern Maryland artists to showcase their creativity and connect with the community. This year, in partnership with the Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA), the gallery continued its tradition with an exhibition featuring 50 carefully curated works from Charles County.

Bringing the Exhibition to Life

The process began with a call for artists, welcoming submissions from seasoned and emerging talents. Artists submitted digital images, statements, and biographical details, with selected works meeting professional presentation standards. The resulting collection captures the diversity and vibrancy of the region's art scene.

Featured Artists

The exhibition highlights a range of artists, including:

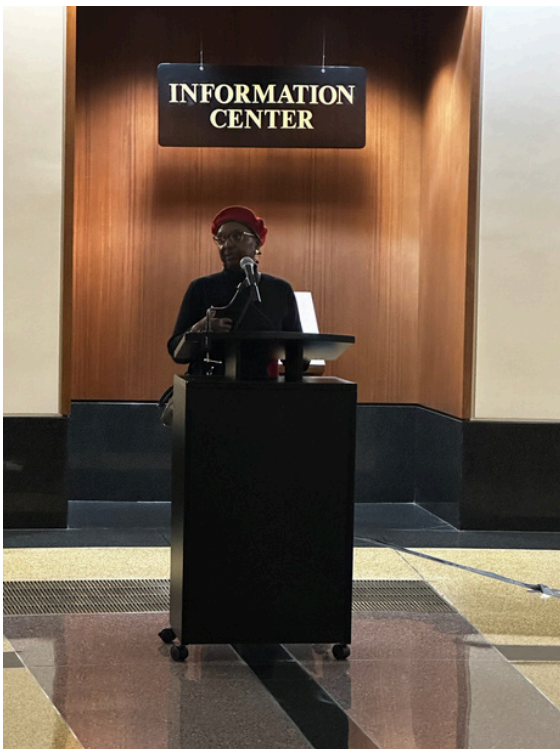
- Lauren Brumbach, known for her traditional techniques and award-winning exhibitions.
- Cecelia Dunay, an artist and educator with a passion for photography.
- Avelina and Madeline Londres, young talents exploring diverse media.
- Jaden Hendricks, a former CCAA Arts Scholarship recipient whose work reflects compassion and creativity.
- Florence Foster, blending spirituality and nature in her art.
- Mary Mangino, capturing moments through her lens with precision.
- Alexandria Gonzalez, CCAA Administrative Director, dedicated to supporting local artists and promoting their stories.

A Night to Remember

A reception hosted by the U.S. District Courthouse celebrated the exhibit, with District Judge Peter J. Messitte emphasizing the role of art in fostering community. Attendees met the artists, explored the gallery, and enjoyed light refreshments.

The exhibition, running through January 2025, showcases not only artistic excellence but also the powerful partnerships between organizations like the CCAA, the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Greenbelt Courthouse.

Written by Alexandria Gonzalez



"Arts Vision 2028" - We Need YOUR Input!

Our current CCAA strategic planning effort, known as "Arts Vision 2028" was launched in September 2024, and now is in full swing! We began this effort with our CCAA Board of Directors conducting an internal assessment using a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats), which was very enlightening. The Board members continued their work by contributing their individual goals and aspirations to our Arts Vision 2028 poster board, in which the single question was posed, "What is Your Top Priority for the Arts in Charles County by the Year 2028?" Board members responded by writing on sticky-notes and placing these notes on the poster board. In this manner, we captured their priorities and have documented these for future reference,

We are now branching out in ever-widening circles to seek additional input from the Charles County arts community and the broader arts-loving public as well. We brought our Arts Vision 2028 poster board to our recent CCAA Grant and Membership Reception held on November 16, and invited all attendees to contribute their three-year priorities for the arts. It was very successful! The poster board was full of exciting and inspiring ideas, hopes and dreams, and we have documented all of this input. When one considers that many Presidents of county arts organizations were contributors that day, these organizational recommendations are extremely valuable input, representing hundreds, perhaps thousands of individuals currently active in the performing, visual and literary arts in Charles County.

Next up is our upcoming "Charles County Arts Survey 2024" that will be email-blasted to the broader arts-loving public in Charles County, i.e., the over 2700 people that receive our free CCAA Arts Newsflash each week. It is coming your way very soon (maybe even today!) and will have a short two-week response time before it closes. Please be on the lookout for it in your emails, and please complete this important online survey for us! It should only take 5 minutes of your time.

Our Charles County Arts Survey 2024 consists of 17 questions, and an opportunity to write-in your additional thoughts. In contrast to our one-question "big picture" Arts Vision 2028 poster board, this survey will be our CCAA "deep dive" assessment to capture your thoughts and your own arts interests and preferences for enhancement of the arts in Charles County by the year 2028. It is an intentional "instant replay" of our previous CCAA survey we conducted, the "Charles County Arts Survey 2021." This will allow us to consider overall trends, now using two data-points, three years apart.

After we compile and crunch all this fantastic data input - SWOT analysis, Arts Vision 2028 poster board, and Charles County Arts Survey 2024 - our CCAA Board of Directors will get to work! We plan to discuss and interpret the results in depth at our upcoming Winter Retreat in January 2025, and determine our CCAA strategic plan and direction for the arts in Charles County over the next three years. We will keep you posted on our progress. Thank you for your participation and support!

Written by Diane Rausch

CCAA Member "Life Journeys Writers Guild" - Netflix Documentary

The Community Arts Development (CAD) grant has long been a cornerstone for fostering artistic growth and innovation, and one of the recent recipients is Life Journeys Writers Guild, a proud member of the CCAA. The organization was awarded this grant to further its mission of supporting writers and storytellers in the community. During a recent speech at the grant ceremony, the founder of the Writers Guild, Yvonne Medley, shared an exciting development that has captured the attention of both the literary world and the entertainment industry: Netflix is considering a documentary based on a book the founder had ghostwritten, titled *Color of the Band*.

The story behind the book is intriguing, and it is no surprise that it has garnered such interest. Yvonne Medley revealed that the inspiration for the project stemmed from a personal connection. One of the band members featured in the book shares the same last name as the founder, sparking her curiosity and sense of intrigue. While it remains unclear whether or not they are actually related, the coincidence has been enough to drive her deep into the story, bringing a personal dimension to the project. This unexpected connection has made the potential documentary even more exciting for both the founder and the organization.

In her speech, Yvonne Medley expressed her enthusiasm for the new venture, highlighting how grateful she is for the recognition and the opportunity to pursue this thrilling new project. She shared her hopes that everything will work out well and that Life Journeys Writers Guild will gain the recognition it deserves for its dedication to nurturing creative voices. As the organization continues to grow and thrive, she emphasized that this new documentary project represents an exciting new chapter in their ongoing journey.

For the CCAA, it's a proud moment to see one of our long-standing member organizations embarking on such an extraordinary adventure. Over the years, we have had the privilege of supporting Life Journeys Writers Guild through numerous grants, and it's thrilling to witness their hard work and commitment lead to such an exciting new opportunity. We can't wait to see where this journey takes them and look forward to seeing how the project unfolds in the future. The potential documentary is just the beginning of what promises to be an inspiring chapter for both the organization and the broader artistic community.

Written by Mackenzie Coulby

Meet Kathy Beachler: Maryland State Arts Council's Newest Councilor



Kathy Beachler joined the Garrett County Arts Council as Executive Director in 2019, after 20 years experience in arts education management, partnership development, and community engagement. She has worked at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Arts Education Partnership, Arts Every Day, and Kirkland Performance Center.

Kathy, her husband, Nate, and their two boys moved to Garrett County in 2015, so they could open a local eatery, Deep Creek Seafood. Reopened after spring renovations in June 2024, the restaurant is now called Deep Creek Seafood & Quarry Burgers because it is on Quarry Road and their practically teenage sons are strong enough to hand cut fries.

Kathy was hired in 2018, as the Garrett County Arts Council's Community Arts Development Coordinator to assist with management of the Grantsville and Oakland Arts & Entertainment Districts and outreach to other Garrett County municipalities related to development and expansion of their arts programs.

Kathy served two years as the Greater Oakland Business Association Vice President, and currently serves as a board member to the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area.

In 2023, Kathy was announced as an Appalachian Regional Commission Leadership Institute Fellow, where she has been attending skill-building seminars and conducting field visits across Appalachia. She is looking forward to fellowship graduation at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. in July 2024.

Nominated by Governor Wes Moore, Kathy will begin her first term as a Maryland State Arts Council board member on July 1, 2024, representing Western Maryland's arts organizations, artists, artisans, and rural entrepreneurs.

When she is not running the boys to trumpet lessons, marching and community band rehearsals, robotics team meetings, soccer games or cross country meets, Kathy continues to work as an independent artist, running her "illegible ink printmaking studio" in her Oakland, MD home. Her 2D work has been displayed at galleries, restaurants and art shows in Grantsville, Oakland, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond and Seattle.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

PLATINUM CIRCLE

- Diane Rausch
- Lorretta J. Hopkins
- Clarissa Stroud

GOLD CIRCLE

- Keith Linville

SILVER CIRCLE

- 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
- 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
- John & Mary Lou Rutherford
- John & Lucy Snell
- Chancy & Sandra Wood

INDIVIDUAL

- Monika Barilla
- Stephanie Berry
- Mary Evelyn Dashiell
- Alexandria Gonzalez
- Alicia Hancock
- Jaden Hendricks
- Barbara Hufford
- Kenneth Jameson
- 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

Thank You



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) _____ ☐

☐ 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 |

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

Master Calendar - FY 2025

JULY

1 CCAA FY 2025 Begins

AUGUST

3 CCAA Board of Directors
Summer Retreat

5-9 ArtsCamp at Nanjemoy
Community Center

28 CCAA Grant Season Kickoff -
CAD and AIE Applications on
Website

SEPTEMBER

11-15 CCAA at Charles County Fair

21 CCAA Board Meeting at
United Way Building

OCTOBER

10 CCAA CAD and AIE Grant
Applications Due

20 CCAA at 301 Derby Dames'
"Trunk or Treat"

26 CCAA Board Meeting at
United Way Building

NOVEMBER

16 CCAA Grantee and Membership
Reception - RSVP By Nov 13, 2024

21 U.S. District Courthouse/Greenbelt
Art Exhibition - Opening Reception
for Charles County Artists

23 CCAA Board Meeting at United Way
Building

DECEMBER

14 CCAA Board Meeting at
United Way Building

CCAA SPONSORS

