

# ARTS INSIDER

January 2025

INSIDER

CHARLES COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE



*"Looking At Winter" by Cecelia Dunay*

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Dear Charles County Arts Alliance Board of Directors, Administrative Staff, Donors, and the Charles County Arts Community,

Over my past ten years of service with the Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA), I have had the privilege to serve with talented and sincere fellow Board members and the conscientious and supportive administrative staff who have been devoted to the mission of stimulating, promoting, encouraging, and providing financial support to the county's ambitious and dedicated Arts nonprofits.

It has been rewarding to be a part of a team involved in achieving the CCAA's mission. As an umbrella arts organization collaborating with the Maryland State Arts Council, the CCAA has been awarding grants amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars to the many deserving Arts nonprofits in the county and to county schools to help them bring a range of performing, visual, and literary Arts activities to the county's residents. Our ArtsFest has given Arts vendors, local entertainers, and the Arts nonprofits an opportunity to interact on a personal level with the community. Students graduating from Charles County public, private and home schools have benefitted from our Arts Scholarship Program which has awarded tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships over the past years and has grown to offering eight scholarships worth \$2,000 each. The Nanjemoy Arts Camp initiated by former President Robert Raush along with other instruction programs have been offered to youth and adults in the various Arts. The Second Saturday Series and virtual art galleries brought CCAA shows to YouTube while the CCAA expanded its online presence. In our meetings and retreats the Board and staff annually have looked inward to improving our service to the state, county, and you.

Certainly, my contributions to the CCAA have been modest by the standards of what my colleagues and predecessors have done. Rest assured that the CCAA will sincerely and energetically pursue its mission to serve the Arts in the Charles County community.



**RON BROWN**

PRESIDENT, CHARLES COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE

## **CCAA Arts Scholarship Season is Here! Deadline January 31, 2025**

The scholarship season is officially underway, and the Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) is thrilled to invest in the artistic youth of Charles County! Each year, the CCAA sponsors up to eight \$2,000 scholarships to support talented graduating seniors who plan to pursue an arts-related major at a four-year college or university. This opportunity is open to seniors from Charles County's public, private, and homeschooled schools, providing a chance for young artists to continue their education and hone their craft.

To apply, students must submit a detailed resume that showcases their artistic achievements, extracurricular involvement, professional experiences, and community service activities. In addition to the resume, applicants are required to submit a 300-word essay explaining which college or university they plan to attend, the arts major they intend to pursue, and their reasons for choosing this particular field of study. The essay should reflect the applicant's passion and commitment to the arts.

Applicants must also provide two letters of recommendation—one from a teacher who is familiar with the applicant's artistic accomplishments and one from a teacher who can speak to the applicant's academic achievements. An official transcript showing a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher is required. Depending on the applicant's artistic discipline, they must also submit either an audition tape or a portfolio to showcase their skills and talent. This scholarship is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring artists to take the next step in their education and careers. The deadline for the Scholarship Application is January 31, 2025.

In 2024, we were very pleased to award scholarships to six deserving seniors. Take a moment to explore their bios and learn more about their achievements and aspirations.

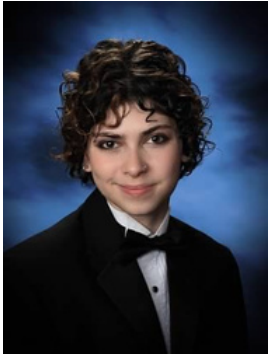
Written by Mackenzie Coulby



### **Alannah Mayers**

Alannah Mayers, a North Point High School graduate, has excelled academically and artistically, with her works showcased at local art centers. Known for her focus and commitment, she will attend Pratt Institute in Brooklyn to pursue a Bachelor of Architecture, combining her childhood passion for design with her goal of creating meaningful spaces.



**Grey Chernoff**

Grey Chernoff, a McDonough High School graduate, has excelled academically with Principal's Honors and recognition for outstanding achievement. With 14 years of dance experience, Grey has honed skills across styles, choreographed performances, and taught young dancers. Grey will attend the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, aiming for a career in dance therapy while continuing to perform and teach.

**Shannon Giles**

Shannon Giles, a La Plata High School graduate, has earned a high GPA and Principal's Honors, excelling in arts and academics. Active in color guard, Girl Scouts, and Taekwondo, Shannon has demonstrated creativity, teamwork, and leadership. She plans to study Graphic Design at Stevenson University, aspiring to blend human psychology and visual arts in her future career.

**Joshua Pelzer**

Joshua Pelzer, a Westlake High School graduate, is a talented performer and vocalist with award-winning roles in theatre and choir achievements at state levels. He plans to study Vocal Performance at the University of Maryland School of Music, aspiring to become a disciplined artist and performer.

**Faith Hochman**

Faith Hochman, a Henry E. Lackey High School graduate, is an accomplished violinist and academic achiever. She has performed in prestigious orchestras, including Carnegie Hall, and is described as a "scholar musician." Faith will attend Duke University to major in Plant Biology and Music, focusing on performance and exploring the transformative power of music.

**Olivia Grier**

Olivia Grier, another McDonough High School graduate, is a passionate performer with a strong academic record and extensive involvement in musical theatre and dance. Her goal is to inspire children as a teacher while continuing her career as a professional dancer and choreographer. Olivia will attend SUNY Brockport to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and will also serve as the Dance Instructor at the CCAA Arts Camp.

# ***"Arts Vision 2028" CCAA Strategic Plan Update: Thanks for YOUR Input!***

## **"Arts Vision 2028" CCAA Strategic Plan Update: Thanks for YOUR Input!**

Happy New Year! And happy to report that our "Arts Vision 2028" CCAA strategic planning process is almost done!

We launched this effort in September 2024, have spent the past four months in a systematic "data-gathering" mode, in ever-widening concentric circles. We began to acquire this important input first with our CCAA Board of Directors, then with our CCAA Grantees and Members, and finally, with the arts-loving general public of Charles County. All of you should have received our recent CCAA emails during the month of December 2024 transmitting our online "Charles County Arts Survey 2024." We intentionally sent out this needs-assessment survey to you multiple times - to ensure you had ample opportunity to provide your thoughts, hopes and dreams to us - as we consider further development of the arts in our county over the next three years, by the year 2028. If you missed it, our survey had 16 quick-questions (12 programmatic, 4 demographic) that could be completed in 5-10 minutes. These questions were as follows:

- Are you a member of the Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA)?
- Are you an active participant in the Charles County Arts Community - as an artist, arts supporter, or attendee/audience member?
- Please select your area(s) of active arts participation.
- Please select the 3 primary ways in which you are informed about arts events in Charles County.
- Please select the 3 most important factors that determine your attendance at arts events in Charles County.
- Are current arts offerings in Charles County meeting the needs of the community?
- Which populations in Charles County need to be better served with arts offerings in the future?
- Please select the 3 most important areas of arts offerings in Charles County that are most needed in the future.
- Please select the 3 most important areas in which you wish to see more community-based arts classes available in Charles County in the future.
- Please select the 3 most important community partnerships that the CCAA should pursue in the future.
- Please select the 3 most important areas in which the CCAA should focus its efforts in the future.
- Please select the 3 most important Maryland State Arts Council overarching goals for the arts as they pertain to Charles County in the future.
- Zip code of current residence.
- Age.
- Average annual household income (combined gross).
- Ethnicity.

# ***"Arts Vision 2028" CCAA Strategic Plan Update: Thanks for YOUR Input!***

Our "Charles County Arts Survey 2024" closed on December 31, 2024 . . . so now the fun begins!

This month of January 2025 will be focused on the final compilation, review and interpretation of the survey data. We will also compare Arts Survey 2024 results with our previous Arts Survey 2021 results, to discern any identifiable trends, etc. These two data-sets, plus our recent SWOT analysis and poster board data, will be discussed extensively at our upcoming CCAA Board/Staff Winter Retreat later this month. This will culminate in the development of our new CCAA strategic goals and objectives for the next three years. We will then communicate these new Charles County "Arts Vision 2028" priorities to the Maryland State Arts Council in our upcoming CCAA FY 2026 Community Arts Development Grant Application. Stay tuned . . . we will keep you posted on our progress!

Thanks so much for your participation and support of this important effort!

Written by Diane Rausch



# 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) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

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

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

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Date Submitted:

Full Name:

Organization/  
Business:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

### Want to volunteer? We'd love the help!

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

Charles County Arts Alliance, Inc.  
P.O. Box 697, White Plains, MD 20695  
[www.charlescountyarts.org](http://www.charlescountyarts.org) / 301-392-5900  
[info@charlescountyarts.org](mailto:info@charlescountyarts.org)

# Master Calendar - FY 2025

## JANUARY

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

## FEBRUARY

- 8** CCAA Scholarship Panel Meeting
- 22** CCAA Board Meeting

## MARCH

- 1** ArtsFest 2025 "Early Bird" Registration Open
- 15** CCAA Board Meeting

## APRIL

- 1** ArtsFest Regular Registration Opens
- 19** CCAA Board Meeting

## MAY

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

## JUNE

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



# CCAA SPONSORS

