

ARTS INSIDER

February 2025

INSIDER

CHARLES COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE



"Mudd House in Winter" by Milton Tierney

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Dear Members and Friends,

Happy February! Hope you're staying warm during this snowy, bitterly cold winter.

As mentioned last month, our CCAA President, Ron Brown, has officially stepped down. We will miss him very much! Over the past 10 years as a member of our CCAA Board of Directors, Ron served in several capacities: as Treasurer, Vice President, and more recently, President. We truly appreciate his dedication to our CCAA mission of promoting all the arts in Charles County - performing, visual and literary. During his tenure, Ron had a special heart for our CCAA Arts Scholarship Program, and served as our Scholarship Committee Chair. He took this longstanding CCAA program to new levels of excellence and student participation. We wish Ron the very best, and many wonderful retirement years ahead in his new home in Calvert County, in beautiful Solomons.

Looking ahead, we are planning our CCAA Annual Membership Meeting in May 2025 - the date, time and location will be determined soon. This meeting is for the purpose of conducting our annual business meeting, reporting to our membership on the results of the past year, honoring our Arts Scholarship recipients, and holding elections for our CCAA Board of Directors. All CCAA Board members serve two-year terms that take place on a fiscal year basis. The elections this year will be for Board members to serve for the FY 2026 - FY 2027 term, from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027. Next month's Arts Insider newsletter will provide the details for our CCAA nomination and election process. Please carefully consider your schedule, and if you can make the required two-year time commitment of monthly meetings and semi-annual retreats, consider running for a Board position.

Also on the horizon is ArtsFest 2025, to be held on June 14, 2025, on the Village Green in Indian Head. Our goal is to make this free countywide arts festival even bigger and better than last year - the sky is the limit! If you have any creative ideas or new options for us to consider as we do the detailed planning for this event, please let us know. Feel free to reach out to our CCAA Office Staff, Alexandria Gonzalez (Administrative Director) and Mackenzie Coulby (Program Specialist). They stand ready to hear your new ideas, and pass these along to our Board of Directors for consideration.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you, my dear CCAA members and friends, for your continuing support of this nonprofit organization. Last year was a very difficult year for the CCAA - for the Board of Directors, the Office Staff, and me. In March 2024, we lost our Founder and Executive Director - my beloved husband, Robert Karl Rausch. In the ensuing months, we experienced several Board and Staff transitional departures: Marcela Cacace (Administrative Director), Keith Linville (President), and as noted above, Ron Brown. Despite these challenges, throughout last year you continued your unwavering support of the CCAA, and we deeply appreciate it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Onward and upward in 2025!

Diane

Diane Rausch
CCAA Acting President



CCAA at the CSM Scholarship Fair!

On January 16, Alexandria Gonzalez and I attended the Scholarship Fair at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM). It was a wonderful experience, and we truly enjoyed engaging with the many young adults who expressed interest in applying for our Arts Scholarship. Last year, we saw a strong turnout from young women, but to our pleasant surprise, we noticed an even greater number of young men this time around, showing a keen interest in the scholarship!

Later in the evening, we had the pleasure of receiving an unexpected visit from our board member, Clarissa Stroud, who also serves as the Scholarship Chair. Clarissa expressed how impressed she was with the way we were presenting the scholarship information to the students, and she shared that we had even run out of printed copies! It was a gratifying moment, knowing our efforts were well received. In addition to the scholarship details, we made sure to inform the students about the upcoming opportunity at ArtsFest, where they can showcase their talents in their own booth to the Charles County community.

The Charles County Arts Alliance sponsors eight \$2,000 scholarships to be awarded to highly qualified and talented graduates. This is an open competition for Charles County public, private, and homeschooled seniors pursuing an arts-related major at a four-year college or university. Interested applicants must submit a detailed resume, a 300-word essay, two letters of recommendation, an official transcript, and an audition tape or portfolio, depending on their artistic discipline. We encourage all eligible students to apply through our website. The scholarship fair was a great success, and we look forward to receiving applications from these talented individuals eager to pursue a future in the arts.

Written by Mackenzie Coulby



CCAA Board of Directors Winter Retreat

On January 18, the CCAA Board of Directors gathered for their annual Winter Retreat. This retreat served as an opportunity for the Board to reflect on the past year, assess their accomplishments, identify areas for improvement, and discuss significant topics, including the Charles County Arts Survey 2024. The day began at 9:30 a.m. with casual conversations and light snacks before the official meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Diane Rausch, the meeting chair, informed the Board that a vote was needed to select an acting president for the remainder of the two-year term, with six months left to serve. Diane offered to take on the role, and the vote was unanimous.

Throughout the retreat, the staff provided detailed reports on current happenings, including the grant season, the CCAA Galleries, social media updates, and preparations for ArtsFest 2025. A year-end wrap-up included discussions on membership retention and recruitment efforts, CCAA scholarships, the Charles County Arts Survey, and the Spotlight on the Arts YouTube program. The Board also reviewed future events, such as the upcoming CCAA Annual Membership Meeting, the upcoming Board elections, and potential new opportunities for the organization. The retreat was a full-day meeting that concluded at 4:00 p.m., with lunch from Panera served during the session.

In addition to reviewing reports, the Board carefully examined the data from the Charles County Arts Survey 2024. The members were divided into three groups, each tasked with analyzing one of the three data points from the survey. As they compared the new survey results to those from 2021, the Board members identified key trends and shared ideas on how to better serve the community based on the survey findings. The collaborative discussions allowed the Board to gain new insights into how the arts scene in Charles County was evolving.

By the end of the Winter Retreat, the Board felt accomplished and motivated, ready to embark on new initiatives for the year ahead. The meeting fostered a sense of excitement for the future, and the Board left with a renewed commitment to working closely with the community to continue fostering the arts in Charles County.

Written by Mackenzie Coulby



Charles County Arts Alliance Prepares for Maryland Arts Day 2025

Charles County Arts Alliance Prepares for Maryland Arts Day 2025

“Art Transforms Lives and Strengthens Communities.”

The Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) is gearing up for Maryland Arts Day 2025, the state’s largest annual gathering of arts advocates. Hosted by Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA), this critical event takes place on Thursday, February 13, at Saint John’s College in Annapolis, uniting artists, educators, and community leaders to champion the arts and advocate for vital funding.

This year’s Arts Day is especially significant due to proposed changes in state funding. While Governor Wes Moore’s FY26 budget includes \$34 million for the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), the accompanying Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) proposes eliminating the Arts Stabilization Act, threatening the consistent investment that has supported Maryland’s thriving arts ecosystem for over 30 years.

What’s at Stake for Charles County

MSAC funding is crucial for organizations like the CCAA, empowering them to create impactful programming, support local artists, and foster a vibrant community. Last year, CCAA joined Southern Maryland advocates to push for full MSAC funding, the Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, and the reallocation of \$1 million to MSAC. With a 4:1 return on investment, arts funding delivers clear economic and cultural benefits.

What to Expect at Arts Day 2025

- **Meet Legislators:** Share the importance of arts funding with Maryland lawmakers.
- **Inspiring Speakers:** Hear from leaders like Maryland Poet Laureate Lady Breon.
- **Connect and Advocate:** Join arts professionals from across the state in meaningful discussions.

Event Details

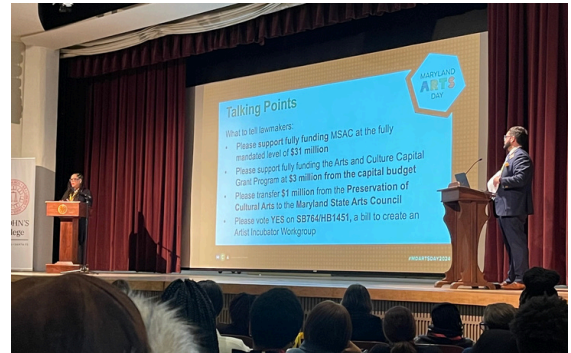
- **Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2025
- **Location:** Saint John’s College, Annapolis
- **Registration:** \$10 Early Bird (through 1/31); \$20 Regular (2/1–2/11)

CCAA Administrative Director Alexandria Gonzalez encourages board members and community leaders to attend and make their voices heard. Together, we can safeguard the future of the arts in Maryland.

Don’t miss this chance to support the arts, connect with leaders, and make a difference for Charles County and beyond. **Hope to see you in Annapolis on February 13!**

Written by Alexandria Gonzalez

*Charles County Arts Alliance Prepares for Maryland Arts Day 2025 *Pictures from Last Year**



**OUR VOICE.
OUR POWER.**

**MARYLAND
ARTS
DAY**

Maryland Arts Day
Thursday, February 13, 2025
in Annapolis

MCA



CCAA ArtsFest 2025 is Coming!

ArtsFest 2025 preparations were well underway, and I had been working diligently over the past month to get everything organized. I focused on preparing the registration forms, contracts, and flyers for the event. In addition, I maintained close communication with the Town Clerk of Indian Head to ensure that all logistical details were in place for a smooth and efficient setup on the day of the event. With Early Bird registration opening on February 1, I was excited to reach out to potential vendors and begin securing their participation.

One of my main tasks was coordinating with food vendors, which is always a critical part of ArtsFest. I worked hard to bring in high-quality food vendors, hoping to secure some great choices from previous years. In 2024, Better Than Mom's Home Cooking and Kona Ice expressed their interest in returning for ArtsFest 2025, which was very exciting. I was committed to ensuring a diverse and appealing selection of food options to make the festival a success.

I also spent time planning the layout for the ArtsFest 2025 site. Using feedback from the ArtsFest 2024 survey, I reviewed the layout of the Indian Village Green vendor area to better accommodate the needs of the vendors. I developed two potential layout designs and planned to present these ideas to the Town of Indian Head for approval. I wanted to create a layout that would enhance the experience for both vendors and attendees, making sure it was both functional and enjoyable.

Once I finalize the layout proposals, I plan to reach out to the Town Clerk of Indian Head to discuss what changes could be implemented. My goal was to ensure that the venue was optimized for the success of ArtsFest 2025, while also following any guidelines set by the town. I am confident that with my attention to detail and collaborative approach, I am setting the stage for another successful ArtsFest event.

Written by Mackenzie Coulby



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
- Barbara McCarthy
- John & Mary Lou Rutherford
- John & Lucy Snell
- Pamela Vincent
- Chancy & Sandra Wood

INDIVIDUAL

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



THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

SENIOR

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

SENIOR (cont'd)

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

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!

☐ ArtsFest

☐ Budget/Finance/Audit

☐ Scholarships

☐ Events

☐ Galleries

☐ Grants

☐ Membership

☐ Outreach/Marketing

☐ Administrative/Office

☐ Technical/IT Support

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

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
- TBD** 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

