

**2**  
Full Time Staff

**16**  
Arts Commissioners

**24**  
Funded Arts Groups

**1,018**  
Performances & Programs

**15,876**  
Artists

**224,270**  
Audience

**\$5,571,998**  
Matched Revenue

**\$80,009,394**  
Economic Impact

ANNUAL REPORT  
2008 - 2009

## SUPPORTERS

We thank our generous contributors:

Alexandria Arts Forum  
Donna and Mel Bergheim  
Amoret Bunn  
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Public Opinion Strategies, LLC  
Honorable Marian Van Landingham  
Alan Wile  
Wilson Grand Communications, Inc.  
Margaret Wohler

# COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

Created in 1984, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts advises City Council on arts-related policy and activities. The Arts Commission is committed to providing leadership in the development of a vibrant and sustainable arts community that engages audiences, and to encourage support and appreciation for the arts as a cornerstone of Alexandria's identity and cultural, social and economic vitality.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chair, **Pat Miller**, Education & Business  
Vice Chair, **Donna Fowler**, Patron  
Secretary, **Jeannie Hodges**, Arts Discipline  
**Jim Allison**, Arts Discipline  
**Vaughn Ambrose**, Education & Business  
**Barb Boehm**, Patron  
**Mary H. Chaffe Brooks**, Education & Business  
**Sydney-Chanele Dawkins**, Arts Discipline  
**Matthew Harwood**, Arts Discipline  
**Marla Howell**, Patron  
**David Livingston**, Arts Discipline  
**David Martin**, Education & Business  
**Eileen O'Brien**, Patron  
**Ross Simons**, Education & Business  
**Margaret Wohler**, Patron  
**Ian Zuidema**, Student Member

## RESOURCE PANELS AND MEMBERS

### DANCE

Donna Fowler, Chair  
Sydney-Chanele Dawkins  
Leigh Donlan  
Melanie Hebdon  
Jennifer Lyman  
Alison T. McNeil  
Paul Savary  
Ross Simons

### INTERDISCIPLINARY

Marla Howell, Chair  
Jim Allison  
Mary H. Chaffe Brooks  
Sydney-Chanele Dawkins  
Donna Fowler

### LITERATURE

Sydney-Chanele Dawkins, Chair  
Donna Fowler  
Peter Kelly  
Kristen Reddinger

### MUSIC Choral/Vocal

Mary H. Chaffe Brooks, Chair  
Kevin Carr  
Jeannie Hodges  
Nancy Lesch  
Tommy Morris  
Suzanna M. Sitomer  
Dennis A. Tosh

### MUSIC Instrumental

Jim Allison, Chair  
Mary Grafton  
Eileen O'Brien  
Elizabeth A. Shaw

### THEATRE

Marla Howell, Chair  
Carol Apelt  
Sydney-Chanele Dawkins  
Duane Goddard  
Dawn Jakutowicz  
Donald R. Williams  
Margaret Wohler  
Jennifer Zakriski

### VISUAL ARTS

Susan Sanders, Chair  
Barbara Boehm  
Heidi Grower-Fici  
Jaime Harmeyer  
Matthew Harwood  
Cheryl Leibovitz  
David H. Roane  
Carrie D. Schilling

The Commission is composed of 16 volunteer members appointed by the City Council. Five members represent arts patrons; five represent the arts disciplines of dance, literature, music, theatre, visual arts, or film; five represent expertise in arts education, business, cultural tourism or marketing; and one member is a student from an Alexandria high school. Each member serves a three year term.

## COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS

### ALEX ARTS AWARD

Barbara Boehm, Chair  
Linda Elliff  
Donna Fowler  
Annmarie Pittman  
Michelle Hagans Saylor  
Suzanne Tackill  
Margaret Wohler

### ARTS EDUCATION

Margaret Wohler, Chair  
Marla Howell  
Eileen O'Brien  
Lynn O'Connell  
Suzanna M. Sitomer  
Victoria Walchak

### FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Pat Miller, Chair  
Tracy Hudson  
Dawn Jakutowicz  
Cynthia Ray  
Michelle Hagans Saylor  
Jamee Telford

### FILM FESTIVAL STEERING

Donna Fowler, Program  
Morgan Hilton, Press and PR  
Jeannie Hodges, Sponsorship  
Eileen O'Brien, Volunteers  
Jim Allison  
Pat Miller  
Patti North  
Margaret Wohler

### FILM FESTIVAL SELECTION

Sydney-Chanele Dawkins, Chair  
Leslie Armstrong  
Ernest Clark, Jr.  
Ramin Dadmanesh  
Jean Edelen  
Paul Igasaki  
Paul Morton  
Gale Nemecc  
Mimi Olinger  
Nelson Ortiz  
Linda Sinclair

### POLICE MEMORIAL SELECTION

Gretta Bader  
Fulmer Collins  
Brenda D'Sylva  
Ben George  
Ken Howard  
Matthew Harwood  
Brian Kane  
Harry Mahon  
Pat Miller  
Alec Simpson  
Kammy Stern

### GRANTS

Mary H. Chaffe Brooks, Chair  
Jim Allison  
Donna Fowler  
Marla Howell  
Renee Kreithen

### MARKETING

Jim Allison, Chair  
Donna Fowler  
Karen Krewer  
Barbara Robinson  
Toni Warren  
Edgard Zamalloa

### POLICY

Mary H. Chaffe Brooks, Chair  
Jim Allison

### PUBLIC ART

Matthew Harwood, Chair  
Rebecca C. Adams  
Diana Chamberlain  
Susan Cohen  
Geraldine (Dene) Garbow

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Marla Howell, Chair  
Melanie Hebdon  
Leslie Pietrzyk  
Kristen Reddinger  
Paul Savary  
Carrie D. Schilling  
Jamee Telford

### CHARLES HOUSTON MEMORIAL

**SELECTION**  
Mary Cook  
David Hamilton  
Matthew Harwood  
Randy Scheessele  
David Smedley  
Beth Temple

### CHARLES HOUSTON MEMORIAL

**STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY**  
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Lavern Chatman  
William Cromley  
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James Henson  
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Lovell Lee  
Roscoe Lewis  
Jennifer Lightfoot  
S. Kathleen Pepper  
Vonda Stanford  
Ethel Underwood

# OFFICE OF THE ARTS

The Office of the Arts promotes the value of arts and culture in the city by nurturing, investing in and celebrating the creative contributions of artists, and arts organizations. The office was created by City Council in 2008 and is a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. Through engaging the community, encouraging participation, and facilitating access to the arts, the Office strives to build a vibrant community for all who reside, work, and visit the City of Alexandria.

## CITY STAFF

**Kirk W. Kincannon**, Director,  
Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

**Rich Baier**, Acting Director  
Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

**Alisa J. Carrel**, Director  
Office of the Arts

**Cheryl Anne Colton**, Cultural Arts Administrator and  
Acting Director, Durant Community Arts Center

## DURANT COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER STAFF

**Sandra DePew**, Assistant Director

**Sonia Garnica**, Manager on Duty

**Demetrius Jones**, Facility Rental Manager

**Carlos Martinez**, Custodian

**Gloria Ortiz**, Custodian

**Elizabeth Parrow**, Office Manager/Manager on Duty

**Gloria Pineda**, Custodian

**Julius Townsend**, Manager on Duty



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND DIRECTOR

## Dear Friends:

Over the past 25 years, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts has served the City of Alexandria as advisors to City Council on arts-related policy, and as ambassadors for arts in Alexandria. During its anniversary year, the Arts Commission welcomed a few significant changes in its structure.

During Fiscal Year 2009, the Commission for the Arts and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities began implementing recommendations outlined in the Arts and Community Visioning Plan. The result of which was the creation of the Alexandria Office of the Arts. The Commission for the Arts and the Office of the Arts work together to serve the public by investing in and celebrating the creativity of artists, and promoting the value of arts and culture in the City of Alexandria.

Another significant change was the creation of a youth Arts Commissioner position to engage the City's youth in arts activities. We were thrilled to welcome Ian Zuidema to the Arts Commission. Ian added a great deal of energy, creative ideas and a fresh perspective.

As the cover page demonstrates, the Arts Commission, Office of the Arts and the funded arts organizations are careful stewards of public funds. With the support of 2 full time staff and 16 volunteer arts commissioners, 24 funded arts groups produced more than 1,000 performances and engaged nearly 16,000 artists and 225,000 audience members. During the year, arts groups leveraged City funding to generate nearly \$5,572,000 in matched cash revenue. That means for every dollar the City invested in the arts through the grants program, arts groups matched it with \$26 in additional revenue. An impressive figure, especially considering that most of the funded arts groups are managed completely by volunteers.

We invite you to explore and participate in the many creative offerings that Alexandria's local arts organizations and artists work so hard to present.

Sincerely,



Pat Miller  
Chair  
Commission for the Arts



Alisa J. Carrel  
Director  
Office of the Arts

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## VISION

The arts in Alexandria define and shape our community, celebrate our unique history, create a sense of place, engage and inspire the public, enrich lives, offer lifelong learning opportunities, and are valued as an essential element of our diverse community and its economy.



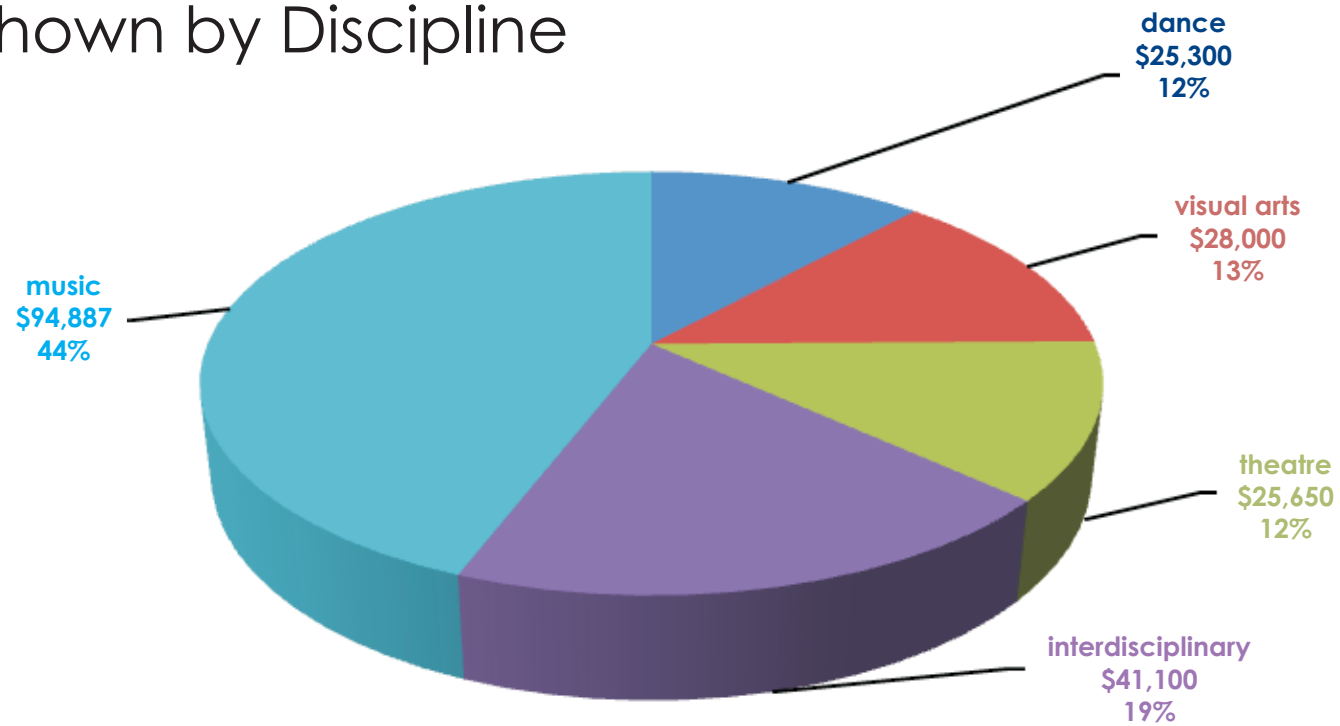
Choreographers Collaboration Project

# GRANTS PROGRAM

In Fiscal Year 2009, the City's investment of \$214,937 in grants funding was leveraged by the recipient arts organizations to generate \$5,571,998 in state, federal and private support. That means for every dollar the City invested in the arts through the grants program, arts groups matched it with \$26 in additional revenue.

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts acts as the official funding mechanism of the Alexandria City Council in awarding grants to artists and arts organizations. During Fiscal Year 2009, the Commission granted \$214,937 of which \$209,937 was from City funds and \$5,000 was from Virginia Commission for the Arts funds provided through the Local Government Challenge grant program. Arts organizations receiving grants from the City presented 1,018 performances in Alexandria and reached 224,270 people.

## \$214,937 in Grant Awards Shown by Discipline



### BY GRANT PROGRAMS

Operating = **71%**  
 Project = **20%**  
 Special Opportunity = **7%**  
 Technical Assistance = **2%**

Although funding by individual artists and arts organizations continue to increase each year, City Council's appropriation for the past seven years has remained at the same level. The total grant funds available for FY 2009 -2010 are \$184,937.

# GRANTS PROGRAM

TOTAL INVESTMENT

**\$214,937.00**

### OPERATING INVESTMENT

\$153,037.00

Alexandria Choral Society	\$ 10,337.00
Alexandria Harmonizers	\$ 12,000.00
Alexandria Performing Arts Association	\$ 12,300.00
Alexandria Singers	\$ 11,700.00
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra	\$ 13,000.00
The Art League	\$ 13,000.00
Del Ray Artisans	\$ 11,000.00
EcoVoce	\$ 2,700.00
First Night Alexandria	\$ 12,500.00
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre	\$ 10,700.00
Little Theatre of Alexandria	\$ 12,000.00
MetroStage	\$ 5,000.00
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association	\$ 11,300.00
Port City Playhouse	\$ 5,000.00
Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic	\$ 10,500.00

### PROJECT INVESTMENT

\$ 42,300.00

Choreographers Collaboration Project	\$ 3,000.00
Eclipse Chamber Orchestra	\$ 11,200.00
FocusMusic	\$ 1,000.00
Jane Franklin Dance Company	\$ 5,100.00
National Rehabilitation & Rediscovery Foundation	\$ 4,500.00
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	\$ 2,000.00
Virginia Opera	\$ 10,000.00
Washington Balalaika Society	\$ 5,500.00

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENT

\$ 15,650.00

(Alexandria Performing Arts Association) Living Legends of Alexandria	\$ 5,000.00
(Alexandria Performing Arts Association) STAMP	\$ 1,000.00
(Alexandria Performing Arts Association) Deviated Theatre	\$ 1,000.00
Alexandria Singers	\$ 1,000.00
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra	\$ 5,000.00
The Art League	\$ 1,000.00
Jane Franklin Dance Company	\$ 1,000.00
Port City Playhouse	\$ 650.00

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INVESTMENT

\$ 3,950.00

Alexandria Harmonizers	\$ 150.00
The Art League	\$ 1,000.00
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre	\$ 1,000.00
MetroStage	\$ 1,000.00
Virgina Bronze Handbells	\$ 800.00

# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

## ALEX ARTS AWARDS

For the first time, the Alex Arts Awards were held in partnership with the Rotary Club of Alexandria's "Taste for Giving" event. The evening included Alexandria's top restaurants, musical accompaniment by the Washington Balalaika Society, musical presentation by the Little Theatre of Alexandria, a silent auction, and a special award to the Mayor.

Honorees:

### Service in the Arts Award

Frank Shutts has had a long association with the Little Theater of Alexandria. During his term as President and then Governor for Public Relations at LTA, he established many new initiatives that audience members enjoy today.

### Service in the Arts Award

Nina Tisara has been enriching the Alexandria community through her photography for many years. Her latest project, "Living Legends of Alexandria," currently exhibited in City Hall, will serve as a permanent record of individuals who have made a difference in the quality of life in Alexandria.

### Discipline in the Arts Award

Frank Regan has choreographed more than 100 productions for stage and television, including numerous productions for the Miami Ballet. He is one of the most decorated ballroom dance champions in the United States and currently serves as artistic director of the American Dance Montage Theater, based in Alexandria.

### Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education Award

Gary Thomas is the Curriculum Specialist for Arts and Music for Alexandria City Public Schools and is responsible for the oversight of the entire K-12 fine arts curriculum. With the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and other ACPS teachers, he helped develop of the Children's Art Festival Project.

Award recipients all received an original work of art by Ruth Gowell or Susan Makara, as well as an engraved brass star designed by David Martin of Goldworks.



## GALLERIES

Through the Art in City Hall and City Galleries programs, local artists have the opportunity to exhibit their artwork in City Hall and other locations throughout the City.

The goal of the Art in City Hall program is to promote the work of local artists while enhancing the visual environment of City Hall for residents, workers, and visitors. Collaborating organizations include: The Art League, Del Ray Artisans, Torpedo Factory Artists' Association and Springwater Fiber Workshop. Entries are open to members of the partner organizations.

Barbara Wolanin, Curator of the Capitol, served as the juror for the first exhibit, which ran through October 2008. Awards of merit were presented to:

- "Eve" by Ann Noel, Del Ray Artisans
- "Tiger Lily" by Marge Holtz, Springwater Fiber Workshop/Alexandria Commission for the Arts
- "Bugler" by Nina Tisara, The Art League
- "Fall" by Yifei Gan, Torpedo Factory Artists' Association

Beth Baldwin, the Art Bank Coordinator for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, was the juror for the second exhibit from November through June, 2009. Awards of merit were presented to:

- "Lease I & II" by Jennifer Lea Hall, Del Ray Artisans
- "Hometown" by Jane Johnson, Alexandria Commission for the Arts
- "Swinging Squares" by Marge Holtz, The Art League
- "Torpedo Factory Waterfront" by Karen Thuermer, Torpedo Factory Artists' Association
- "At the Lake" by Lynne Russillo, Springwater Fiber Workshop

Other artists exhibited throughout City Hall included David Douglas, youth from Mr. Hambrice's TC Williams High School Lifeskills Class, youth from the Charles Barrett Elementary School, Lian Leong, and TC Williams High School student Paige Stasiewicz.

Local artists were also featured at several additional venues throughout the City, including the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Library, Durant Community Arts Center, Lee Center, and the Eisenhower Partnership. Featured artists include: Gwen Lockhart, Chris Haggerty, Suzanne Tacktill, Betsy Anderson, and Jung-Eun Kim.

Other artists exhibited through the George Washington Birthday Parade Photo Contest, the Northern Virginia Clay Competition for high school students, and "Young at Art" by Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, Senior Services of Alexandria and the Goodwin House Foundation.

# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

## ALEXANDRIA FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

More than 60,000 attended the fifth annual Festival of the Arts held September 13 and 14, 2008. Some 200 visual artists from around the country exhibited along King Street. The Commission for the Arts provided children's activities and promoted local art groups. The festival is produced by Howard Alan in partnership with the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association.

## ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL

"Reel Politics" took center stage for the second annual Alexandria Film Festival, September 25 through 28, 2008, at the Lee Center's Kauffman Auditorium. Opening night featured a screening in City Council Chambers of the Emmy-Award-winning HBO film "Recount," directed by Jay Roach.

Vice Mayor Del Pepper announced the Jury Awards at the Awards Presentation Reception.

- Special Jury Prize: "Come Walk in My Shoes," directed by Robin Smith
- Excellence in Filmmaking: "Crawford," directed by David Modigliani
- Audience Choice: "Miss Betty's American History Tours," directed by Robert Rector

Major support was provided by The William D. Euille Foundation, Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota-Scion, Pat Miller, Public Opinion Strategies, and Wilson Grand Communications. Donna Fowler served as Film Festival Chair. Sydney-Chanele Dawkins chaired the community-based film selection committee and presided as the festival's Mistress of Ceremonies.

On June 14, Mayor Euille welcomed 130 attendees to the Alexandria Film Festival Fundraiser event at MetroStage. Film director Robin Smith presented her Jury-award-winning documentary "Come Walk in My Shoes" and took questions from the audience. The Women's Ecumenical Choir of Ebenezer Baptist Church, directed by Minister Becky Mays, presented an inspirational performance to close the program.



## POET LAUREATE

As the City's Poet Laureate, Mary McElveen uses her love of poetry to promote the literary arts. By encouraging creative writing and reading, she strives to instill an appreciation of poetry in residents of all ages. Mary has been active in the community visiting schools, teaching poetry classes, and writing and reading her original poems for important occasions in the City. Her appointment has inspired the creation of similar Poet Laureate programs in several other communities.

### Poems Written by Mary McElveen

- "Birthday Cake" for Alexandria Birthday Celebration, July 2008
- "Makers of Rainbows" for Mayor Euille's Alex Arts Award, October 2008
- "Building" for Re-opening Ceremony for the Charles Houston Recreation Center, February 2009
- "Women of Alexandria" for Salute to Women Awards, March 2009
- "Parting Wish" for Councilman Ludwig Gaines for championing the efforts to re-establish Alexandria's Poet Laureate program, June 2009

### Poetry Activities

- Readings and workshops for Hollin Hall Senior Center
- Reading for children at U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Expo
- Workshop at William Ramsey and Charles Houston Recreation Centers
- Presentation at the ACPS Elementary School Poet Laureate Program
- Workshops and jury representations for Hammond Middle School and Read Across America Program

In her second year of a three-year term, Mary started "Poem in Your Pocket Day" April 30, 2008 for Alexandria. Established by the Academy of American Poets, the special day of poetry invites individuals to carry their favorite poem and share with others throughout the day. Local coffee shops, bookstores, libraries, schools, and recreation centers promoted special poetry events displaying poetry books, writing and reading poetry, and creating "Poet-Trees" which held favorite poems of Alexandria residents.

A Poetry Break with open microphone at Market Square kicked off the day's activities. The public was invited to read their favorite poems during the lunch hour. The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association and Office of the Arts hosted the closing program at the Athenaeum which featured poetry written by the late Jean Elliot, former Alexandria Poet in Residence, original works by Mary, original poems by the ACPS Elementary School Poet Laureate, as well as audience favorites.

A collection of Mary's poems titled "City of Songs" was distributed to all City recreation centers, libraries, and historic properties.

# PUBLIC ART

## ART WALK

The Public Art Committee developed an arts-infused concept plan to complement the City's Waterfront Plan. The vision is to connect the waterfront, from Tide Lock to Ford's Landing, with a unifying design that incorporates art throughout the space. This project would enhance the personality of each park along the path, such as Founders Park, Oronoco Park, and connect Alexandria's waterfront. Since the first public presentation on April 23, 2009, 16 presentations have been provided to businesses, residents and civic associations, and many more are scheduled.

## CHARLES HOUSTON TILE RESTORATION

Area artists were commissioned to reuse and restore part of a mural and 16 crescent ceramic shapes that were created several years ago by community members and installed in the former Charles Houston Recreation Center. Dale Marhanka, Carlos A. Beltran, Lorraine Oerth, Joseph Dailey, and Joan Ulrich used the salvageable portions of the mural tiles and ceramic crescents to create a public artwork for the new center. The artwork was installed in June 2009.

## CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON MEMORIAL PUBLIC ART PROJECT

With an overarching theme of education and civil rights, the Memorial will honor and memorialize Charles Hamilton Houston and recognize the importance of the former Parker-Gray High School. The goals for the artwork are to:

- Create a civic space that visually links to the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Watson Reading Room.
- Celebrate the life and accomplishments of civil rights leader Charles Hamilton Houston, who fought for equality of public education in the City of Alexandria.
- Honor and commemorate Alexandria's first African American High School.
- Inspire young people to remember the past and move them to see a legacy that belongs to them and to future generations.

A Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group were formed to assist with the selection process for the Memorial.



## CHINQUAPIN SOFT PLAYROOM MURAL

Artists from Alexandria presented a proposal to paint a mural based on Potomac River wildlife and other nature themes on a banner cloth that would hang on the wall of the Chinquapin Recreation Center's soft playroom. A group of citizens raised funds for the creation of the playroom and the mural. The proposal was displayed at the Chinquapin Recreation Center, and the public was invited to comment. After the public comment period, the Public Art Committee and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts approved the project. The temporary piece of art will remain in place for a period of up to two years. The dedication of the playroom and the unveiling of the mural took place in the fall of 2009.

## CONTRABANDS AND FREEDMEN'S CEMETERY MEMORIAL PARK

A sculpture will be incorporated in the design of the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Park. A public art selection panel of arts professionals and citizens will be created and an international "call" to artists will be launched during the Fiscal Year 2010.

## OLD TOWN POOL MURAL

Over the summer 10 youth from the Charles Houston Recreation Center participated in an indoor mural project with Andrew Funk, a graffiti artist and recent graduate of Marymount University. Using the Wahoo Swim Team as their inspiration, the team painted two murals inside the locker rooms.

## POLICE MEMORIAL

In April 2009, City Council endorsed the concept of incorporating a memorial to Alexandria's fallen police into the new police headquarters facility. The artwork will:

- Focus on the honor, integrity and sacrifice of Alexandria's fallen officers, past and future.
- Memorialize those who have lost their lives in the line of duty by conveying a message of appreciation and remembrance rather than one of loss and sorrow.
- Commemorate the history of the Alexandria Police Department.
- Provide an appropriate setting for ceremonial activities of the Police Department.

A Selection Panel, appointed by the City Manager to oversee the design process, participated in the Alexandria Police facility groundbreaking ceremony on June 13. The Alexandria Police Foundation will assist with fundraising.

# SERVICES

## POLICY ON ACQUIRED ART

At the June 2008 meeting, City Council received proposed revisions to the City's 1987 Policy on Acquired Art and set a public hearing to solicit comments. The Commission for the Arts held two special public meetings to review the draft and solicit comments from the community. City Council approved the revised Policy on Acquired Art at its September 2008 meeting.

## MARKETING

For the past five years, *American Style* magazine has ranked the City of Alexandria as one of the top 25 Arts Destinations for Mid-Sized Cities. First published in 1995, *American Style* is considered the national arts lifestyle magazine for enthusiasts, collectors, and travelers. Alexandria currently ranked 11th place, up from 12th place in 2008.

An ongoing goal is providing greater access to arts programs and services in Alexandria. This is achieved through web sites, an arts calendar, press releases, and the annual report.

## ARTCHATS

The annual summer Arts Picnic at Fort Ward Park attracted more than 50 people, including Council members.

The program was hosted by MetroStage and Carolyn Griffin, Producing Artistic Director. The Governor's Award nominees were recognized by area coordinator Cheryl Anne Colton, and special guest Trish Poupore, Executive Director of Virginians for the Arts. The following Alexandria individuals and arts organizations were nominated for the Governor's Award:

- Alexandria Guitar Festival
- Alexandria Symphony Orchestra
- The Art League
- Del Ray Artisans
- E. Adrienne van Doren
- The Little Theatre of Alexandria
- Nina Tisara and Christa Watters for Living Legends of Alexandria
- Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association
- Pat Miller and Vera Danchenko-Stern

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### WORKSHOPS

In the fall, 2 grant writing workshops were presented to more than 60 people representing current and prospective grants recipients. In the early summer, two workshops on goal setting were provided to assist grantees in setting measurable, realistic, and timely goals.

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Two interns participated in the 2009 Internship Program. Najwa Saad, a graduate student from Marymount University, researched and wrote a best practices report on public art in private development. Amanda Slater, a student at Brigham Young University, worked on outreach projects for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial Public Art Project and the Alexandria Film Festival.



# ARTS EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## ARTS EDUCATION

The Arts Education Committee continued working with Alexandria City Public School educators to connect artists, arts organizations, and students. New projects implemented with support from the Arts Education Committee include: master classes with both Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and the Washington Balalaika Society; complimentary tickets to the George Washington Middle School Orchestra; TC Williams High School Orchestra participation in the Art on Avenue Petting Zoo; complimentary tickets to Alexandria Symphony Orchestra children's concert of *The Nutcracker* at Alfred Street Baptist Church; and TC William High School and Hammond Middle School film documentary "The Art of Giving."

Members of the Arts Education Committee also attended a series of meetings with the Campagna Center to help shape a summer youth mural project with artist Jorge Perez-Rubio and area high school students. Youth developed concepts for the mural, and Mr. Perez-Rubio helped the students execute the design. The mural was placed on a building owned by Rosenthal Properties located on Eisenhower Avenue near the Beltway exit.

## "FRESH" STUDENT MURAL PROJECT

Ten students worked together to create a large graffiti-inspired mural that celebrates the life and work of Charles Hamilton Houston. Old doors were donated and transformed into contemporary works of art featuring images of Houston's contributions to the Civil Rights movement. The doors were auctioned at the 2009 Alex Art Awards and proceeds will go to the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial.

## TEA AND TALK

Thirty-five people attended the June 2009 event held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. This outreach event provided an informal opportunity for individuals to share the story of their civil rights experiences in Alexandria and discuss the impact they had on the community. The "Tea and Talk" series will continue throughout the development process of the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial project.

## SPRING FOR ALEXANDRIA

On May 1, 2008, volunteers from the Alexandria Arts Forum, Alexandria Harmonizers, Alexandria Performing Arts Association, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic and Office of the Arts painted the front office space at the Durant Center as part of the city-wide "Spring for Alexandria" event. The office space is designated as a community arts room to be used by grant recipients and other arts organizations.

## ARTS AND HISTORY

In May 2008, the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, and the Arts Commission held a joint planning session to discuss collaborative opportunities, such as the Waterfront planning process and the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

## CLASSES

The Durant Community Arts Center, managed by the Office of the Arts, hosted nearly 2,450 classes, rehearsals, meetings, programs, events, and performances attracted more than 56,000 participants.





## GRANT RECIPIENTS

**ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY:** Founded 1970. The Alexandria Choral Society commissions new works and performs the music of local and national composers within a framework encompassing centuries of masterpieces. Season highlights: family holiday concert with instrumental accompaniment; a concert with the TC Williams High School Chamber Choir and pre-concert visit to the TC Williams Planetarium; the 45-member Children's Chorus (grades 3-12) presented their own concert; and a first-ever season sponsorship by HD National Title allowed two concerts to be offered free of charge.  
P. 703.548.4734  
www.alexandriachoralsociety.wordpress.com

City Investment = \$10,337  
Alexandria Choral Society Matched Revenue = \$50,095

**ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS:** Founded 1948. The Harmonizers perpetuate the unique American music form of barbershop harmony. Season highlights: 32 performances (16 within the City); coaching Alexandria middle and high school students; auditioning before a live television audience in New York for "America's Got Talent"; sixth appearance before the U.S. Supreme Court at Historical Society dinner; and placing among the top 10 choruses at the International Quartet and Chorus Contest. The Youth Harmony Festival attracted more than 60 students (grades 8-12) and represented 14 schools from the region.  
P. 703.836.0969  
www.harmonizers.org

City Investment = \$12,150  
Alexandria Harmonizers Matched Revenue = \$224,550

**ALEXANDRIA PERFORMING ARTS ASSOCIATION:** Founded 1968. The Alexandria Performing Arts Association presents a series of culturally diverse, affordable performances, offers performance opportunities for aspiring artists, and acts as fiscal agent for startup arts groups. Season highlights: free Professional Artists Series at the Lyceum; and support of photo-journalism program by Living Legends, an original dance-theatre program by Deviated Theatre, and a vocal coach for a TC Williams High School musical. Through its ENCORE program, the association organized 16 performances at Alexandria senior centers.  
P. 703.505.0700  
www.alexperformingarts.org

City Investment = \$19,300  
APAA Matched Revenue = \$94,257

**ALEXANDRIA SINGERS:** Founded 1975. The Alexandria Singers perform American popular and patriotic music. Highlights: in collaboration with the Alexandria Harmonizers, created the Alexandria Choral Alliance Project to promote cooperation among Alexandria choral groups and produced the inaugural performance; established an Excellence in Youth Music Education Award; collected provisions and performed for the Alexandria Community Shelter.  
P. 703.941.1764  
www.alexandriasingers.com

City Investment = \$12,700  
Alexandria Singers Matched Revenue = \$43,959

**ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:** Founded in 1943. The ASO presents thematic and inter-arts programming with a mix of classical and contemporary music. Highlights: Children's Festival attracted 1,000 children and parents; in-school K – 8 Education Concerts introduced 3,600 children to symphony music; high school mentor program tripled in size; in collaboration with the Alexandria Performing Arts Association, presented a free chamber music concert series at the Lyceum; started the ASO Girl Scouts Participation Patch Program; presented two sold-out concerts featuring Branford Marsalis.  
P. 703.548.0885  
www.alexsym.org

City Investment = \$18,000  
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Matched Revenue = \$716,459

**THE ART LEAGUE:** Founded 1959. The Art League provides visual arts instruction to nearly 6,000 students annually. Highlights: expanded the fiber arts department by adding educational programming previously offered by Springwater Fiber Workshop; partnered with National Harbor to open a temporary gallery and present a sunset session of the plein air education event Paint Alexandria!; the Space of Her Own program received national recognition as one of 50 semi-finalists for the Presidential Committee on the Arts and Humanities' Coming Up Taller Award.  
P. 703.683.1780  
www.theartleague.org

City Investment = \$15,000  
The Art League Matched Revenue = \$2,800,304

# GRANT RECIPIENTS

**CHOREOGRAPHERS COLLABORATION PROJECT:** Founded 1998. CCP is a dance company that fosters the choreographic process by serving as a lab for emerging choreographers. Highlights: produced a concert series called dance4spaces, which included site-specific performances at four different venues; offered modern dance classes and choreography workshops to children; performed at First Night Alexandria; youth comprise 50 percent of their total audience and 53 percent of their artists. P. 703.683.2070  
www.ccpdance.org

City Investment = \$3,000  
CCP Matched Revenue = \$6,515

**DEL RAY ARTISANS:** Founded 1992. The Del Ray Artisans is a membership-based community arts center that showcases the works of hundreds of visual artists at various skill levels and serves as an economic engine for the Mt. Vernon Avenue corridor. Highlights: conducted a training session for teachers at an Alexandria school; collaborated with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra on their youth education program; co-sponsored the Art in City Hall program; and co-sponsored the Youth for Unity Bash to celebrate diversity. P. 703.838.4827  
www.thedelrayartisans.org

City Investment = \$11,000  
Del Ray Artisans Matched Revenue = \$40,191

**ECLIPSE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA:** Founded 1992. The Eclipse Chamber Orchestra was formed to enhance the visibility of National Symphony Orchestra members in Alexandria and to make accessible the highest quality of concert performance to listeners of every economic level. Highlights: concert series held at the Masonic Memorial; Brass of Peace Scholarship Program provides a tuition-free education experience to talented high school brass players. P. 703.635.2770  
www.eclipseco.org

City Investment = \$11,200  
Eclipse Chamber Orchestra Matched Revenue = \$93,188

**ECOVOCE:** Founded 1998. EcoVoce is a performing arts ensemble dedicated to raising ecological awareness through professional vocal concerts. Highlights: commissioned a new musical composition by Winifred Hyson based on the poetry of Ursula K. LeGuin and performed its world premiere; presented interactive activities for children at Alexandria's Earth Day event; participated in developing the charter for Eco-City Alexandria. P. 703.683.0322  
www.ecovoce.com

City Investment = \$2,700  
EcoVoce Matched Revenue = \$5,407

**FIRST NIGHT ALEXANDRIA:** Founded 1993. First Night Alexandria broadens the public's appreciation of the arts through a diverse and entertaining performing arts celebration that is accessible, affordable, and safe for all. Highlights: Attracted an audience of approximately 10,000; presented 178 performances at 30 venues throughout Alexandria. P. 703.746.3299  
www.firstnightalexandria.org

City Investment = \$12,500  
First Night Alexandria Matched Revenue = \$180,580

**FOCUSMUSIC:** Founded 2002. FocusMusic promotes and presents folk music concerts to Alexandria audiences. Highlights: doubled average attendance figures; set a new attendance record for concert featuring Holly Near; donated the proceeds from that concert to an Alexandria-based nonprofit that provides affordable housing. P. 703.528.5606  
www.focusmusic.org

City Investment = \$1,000  
FocusMusic Matched Revenue = \$12,338

# GRANT RECIPIENTS

**JANE FRANKLIN DANCE COMPANY:** Founded 1995. The dance company incorporates active participation in dance by people of all ages; performs outdoors, in galleries and non-traditional sites; and offers performance collaborations blending dance with media and visual arts. Highlights: performed for 900 students at three Alexandria elementary schools; incorporated a functional light weight kinetic sculpture by Howard Connelly into the performance; performed at non-traditional venues, including King Street Gardens Park, Torpedo Factory Art Center and Holmes Run Creek; offered eight Young Dancers Project workshops. P. 703.933.1111  
www.janefranklin.com

City Investment = \$6,100  
Jane Franklin Dance Company Matched Revenue = \$18,394

**KATHY HARTY GRAY DANCE THEATRE:** Founded 1978. As the dance company in residence at Northern Virginia Community College, KHGDT teaches and presents classic American modern dance to a diverse audience. Highlights: performed and taught master classes at the Foro Performatica Festival in Puebla, Mexico; performed 8 new works at the opening celebration of the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton in collaboration with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic; participated in Dance is the Answer with Dance/MetroDC; performed at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC. P. 703.413.2811  
www.khgdtd.org

City Investment = \$11,700  
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre Matched Revenue = \$18,554

**LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA:** Founded 1934. The Little Theatre is the oldest award-winning theater in the Washington Metro area. Highlights: a free performance at Fort Ward attracted an audience of 700; *Scrooge!* The Musical was presented to a sold-out audience; partnered with the Chamber of Commerce on an event at the Carlyle Club; attracted a young audience with Late Night Shows. P. 703.683.0496  
www.thelittletheatre.com

City Investment = \$12,000  
Little Theatre of Alexandria Matched Revenue = \$519,854

**METROSTAGE:** Founded 1984. MetroStage is the oldest professional theatre in Northern Virginia. Highlights: presented three world premiere musicals including one original musical commissioned by MetroStage; MetroStage's production of *Rooms* received four Helen Hayes nominations and won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actress in a Resident Production; *Rooms* transferred to an off-Broadway theatre in NYC where it played for 84 performances and received 3 Outer Critics Circle nominations; attracted nearly 10,000 audience members throughout the year, many of whom came from outside Alexandria. P. 703.548.9044  
www.metrostage.org

City Investment = \$6,000  
MetroStage Matched Revenue = \$448,932

**NATIONAL REHABILITATION & REDISCOVERY FOUNDATION:** Founded 1996. The Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals with brain injuries and other neurological disabilities. Highlights: presented hands-on creative movement workshops at nine Recreation Centers for the City's summer camp program for children and adolescents with and without disabilities. P. 703.521.6966  
www.nrrf.us

City Investment = \$4,500  
NR&R Foundation Matched Revenue = \$6,000

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION:** Founded 1961. NVFAA is the only nonprofit, independently owned visual arts space in Alexandria with year-round, high-quality exhibits of both contemporary and historic artists. Highlights: collaborated with the Alexandria Performing Arts Association, Songwriters Association of Washington, The Washington School of Ballet, the Nature Conservancy, Washington Society of Landscape Painters, First Night Alexandria; participated in Poem-In-Your-Pocket Day; designed a new graphic look for the organization. P. 703.548.0035  
www.nvfaa.org

City Investment = \$11,300  
NVFAA Matched Revenue = \$135,447



Women's Ecumenical Choir of Ebenezer Baptist Church



Washington Balalaika Society

# GRANT RECIPIENTS

**PORT CITY PLAYHOUSE:** Founded 1977. Port City presents premiere, rarely-seen, or historically important productions. Highlights: four full-length plays were presented at the Lee Center's Kauffman Auditorium.  
P. 703.838.2880  
www.telgo.com

City Investment = \$5,650  
Port City Playhouse Matched Revenue = \$26,839

**RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:** Founded 1973. RSVP matches the individual interests and skills of persons aged 55 and better with opportunities to meet community needs while supporting and recognizing their service. Highlights: the juried art show "Young at Art," exhibited 60 artworks for 3 months at the Durant Community Arts Center; collaborators included the Campagna Center, Senior Services of Alexandria, Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, The Hermitage, and Goodwin House Foundation.  
P. 703.549.0111  
www.campagnacenter.org

City Investment = \$2,000  
RSVP Matched Revenue = \$2,000

**VIRGINIA BRONZE HANDBELL RINGERS:** Founded 2005. Virginia Bronze advances the art of handbell ringing and celebrates music of and from Virginia. Highlights: Music Director attended the Distinctly Bronze ringing conference in North Carolina.  
P. 888.824.2541  
www.vabronze.org

City Investment = \$800  
No match required for a Technical Assistance Grant

**VIRGINIA OPERA:** Founded 1974. Virginia Opera is the only statewide opera company in the United States. Highlights: In-School Touring Education Program is ranked #1 in the nation for reaching more students than any other opera company in the United States; nine in-school performances were presented in five Alexandria public schools reaching an audience of 2,350 students; launched a series of master classes in Northern Virginia.  
P. 866.678.7282  
www.vaopera.org

City Investment = \$10,000  
Virginia Opera Matched Revenue = \$15,320

**WASHINGTON BALALAIIKA SOCIETY:** Founded 1988. The Washington Balalaika Society is a community-based organization dedicated to studying, preserving, and performing the rich musical heritage of Russia and Eastern Europe on authentic and traditional folk instruments. Highlights: performed 20th Anniversary show to a sold-out audience at the Schlesinger Center; collaborated with TC Williams High School on an education program; performed at the 2008 AlexArts Awards.  
P. 703.549.0760  
www.balalaika.org

City Investment = \$5,500  
Washington Balalaika Society Matched Revenue = \$35,449

**WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN PHILHARMONIC ASSOCIATION:** Founded 1987. Through the Philharmonic, Youth Orchestra and Concert Orchestra, WMPA encourages musical development and promotes access to high-quality musical performance in the community. Highlights: offered all performances free of charge; performed at the opening of the Workhouse Art Center in Lorton in collaboration with Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre; a master class was held featuring Ed Newman and Elisabeth Adkins; the Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra for young people was created.  
P. 703-799-8229  
www.wmpamusic.org

City Investment = \$10,500  
WMPA Matched Revenue = \$76,366



Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre

# TRANSITION AND RECRUITMENT PLANS

Each April, the Chair of the Arts Commission appoints a nominating committee. The committee presents a slate of officers: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Elections are held at the June meeting, and officer terms are one year. The Vice Chair works closely with the Chair in anticipation of assuming the leadership role when the Chair concludes his or her term.

In an effort to recruit new Arts Commission members, the Citizen Assistance Office posts all vacancies on the City's web site. The Office of the Arts and Arts Commission seek recommendations for applicants from City Council, city staff, and Alexandria residents. The Arts Commission uses its volunteer program as a recruitment opportunity for prospective Arts Commissioners. Individuals who are interested in serving on the Arts Commission are encouraged first to volunteer for an Arts Commission-sponsored activity or grant review panel to become familiar with the organization and the time commitment required.

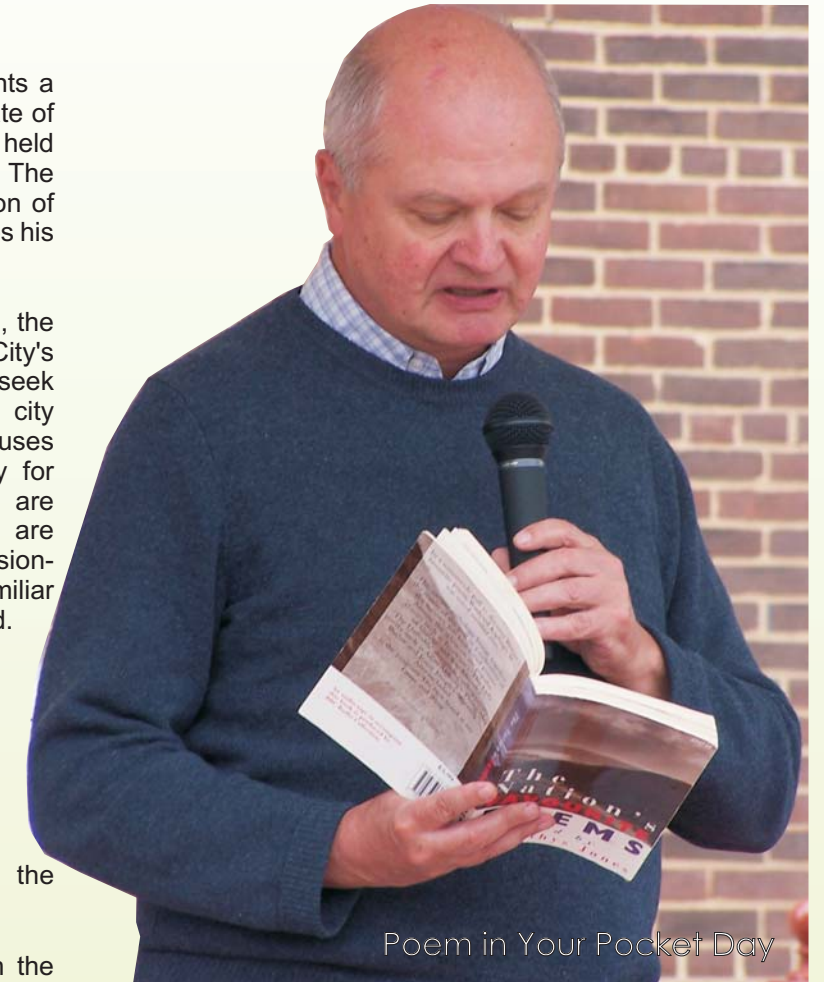
## JOIN US

Each year, more than 100 volunteers support the Commission with more than 4,000 hours of service.

**STUDENTS** are encouraged to become involved with the Commission for the Arts as a project volunteer or as the student commission member. Arts management training for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students is available through the internship program. Each internship is designed to meet specific learning goals and objectives.

**INDIVIDUALS** are encouraged to volunteer for the Arts Commission or join one of the many arts groups in Alexandria. In addition to time and expertise, donations in any amount are appreciated and can be directed to general operations or specific projects, such as the grants program, Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial, Police Memorial, Poet Laureate Program, AlexArts Awards, or the Alexandria Film Festival.

**BUSINESSES** can increase their brand awareness by providing in-kind or cash donations to support the arts in Alexandria. Sponsorships provide opportunities to promote businesses to the local market.



Poem in Your Pocket Day

## VISIT A MEETING

The Commission for the Arts welcomes your attendance at meetings. Join us on the third Tuesday of every month, September to June at 7:00pm

Durant Community Arts Center  
1605 Cameron Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2704

All meetings are open to the public.