

A Message from the Executive Director

The Howard County Arts Council is deeply grateful for your ongoing concern and support during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The far-reaching impact of this crisis is a stunning reminder that the world can change in a blink of an eye. As we look forward to the safe re-opening of our state and county, we ask for your continued patience and generosity.

The world as we know it is in flux. We are all struggling emotionally, physically, and financially. Like you, we are deeply grateful to all of the people – from front-line healthcare providers to grocery store workers, local and state governments, and first responders—who are saving lives, providing essential human services, and supporting us in myriad ways as we do our part to help “flatten the curve.”

As your county arts council, our focus is on our community artists and arts organizations who are struggling with the loss of their livelihoods. COVID-19 is having as devastating an effect on the arts and artists in Howard County as it is on other businesses. But while we are greatly concerned about the long-term effects of this crisis on our arts community, we also recognize that the arts have a critical role to play—**right now**.

The arts are essential to our community's roadmap to recovery and wellbeing. They have the power to unite, soothe, heal, inspire and connect as we address the deepening social isolation and anxiety this pandemic has caused. People all



Coleen West, Executive Director (Photo: David Hobby)

over the world are increasingly turning to the arts amid this crisis to reach out to one another, add perspective to their lives, and help make sense of what is happening worldwide. During these uncertain times, the arts provide a means to help mitigate the sense of hopelessness and dread caused by stress and prolonged isolation. They provide a safe space for solace and joy, helping safeguard our mental and spiritual health.

Now more than ever, it is important for us to have opportunities to connect and engage in the arts. And, in spite of COVID-19, artists and arts organizations are finding creative ways to do so. Museums worldwide are providing virtual tours of their collections to ‘walk’ through. Galleries

are mounting online exhibits and viewings. Artists are hosting demonstrations and posting new work on social media. Musicians are streaming their work online, collaborating across the internet, and teaching classes through video conferencing. People are tuning in online to watch movies, listen to music, and read books at record rates, and many have become artists themselves—singing to each other on balconies and sharing videos of their creative works, ranging from cooking to dancing to drawing to poetry.

On April 24, Governor Hogan announced the formation of a statewide Arts Recovery Advisory Group, which will recommend best practices for the arts to re-open and operate safely,

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Celebration of the Arts Postponed to July 19

This year's Celebration of the Arts was rescheduled for July 19 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. As this newsletter goes to press, we're still hopeful we'll be able to proceed with the gala on that date, but we are also preparing to take the event virtual should strict social distancing measures still be in place. For the latest updates on the Celebration, visit hocoarts.org.

Misako Ballet performs at the 2019 Celebration of the Arts (Photo: John Wisor)

A Message from the Executive Director

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protect employees and audiences, and provide virtual and in-person engagement. As we await the group's recommendations, the Arts Council team remains committed to providing information and support by:

- Sharing arts programming and activities created by local artists and arts groups on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram feeds.
- Posting up-to-date information and arts-related COVID-19 resources to our website (hocoarts.org/covid19) and social media.
- Hosting listening sessions with our grantees to gather input and assess their needs.
- Relaxing matching and reporting requirements for FY20 grants.
- Expediting FY21 grant applications.
- Providing relief funds for individual artists.
- Participating in ongoing statewide conversations with leaders in the arts.

We are proud of the support we've been able to offer our community over the last few months, but we need your help to sustain these efforts. With further budget cuts looming and earned income losses mounting, our advocacy work—and your continued support—is more important than ever.

WHAT YOU CAN DO?

- Please continue to support local artists and arts groups and remember that your contribution (hocoarts.org/donate) to the Arts Council will enable us to be here when they need us.
- If you have purchased tickets to a cancelled performance, consider converting your purchase into a donation to the presenting organization.
- Order take-out from your favorite restaurant.
- Attend a virtual exhibit, play or concert.
- Purchase a work of art from a local gallery (many have artwork posted online) or by contacting an artist you have supported in the past. Or, peruse one of these two great artist registries to find an artist to support. Be sure to filter by 'Howard County' to see work by county artists:
 - Baker Artist Portfolios—bakerartist.org/portfolios
 - Maryland State Arts Council Artist Registry & Marketplace—msac.org/artist-registry-marketplace

These are hard times, but the Howard County arts community is filled with strong and resilient artists and arts groups. Working together—and with your continued support—we will get through this and emerge stronger than ever. Thank you.

Be well, and may you and your loved ones continue to find strength, meaning and joy in the arts! See you—in person—soon!

Coleen West
Executive Director

Arts

NEW DATES

for Paint It! Ellicott City 2020



Artist Blandine Broomfield at work during Paint It! Ellicott City 2019 (HCAC photo)

Due to the prolonged social distancing measures that will likely be necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've rescheduled our annual plein air paint-out, Paint It! Ellicott City 2020, for October 16-18. See the **Artist's Block** for details on how to participate.

Paint It! Ellicott City 2020 is presented by Art in Ellicott City. Other partners include award sponsors the Manelli Family and Patapsco Heritage Greenway, media sponsor Visit Howard County, and Quick Draw organizer Ellicott City Partnership.

Artist's Block



Our 2018 *Vibrance* exhibit, including work by fiber artist Joyce J. Ritter (pictured), was curated from submissions received through our General Exhibit program.

HCAC General Exhibit Program. Applications are due **July 1**. Exhibits are selected and presented in the context of multi-disciplinary, thematic, juried, and invitational exhibits. Curators and artists are encouraged to apply. Visit the Exhibit Opportunities section at hocoarts.org for details.

Paint It! Ellicott City 2020. Applications are due **July 23** from artists who wish to be considered for the juried portion of our annual plein air paint-out. This year's event has been rescheduled for **October 16-18**—don't miss this opportunity to capture the iconic architecture of Historic Ellicott City framed by brilliant fall colors! Visit the Exhibit Opportunities section at hocoarts.org for more information and to apply. Open Paint artist registration will be available in late August.

Cultural Arts Showcase 2020. The Showcase, to be held on **October 9**, provides an opportunity for visual and performing artists to 'audition' for workshops, performances, and residencies. The program is sponsored by the Arts Council and the Recreation & Leisure Services Branch of the Maryland Recreation & Parks Association. Artists should visit the Special Projects section at hocoarts.org to apply. Application deadline is **June 26**.



HCAC ANNOUNCES ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Arts Council's Arts Scholarship Program provides funding to exceptional college-bound seniors from Howard County who are pursuing a career in the arts. Congratulations to our 2020 recipients:

- Kristian Craig** • Visual Art, Hammond High School
- Jenna Dietrich** • Instrumental Music, Hammond High School
- Arielle Frey** • Visual Art, Reservoir High School
- Noni Grimes** • Visual Art, Centennial High School
- Alexandra Hopkins** • Musical Theatre, Oakland Mills High School
- Mariana Lennon** • Instrumental Music, Howard High School
- Angelina Lim** • Instrumental Music, Marriotts Ridge High School
- Grace Park** • Visual Art, River Hill High School
- Eleanor Parks** • Musical Theatre, Marriotts Ridge High School
- Sydni Rivero** • Musical Theatre, Glenelg High School

2020 ARTsites

ARTsites 2020

A brand new ARTsites exhibit is coming soon! Beginning in August, *ARTsites 2020* will feature 12 new sculptures at sites throughout Howard County. For a complete list of *ARTsites 2020* sculptures and venues visit the Exhibits section at hocoarts.org.

WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT

Learn more about the many resources available for artists, arts groups, and art lovers on our award-winning website.

Contact Us • Got questions? Visit the Contact Us section at hocoarts.org and drop us a line. You can also view our location and hours, check out employment and teaching opportunities, and learn about our volunteer program. You'll find the **Contact Us** section in the top navigation menu at hocoarts.org.





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Quarterly Summer 2020 visit hocoarts.org

THANK YOU!

Howard County Arts Council receives major support from Howard County Government, Maryland State Arts Council, PNC Foundation, The Isadore & Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Art in Ellicott City, Corporate Office Properties Trust, Howard Bank, Howard County General Hospital, Elizabeth & Ken Lunden, M&T Bank, Steve Teller, and Wells Fargo.

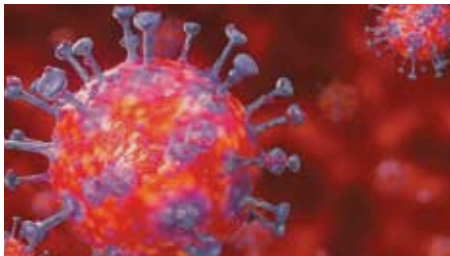


Gallery Hours

Visit our website at hocoarts.org for gallery hours once the Center for the Arts is open again.



The Arts Council and the Center for the Arts are closed most federal holidays.



COVID-19 Resources

Find helpful resources for artists, arts organizations, and art lovers, and get the latest information on the status of the Arts Council and the Center for the Arts on our COVID-19 page at hocoarts.org/covid19.

MEMBER Become a Member



Support Howard County artists and arts organizations while enjoying a whole year of class, camp, and gallery shop discounts; invites to special events; and a subscription to this quarterly newsletter! To become a member, visit our website at hocoarts.org.

Howard County Arts Council

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