



# Quarterly

Winter 2020 - 2021

## Letter from the President



Sharonlee Vogel, Board President

Dear Arts Council members and friends,

I can't think of a more precarious time to become President of an arts organization than this past year, amid a worldwide pandemic. The COVID-19 health crisis has had a profound effect on many aspects of the Arts Council's work, and on all of us – our businesses, our communities, and our families. Yet, as I look back on my first year as President, I have a great sense of pride and accomplishment. In a year like no other, we ended the year on solid financial footing and found new ways to share and experience the arts.

The Arts Council was fortunate to enter the COVID-19 crisis in a healthy financial position, with adequate cash reserves to carry us through a period of extended closure. Innovation and necessity have helped us reimagine how we program and deliver the arts to our members and our communities. In response to the crisis, we have been hard at work developing new programs and initiatives, facilitating virtual exhibits and gallery talks, providing safe and affordable studio space for artists to work, and launching our first "virtual" gala. We have:

- Set up telecommuting systems.
- Ramped up our social media efforts to keep the arts community informed and connected.
- Created special grant opportunities to provide emergency funding to county arts organizations and artists facing losses from cancelled gigs.

We are currently in regular contact with arts leaders across the state, sharing best practices and ideas. And, while I commend the Board and staff for taking steps to continue our work and to minimize the pandemic's impact on our operations, we didn't do it alone. I am extremely grateful to the many members and friends whose support for the arts never wavered.

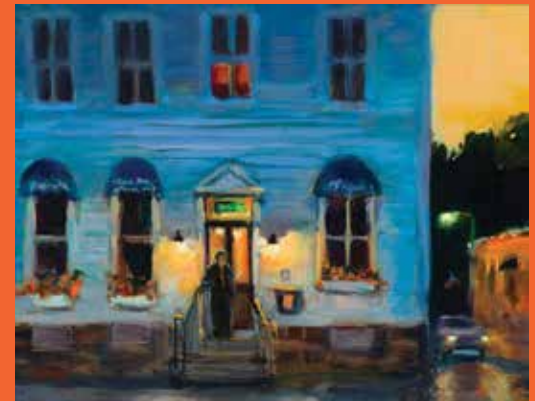
Our Celebration sponsors and individual donors remained fully committed. Membership remained strong. And thank goodness for the Payroll Protection Program webinars hosted by Americans for the Arts, the creative conversations hosted by Maryland State Arts Council, and the ongoing support of our community. Looking forward, County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball designated CARES Act funding to support emergency relief grants for artists and arts organizations, and County Council members Opel Jones, Deb Jung, Christiana Rigby, Liz Walsh, and David Yungmann fully supported the County Executive's FY21 arts appropriation. The Maryland State

*[continued inside]*

## ART IN ELLICOTT CITY PRESENTS Paint It! Ellicott City

A pleasant fall weekend in Historic Ellicott City provided a colorful backdrop for 26 juried artists and 34 community painters who gathered to capture the beloved town's unique charms during Paint It! Ellicott City 2020, our annual plein air paint-out.

A virtual reception on October 21 provided a first glimpse of the exhibit of the juried artists' work and featured the presentation of nearly \$10,000 in artist awards. The \$1,500 Art in Ellicott City Award, presented by AEC President Kim Egan Rutter, went to Shawn Costello, while juror Crystal Moll selected Rana Geralis and Greg Johannesen as the recipients of the \$1,000 Gino Awards, named in honor of Ellicott City artist Gino Manelli. A complete list of award winners is available at [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org). Paint It! awards were made possible through the generous support of these sponsors: Art in Ellicott City, the Manelli Family, AARP Maryland, and Patapsco Heritage Greenway.



*Tersiguel's by Shawn Costello (photo: Dan J. Goodrich)*

*Paint It! Ellicott City 2020* remains on display at the Center for the Arts through December 12 and may also be viewed online. Visit the Exhibits section at [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org) to access the online exhibit; a virtual exhibit of Open Paint artwork is available for online viewing there as well.

In addition to our award sponsors, we'd like to thank media and hospitality sponsors Visit Howard County and Ellicott City Partnership, our juried and community artists, juror Crystal Moll, Ellicott City's Main Street business community, and our Paint It! spectators for helping to make this event such a success. Your continued support as the pandemic forced us to move this year's paint-out from June to October was greatly appreciated. We think Paint It! Ellicott City 2020 was worth the wait, and we hope to see all of you again next year!



## Virtual Holiday Maker-Mart

November 29 – December 14

We're teaming up with Artists Sunday this year to launch an online version of our popular Holiday Maker-Mart! Shop local – from the comfort of your own home! – as you choose from a variety of unique and affordable art and handcrafted items, perfect for holiday gift-giving. Howard County artists and artisans working in a variety of media will be featured during this virtual event, which will take place over a 2-week period, from November 29 – December 14. For complete details, visit [hocoarts.org/makermart2020](http://hocoarts.org/makermart2020).

# CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS 2021

We're making plans for the 24th annual Celebration of the Arts in Howard County, to be held in the fall of 2021. It's sure to be a memorable occasion that will celebrate the arts in our community as well as the Arts Council's 40th anniversary, so stay tuned. Details will be posted at [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org) and in the Spring Quarterly when they have been finalized.

## HCAC FY2021 Grants Announced

One of the highlights of our year is our Annual Meeting and Grant Awards Ceremony. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on the past year's achievements while continuing our support of the local arts community through new grant funding. This year, the pandemic prevented us from hosting this event, but it didn't keep us from renewing our commitment to local artists and arts organizations. In September, we announced \$607,834 in grants for Fiscal Year 2021, awarded to 21 Howard County organizations, 10 Howard County public schools, 11 Baltimore City arts and cultural organizations, and 1 individual artist in support of general operations, artist residencies, and special projects in the arts.

Congratulations to all of our FY2021 grantees! For a list of FY2021 grant recipients and more information on the grant programs offered by the Arts Council, visit [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org).

## KUDOS

Congratulations to Howard County resident Carla Du Pree, writer and executive director of CityLit Project, honored recently by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies as a recipient of its inaugural Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Individual Award.

## Artist's Block

**HoCo Open** is a non-juried exhibit open to artists (aged 18 years and older) who live, work, or study in Howard County. Eligible artists are invited to submit one piece of ready-to-hang original artwork completed in the past two years for inclusion in the exhibit. This year, in lieu of a one-day drop-off, artwork submissions will be accepted online on a first-come basis, one piece per artist, until 100 submissions have been received. A highlight of *HoCo Open* will be the presentation of the \$500 Covington Emerging Artist Award, established by local gallery owner Robin Holliday to recognize and support an emerging artist at a pivotal time in their career. Visit the Exhibit Opportunities section at [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org) to submit an entry for *HoCo Open*.

**ARTsites 2021.** The Arts Council is seeking proposals from artists and sites for *ARTsites 2021*, a one-year outdoor sculpture exhibit on display from August 2021 to July 2022. Selected artists will be awarded a grant to participate in the exhibit. Deadline to apply is February 26, 2021. Submission guidelines will be available December 1 at [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org).

**HCAC General Exhibit Program.** Visual artists and curators — are you looking for a place to exhibit your work? We are seeking artwork in all mediums to include in upcoming exhibits. Individual artists, as well as curators and arts groups interested in presenting a group show, are encouraged to apply. Exhibits are selected and presented in the context of multi-disciplinary, thematic, juried, and invitational exhibits. Applications are due January 1, 2021. Details and application information are available in the Exhibit Opportunities section at [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org).



**Arts Scholarship.** Are you a Howard County high school student with a visual arts, theatre, music, dance, or creative writing degree in your future? If so, don't miss the chance to apply for our Arts Scholarship program. Online applications are available at [hcac.gosmart.org](http://hcac.gosmart.org). Deadline to apply is January 13, 2021.

**DoodleHATCH Department Store for Mythological Creatures, Time Travelers and Galactic Tourists.** Artists with creations fitting the DoodleHATCH theme - such as fairy houses and soft sculpture intergalactic creatures - are welcome to donate or display them for sale in this new art Installation in Columbia's Long Reach Village Center. Artists are also invited to participate in the creation of a 140-foot long mural of 'customers' to be placed along the front of the

DoodleHATCH building. Contact Lee Andersen at [lee@leeandersen.com](mailto:lee@leeandersen.com) for details.

**Baker Artist Awards** recognizes artists from the Baltimore metro region who exemplify a mastery of craft, depth of artistic exploration, and a unique vision. Artists who create a Baker Artist Portfolio are automatically eligible for one of five Baker Artist Awards, which include significant monetary prizes, an exhibition at the Baltimore Museum of Art, as well as a feature on Maryland Public Television's *Artworks* program. Artists have until 5pm on December 21, 2020 to create or update their portfolio. Visit [bakerartist.org](http://bakerartist.org) for details and to create a portfolio.

Above: *Mosegaard* by Karl Saar, installed at Howard County Library System's Central Branch as part of *ARTsites 2020*. (HCAC photo)

# Arts

## Letter from the President

[continued from front page]

Arts Council increased our FY21 grant by 20%. I am deeply humbled by the generosity of so many in our community who have stepped up and supported the Arts Council during this difficult time – **thank you, all.**

Now that we are nearly nine months in, with no concrete end in sight, it's difficult to imagine what the arts and culture sector will look like once this crisis is resolved. I do know that strong leadership will be key to the Arts Council's ability to continue to support the arts and to keep our communities connected and informed. The Arts Council would not be the responsive, effective organization that it is without the passionate leadership of our staff and the brilliant, dedicated volunteers who serve on our Board and committees. I am pleased to welcome two new members to the Board: Muriel Mitchell, a retired Montgomery County Public School educator, special education coordinator, and Title I specialist; and Debra Stepp, a leader and consultant in information technology, marketing, and management and a collector of African American art. They will join Thomas Engleman, Ellen Flynn Giles, Jordana Guzman, Julie Hughes Jenkins, Julia Kovacs, Greg Lowe, Brian Rosenberg, Dami Soh Schlobohm, Sabina Taj, and me. Mary Kay Kenney and George Wilson are leaving the Board. While they will be missed, we are glad that Mary Kay will stay involved with the Committee on Grants and George will remain on the Scholarship Committee.

The Arts Council's role – to foster the arts and connect our community to the arts – is more important than ever! Inside you will find our FY20 annual report, highlighting our accomplishments and activities during the past year. These programs, along with many others, were supported through a variety of private and public sources.

Whether in good times or bad, when we support the arts we make an investment in our communities, our future, and our quality of life – I thank each and every one of our supporters for recognizing that.

Be safe. Hope to see you all in person soon,

Sharonlee Vogel  
Board President



## WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT

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

**Donate** • Support for the arts is more important than ever, and the Donate section of our website provides a number of ways you can contribute. From becoming a Celebration of the Arts sponsor to purchasing a membership to making a general donation – you'll find these options and more in our Donate section, accessible from the Support menu at [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org).

## Current Exhibits at HCCA

Gallery I: **Paint It! Ellicott City 2020**

Gallery II: **What is WATT?**  
October 22-December 12, 2020

*Paint It! Ellicott City 2020* features 50 works of art created by juried artists during Paint It! Ellicott City, an annual plein air paint-out in Historic Ellicott City, Maryland. The juror for Paint It! Ellicott City 2020 is award-winning artist and gallery owner Crystal Moll. Whether you want to

brighten up your living space with a fall scene of Ellicott City or purchase a special gift ahead of the holiday season rush, *Paint It! Ellicott City* truly has something for everyone. Buy local and support HoCo artists while building an art collection of your own!

In Gallery II, *What is WATT?* showcases Chinese-born multi-disciplinary artist Sizhu Li, who transforms the space into an immersive, kinetic installation composed of aluminum sheets, wood, fans, and light bulbs. Li's unique visual language conveys her understanding of the universe, society, and nature, with influences from both Eastern wisdom and Western philosophy.



*HoCo Open 2020, on display in Gallery I (HCAC photo)*

Gallery I: **HoCo Open**

January 9-February 20, 2021

Gallery II: **Traces**

January 16-February 27, 2021

Virtual Reception: January 22, 6-7pm

*HoCo Open* is our annual, non-juried exhibit showcasing local artists. Presented in a salon-style format, this immensely popular show is open to artists of all skill levels who live,

work, or study in Howard County. Check out the **Artist's Block** if you'd like to participate.

In Gallery II, *Traces* features abstract mixed-media artworks by Pennsylvania artists Jeremy Siedt and Will Wolf. Siedt explores the boundaries and potential of corrosive metals in painting while Wolf bridges formal and conceptual concerns in painting through childhood narrative and abstraction.

## Upcoming Exhibits at HCCA





Howard County Arts Council  
8510 High Ridge Rd.  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
Phone: 410-313-ARTS (2787)  
Fax: 410-313-2790  
MD Relay: 711  
[hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org)



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**Quarterly** Winter 2020-2021 visit [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org)

**THANK YOU!** *Howard County Arts Council receives major support from Howard County Government, Maryland State Arts Council, Howard Bank, Sabina Taj & Kyle Reis, Art in Ellicott City, Corporate Office Properties Trust, DLA Piper LLP (US), The Isadore & Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Howard County General Hospital, The Howard Hughes Corporation, Elizabeth & Ken Lundeen, M&T Bank, PNC Foundation, Steve Teller, and Wells Fargo.*



## BECOME A MEMBER

Your support is needed now more than ever! HCAC membership dues help advance and support the arts in Howard County through exhibitions, scholarships, advocacy, the Howie Awards, and so much more.

To become a member, visit our website at [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org), or call 410-313-ARTS (2787).

**The Howard County Center for the Arts will be closed from December 23 – January 4. The Center will reopen on January 5. Check [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org) for winter hours.**

## Howard County Arts Council

### Board of Directors

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Adam Stull, *Treasurer*  
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Jeff Agnor, *Legal Counsel*

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Mary K. Baxter, *Deputy Director*  
Pam Perna, *Community & Web Relations Director*

Stephanie Schuster, *Development Manager*  
Elli Hernandez, *Gallery & Programs Coordinator*  
Dana Whipkey, *Grants & Special Projects Assistant*  
Raul Duran, *Visitor & Facilities Services Assistant*

### Bookkeeper

Doralee Billings

### Building Attendant

Rigena O'Brien

### Long Reach Studio Administrator

Rigena O'Brien

### Gallery Installation

Robyn Holl Gavigan  
Monica Herber  
Lauren Tolbert

### Office Volunteers

Nancy Berson  
Rachel Pomponi



## COMING SOON: 2021 Arts Programming!

The Arts Council staff is busy preparing and adapting programming for 2021. Camp plans are in the works and we hope to offer some fun workshops in the spring. Be sure to check our website at [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org) for listings.

Happy camper (HCAC photo)

## CREATIVE HOWARD GRANTS

The Arts Council's Creative Howard Grant Program provides grants of up to \$1,000 to small Howard County arts organizations and arts businesses not currently served by its existing grant programs. Applications for Creative Howard grants are reviewed monthly, with grants awarded each month until total allocated funding has been awarded.

For details, visit the Grants for Arts Organizations section at [hocoarts.org](http://hocoarts.org).