

Arts Chats



with HCAC

Last year, in response to the global pandemic, the Arts Council began hosting virtual chat sessions with representatives from local arts groups. What started as a means for us to provide information on grant opportunities and other COVID-19 resources evolved into a forum for the local arts community to share the challenges and successes of presenting arts programming during this ongoing public health crisis.

While many organizations report that they have successfully adapted to offer outdoor performances and online content, there have also been significant obstacles. Finding affordable, available space for creating virtual content or presenting socially distanced events; acquiring the equipment and tech know-how required to present quality online content; and developing systems to generate revenue from virtual content are just a few of the challenges local arts groups are facing.

Despite these obstacles, most groups agree that interest and engagement in the arts remains high in Howard

County, and many have found the expanded reach made possible through online programming to be an unexpected bright spot. Circumstances created by the pandemic have also fueled collaboration. The Howard County Poetry and Literature Society's relationship with the Howard County Public School System helped facilitate the creation of literary workshops for middle and high school students. Another delightfully creative collaboration was a socially distanced mobile dance performance by Kinetics Dance Company, in which dancers traversed the fields and meadows of the Howard County Conservancy, as the audience followed along.

We're hopeful that these Arts Chats will continue to provide encouragement and inspiration for local arts groups as we navigate the uncharted waters of this crisis together and come out stronger on the other side.

If you are a part of a local arts group and would like to participate in future Arts Chats, please reach out to Stephanie Schuster at development@hocoarts.org.

NEW RESOURCES HELP THE ARTS BOUNCE BACK

Columbia Festival of the Arts launches Columbia Arts Channel



Social distancing during the pandemic has forced many local arts groups to connect with audiences online. Recognizing the need for a virtual platform to share all this new online content, the Columbia

Festival of the Arts has created the Columbia Arts Channel. This service is currently being offered as a free way for community artists and arts organizations to reach a larger audience with their online offerings. The Arts Channel also benefits the community at large, providing an easy-to-navigate, Netflix-style library from which to select and view both free and fee-based local arts content.

Content currently available on the Columbia Arts Channel includes selected films from the Columbia Film Festival, recent concerts by The Columbia Orchestra, GPS-triggered walking audio tours showcasing public art, and much more.

To learn more about the Columbia Arts Channel or to find out how your organization can get involved, visit columbiafestival.org.

New Virtual Programming Equipment at HCCA

The Arts Council used emergency grant funding it received to invest in equipment that will facilitate virtual programming during the pandemic. This equipment will be available for community artists and arts groups to use with their paid or in-kind rental at the Howard County Center for the Arts. The new equipment includes iPads with recording capabilities and Zoom; hands-free tablet and phone stands; cords and connectors for transferring content to other devices; theatrical curtains; and enhanced LED lighting for HCCA's black box theatre.

To learn more about renting space and using this equipment at HCCA, visit hocoarts.org/rentals.

Plan Your SUMMER ARTS Adventure!



HCAC's Visual and Performing Arts Camps

Get ready for a summer filled with fun and creativity when you sign up for HCAC's Visual and Performing Arts Camps! Choose from nine full-day, one-week sessions for students entering grades K-7.

We've restructured our camp format for 2021, developing strict, multilayered COVID-19 health and safety protocols in accordance with current county and state guidelines. Our goal is to provide a rewarding creative experience for campers while minimizing health risks. Protocols include a maximum enrollment of 8 campers per camp, full-day learning pods including the same teacher and counselor, mandatory face masks and physical distancing, staggered camp start and end times, and daily health screenings. After care will also be available for a maximum of 8 campers.

For complete details and to register, visit hocoarts.org/camp.

2021 Summer Arts Camp Schedule:

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Session 1: | June 28-July 2 |
| Session 2: | July 6-9* |
| Session 3: | July 12-16 |
| Session 4: | July 19-23 |
| Session 5: | July 26-30 |
| Session 6: | August 2-6 |
| Session 7: | August 9-13 |
| Session 8: | August 16-20 |
| Session 9: | August 23-27 |

*4-day session

Here's a sampling of our available camps:

Meeting Mr. Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet

Session 1, Grades 2-4

It's never too early to be introduced to the classics! And who better to start with than the master storyteller, William Shakespeare?

Campers will get a chance to move around during this action-packed week. In addition to theatre games and acting exercises, we will explore more in-depth scene study focusing on one of Shakespeare's introductory plays. Campers will also explore (physically distanced) basic unarmed stage combat and on Friday we will film a virtual performance for family & friends.

Backyard Bugs and Butterflies

Session 5, Grades K-2

Campers will design, draw, and sculpt both real and imagined bugs and butterflies, while learning about all kinds of insects, arachnids, and other critters! Once their creations have been brought to life, campers will work to make habitats and gardens for their critters.

Pop-pin Into Art

Session 7, Grades 4-7

The inspiration for this camp comes from one of the most famous art movements in history: Pop Art, which stood for *Popular Art!* Campers will be inspired by the likes of Andy Warhol, Keith Haring, Claes Oldenburg, Roy Lichtenstein, and Wayne Thiebaud as they create art with both conventional and unconventional materials.

2019 summer campers get creative (HCAC photos)



SUMMER



Are you 18 or older and looking for a summer job in the arts? Apply now to become a camp counselor for our 2021 Visual & Performing Arts Summer Camps. Visit the Employment Opportunities sections at hocoarts.org to apply, full-time and part-time schedules available. Hurry—application deadline is March 31!

Work with us this summer!

FY22 Grant Deadlines

The application deadlines for several of HCAC's grant programs are approaching. Applicants should register and apply online at <https://hcac.gosmart.org/>.

Baltimore City Arts & Cultural Organizations Grant: April 14

Community Arts Development Grant: May 12

Artists-in-Education Grant: June 5



Ideation by Diana Marta, from *Resident Visual Artists Exhibit 2021* (image courtesy of the artist)

Upcoming Exhibits at HCCA

Gallery I: *Re-Imagining Boundaries: Persevering in the Time of Covid*

March 13–April 10

Virtual Reception: March 17, 6-7pm

Join us for Youth Art Month!

The Arts Council, in partnership with the Howard County Public School System, presents a special Youth Art Month exhibit featuring artwork created by Howard County public school students in secondary grades 6–12.

Gallery II: *No Boundaries*

March 13–April 10

Virtual Reception: March 17, 6-7pm

Our annual *No Boundaries* exhibit showcases artwork created by individuals with disabilities in art classes run by the Howard County Recreation and Parks' Department of Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Services.

Gallery I: *Resident Visual Artists Exhibit 2021*

April 24–May 29

Virtual Reception: April 30, 6-7pm

Our annual Resident Visual Artists Exhibit showcases artists with studios at the Center for the Arts, including recent work by James Adkins, Joan Bevelaqua, Sara Engel, Myungsook Ryu Kim, Diana Marta, Joyce J. Ritter, Lisa Scarbath, Jerome Scott, Andrei Trach, Jamie Travers, Mary Jo Tydlacka, and David Zuccarini.

Gallery hours are subject to change. Please check hocoarts.org for current gallery hours before visiting. Exhibits will also be available to view online at hocoarts.org/galleries.

WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT

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

Sponsorship • Sponsors have always been critical to our mission and we're so grateful for their support. Meet the generous donors who help fund our efforts to enrich and engage our community through the arts, and learn how you can join them on our Sponsorship page, accessible via the Support menu at hocoarts.org.



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



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Get Ready for Summer Camp!

(see inside for details)



Quarterly Spring 2021 visit hocoarts.org

THANK YOU!

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Hours at the Center for the Arts:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, hours at the Arts Council and Howard County Center for the Arts are subject to change. Visit our website at hocoarts.org for our current hours.



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

Artist's Block

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 **April 1**. Details and application information are available in the Exhibit Opportunities section at hocoarts.org.

Paint It! Ellicott City. Applications are due **April 12** from artists who wish to be considered for the juried portion of our annual *plein air* paint-out, to be held June 10-13 in Historic Ellicott City. Visit the Exhibit Opportunities section at hocoarts.org for more information and to apply. Open Paint artist registration will begin in May.

Artist Marita Hines takes part in Paint It! Ellicott City 2020 (Photo: Ray Urena)



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, or call 410-313-ARTS (2787).

Howard County Arts Council

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