



Quarterly

Summer 2021

A Message from the Executive Director

This past year was an extremely difficult one for all of us as a pandemic, isolation, uncertainty, and a nationwide reckoning on racial equity and justice impacted our lives and communities. This was also a year full of hope, reflection, and a renewed sense of purpose for the arts in Howard County, made possible by the artists, community leaders, local citizens, and elected officials who took action to support the arts.

Despite the uncertainty of the times, April 2021 marked an important milestone for the Arts Council—our 40th anniversary! We will celebrate 40 years of strengthening and serving our community by continuing to support the arts throughout the coming year. As the county has grown and evolved, so has the local arts community and the Arts Council has been there every step of the way. Thanks to thousands of supporters and partners across the decades, our leadership, programs, and advocacy work to ensure the arts are valued and accessible to all.

It seems like only yesterday that a group of grassroots arts advocates got together around Brenda Bell's dining room table to plant the seeds for a local, multi-purpose arts agency that would nurture the arts in Howard County. They envisioned a community that embraced creativity and diversity. Their resources were limited—no staff, no space, no money—but they had vision and plenty of drive and determination. Over the years, the Arts Council has worked hard to make that vision a reality by providing support in the form of grants, advocacy, arts opportunities for people of all ages and abilities at the Howard

"The Howard County Arts Council is more than just a grant-making organization. We operate a multi-disciplinary arts center and represent a community of organizations and individuals who believe in the power and importance of art. In 2021, the Arts Council celebrates its 40th anniversary! It's an exciting time and I'm thrilled to help usher in a new era with the Arts Council."

~ Coleen West, Executive Director



County Center for the Arts, and engaging pARTnerships that connect the arts and community. We have evolved in many ways over the past four decades, but one thread has remained constant in our work: **ART IS COMMUNITY**, and a thriving arts scene is vital to the health and vibrancy of our county.

From the start, individual artists have been a primary focus of our efforts to foster the arts. In 1983, we opened the Howard County Center for the Arts, a 32,000 square foot multi-disciplinary facility, in Ellicott City. In addition to building community, we provided artists with affordable studio spaces to create their work, and gallery, dance, and performance spaces to share their work with the public.

In 1984, we received official county designation and began awarding public funds shortly afterward. That first year, we awarded \$37,000 to ten arts groups

[Continued inside]

24TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS IN HOWARD COUNTY

Save the Date:
Saturday
October 2, 2021
7-9pm

We're pleased to announce the 24th Annual Celebration of the Arts, a limited-capacity, live event at the Jim Rouse Theatre for Performing Arts in Columbia, featuring the Rising Star Performing Arts Competition, presentation of the 2020 Howie Awards, and a gala art auction! While the event may look and feel a bit different this year, our goal is to celebrate the artists in our community by continuing to provide an opportunity for them to shine. We hope you will join us as we launch this year's Rising Star and celebrate the Howard County Arts Council's 40th anniversary! Ticket information will be available in July at hocoarts.org/celebration.



Plan Your **SUMMER ARTS** Adventure!

Register for our Visual & Performing Arts Summer Camps today at hocoarts.org/camp



A Message from the Executive Director

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and six public schools. Today, the Arts Council, through its partnership with the County, has a grants budget of \$654,000 and awards 70-80 grants annually. Through this type of investment, we strengthen arts organizations and amplify diverse forms of expression. Last year, we established emergency relief grants to help Howard County's arts community meet the challenges presented by the pandemic with hope and determination. New arts groups are being formed, established groups are adapting and expanding their programs, and arts lovers can enjoy local equity theatre productions, classical Asian dance, poetry readings, Broadway musicals, African art exhibits, chamber concert series, hip-hop classes, and much, much more.

Community pARTnerships—such as the Jim Rouse Theatre, Head StART in ART, and ARTsites—and signature programs—such as the Celebration of the Arts in Howard County—have extended our reach, provided more opportunities for artists, and brought us regional and national recognition. Our grant programs are consistently cited by the Maryland State Arts Council and others for their excellence. We are considered by our peers to be a model multi-purpose local arts agency.

We have been on a great journey since April 1981, but we have not traveled alone. Thousands of individuals and organizations—artists, funders, patrons, and volunteers—have helped us along the way, giving generously of their time and resources. Working together, we have come a long way—

THANK YOU!

Still, there is much more to be done...there is a renewed sense of urgency to discuss and address issues of diversity, inclusion, equity, and racial justice in the creative sector. Our constituencies, from the communities we serve to our partners in the business, government and nonprofit sectors, are becoming increasingly diverse. Yet, if we have learned anything this past year, it's that there are still painful inequalities to overcome and much work to do to advance diversity, equity, and understanding. We need to bring diverse voices and expertise to our Board and committees and encourage the arts groups we support to do so as well. In so doing, we will shape an arts community that can more effectively advance our missions, values, and goals while creating opportunities for all communities to thrive.

The impact of COVID-19 has affected every facet of our lives—physical, emotional, social, and spiritual. People are experiencing anxiety, despair, anger, and sadness from prolonged isolation and economic uncertainty. They are also increasingly turning to the arts to connect with one another, to make sense of the world, and to improve their physical, mental, and spiritual health. This pandemic has put a spotlight on the transformational power of the arts—providing artists and arts organizations with a renewed sense of purpose.

The arts ARE vital to our personal growth and well-being and ARE a critical component of a vibrant, healthy community. We are proud of our accomplishments over the last 40 years, and we look forward to shaping an even greater future for the arts in Howard County, but we can't do it alone. The support of generous individuals—like you—who believe in the arts' critical role in society, is more important than ever. You can make a difference. Join an arts board or committee, make a contribution, and—when it is again possible to do so—attend a concert or take a class and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well. Whatever path you take, the important thing is to be a pART of all things ART!

Coleen West
Executive Director

Artist's Block



Open Paint artist Susan Davis takes part in the Open Paint-Out during Paint It! Ellicott City 2020 (Photo: Ray Urena)

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

Paint It! Ellicott City 2021. Be a part of the Paint It! Ellicott City Open Paint-Out, **June 10-13**. Enjoy a summer weekend outdoors, painting alongside our juried artists in beautiful Historic Ellicott City! Work created by Open Paint-Out artists will be part of a temporary exhibit at the Howard County Welcome Center. For more information or to register, visit hocoarts.org/paint-it.

Maryland State Arts Council Independent Artist Awards. Applications are currently being accepted for MSAC's Independent Artist Awards. The focus for the FY22 awards is Literary Arts. Deadline to apply is **July 1**. For details and to apply, visit msac.org.

Upcoming Exhibits at HCCA

June 19–August 7 • Virtual Reception: June 18, 6-7pm



Icescape 37 by Thomas Pickarski, from *Natural Formations* (Image courtesy of the artist)



Connect with the Arts This SUMMER

With the pandemic keeping many of us close to home this summer, it's the perfect time to explore the arts in our local community! From June 21-25, the **Columbia Film Festival** brings the silver screen to you, presenting more than 60 films online. Offerings include features, shorts, documentaries, world cinema, Maryland-based films, and more. Visit columbiainfestival.org for details.

On July 5, the **Merriweather District's 2021 Artist-in-Residence program** kicks off, with selected artists spending at least four weeks in the studio creating exciting new works integrating art, innovation, and technology. The program will culminate in an exhibit of the artists' finished projects. To learn more, visit merriweatherdistrict.com.

Want more? Visit our online arts calendar at hocoarts.org/events to explore the rest of Howard County's summer arts scene.

Gallery I: *Paint It! Ellicott City 2021*

An exhibit featuring artwork created by juried artists during Paint It! Ellicott City, an annual plein air paint-out in Ellicott City's historic district. The juror for this year's exhibit is award-winning landscape artist Lynn Mehta, who will offer remarks and present juror awards at the virtual reception on June 18.

Gallery II: *Natural Formations*

Natural Formations features photographic works by Thomas Pickarski and Peter Stern. Through the medium of photography, these artists capture the ephemeral beauty and abstract forms created by nature.

HCAC ANNOUNCES ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Our Arts Scholarship Program provides funding to exceptional college-bound seniors from Howard County who are pursuing a career in the arts. Congratulations to our 2021 recipients:

- Nina Borodin** • Visual Art, Reservoir High School
- Colin Eng** • Instrumental Music, Centennial High School
- Hyungjoo Han** • Instrumental Music, Centennial High School
- Susan Kim** • Instrumental Music, Long Reach High School
- Kianna Pan** • Visual Art, River Hill High School
- Hwanee Pak** • Instrumental Music, Wilde Lake High School
- Joshua Oberly** • Instrumental Music, Centennial High School
- Samantha Yakaitis** • Musical Theatre/Vocal Music, Mt. Hebron High School

WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT

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

Partners • The Arts Council maintains a variety of mutually beneficial partnerships with arts and non-arts organizations. From ARTsites to Paint It! Ellicott City to our Youth Art Month exhibit and more, many of our programs depend on the generous support of our community partners. Learn more about the organizations who help us do more for the arts by visiting the Partners section of our website, accessible from the Support section of the main 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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Gallery Hours

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, hours at the Arts Council and Howard County Center for the Arts are subject to change. Visit our website at hocoarts.org to view our current hours and review our visitor guidelines.



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

2021 ARTsites

Our latest public art exhibit is almost here! Beginning in August, ARTsites 2021 will feature 12 new sculptures at sites throughout Howard County. For a complete list of ARTsites 2021 sculptures and venues visit the Exhibits section at hocoarts.org.

MEMBER
 Become a Member

We're celebrating 40 years of fostering the arts in our community, and we'd love for you to join us! 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	Board of Directors	Jeff Agnor, <i>Legal Counsel</i>	Bookkeeper
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