



QUARTERLY WINTER 2023-24 | HOCOARTS.org

Thank YOU! Howard County Arts Council receives major support from Howard County Government, Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Department of Commerce, Horizon Foundation, Community Foundation of Howard County, COPT Defense Properties, Ellen Flynn Giles & Robert H. Giles, The Isadore & Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, The Howard Hughes Corporation, Elizabeth & Ken Lundeen, M&T Bank, SECU, and Sabina Taj & Kyle Reis.



CHECK OUT OUR WINTER CLASS OFFERINGS

Winter classes begin January 20, 2024. Offerings are available for children and adults. A complete schedule is available at hocoarts.org/classes or by calling 410-313-ARTS (2787).

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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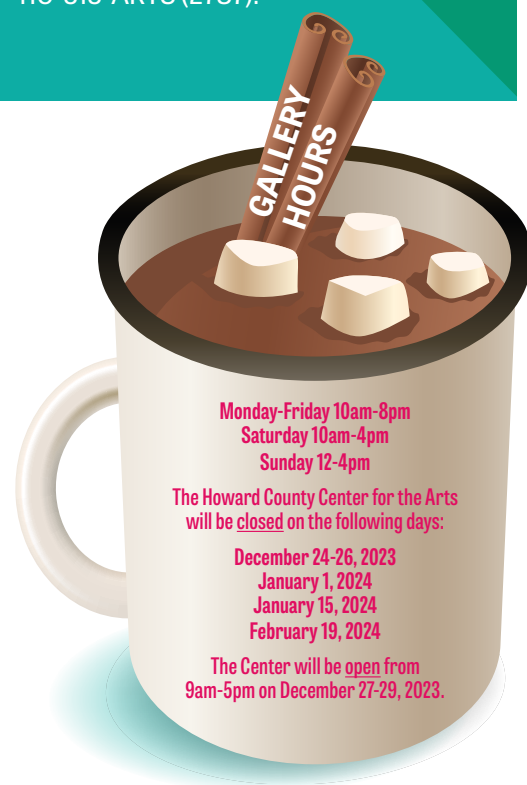
Doralee Billings

Building Attendants

Mark Becker
 Derek Brown
 Sara Engel
 Michelle Grazio

Gallery Installation

Lauren Tolbert



THE 2023 CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS WAS A TERRIFIC SUCCESS!

Guests enjoyed fine food and drinks provided by 15 area restaurants, bid on stunning artwork created by local artists in the Art Auction, and were amazed by the incredible performances of this year's Rising Star finalists.

The Celebration audience cast their votes and selected pianist Ching-Yi Lin as the 2023 Rising Star for his performance of *Six Moments Musicaux, Op. 16 IV. Presto* by Sergei Rachmaninoff.

Congratulations to Ching-Yi and all of our amazing finalists.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the Howie Awards, honoring individuals whose contributions help make our community such a wonderful haven for the arts. This year's Howie honorees were Lee Andersen, Outstanding Artist; Rebecca Elpus, Outstanding Arts Educator; and Malynda & Rich Madzel, Outstanding Community Supporters of the Arts. A special Legacy in the Arts Award was presented to Frank J. Owens, Director of Bands, Centennial Lane Elementary School.

THANK YOU to Shani and County Executive Calvin Ball for serving as this year's Honorary Chairs and to our Celebration committee members and volunteers – especially Terry Eberhardt who stepped in as emcee at the last minute - this event would not have been possible without your extraordinary efforts! And a special thanks to the generous contributions of our sponsors and culinary and beverage vendors. Your support means everything – THANK YOU!

Dear Arts Council Members and Friends,

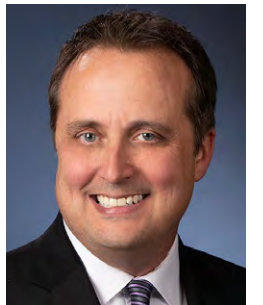
As we look to the promise of a new year, it is worth pausing to reflect on last year's accomplishments. For me, our 18-month strategic planning process stands out among the Arts Council's many programs and initiatives.

Starting in January 2022, the HCAC Board engaged arts leader, Joseph W. Ritsch, former Artistic Director of Rep Stage, to share his experience leading his team through the process of defining what it means to be an anti-racist theatre. Gaining this firsthand understanding and knowledge was incredibly valuable to the Board as we began the process of closely re-examining HCAC's mission, vision, core values, and strategic priorities through a diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) lens. In June 2022, the Arts Council hired national consulting firm, The Sort Sol Group, to lead our strategic planning process and develop our 2024-2029 plan. This intensive process was informed by the preliminary work with Joseph W. Ritsch and consisted of an exploratory Board bus trip; one-on-one interviews with staff, current and former Board members and key external stakeholders; a constituent survey; a review of past programs, financial, and historical materials; a 2-day retreat; and stakeholder review of our draft strategic plan with nearly 350 responses from our community informing the planning process.

During the fall, a group of Board and staff visited two local county arts councils. We met with the directors, staff, and board members of the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts to look at different arts council models and learn how they were including DEIA initiatives in their work. Simultaneously, Sort Sol conducted a review of internal documents and conducted a constituent survey and interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders to capture current understandings and impressions of the Arts Council's work both internally and externally.

In January 2023, the Arts Council Board and staff took part in a two-day retreat exploring our mission and purpose, how to respond to the changing environment by leveraging our strengths and identifying a set of responsive, short-term strategies to guide us through the next 5 years. Sort Sol tested the resulting mission and value propositions, equity and organizational commitment statements, and strategic priorities through interviews and

[continued inside]



Adam Stull,
 Board President

Holiday MAKER-MART & Open House

November 30 | 3-8 pm

Join us for our annual Holiday Maker-Mart Open House on November 30 from 3-8pm as local artists and artisans offer their unique handmade works for holiday gift-giving. Don't miss this opportunity to 'shop local', 'buy handmade', and support local artists during the holiday season! Enjoy refreshments, music and remember to visit our resident artists' and arts organizations' open studios 7-8pm. And don't miss the **Juried Maker-Mart in Gallery I, November 28-December 3** (Maker-Mart Hours: Weekdays 4-8pm, Weekends 12-4pm). Visit hocoarts.org/makermart for details.



A Maker-Mart shopper explores a vendor's wares (HCAC photo)

ARTISTS' #BLOCK

ARTSITES 2024 The Arts Council is seeking proposals from artists and sites for ARTsites 2024, a one-year outdoor sculpture exhibit on display from August 2024 to July 2025. Selected artists will be awarded a grant to participate in the exhibit. Deadline to apply is February 21, 2024. Submission guidelines will be available on December 1 at hocoarts.org.

ARTS SCHOLARSHIP Are you a Howard County high school senior 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. Deadline to apply is January 25, 2024.

HOWARD COUNTY POET LAUREATE Howard County will soon have a Poet Laureate! On October 24, 2023, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball announced the creation of the Howard County Poet Laureate initiative to elevate poetry in the consciousness of Howard County residents and to help celebrate the literary arts.

The Poet Laureate is an honorary two-year position that will be formally appointed by the County Executive, based on the recommendation of the artistic and community panel coordinated by HoCoPoLitSo.

The next Poet Laureate will serve from April 2024 through March 2026 and will receive a stipend of \$5,000 per year of service. To learn more about the Howard County Poet Laureate Program and to review the guidelines, visit hocoarts.org. Deadline for submissions is January 9, 2024.

IAM CREATIVITY: INDIVIDUAL ARTIST MERIT AND CREATIVITY PROGRAM The Arts Council is launching a new individual artist grant program, Individual Artist Merit and Creativity (IAM Creativity) to recognize, uplift, and celebrate Howard County artists by providing unrestricted funds to support their creative work and recognize excellence in a broad spectrum of artistic practices, backgrounds, and disciplines.

Accepting applications for two (2) disciplines each year, the IAM Creativity program will provide awards in seven different artistic disciplines over the next four years: dance, film, folk and traditional arts, literary arts, music, theatre, and visual arts.

Each year, a maximum of four (4) awards, including one (1) \$5,000 and three (3) \$1,000 awards, will be awarded in two (2) disciplines. This year, applications will be accepted in Dance and Visual Arts disciplines.

In subsequent years, applications will open for the following disciplines:

- Music and Film, New Media & Video in 2025
- Theatre and Literary Arts in 2026
- Folk & Traditional Arts in 2027

The application deadline for Dance and Visual Arts disciplines is March 14, 2024. Visit hocoarts.org for more information.

focus groups with key stakeholders and a constituent survey. To further refine and develop priorities and action plans, small groups of Board and staff members were assigned to priority areas to identify resources needed and set objectives, timelines, and measurements for success.

The Board approved our five-year plan in July 2023, focusing on four strategic priorities:

- Expand public awareness, financial resources, and advocacy to advance the arts in Howard County
- Build organizational capacity to strengthen the Arts Council's impact
- Increase and deepen community engagement to strengthen the arts ecosystem
- Evaluate Arts Council programs and services to improve services to artists and audiences

As Board President, I found this process extremely valuable. Having served on the Board for the past 4 years, I believed I had a good understanding of the Arts Council and the county's arts community. However, with each discussion and each moment spent listening, I gained deeper insights into the challenges and opportunities for both the Arts Council and the wider arts community.

What is clear to me is how passionate our community arts leaders are; how hard they work to produce vital and diverse programming and to engage the public; and how much they value the Arts Council's advocacy, leadership and support. What is also clear is how much more work needs to be done.

Effective governance has been, and will continue to be, key to the Arts Council's ability to enrich our community and advance the arts. To assist us in our work, I am pleased to welcome two new Board members – Renee Lennon, Senior Vice President and Head of Sales Administration at Neuberger Berman Private Wealth, and Casey Simpson, Global Account Executive at Autodesk. They will join Dr. Katrina Caldwell, Khensani Carter, Mavis Ellis, Brian Liu, Andrea Magers, Muriel Mitchell, Tracey Pullo, Ryan Rager, Debra Stepp, Sabina Taj, and myself. And, I am grateful for the work of outgoing Board members Jordana Guzman, Greg Lowe, and Sharonlee Vogel, who served on the Executive Committee with me for the past two years – please know your sound counsel and commitment to the arts will continue to inspire me!

All of us at the Arts Council believe the arts matter and are essential to a healthy, vibrant community. We know the arts are a catalyst to personal growth and wellbeing. Every day at the Howard County Center for the Arts - in our galleries, classrooms, theatre, and studios - we see the power the arts have to transform lives. And we know that supporting the arts will ensure our communities continue to grow and thrive.

Please take a moment to review our FY2023 Annual Report, which highlights our programs and the positive impact the Arts Council makes in our community. I feel tremendous pride in the remarkable work of our staff, volunteers, and Board, and am incredibly grateful to our donors and our county and state officials for supporting our efforts. And I am inspired by the artists and arts organizations who work tirelessly to uplift and engage us through words, music, movement, and images.

Be sure to look for our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Executive Summary on our website, we are optimistic about the Arts Council's roadmap for the future and look forward to putting it into action – with you – to grow our creative community together!

Adam Stull, Board President



UPCOMING Exhibits at HCCA



Block 5 by Michael Hower (image courtesy of artist)

Gallery I: HoCo Open 2024 | Gallery II: Urbex

December 16, 2023-February 3, 2024

Reception: January 12, 2024 (snow date: Jan. 19)

It's time for *HOCO OPEN 2024* — our popular salon-style, non-juried exhibit showcasing artwork in a variety of media by Howard County artists. *Urbex* features the artwork of Michael Hower & Greg McLemore. Reception includes live music, refreshments, and the presentation of the Covington Emerging Artist Award sponsored by Robin Holliday of HorseSpirit Arts Gallery. Free & open to the public.

Please visit hocoarts.org to verify gallery hours. To learn more about Arts Council programs and exhibits, call 410-313-ARTS (2787) or visit hocoarts.org.

CREATIVE HOWARD GRANTS

The Arts Council's Creative Howard Grant Program provides grants of up to \$2,500 to small Howard County small non-profit arts organizations and arts businesses not currently served by our other grant programs. Applications for Creative Howard are reviewed monthly, with grants awarded each month until total allocated funding has been awarded. For details, visit hocoarts.org/grants.

GET READY FOR SUMMER CAMP!

Registration for our Visual & Performing Arts Summer Camps will be available January 2, 2024. Sign up early and choose from a wide variety of engaging and creative opportunities for your child. Camps are open to students entering grades K-7. Full- or half-day sessions and extended care are available. For complete details and to register, visit hocoarts.org/camp.

HCAC FY2024 GRANTS ANNOUNCED



Some of the FY24 CAD Grant recipients with Coleen West, HCAC Executive Director; Dr. Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive; Adam Stull, HCAC Board President; Jessica Feldmark, Maryland State Delegate; Pam Lanham Guzzone, Maryland State Delegate; Dr. Clarence Lam, Maryland State Senator. (HCAC Photo)

It was a pleasure to welcome so many artists and arts supporters to our Annual Meeting & Grant Awards Ceremony on September 22, 2023. More than 130 guests were on hand as we reflected on the past year's achievements and looked forward to another year supporting local community artists and arts organizations.

For Fiscal Year 2024, \$646,740 in grants were presented to 24 Howard County organizations, 13 Howard County public schools, and 12 Baltimore City arts and cultural organizations in support of general operations, artist residencies, and special projects in the arts. Congratulations to all our FY2024 grantees! For a list of FY2024 grant recipients and more information on the grant programs offered by the Arts Council, visit hocoarts.org.

LOOKING FOR A SUMMER ARTS JOB?

The Arts Council is accepting applications for paid camp counselor positions and unpaid volunteer positions for our 2024 summer camps. Counselors must be 18 by June 15, 2024; volunteers must be 15 by September 1, 2024. To apply, visit hocoarts.org. Applications open on February 1 with a deadline of March 30, 2024.



2023 Summer Arts Camp staff member and camper (HCAC photo)