

Howard County Arts & Culture Plan: Shaping the Future of the Arts in HoCo

The Howard County Arts Council and County Executive Calvin Ball officially kicked off the Howard County Arts & Culture Plan on January 23 with a press announcement in Montebaro Hall at the Horowitz Visual & Performing Arts Center at Howard Community College.

Howard County's previous comprehensive Arts & Culture Plan was last updated in 2003. Over the past 20 years, the county has grown substantially and experienced significant shifts in population and demographics, changing the demands for arts and culture experiences along with the needs of artists and arts organizations. The new Howard County Arts & Culture Plan aims to inventory existing arts and culture assets in the County, identify strategies to grow and engage creative resources, guide future investments in the sector, and address the changing needs of the diverse local arts and culture communities.

Over the next two years, the Arts Council will work with a 31-person steering committee, made up of local community leaders, and Designing Local, a firm specializing in arts and culture planning, to capture a shared vision for the future role of arts and culture in our community.

(bottom row, right to left) HoCo Arts Executive Director Coleen West, Council member Opel Jones, Maryland State Arts Council Executive Director Steven Skerritt-Davis, County Executive Calvin Ball, and Council member Christiana Mercer Rigby with the HoCo Arts & Culture Plan Steering Committee (HoCo Arts photo)



Make your voice heard – Community engagement activities will begin this spring through interviews, listening sessions, community surveys, and other channels. Visit hocoarts.org to learn how you can get involved.

Register for Spring Classes – Spring arts classes at HoCo Arts begin April 5. A complete schedule is available at hocoarts.org/classes or call (410) 313-2787.

New Look, Same Great Programming!

The Arts Council was thrilled to launch a brand-new website and updated logo on January 16! Our new logo and bold new colors reflect the vibrant arts community we serve. In addition to our updated look, our website has been reorganized and streamlined to make it easier than ever to find classes and camps, exhibit opportunities, grant guidelines, and all the other programming the Arts Council offers. Even though we may look a little different, you can still count on the Arts Council to provide the same great programs and support all the arts in Howard County! Check out our new website at hocoarts.org.

Summer Art Camp Registration Now Open

Fill your child's summer with creative fun when you sign them up for camp. Choose from nine one-week full- or half-day sessions for students entering grades K-7. Extended care is also available. Camp will run June 23-August 22. For complete details and to register, visit hocoarts.org/camp.

Artists' Block

HoCo Arts General Exhibit Program

Are you a visual artist or curator looking for a place to exhibit your work? The Arts Council is seeking artwork in all mediums to include in upcoming exhibits. Individual artists, curators, and arts groups interested in presenting in a group exhibit 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 available in the Exhibits & Programs section at hocoarts.org.

Rising Star Performing Arts Competition

Calling performing artists between ages 18 and 35 who live, work, perform, or train in Howard County! Enter to win a \$5,000 cash prize in the Rising Star Performing Arts Competition. Up to ten performing artists/small ensembles will be selected as finalists. Each finalist will perform their piece at the Arts Council's annual Celebration of the Arts gala on October 25, 2025. Following the performances, the audience casts their votes for the winner of the \$5,000 Rising Star Performing Artist Award. **Applications are due May 1.** Learn more and apply at hocoarts.org/celebration.



Paint It! Ellicott City 2025

Applications are due April 14 from artists who wish to be considered for the juried portion of our annual plein air paint-out, to be held June 5-8 in Historic Ellicott City. Visit the Exhibits & Programs section at hocoarts.org for more information and to apply.

2024 Rising Star Winner Angelina Lim
(photo by Katie Simmons-Barth)

Courthouse Renovation Update: A New Home for HoCo Arts

Demolition is complete and renovations are underway at the former Circuit Courthouse in Old Ellicott City! Arts Council staff were able to get a sneak peek on a hard hat tour at the end of last year and we are happy to report that lots of progress has been made. The former courtrooms are well on their way to being transformed into a black box theatre, dance studio, and galleries. The judges' chambers and office have been gutted to make way for artists studios and non-arts organizations. And throughout the facility, walls and ceilings have come down to open the space and create a welcoming new home for the arts.

The former Courthouse will be transformed into an 80,000-square-foot center dedicated to arts, culture, and history. The renovated facility will house the Howard County Arts Council, the long awaited Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Cultural Center, the County's award-winning Roving Radish program, and a Shared Commercial Kitchen space.

To stay up to date on our progress, visit hocoarts.org/hcac-relocation.



Aerial view of the former Circuit Courthouse
(photo courtesy of Howard County Government)

28th annual Celebration of the Arts

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, October 25, 2025 | 6-10pm
Howard Community College
Horowitz Visual & Performing Arts Center

Call for Howie Award Nominations – Due April 7
Celebrate those who create, teach, and support the arts in Howard County by nominating an Outstanding Artist, Outstanding Arts Educator, and/or Outstanding Community Supporter of the Arts (business or individual) at hocoarts.org/celebration.



Navigating Tendrils by Gina Pierleoni
(courtesy of The Light Ekphrastic)

Upcoming Exhibits at HoCo Arts

Gallery I: Resident Visual Artists Exhibit 2025
Gallery II: The Light Ekphrastic

April 11-May 24 | Reception: April 25, 6-8pm

Our annual Resident Visual Artists Exhibit showcases recent artwork by artists with studios at the Center for the Arts: Esteban Benson, Phill Branch, Cheri Glover (Resident Emerging Artist), Andres Gomez, Sherry Jankiewicz, Myungsook Ryu Kim, Diana Marta, Jillian Roper, Lisa Scarbath, Jereme Scott, Andrei Trach, Jamie Travers, Mary Jo Tydlacka, and David Zuccarini.

The Light Ekphrastic is a non-profit quarterly online journal dedicated to the creation of new written and visual artworks through collaboration between artists. Curated by founder and editor Jenny O'Grady, with Melissa Penley Cormier, this exhibit celebrates the completion of over 50 issues of *The Light Ekphrastic* and features works by artists who have contributed over the years.

On View at HoCo Arts

Gallery I: Youth Art Month
February 14-March 30 | Reception: March 5, 5-7pm

Presented through an ongoing partnership between Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) and the Arts Council, our annual salon-style Youth Art Month exhibit features hundreds of works by HCPSS students in grades K-12 from public school art classes throughout the county.

Gallery II: In Full Bloom
Howard County Arts Council
February 14-March 30

Exhibits are on view at the following locations:

- Bain 50+ Center
- Blossoms of Hope
- DoodleHATCH
- East Columbia 50+ Center
- Ellicott City 50+ Center
- Gary J. Arthur Community Center
- Historic Savage Mill
- Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center
- North Laurel Community Center
- The Artists' Gallery of Ellicott City



Tideless Love by Myungsook Ryu Kim
(courtesy of artist)

- The Bernice Kish Gallery at Slayton House
- The Collective Offshore and Encore
- The Rouse Company Foundation Gallery at Howard Community College



Patrons attend the Youth Art Month 2024 exhibit (HoCo Arts photo)

Blossoms of Hope Art Show

To celebrate their 20th anniversary, Blossoms of Hope is presenting a countywide exhibit featuring artwork inspired by the pink and white cherry blossoms. Through March, locations across the county – including the Arts Council – are hosting exhibitions and receptions featuring over 500 works of art. To learn more about the exhibit and Blossoms of Hope, please visit blossomsofhope.org.



Howard County Arts Council

8510 High Ridge Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Phone: (410) 313-2787
MD Relay: 711



**Apply for Paint It!
2025 Juried Exhibit!**
(See inside for details)

*Paint It! 2024 Artist
Amanda Milliner
(HoCo Arts photo)*

Apply for FY26 Grants – Grants are available for arts organizations, PTAs, arts-related projects and more! Interested applicants should review full guidelines at hocoarts.org/grants. Applications are due soon: Community Arts Development Grant *May 8*, Artists-in-Education Grant *June 5*, Creative Howard *April 1* Howard County Youth Poet Laureate *April 24*.

Howard County Arts Council

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Gallery Hours

Monday-Friday 10am-8pm
Saturday 10am-4pm | Sunday 12-4pm
CLOSED: April 20 and May 26

Become a Member – The arts need your support more than ever! Help advance and support the arts in Howard County through exhibitions, scholarships, advocacy, and more by becoming a member at hocoarts.org.