


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application to the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) for funding, in the amount of \$5,000, for the Local Government Challenge Grant Program. The grant application deadline is April 1, 2011.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit a grant application, in the amount of \$5,000, to the Virginia Commission for the Arts' Local Government Challenge Grant Program; and
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts (ACA) fully endorses the application submission.

DISCUSSION: The City has received the maximum amount of funds awarded through the Virginia Commission for the Arts' Local Government Challenge Grant Program for 31 out of the past 32 years that this program has been in operation. Through the Local Government Challenge Grant Program, the VCA will match funds, up to \$5,000. Independent town, city, and county governments are eligible to apply for funding in this category.

For Fiscal Year 2012, the City is seeking \$5,000, the current maximum permitted in the VCA's Local Government Challenge Grant category. The grant application is due April 1, 2011. These funds, if awarded to the City, are to be allocated to the arts organizations and artists who have submitted requests for funding to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts for Fiscal Year 2012. Included in the application is a description of each artist and organization proposed to receive VCA funding.

The Arts Commission's Grant Program is modeled after the Virginia Commission for the Arts Grant Program. In August, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts provides written guidelines to all potential applicants. Grant workshops are conducted in September and October. Applications are due the third Friday in November and submitted online to the Arts Commission. In January and February, the Resource Panels for Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts, Literature and Interdisciplinary, subordinate bodies of the ACA, conduct interviews with each grant applicant.

The Arts Commission holds a Public Review of the applications and conducts a formal action meeting in March or April. After the adoption of the City budget, confirmation letters with funding levels are sent to successful applicants. All applicants receiving funding from the Commission are required to submit a Final Report within 30 days after the project is completed. The Commission's Conflict of Interest Policy is enforced to ensure the highest standards of personal integrity and honesty and to uphold the principles of fairness in the decision-making process regarding potential allocation of public funds.

The distribution of the grant award is determined by the history of funding and the size of the operating budget for each organization. Should the full award of \$5,000 be granted by the VCA and should the Alexandria Commission for the Arts recommend funding, distribution to the arts organizations will be as follows:

Alexandria Choral Society	\$200
Alexandria Harmonizers	\$300
Alexandria Performing Arts Association	\$200
Alexandria Singers	\$200
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra	\$300
The Art League	\$300
Choreographers Collaboration Project	\$200
Arts Resource Foundation/Del Ray Artisans	\$200
EcoVoce	\$200
Eclipse Chamber Orchestra	\$300
First Night Alexandria	\$300
Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center	\$200
Jane Franklin Dance Company	\$200
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre	\$200
MetroStage	\$300
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association	\$200
Port City Playhouse	\$200
Quintango	\$200
Virginia Opera	\$300
Washington Balalaika Society	\$200
Washington Philharmonic Orchestra	\$300
Total	\$5,000

Although the distribution results in small awards to the arts groups, the impact can be much greater. With these awards, arts groups can promote the fact that they are a recipient of funds from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and its funder, the National Endowment for the Arts. This “seal of approval” can often help arts groups leverage additional dollars.

The grant award is provided in two payments. The first payment is 85% of the award and includes a partial amount from the City appropriation and all of the Virginia Commission for the Arts funds. The final payment of 15% of the grant award is released after the ACA receives a successful Final Report.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts’ funds represent less than 3% of the total funds available for the Grant Program of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Virginia Commission for the Arts provides up to \$5,000. The City has identified 100% matching funds as the cash match in the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Fiscal Year 2012 proposed operating budget.

In addition, the City is also responsible for normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the administering agency (the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities) as well as the Office of Management and Budget and the Finance Department. It should be noted that no monies are available in the City’s Budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended.

The grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal office hours.

STAFF:

James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA)

Alisa Carrel, Deputy Director, RPCA/Office of the Arts

Cheryl Anne Colton, Regional Program Director, RPCA/Office of the Arts

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2-22-11

1. 2011-2012 Local Government Challenge Grant

2. Applicant: City of Alexandria, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3999

3. Telephone: (703) 746-5588; **Email:** aca@alexandriava.gov;
URL: www.AlexandriaCommissionForTheArts.org

4. Federal Employer ID Number: 54-6001103

5. Contact Person: Cheryl Anne Colton, Regional Program Director, Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities/Office of the Arts

6. Amount of VCA Assistance Requested for Fiscal Year 2011-2012: \$5,000

7. Proposed Local Government Arts Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2011-2012: \$179,937.00

8. List of local independent arts organizations who will receive Commission grant money as a subgrant:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Mailing Address/Contact Person</u>	<u>Proposed VCA Grant Share</u>
Alexandria Choral Society	Michael Gale P.O. Box 406, Alexandria, VA 22313	\$200
Alexandria Harmonizers	Martin Banks P.O. Box 11274, Alexandria, VA 22312	\$300
Alexandria Performing Arts Association	George Chadwick P.O. Box 1925, Alexandria, VA 22313	\$200
Alexandria Singers	Arthur P. Brill, Jr. P.O. Box 6151, Alexandria, VA 22306	\$200
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra	Adrien Finley 2121 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA 22314	\$300
The Art League	Linda Hafer 105 N. Union St., Alexandria, VA 22314	\$300
Arts Resource Foundation /Del Ray Artisans	Randy Scheessele, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave, Alexandria, VA 22314	\$200
Choreographers Collaboration Project	Mary Jo Smet 904 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA 22301	\$200

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Mailing Address/Contact Person</u>	<u>Proposed VCA Grant Share</u>
EcoVoce	Denise Freeland 917 Crestwood Dr., Alexandria, VA 22302	\$200
Eclipse Chamber Orchestra	Jane Kratovil 2308 Mt. Vernon Ave., #731, Alexandria, VA 22312	\$300
First Night Alexandria	Ann Dorman 421 King St, Ste 300, Alexandria, VA 22314	\$300
Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center	Michel Jankowski 105 N. Union St, Alexandria, VA 22314	\$200
Jane Franklin Dance Company	Jane Franklin 3700 S. Four Mile Run Dr, Arlington, VA 22206	\$200
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre	Kathy Harty Gray P.O. Box 3291, Alexandria, VA 22302	\$200
MetroStage	Carolyn Griffin 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria, VA 22314	\$300
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association	Twig Murray 201 Prince St, Alexandria, VA 22314	\$200
Port City Playhouse	Ron Fields P.O. Box 19507, Alexandria, VA 22320	\$200
Quintango	Joan Singer 812 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302	\$200
Virginia Opera	Laura Wigginton P.O. Box 2580, Norfolk, VA 23501	\$300
Washington Balalaika Society	June Whelan 400 Madison St., #609, Alexandria, VA 22314	\$200
Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic	Ulysses S. James P.O. Box 120, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121-0120	<u>\$300</u>
		Total \$5,000

9. What is the process for awarding the above grants? Who is involved in making these decisions? What criteria are sought in evaluating applicants?

Six Step Granting Process: 1) Applications reviewed by staff; 2) Applications reviewed by Resource Panel members who meet with applicants then make recommendations for full, partial or no funding; 3) Commissioners review all application packets and hold a public hearing; 4) Commissioners hold a formal action meeting to vote on conditional funding levels; 5) Commission communicates conditional funding levels to applicants and City Council; 6) After adoption of City Budget usually held in May, confirmation letters are sent to applicants. All applicants are required to complete a final report form.

Review Criteria: Due to the reduction of grant funding, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts voted to only solicit for *City Arts Operational Support Grant* and *City Arts Project Grant to Organizations*. To ensure consistency of the evaluation process, Grant Panel Review Guidelines were established and will be implemented during the Fiscal Year 2012 grant cycle. (Grant Application, Attachment 1.)

The Conflict of Interest Policy is enforced through the granting process to ensure the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness and honesty in discharging public trust and to uphold the principles of fairness in all decision-making processes regarding potential recipients of public funds.

Attach a copy of the list of your current board members, if a board is involved in making funding decisions. (Grant Application, Attachment 2.)

10. A brief description of each arts organizations/artists which is proposed to receive Commission assistance through the Local Government Challenge Grant Fiscal Year 2009-2010. (Grant Application, Attachment 3.)

12. Signed Certification of Assurance Form. (Grant Application, Attachment 4.)

Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Guidelines for Grant Application Review and Resource Panel Meetings

To promote fairness in our evaluations of grant applications, the Commission is seeking to improve consistency in the way grant resource panels evaluate and rank grantees. Rankings have important fiscal consequences for grantees, and evaluation needs to be done *fairly, accurately, constructively, and respectfully*. Keep in mind that reviewers' comments on critique forms are public documents.

Grant applications should stand on their own; that is, all information needed by panels to make decisions should be included in the application. Resource panel meetings should not, therefore, review the entire application, but rather focus on questions, clarification, and any new information grantees wish to add since the application was submitted. For example, some groups may not have their entire yearly program scheduled by the time applications are due, so they may want to update the panel if their programs are now complete.

Below are some guidelines and questions to help panel members in the review process.

Criteria for Review

Impact on the City. The Commission wants to ensure that grants, supported by Alexandria tax funds, benefit the Alexandria community, so this criterion is given the most weight. To judge impact on the City, reviewers can consider the following.

- Audience numbers. How many people attend, view, or participate in the grantee's work?
- Does the grantee provide an opportunity otherwise unavailable in the City?
- Does the grantee serve a population not served by other arts organizations?
- Does the grantee make an effort to connect with other City organizations and groups?
- Does the grantee demonstrate attempts at community outreach?

Artistic excellence. This is the most subjective area, but, in addition to their own views, reviewers can look for evidence that the grantee's work has been recognized with awards, media reviews, an established audience following, success in juried competitions, etc.

Management, Financial, Marketing and Fund-Raising: In these areas, it's important to look for congruence among plans and resources.

- Do finances, marketing, and fund-raising plans match the grantee's ability to carry out the plans successfully?
- Are their programmatic plans realistic, given available and expected resources?
- Are there anomalies that raise questions: large differences in expenditures or revenue from year to year, management or board turmoil, fund-raising expenditures not commensurate with funds raised, etc.?

Two items not on the current critique forms also need careful attention.

- **Extenuating circumstances.** The Commission understands that things don't always go as planned. Has the grantee had unexpected problems, issues, or good fortune that can account for anomalies in their application? For example, an unexpected donation might show up as a surprising increase in revenue, or departure of staff or board members may account for an inability to raise matching funds as planned. Such items should be clarified during the panel meeting if not well explained in the application.
- **Goals.** In recent years, the Commission has asked grantees to set at least one yearly goal that will help them to advance and sustain their work. Set by grantees, these goals are intended to be helpful to them, achievable, and measurable. For example, a goal of increasing audience by 5 percent is a useful, measurable goal, while "building our audience" is too vague and not measurable. Reviewers should look for progress on last year's goals and realistic goals for next year. If grantees have not made progress on their goal for the previous year, ask for an explanation.

Procedures

- **Resource Panel Meetings.** Panel members should prepare for the meeting by reviewing applications, grantees' previous year summary reports, and final reports, determining preliminary rankings for the criteria and noting any questions they want to ask grantees. At the beginning of the panel meeting, or before meeting with each grantee, panels should discuss the application briefly to identify issues or questions to focus on in the meeting. We recommend scheduling a minimum of one-half hour for each grantee. The chair should appoint a timekeeper to ensure that all grantees are given the same amount of time. After discussions, the panel should determine final scores for each grantee.
- **Conflict of interest.** Chairs should discuss this with panel members at the beginning of the meeting and have them sign conflict of interest forms. A conflict of interest generally exists if panel members are officers, board members, or very active members of a grantee organization. No conflict exists if one is simply a member or patron of an organization. Panel members should err on the side of caution; grantees must be confident that decisions are not been influenced by special relationships. If a conflict exists, panel members must recuse themselves: they cannot participate in the discussion, ask questions, or vote on the grantee's application.
- **Reporting.** The panel chair submits a summary report to City staff once the panel completes its work. Critique forms must be given to the panel chair at the end of the meeting. Panel summary reports are mailed to each applicant. Critique forms and summaries are public documents, and grantees can request to see them. Panel members' comments should be written with this in mind.

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
LISTING OF COMMISSIONERS**

Grant Application, Attachment 2.

NAME OF COMMISSIONER / EMAIL ADDRESS	TERM Begins (B) Ends (E)	TELEPHONE / FAX	POSITIONS APPOINTED BY COUNCIL
Terrell Vaughn Ambrose 480 Naylor Place Alexandria, VA 22304 Email: vaughnambrose@mac.com	B-06/23/2009 E-12/08/2012	H - 703-823-1841 O - 703-622-0307	Member Expertise: Arts Education/Business
Barbara Boehm 428 Argyle Drive Alexandria, VA 22305 Email: barbx@yahoo.com	B-11/28/2006 E-11/24/2012	H - 703-838-6265 O - 202-336-8684	Member Expertise: Member at Large
Leisa Collins 105 N. Alfred St, #3 Alexandria, VA 22314 Email: leisa@leisacollins.com	B-12/14/2010 E-11/24/2012	H- 703-598-7360 O- 703-598-7360	Member Expertise: Arts Discipline
Sydney-Chanele Dawkins 718 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314 Email: sydneyfierce@aol.com	B-11/19/2008 E-11/23/2013	H - 703-835-7922 O - 703-835-7922	Member Expertise: Arts Discipline
Karen Conkey 325 North Patrick St. Alexandria, VA 22314 Email kconkeyaia@gmail.com	B- 01/11/2011 E- 01/11/2013	H - 703- 519-3748 O - 703 589-4550	Member Expertise: Arts Discipline
Donna Fowler 8 West Chapman Street Alexandria, VA 22301 Email: dfowler@mprinc.com	B-09/27/2005 E-12/14/2013	H - 703-684-4515 O - 202-478-1027, 110ext F - 202-466-6996	Member Expertise: Member at Large
Richard Fowler 4801 Kenmore Ave Alexandria, VA 22304 Email: Richard.fowler@pfpac.org	B-12/08/2009 E-12/08.2012	H - 954-448-5780	Member Expertise: Arts Discipline
Jeannie Hodges Fortunach Consulting, Inc. 1 W. Glendale Ave Alexandria, VA 22301 Email: jhodges@fortunachconsulting.com	B-09/11/2007 E-09/14/2013	H - 703-549-1021 O - 703-549-1021 F -	Member with Expertise: Business
Marla Howell 3427 Martha Custis Drive Alexandria, VA 22302 E-mail: mlhowe1@juno.com	B-09/12/2004 E-04/27/2013	H - 703-575-8758 O - 301-464-1400 F - 301-464-4776 Cell:703-402-7076	Member Expertise: Member at Large
Kasey Kraft 6 West Alexandria Ave Alexandria, VA 22301 Email: violinkase@comcast.net	B-05/25/2010 E-05/25/2013	H - 703-519-7096 O - 703798-0985	Member Expertise: High School Student
David Martin 6925 Quander Road Alexandria, VA 22307 E-mail: david@goldworksusa.com	B-05/26/2009 E-03/23/2013	H - 703-768-8355 O - 703-683-0333	Member Expertise: Business
Patricia Miller 404 Laverne Avenue Alexandria, VA 22305 Email: pmiller1806@comcast.net	B-04/27/2004 E-04/27/2013	H - 703-683-2570 O - 703-683-2905 F -703- cell:703-258-4516	Member Expertise: Business
Eileen O'Brien 719 Timber Branch Parkkway, Alexandria, VA 22302 E-Mail: eilecnob@usa.net	B-11/14/2006 E-11/25/2011	H - 703.548-7182 O - 703.548-1347	Member Expertise: Member at Large

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

Grant Application, Attachment 2.

Ross Simons
Simons and Associates
502 Robinson Court
Alexandria, Virginia 22302
simons.ross@gmail.com

B-02/10/2009 H- 703-836-4833
E-04/27/2013 O - 703-836-4833

Member Expertise:
Business

Reba Winstead
409 E. Mason Ave
Alexandria, VA 22301
Email: rebawinstead@yahoo.com

04/27/2010 H - 703-548-5113
04/27/2013 O - 703-967-8205

Member Expertise:
Business

Margaret Wohler
103 East Nelson Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
Email: wohler4@verizon.net

B-02/15/2007 H - 703- 549-6342
E-11/25/2011

Member Expertise:
Member at Large

***VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS REQUEST:
ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS***

APPLICANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012: Description of Arts Organizations in Alexandria

*ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY: Founded in 1970, the Alexandria Choral Society (ACS) aspires to enhance the cultural and musical life of the City of Alexandria and surrounding communities. The Alexandria Choral Society requests funding from The Alexandria Commission for the Arts for general operating support for our 42nd season. This will allow the Alexandria Choral Society to continue to enhance the cultural and artistic life of the city of Alexandria with performances of American music and other repertoire audiences cannot hear elsewhere in the Washington-area musical community.

*ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS: Incorporated in 1948, the Harmonizers' mission is to perpetuate a unique American institution, the barbershop quartet; to promote and encourage vocal harmony and good fellowship; to encourage and promote the education of its members and the public in music appreciation; to initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects; and, to promote public appreciation of barbershop harmony. For FY 2010-2011 the Harmonizers will expand Youth In Harmony program featured our Third Annual Youth Harmony Festival and a new youth chorus – Capital Force – destined to compete at the International contest level.

*ALEXANDRIA PERFORMING ARTS ASSOCIATION: Founded in 1968, the Alexandria Performing Arts Association (APAA) provides musical programs with careful consideration of the music selection with factors that the music can be competently performed by its singers, and that the music reflects a wide range of musical styles and cultural traditions. APAA will use funds for operational support of the organization.

*ALEXANDRIA SINGERS: Established in 1975, the Alexandria Singers offer an opportunity for singers to perform "lighter" fare of music. The Singers mission is to perform American popular and patriotic music, to inspire new generations of singers, to broaden its reach to include all ages and ethnic groups within the American culture, and to celebrate this musical genre by presenting it locally, nationally, and abroad. Funding The Alexandria Singers again have an exciting season planned for the 2011-12 performance year. In addition to the Holiday and Summer shows, the Singers will again delight audiences with our Cabaret, planned for February 2012, to highlight our singers' solo and small group talents.

*ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Founded in 1943, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) the mission is to provide music of the highest level of artistic excellence to the Greater Alexandria community; to involve the residents of Alexandria, and the City and State officials in the support of the ASO; to organize a full size, professionally paid symphony orchestra; to provide concert opportunities at a convenient location and at competitive admission fees; and to provide qualified musicians with playing opportunities and top quality direction, all with the leadership and supervision of its Board of Trustees. ASO will present a 2011-2012 season of activities that will range from bringing star soloists to Alexandria (Midori, Richard Stoltzman) to the presentation of core symphonic works throughout the year. Building future audiences for the ASO and the arts in general, remains a primary goal of ASO operations. The ASO will collaborate once again with partner arts groups from around the greater Washington, DC region: Alexandria Performing Arts Association, Alexandria Choral Society, Metropolitan Chorus, local chapter of the American Liszt Society.

***VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS REQUEST:
ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS***

APPLICANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012: Description of Arts Organizations in Alexandria

*THE ART LEAGUE: Established in 1954, The Art League, Inc. is a multi-faceted service organization for visual artists operating exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. In 1974, The Art League played a major role in the establishment of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Serving over 2400 visual artists, the League has three distinctive thrusts to its operations: its gallery, store and school. The League's mission is to develop artists through education, exhibition, and provide a stimulating and supportive environment, while sharing the experience of the visual arts with the community. The League is requesting funding to provide general operating support, which will help meet costs related to The Art League's educational, exhibition, and outreach programming.

*ARTS RESOURCE FOUNDATION/DEL RAY ARTISANS: The Arts Resource Foundation/Del Ray Artisans (DRA) founded in 1992 as a community art center to host exhibitions, slide lectures, classes, workshops and receptions, and to introduce new audiences to fine and functional art. Funding is requested to help support the Del Ray Artisans operations and to foster opportunities: for original visual arts exhibits promoting outstanding artistry; for outrageous events which raise both funds and the public's opinions of art; to orchestrate arts-related workshops; and to create outreach programs for the community.

*CHOREOGRAPHERS COLLABORATION PROJECT: Founded in 1998 and incorporated in 2001, the Choreographers Collaboration Project (CCP), a modern dance company works with both professional dancers and community members to create innovative works for dancers of all ages. CCP proposes to create "The Science Project," a series of dances based on various scientific concepts or theories. CCP plans to work with science teachers from T.C. Williams, Minnie Howard, and G.W. Middle School as well as professional scientists and perform the dances as works in progress in fall 2011 and at T.C. Williams or G.W. Middle School in spring 2012. We are interested in incorporating to the maximum extent possible the students and CCP young dancers

*ECOVOCE: Created in 1998, EcoVoce is a performing arts ensemble dedicated to raising ecological awareness through professional vocal concerts for the general public, schools and universities, nature center, and family audiences. The "Eco" part of the name comes from the word ecology and "Voce" is the Italian word for voice. EcoVoce seeks operational funding to help support its primary activity of performing concerts. EcoVoce is a unique music ensemble of soprano, flute, and piano whose specialty is music about nature and the earth. Most programs feature music by living composers, and include visual images and poetry for a creative and uplifting concert experience.

*ECLIPSE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: The Eclipse Chamber Orchestra (ECO) was founded in 1992 by the orchestra's Music Director and Conductor, Ms. Sylvia Alimena. It was founded primarily to enhance the visibility of the National Symphony Orchestra members in the community and to make accessible the highest quality of concert performance to listeners of every economic level. Funding will assist with funding ECO's Subscription Series, a set of three chamber music concerts that reach out directly to the citizens of Alexandria. These concerts, which are held at The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, feature world-class performances of chamber music selections performed by the Orchestra's virtuoso membership.

**VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS REQUEST:
ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS**

APPLICANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012: Description of Arts Organizations in Alexandria

*FIRST NIGHT ALEXANDRIA: First Night Alexandria, formed in 1993 and debuted in 1994, its mission is to broaden and deepen the public's appreciation of the arts through a diverse and entertaining program that offers a cultural experience that is accessible, affordable and safe for all. First Night performers are paid and all First Night performance venues are non-alcoholic. Funding will assist with the annual First Night that provides over 30+ stages in 20+ buildings with 70+ performing acts and fireworks at midnight. First Night Alexandria routinely provides complimentary admission to children 12 and under, active military personnel and to disadvantaged families in this City.

*FRIENDS OF THE TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER: Founded in 1982, the Friends' mission is to promote the Torpedo Factory Arts Center as a vital part of the City of Alexandria and the greater Washington Metropolitan area. The Friends fulfill their mission by building connections among the Center, its artists (in partnership with the Torpedo Factory Artists Association, a separate entity) and the community. Funding from the Commission will assist the Friends to expand the administrative support and funding of new program or event to permit development of additional arts programming.

*JANE FRANKLIN DANCE COMPANY: Founded in 1995, Jane Franklin Dance blends dance, theatre and humor which celebrate the splendid, scatter-brained, thoughtful and sublime moments of life. Funding is requested to create performances for children and engage young audiences while stimulating interest in language arts and reading. The Athenaeum and Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association will provide venues so Jane Franklin can present 2 different weekends of programming for children; both programs adapted from books by local authors. Jane Franklin will also bring these performances to 3 Alexandria schools. Performances and workshops for older adults take place in accessible venues, Senior Centers, or Retirement communities. **Forty +**, a performing group of older adults, is the core for our programming for older adults. Jane Franklin is partnering with a new organization, Mt. Vernon At Home, and they plan to build partnerships with Retirement homes and Senior Service Centers in the City of Alexandria.

* KATHY HARTY GRAY DANCE THEATRE: Founded in 1978, and granted non-profit status in 1993, the Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre's (KHGDT) mission is preserve, advance and share classic American Modern Dance. KHGDT's company currently has 15 dances in residence at the Northern Virginia community College (NVCC), Alexandria Campus. This partnership between KHGDT and NVCC, established in 1994, is the best possible combination of instruction, performance, and preservation of traditional American Modern Dance in a unique campus setting for community enrichment and outreach. KHGDT performances have ranged from in-school lecture-demonstrations to festivals such as the *Piccolo Spoleto Festival* in Charleston, S.C. to the regular series of formal and informal concerts at NVCC. KHGDT requests funding for general operations and includes performances and outreach activities for the greater Alexandria community.

***VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS REQUEST:
ALEXANDRIACOMMISSIONFORTHEARTS***

APPLICANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012: Description of Arts Organizations in Alexandria

*METROSTAGE: Established in 1984, MetroStage is a professional, non-profit theatre company dedicated to producing traditional and contemporary plays, by established and emerging playwrights, which are chosen for their social, political, literary, and entertainment value. When MetroStage is not in production, it provides production assistance to other non-profit arts groups that use the stage. Funding will assist MetroStage in presenting a season of plays and musicals in its 130 seat theatre in North Old Town Alexandria. They include original works and a mix of classic and a contemporary. MetroStage is noted for its diverse season and the award-winning artists that are showcased on its stage and in its productions.

*NORTHERN VIRGINIA FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION: Founded in 1961, the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA) is the only nonprofit, independently owned visual arts space in Alexandria with year-round, high quality exhibits of both contemporary and historic artists. The mission of NVFAA is to promote education, appreciation, participation, and the pursuit of excellence in all forms of art, and to establish and operate programs enriching the cultural life of Northern Virginia and the metropolitan area. As the primary site for these activities, the Association owns and maintains the historic building called The Athenaeum. The request for funding is to support operational activities which include a year-round program of visual arts, performing arts, dance instruction and other arts and educational activities at the Athenaeum in Old Town Alexandria.

* PORT CITY PLAYHOUSE: Founded in 1977, Port City Playhouse's mission is to produce theatre: a living art form of cultural concern intended to be witnessed. Of the many varieties of theatre, Port City Playhouse concentrates on producing theatre which has thematic urgency. Port City Playhouse strives to select plays which rarely or never have been performed in the Alexandria community, or plays of such historical importance that they should be performed in the community. Funding will assist with bringing significant and positive changes to Port City Playhouse and Alexandria community. Port City's season will be the first in their new and permanent home - the Lab Theatre at Convergence. They will be performing in a theatre designed for our audience community - and, just steps from where Port City Playhouse was born. With less cost for performance space rental, Port City will focus on artistic excellence and serving a broader community.

*QUNITANGO: Founded in 1998, Quintango's mission is to create collaborations between North and South American artists and between these artists and the general public through concert presentations of music and dance, particularly Argentine Tango. Funding for FY 2012 will provide QuinTango with a local focus providing enriching arts programs that bring together Alexandria's diverse communities. Specifically working with disadvantaged students, string players and dance students, QuinTango will provide public programming that reaches out to the city's Latino population, African-American population, the West End immigrant community, seniors and all Alexandria music lovers. The proposal (2011-12), the following activities are proposed: 1)String Tango - a year-long, in-school project with string players at four elementary schools - Polk, Ramsay, Mount Vernon and MacArthur. Using tango music, the students will explore cultural roots, Latin rhythms, the relationship between dance and music, tango performance practices, and the importance of stage presence; 2) Carina Losano, QuinTango's dance director, will lead refresher workshops at Charles Houston, Mount Vernon, Ramsay recreation centers so that student participants will be prepared to participate in the June 9 performance at TC Williams; 3) Tango & Dance with Kathy Harty Gray Dance Company - lecture/demonstrations for dancers and the general public exploring the relationship of Tango & Dance; 4) QuinTango Mad Hot Tango Residency and "Story of Tango Concert" at Ramsay ES, to be sponsored by Washington Performing Arts Society spring 2012. 5) First Night Alexandria - QuinTango will continue to bring quality tango music to Alexandria's First Night.

***VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS REQUEST:
ALEXANDRIACOMMISSIONFORTHEARTS***

APPLICANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012: Description of Arts Organizations in Alexandria

*VIRGINIA OPERA: Now in its 34th Season, Virginia Opera (VO) is known for the musical and dramatic integrity of its productions, its ability to identify and nurture the finest young American operatic talent; and for the ingenuity and variety of its education and outreach programs. VO is requesting funding for in-school opera performances, combining all of the performing arts-music, drama, and dance, are designed according to the age and abilities of elementary, middle and high school students with at least one offering being ethnically and/or historically focused.

*WASHINGTON BALALAIKA SOCIETY: Founded in 1988, the Washington Balalaika Society (WBS) is a community-based organization dedicated to studying, preserving, and performing the rich musical heritage of Russia and Eastern Europe on authentic and traditional folk instruments. It is organized for educational and performance purposes to promote the balalaika and domra and the Balalaika Orchestra as a musical art form. Central to its mission, the Society strives to replicate the folk orchestra typically found in major cities and towns of Russia. With FY 2012 funding, WBS season will build on the many and varied activities that have been successful in recent years. WBS will continue its program of reaching new audiences in Alexandria by continuing the **“WBS Presents”** program at the Lyceum; developing a **major concert** at an Alexandria venue; performing in the **parks** and at **retirement homes**; participating in **community events**; expanding our **outreach to schools** and to younger members of the community; and by working with the Alexandria Arts Forum to plan an event to showcase “arts” in the city.

*WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN PHILHARMONIC: Founded in 1971, the Mount Vernon Chamber Orchestra's (MVCO) mission is to introduce the community, artists and musicians to challenging contemporary and classical music and art. During 2004-2005, in an effort to broaden both their audience and donor base, the MVCO changed its name to the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic (WMP). The WMP Youth Orchestra is composed of auditioned young musicians from middle school through high school. Operational funding will support the WMP's: performances of classical music by adult and student musicians; educational activities; and a composition competition. The grant will fund: performances of classical music by adult and student musicians; educational activities; and a composition competition. The grant will touch musicians of varying ages and abilities in addition to audience members from all walks of life.