

*City of Alexandria, Virginia***MEMORANDUM**

DATE: APRIL 14, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *X*

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF THE ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 (JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008)

ISSUE: Receipt of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts (ACA) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council receive the Annual Report (attached) from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and thank the Commission for its efforts on behalf of the City.

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is a fifteen-member advisory board created by City Council in 1984 to lead and advocate for cultural development within the City and surrounding region. The ACA fulfills this mission in several ways, by distributing a substantial portion of its annual appropriation from the City Council and funds from the Virginia Commission for the Arts to Alexandria-based arts organizations through a grants program and by facilitating communications between arts organizations and the public.

Noted in the Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report, highlights of the ACA's activities and accomplishments include:

- Launched the first Alexandria Film Festival which attracted more than 1,800 people,
- Began implementing the recommendations of the visioning report (the "Lord Report"),
- Led the planning efforts for the Festival of the Arts which attracted more than 60,000 people,
- Expanded the City Galleries to the Beatley Library, Lee Center and the Eisenhower Partnership,
- Created the weekly "Writers Walking Workshop" for National Arts and Humanities Month,
- Led community outreach efforts for the Charles Houston Memorial Public Art Project,
- Recognized four members of the community for their exceptional contributions to the arts at the annual Alex Awards, and
- Supported 27 arts organizations through the grants program which in turn provided numerous performances, exhibits and educational experiences to Alexandria residents and visitors.

ATTACHMENT: Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report for the Alexandria Commission for the Arts

STAFF:

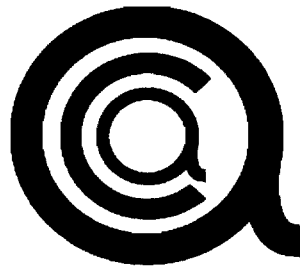
Kirk Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Rich Baier, Interim Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Alisa Carrel, Director, Office of the Arts, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Cheryl Anne Colton, Cultural Arts Administrator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

City of Alexandria



**ALEXANDRIA
COMMISSION
FOR THE ARTS**

Alexandria Commission for the Arts

**FY 2008 Annual Report
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008**



ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

INTRODUCTION:

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is an advisory board created by City Council in 1984. Its mission is to lead and advocate for cultural development in the City of Alexandria. The Commission fulfills this mission by supporting the development and expansion of the arts in Alexandria; serving as an advisory body for the arts in Alexandria; serving as the city's single funding source for the arts; allocating funds to particular arts activities; and seeking national, state, and private support for the arts in Alexandria.

The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of every month from September to June at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center, 1605 Cameron Street.

MEMBERS SERVING DURING FISCAL YEAR 2008:

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is composed of 16 members. Five members are appointed to represent arts consumers; five with expertise in the arts disciplines of dance, literature, music, theater, and visual arts; and five with expertise in arts education, business, cultural tourism, or marketing. In addition, during Fiscal Year 2008, City Council created a Commission position for a high school student.

Patricia Miller, Chair – Expertise: Arts Education and Business
Betsy Anderson – Expertise: Arts Discipline
Jim Allison – Expertise: Arts Discipline
Barb Boehm - Member at Large
Mary H. Chaffe Brooks – Expertise: Arts Education and Business
Terry Ann D'Arcy – Expertise: Arts Discipline
Abigail Dillingham - Student Member
Donna Fowler- Member at Large
Matthew Harwood – Expertise: Arts Discipline
Morgan Hilton – Expertise: Arts Education and Business
Jeannie Hodges – Expertise: Arts Discipline
Marla Howell - Member at Large
Eileen O'Brien - Member at Large
Lynn O'Connell – Expertise: Arts Discipline
Sylvia Saborio – Expertise: Arts Education and Business
Susan Sanders – Expertise: Arts Discipline
Margaret Wohler - Member at Large

CITY STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Cheryl Anne Colton, Cultural Arts Administrator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Patti North-Rudin, Public Art/International Festival Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Executive Summary

The Annual Report of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts illustrates the activities and accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2008.

- The first Alexandria International Film Festival was launched. Held from September 27 – 30, 2007, the festival attracted an audience of more than 1800 people and involved citizens in nearly 2000 hours of volunteer time. The kick-off event at Market Square included a performance by the Alexandria Singers, film previews, and short films by young filmmakers from Mt. Vernon Community and Samuel W. Tucker Elementary Schools. Weekend screenings were held at the Patent and Trademark Building and included films, presentations and discussions.
- More than 150 people gathered on November 2, 2007 at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center for the 2007 Alex Awards. The annual event recognizes significant contributions to the arts by individuals within the community.
- The fourth annual Old Town Festival of the Arts was held on September 12 and 13, 2007. More than 60,000 people attended the Festival including 200 visual artists from around the country. The Commission worked with the Alexandria City Public Schools to exhibit works by Alexandria students and teachers and provide arts activities for young people. The Commission also provided an opportunity for local arts organizations to promote their activities.
- Mary McElveen, Poet Laureate for the City of Alexandria, was invited to create poems to mark historic occasions in the City. In October 2007, McElveen wrote and read “One American High School” for the dedication ceremony of the new TC Williams High School and “Half Turn” for the 2007 Alex Awards. On the occasion of her one-year anniversary as Poet Laureate on June 10, 2007, City Council presented McElveen with a proclamation. In return, she gave Council a framed copy of her inaugural poem, “City of Songs,” to hang in City Hall.
- To celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month, a new program, “Writers Walking Workshop,” was introduced and held each Saturday in October. Participants were encouraged to walk, write, create and share their passion for the literary arts.
- In 2008, for the fourth year, readers of *AmericanStyle* magazine chose Alexandria as one of the Top 25 Arts Destinations for Mid-Sized Cities. Selected cities appeared in the magazine’s June issue, where Alexandria was ranked 12th, rising from 20th place last year.
- The Arts Education Committee began working with TC Williams High School educators to create opportunities for connecting artists, arts organizations and students. As a result, several partnerships have been developed.
- Art in City Hall, a Mayor’s initiative to promote the arts citywide and showcase the talent of local artists, featured three exhibitions during 2007-2008 on the second floor of City Hall. Art in City Hall is a collaboration among The Art League, Del Ray Artisans, Torpedo Factory Artists Association, Springwater Fiber Workshop, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities.

- Three new art galleries were created at the Charles E. Beatley Library, Lee Center and the Eisenhower Partnership offices.
- Implementation of the Lord Report's recommendations began. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts, in partnership with the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, contracted with Lord Cultural Resources to explore options for a new organizational model that would help it fulfill its mission and develop a community-wide vision for the arts in Alexandria.
- In June 2007, City Council endorsed a concept of public art to honor and memorialize Charles Houston and to recognize the historical importance of the former Parker-Gray High School to the community which surrounds the new Charles Houston Recreation Center.
- A Steering Committee consisting of local residents, business representatives, an architect, a sculptor, a member of the Commission's Public Art Committee, and Office of Historic Alexandria staff was established to administer a design competition for the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Park. From 1864 until 1869, the Cemetery was the burial ground for as many as 1800 freedmen – black men, women, and children who escaped slavery and sought refuge in Alexandria during the Civil War
- The Alexandria Commission for the Arts acts as the funding mechanism of the Alexandria City Council in awarding grants to artists and arts organizations. During Fiscal Year 2008, the ACA made \$214,937 in awards, of which \$209,937 was appropriated by the City. \$5,000 came from Virginia Commission for the Arts funds provided through the Local Government Challenge grant program. Through the grants program, the City supported 27 arts organizations with operational, project and technical assistance funds.

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Alexandria International Film Festival

With much anticipation, the first Alexandria International Film Festival was launched in September. The Commission for the Arts collaborated with the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities to bring a new, cutting-edge event to the City. Held from September 27-30, 2007, the festival attracted an audience of more than 1800 and involved citizens in nearly 2000 hours of volunteer time.



The kick-off event at Market Square included a performance by the Alexandria Singers, film previews, and short films by young filmmakers from Mt. Vernon Community and Samuel W. Tucker Elementary Schools. Other shorts shown at the event were "Green Pages," "DeLeon Crossing," "Ferocious Wildlife in a Two-Bedroom," "For Emily," and "Perle."

Weekend showings for the film festival were held at the Patent and Trademark Madison Building. The program was a mix of matinee and evening showings, presentations, and discussions, as follows.

- Presentation and film by Pamela and Jim Viola about the filming of "Black Hawk Down."
- Presentation by Captain Joan Darrah USN (Ret.) and Paul Tschudi, US Army Veteran Spec. 5, and the film "Tell."
- Presentation by Matt Spangler, director, and the film "Out of Obscurity."
- Presentation by Sandy Northrop, documentary filmmaker, and the film "Vietnam: the Next Generation."
- Presentation by Ed Askinazi, filmmaker, and the film "The Last Greeks on Broome Street."
- Presentation by John and Ginger Quinn, parents of director Christopher Quinn and the film, "God Grew Tired of Us: the Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan."
- Presentation by Alexandria resident and Holocaust survivor Charlene Schiff and the film "I Have Never Forgotten You."
- Other films were "The Proposition," "Good Bye, Lenin," "War/Dance," "I am David," and "Churning the Sea of Time--A Journey Up the Mekong to Angkor."



Alex Awards

More than 150 people gathered on November 2, 2007 at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center for the 2007 Alex Awards. This annual event promotes interest and involvement in the arts by recognizing significant contributions to the arts from the local community. Based on the 2007 theme of "Sustainability of Art," Jefferson Houston School for Arts and Academics students created decorations, which included snakes made from ties and animal sculptures made from shoes, all donated by Council members. A raffle of the snakes and sculptures was held to benefit future Alex Awards events. Entertainers for the evening included the Alexandria Country Day School Junkyard Band, the city's Poet Laureate, who wrote a special poem for the event, the Scottish Dancers, Choreographers Collaboration Project, ACPS Orff Ensemble, and the Alexandria Harmonizers.

The 2007 Alex Award winners were:

- Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education: Wesley M. McCune, John Adams Elementary School
- Innovative Partnerships between Business and the Arts: Barbara Brecher and Brecher Design Group
- Excellence in an Artistic Discipline: William Hubbard, MetroStage
- Excellence in Service to the Arts: James C. Fraser, Alexandria Performing Arts Association and Alexandria Arts Forum

Award recipients received a framed monotypes by artist Betsy Anderson and a brass star medallion created by David M. Martin of GoldWorks, Inc.

Chip Brienza, WGMS on-air personality, served as the master of ceremonies. The winners were recognized by Mayor William D. Euille and Pat Miller, chair of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. Major sponsors of the event included: The Honorable William D. Euille, Mayor, City of Alexandria; Redmon, Peyton & Braswell, L.L.P.; A Show of Hands; Del Ray Artisans; First Night Alexandria; Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota; Captain W. Ward Lasley and Mrs. Nancy Lasley; Lynn O' Connell; and Jennifer Walker, McEneaney Associates, Inc.

Old Town Festival of the Arts

For the fourth year, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts led the planning efforts for the 2007 Old Town Festival of the Arts produced by Howard Alan was held on September 12 and 13, 2007. More than 60,000 people attended the 2007 Festival of the Arts. The Festival included 200 visual artists from around the country. The Commission worked with the Alexandria City Public Schools to exhibit works by Alexandria teachers and students and to provide arts activities for young people visiting the Festival. The Commission also provided an opportunity for all Alexandria arts organizations to promote their activities.

Alexandria Poet Laureate

Mary McElveen, Poet Laureate for the City of Alexandria, was invited to create poems to mark historic occasions in the City. In October, 2007, McElveen wrote and read "One American High School" for the dedication ceremony of the new TC Williams High School. "Half Turn" was created for the 2007 Alex Awards. Marking her one-year anniversary as Poet Laureate on June 10, 2007, City Council presented McElveen with a proclamation. In return, she gave Council a framed copy of her inaugural poem, "City of Songs," to hang in City Hall.

Ms. McElveen also participated in numerous activities throughout the year:

- Attending the USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration, the Yockadot Poetics Festival, and an event celebrating the arts sponsored by the Del Ray Artisans.
- Conducting a poetry workshop for developmentally disabled children.
- Working with classes at George Mason Elementary on an 'opera' about the city's role in the Revolution, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.
- Serving as guest speaker during a 2008 Poetry Month event at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School.
- Leading an after-school poetry workshop with second-graders at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School.
- Joining another Alexandria poet to provide a poetry reading at a Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.
- Reading at the 2007 Stories in the Park, a summer library program for toddlers and their parents.
- Speaking and offering poetry workshops in association with the Read Across America Day program at Francis C. Hammond Middle School.
- Judging a "poetry slam" for Mount Vernon Community School in partnership with Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Potomac Yards.
- Serving as a judge and speaker at the City's PTA Reflections contest awards ceremony.
- Attending and speaking at the City's elementary school Poet Laureate competition.
- Serving as a panel member for the Library's Alexandria Authors evening and for Convergence: A Creative Community of Faith at Fair-Park Baptist Church discussion of the work of Gerard Manley Hopkins.
- Being recognized by the Fairfax County Parks and Recreation Department for her poetry workshops at the Hollin Hall Senior Center.

Writers Walking Workshop

To celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month, a new program, “Writers Walking Workshop,” was introduced and held every Saturday in October. Participants were encouraged to walk, write, create, and share their passion for the literary arts. Workshops included:

- October 6, “A Walk of Art” led by Gwen Mayes, Writing Journal Coach.
- October 13, “A Walk with Nature” led by Mark Kelly, City Naturalist.
- October 20, “A Walk for Life” led by Mary McElveen, City Poet Laureate.
- October 27, “A Walk through History – Rediscovering Alexandria’s Free Historic African Americans” led by Pam Cressey, City Archaeologist.

AmericanStyle Magazine Recognizes Alexandria Arts

In 2008, for the fourth year, readers of *AmericanStyle* magazine have chosen Alexandria as one of the Top 25 Arts Destinations for Mid-Sized Cities. Selected cities appeared in the magazine’s June issue, where Alexandria was ranked 12th, rising from 20th place last year. *AmericanStyle* is considered the national arts lifestyle magazine for arts enthusiasts, collectors, and travelers. Now in its 11th year, the *AmericanStyle* annual readers’ poll has become the nation’s premier resource for cultural tourists.



artCHAT

More than 40 people attended the “Arts Picnic/artCHAT” held in July at Fort Ward Park. In December, Lance Mallamo, the new director of the Office of Historic Alexandria spoke at the Holiday Potluck/artCHAT about his vision for the Office and how the arts community can be an integral partner, and the Alexandria Harmonizers treated attendees to a performance. Mary Margaret Schoenfeld, Community Development Manager with Americans for the Arts, was the special guest for the February artCHAT held at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Schoenfeld gave an overview of significant national findings from the Arts and Economic Prosperity III study and highlighted findings for the City of Alexandria. Guest speakers included: Mayor William D. Euille, Stuart Litvin, President/CEO of the Alexandria Economic Partnership, and Pat Miller, Chair of the Commission for the Arts.

The cutting-edge topic of “Social Networking to Grow Arts Audiences” was the focus for the April artCHAT held at MetroStage. Guest panelists were: Susannah Parnin, ArtWhino Gallery director; Dean Browell, director of Public Relations and New Media, Neathawk Dubuque & Packett; Catherine Colosimo, Alexandria Singers; and Matt Pritchard, Computer CORE. The panelists emphasized the practical uses of FACEBOOK, MySpace, You Tube, and Twitter to gain visibility for art organizations and to raise funds, collaborate with artists, and recruit and energize volunteers.

Arts in Education

The Arts Education Committee began working with TC Williams High School educators to create opportunities for connecting artists, arts organizations, and students. As a result, several partnerships have been developed. The Washington Balalaika Society created a partnership with the TC Williams Orchestra for musician exchanges and offered complimentary tickets for the December concert. Other activities included the distribution of complimentary Alexandria Symphony Orchestra tickets for its concerts in November and June, and the Alexandria Harmonizers and the TC Williams Chorus working together to enroll students in the Youth Harmony Explosion workshop. The Campagna Center also held a Summer Youth Mural Project working artist Jorge Perez-Rubio and area high school students.

City Galleries

Art in City Hall

Art in City Hall, a Mayor's initiative to promote the arts citywide and showcase the talent of local artists, held three exhibitions during 2007-2008 on the second floor of City Hall. The first exhibit, held from April 18, 2007 through September 14, 2007, was juried by Norman Parrish, Parrish Gallery of Georgetown, Washington, DC. Parrish made his selections from a variety of submitted works in a different media. Top awards were Best in Show, "Lady of Chaillott," wood carving by Tatyana Schremko; Second Place, "St. Croix Great State Pond," acrylic by Carol Lopatin; and Third Place, "Plum Island Moon," black and white photograph by Carol Hershey. Eighteen honorable mentions also were awarded.



Kathryn Brown, Photographer

The second exhibition, juried by Lillian Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald Fine Arts, was held from October 9, 2007 through March 14, 2008. Fitzgerald selected three top awards "Cowboy Bob," oil painting by Michele Reday-Cook; "Baa! Blue-Faced Leicester Sheep," crochet sculpture by Leslie Blackman; and "Hot Jazz," black and white photograph by Emile De Planque III. Seven honorable mentions also were awarded.

Barbara Wolanin, curator of the Capitol, was the juror for the April 12, 2008 through October 17, 2008 exhibition. Wolanin selected the following awards of merit were granted to "Eve" by Ann Noel (Del Ray Artisans Award); "Tiger Lily" by Marge Holtz (Springwater Fiber Workshop/Alexandria Commission for the Arts Award); "Bugler" by Nina Tisara, (The Art League Award); and "Fall" by Yifei Gan (Torpedo Factory Artists Association Award). Five honorable mentions also were awarded.

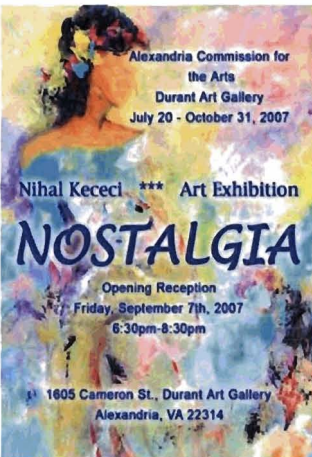
Art in City Hall is a collaboration among the Art League, Del Ray Artisans, Torpedo Factory Artists Association, Springwater Fiber Workshop, the Commission for the Arts, and the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities.

Mayor's, City Council, and City Manager's Galleries

The Mayor's Gallery, located in his conference room, featured Randall H. Cherry's photography from May through January 2008. Student mixed media works from William Ramsay Elementary School were exhibited from January 2008 through July 2008.

City Council Gallery exhibitions included Serge Barylink's photographs from July 2007 through January 2008 and Shauna Lee Lange's acrylic and oils from February through June 2008.

In the City Manager's Gallery on the third floor of City Hall, Barbara Chiminello's oil paintings were shown from May 25 through July 31, 2007. Following this show, Betsy Anderson's monotypes and oil on paper were featured from August 5 through January 6, 2008. Roger Blakeley, deputy director with the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, exhibited his acrylic paintings from March 10 through July 31, 2008.



Durant Center Gallery

Four exhibitions were held at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center Gallery. The first exhibition was "Nostalgia," acrylics and oils by Nihal Kececi, held July 20 through October 31, 2007. "Virginia Landscapes," oils by Wynn Creasey, was held November 1, 2007 through January 2, 2008, and a mixed media exhibition of toddler art, "Art in Hand," was held April 11, 2008 through June 30, 2008. For the first time, the Commission endorsed the Northern Virginia Clay Competition and Exhibition for High School Students shown at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center in April. The Commission recruited students to enter the competition and Renee Altman, the Clay Queen, served as juror for the competition.

"Nostalgia," Nihal Kececi

New Galleries

Three new galleries opened during 2007-2008. The first show of art in the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library featured the works of two Torpedo Factory artists, painter Marian Van Landingham and sculptor Mirella Monti Belshe, from October 13 through December 31, 2007. Belshe's seven-foot "Syncretism" cast-resin and alabaster dust two-sided figure, along with other carved sculptures, greeted visitors in library's entry rotunda. Eight large landscapes by Van Landingham were displayed on library walls. The following two library exhibitions included Tatyana Schremko Schriempf's wooden sculptures, displayed in the rotunda from January 15 through June 30, 2008, and Ann Marie Coolick's acrylics, from February 11 through June 30, 2008.



Marian Van Landingham, artist

With the support of the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, the Lee Center Gallery held its first show with an eclectic mixed media show of artists sponsored by Empowered Women International. More than 100 art works were on display from January 28 through June 30, 2008. Reaching out to Alexandria business community, Betsy Anderson displayed her monotypes and oils at the Eisenhower Partnership offices from March through November 2008.



Lord Cultural Resources, Planning and Management, Inc.

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts, in partnership with the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, contracted with Lord Cultural Resources to help the Commission explore options for a new organizational model that would enable it to better fulfill its mission. The consultant worked with the Commission, community leaders, and citizens in developing a community-wide vision for the arts in Alexandria. The Lord Report, received in late spring of 2007 and placed online for further community input, offered 15 recommendations. The recommendations focused on a vision for the arts; a new mission, strategic plan, and organizational structure for the Commission; and ways to increase funding resources for the arts.

To begin implementation of these recommendations, Jan Day Gravel, president of Janus Development Group, was hired to facilitate the Commission's Community Dialogue on September 18. Forty representatives from the arts community participated and contributed additional input on the report's recommendations. Priorities identified included the creation of a master plan for the arts in Alexandria; development of a funding mechanism or Percent for Arts program; and creation of an affordable cultural facility for the visual and performing arts.

In October, the Commission presented to Mayor William Euille and Councilman Smedberg an overview of the recommendations outlined in the Lord Report and the preliminary insights gathered from the September 18 Community Dialogue. City Council formally received the Lord Report at the January 22 meeting and set a public hearing for February 23. At the public hearing, the Chair of the Commission and several arts representatives testified in support of the report's recommendations and strongly encouraged the City Council to create a funding mechanism or a Percent for Arts program. The Council approved, in concept, the Commission's new mission statement and the recommendations.

A work session with City Council was held on June 10. The Commission gave an overview of the Lord Report recommendations, with a specific focus on the development of a funding mechanism and the creation of a Percent for Arts program. The Commission outlined a set of arts priorities for the City, including incorporating art early in the development process for new building, creating a performing arts venue, developing partnerships with business, creating a fine arts school, and linking the City's history to the arts.

Public Art

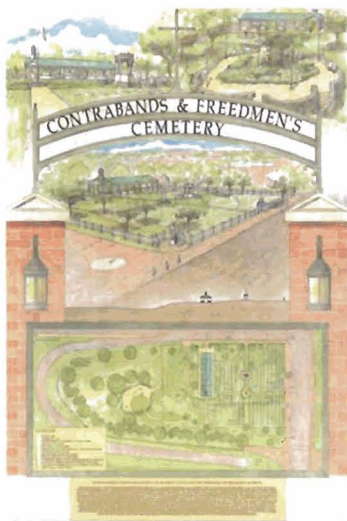
Charles Houston Memorial Public Art Project

In June 2007 City Council endorsed a concept of incorporating into the new Charles Houston Recreation Center a work of public art to honor and memorialize Charles Houston and to recognize the historical importance of the former Parker-Gray High School to the community which surrounds the Center. Members of the Commission for the Arts conducted a series of one-on-one outreach meetings between July 2007 and May 2008 with the Charles Houston Parent Advisory Board, the Parker-Gray Alumni Association, and the Departmental Progressive Club.



Charles Hamilton Houston

The Commission, in partnership with the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, held three public hearings to solicit additional ideas from the community. At these meetings, a slideshow of traditional and non-traditional public memorials was presented. The meetings were held on April 24 at Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center; April 29 at the Alexandria Black History Museum; and as part of the Commission for the Arts regular monthly meeting on May 20, 2008 at the Durant Center. At the June 24 City Council meeting, Council authorized the Commission for the Arts and the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities to proceed with fundraising activities, appoint a Stakeholders Advisory Group to work with the Commission and staff, and appoint a Selection Panel to oversee the design competition and selection of the finalist.



C.J. Howard, 1st Place Winner

Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Park

A Steering Committee consisting of local residents, business representatives, an architect, a sculptor, a member of the Commission's Public Art Committee, and Office of Historic Alexandria staff was established to administer a design competition for the \$1.5 million Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Park. The project honors African Americans and commemorates their sacrifices as they sought freedom. From 1864 until 1869, the Cemetery was the burial ground for as many as 1,800 freedmen — men, women, and children who escaped slavery and sought refuge in Alexandria during the Civil War. It is anticipated that the Memorial Park will be completed by 2010.

In February 2008, the City of Alexandria released the Call for Entries and sought design submissions from architects, landscape architects, artists, students, and other interested individuals.

The City received 176 submissions from individuals and firms from more than 20 countries. The Advisory Panel and Steering Committee selected 12 entries to jury and make available for public view and comments. It is anticipated that the finalist will be announced in early fall 2008.

Sacandaga Totem

On January 22, 2008, City Council received the Commission's recommendation and voted to accept the Alexandria Sculpture Festival's donation of "*Sacandaga Totem*" by John Van Alstine. Throughout the rest of Fiscal Year 2008, members of the Commission for the Arts and Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities staff studied the implementation feasibility for the sculpture.

Additional Public Art Outreach

Matthew Harwood, chair of the Commission's Public Arts Committee, served as a panelist for the Agenda: Alexandria April 28 Program: *Public Art--What is It? How Much Do We Want? and Who Pays for It?* Harwood shared images of some of the City's public and private public art pieces, along with a snapshot of the public art program. Other panel members were Wendy Clark, visual arts specialist, National Endowment for the Arts, and The Honorable Marian Van Landingham, founder of the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

Harwood also provided a presentation on the possible placement of public art along the waterfront to the Alexandria Waterfront Committee. The presentation included information about Percent for Arts and Arts and Cultural Districts. Harwood was also interviewed by Maryland Public Television for the June 18th "ArtWorks This Week" Program.

Members of the Public Art Committee and Commission participated in a series of community meetings for the development of small-area plans, potential public/private art projects, and other planning initiatives that encompassed the following locations: 2321 Mount Vernon Avenue/Citgo Station, President Gerald Ford Memorial Park, Braddock Road Metro Neighborhood and Braddock East Planning, Wayfinding Initiative, and the National Harbor Collaborative.

Grants Program

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts acts as the funding mechanism of the Alexandria City Council in awarding grants to artists and arts organizations. During Fiscal Year 2008, the ACA made \$214,937 in awards, of which \$209,937 was appropriated by the City and \$5,000 came from Virginia Commission for the Arts funds provided through the Local Government Challenge grant program. These funds supported 27 arts organizations through the grants program which in turn provided numerous performances, exhibits and educational experiences to Alexandria residents and visitors.

During Fiscal Year 2008, a series of weighted evaluation criteria for reviewing grant requests was approved by the Commission to increase the importance of the “impact on the City of Alexandria” criteria. The Commission also implemented a requirement that all grantees submit specific goals for advancement or improvement for the funded grant year. These weighted evaluation criteria, the requests for goals, and an online pilot grant program, assisted by the Americans for the Arts, were implemented for Fiscal Year 2009 applicants.

On June 24, a special arts reception was held to recognize the Fiscal Year 2009 grant recipients. Members of City Council and the Commission for the Arts presented award letters to representatives from the 26 arts organizations awarded grants for Fiscal Year 2009.



Front: Mayor William D. Euille, City of Alexandria; Pat Miller, Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts; June Whelan, Washington Balakia Society.
Back: Councilmember Timothy B. Lovain; James K. Hartmann, City Manager; Alan Wile, President, Alexandria Harmonizers.

Recognition of Fiscal Year 2009 Grantees
Fiscal Year 2009 Grant Awards by Grant Program

OPERATING SUPPORT:

Alexandria Choral Society	\$10,337.00
Alexandria Harmonizers	\$12,000.00
Alexandria Performing Arts Association	\$12,300.00
Alexandria Singers	\$11,700.00
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra	\$13,000.00
The Art League	\$13,000.00
Del Ray Artisans	\$11,000.00
EcoVoce	\$ 2,700.00
First Night Alexandria	\$12,500.00
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre	\$10,700.00
Little Theatre of Alexandria	\$12,000.00
MetroStage	\$ 5,000.00
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association	\$11,300.00
Port City Playhouse	\$ 5,000.00
Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic	<u>\$10,500.00</u>
	\$153,037.00

PROJECT GRANT SUPPORT:

Choreographers Collaboration Project	\$ 3,000.00
Eclipse Chamber Orchestra	\$11,200.00
FocusMusic	\$ 1,000.00
Jane Franklin Dance Company	\$ 5,100.00
National Rehabilitation & Rediscovery	\$ 4,500.00
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	\$ 2,000.00
Virginia Opera	\$10,000.00
Washington Balalaika Society	<u>\$ 5,500.00</u>
	\$42,300.00

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Alexandria Harmonizers	\$ 800.00
The Art League	\$ 1,000.00
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre	\$ 1,000.00
MetroStage	\$ 1,000.00
Virginia Bronze Handbells	<u>\$ 800.00</u>
	\$ 4,600.00

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY AWARDS:

Living Legends of Alexandria	\$ 1,000.00
STAMP	\$ 1,000.00
Deviate Theatre	\$ 1,000.00
Alexandria Singers	\$ 1,000.00
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra	\$ 5,000.00
The Art League	\$ 1,000.00
Jane Franklin Dance	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
	\$11,000.00

Total Amount Awarded: \$214,937.00