



VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

2022–2023
Impact Report

Our Mission

To invest in the arts in the
Commonwealth of Virginia.



PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT): teen filming with VCA-grantee Light House Studio; Joe Troop performing at VCA-grantee The Front Porch; ballerinas on tour with VCA-grantee Richmond Ballet; student working in ceramics at VCA-grantee Visual Arts Center; and violinist with VCA-grantee Roanoke Student Orchestra



Our Agency

As an agency, we as the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) invest millions of dollars on an annual basis, transforming the arts of the Commonwealth of Virginia. We do so through funding from the General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, entities who believe in – and therefore advance – our mission through generous appropriations.

Established in 1968, the VCA is *the* state agency dedicated to investing in the arts of Virginia. We have remained steadfast in our dedication to the enabling legislation “to encourage participation in and appreciation of the arts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons in all parts of the State.”

In 1992, Virginians for the Arts formed to provide united advocacy among Virginia’s arts organizations and support increased public funding of the Virginia Commission for the Arts. With Virginians for the Arts’ encouragement for thirty years and counting, an increased per capita funding of the arts has been endorsed by succeeding Governors and the General Assembly for inclusion in the state budget.

As such, our agency strategically stewards state and federal dollars to positively impact Virginians through the arts.



Our Investments

Through allocations made possible by the General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, the VCA utilizes investments to empower arts leaders, arts educators, and arts practitioners. In doing so, we create a virtuous cycle of those who not only participate in and appreciate the arts, as stated in our enabling legislation, but those who serve as change agents and advance the Commonwealth of Virginia.

For the 2023 fiscal year, the VCA allocated \$5.2 million, fueling arts organizations with unrestricted funding; arts-centric activities and programs through project, education, and performance grants; and individual artists with VCA Fellowships and Rosters. This represents the highest allocation in eight fiscal years, with increased investments equating to increased impact in communities throughout Virginia.

To continue to serve as a strong and strategic steward of state funding, the VCA also refreshed its grant programs. The grants celebrate the VCA's investment legacy while driving the future of arts funding through the overarching goals of:



Forging even stronger partnerships with arts organizations and additional partners in support of unrestricted funding needs



Creating clear entry points for new and prospective grantees



Emphasizing impact on communities and learners of Virginia



Empowering individual artists and their engagement with citizens and communities across the Commonwealth

PHOTO: Hurrah Players
on the VCA's Touring Artist
Roster performing *The Little
Mermaid*, photography
by Jerry Duck

Our Grants

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

- General Operating Support: Medium and Large Arts Organizations | GOS
- Operating Support Small: Small Arts Organizations | OSS
- Creative Community Partnership Grants

IMPACT GRANTS

- Community Impact Grants
- Education Impact Grants

ARTIST ENGAGEMENT

- Touring Artist Roster
- Virginia Touring Grants
- Teaching Artist Roster
- Arts in Practice Grants
- Artist Fellowships



Our ROI

Among the countless returns on investment for the VCA is the creative economy which we drive, to include:

\$16,206,863,000

TOTAL ADDED
VALUE TO
VIRGINIA'S
ECONOMY BY
THE ARTS

2.9%

ARTS' VALUE
ADDED AS A
SHARE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH'S
ECONOMY

109,962

ARTS EMPLOYMENT
FOR VIRGINIANS



*Arts and Cultural Production
Satellite Account (ACPSA),
2020; U.S. Bureau of Economic
Analysis, National Endowment
for the Arts*



Our Impact

While much of the VCA's impact on Virginians is beyond measure, numerical highlights from the 2022 and 2023 fiscal years include:

800+

ANNUAL VIRGINIA GRANTEES

receiving funds from the VCA to positively impact millions of Virginians



2,686,763

VIRGINIANS

benefitted through VCA's FY22 fiscal year grants to arts organizations, municipalities, nonprofits, and others serving Virginia communities

5,700

HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS OF VIRGINIA PARTICIPATED IN THE 2022 POETRY OUT LOUD COMPETITION

which embeds the written and spoken word into curriculum



1

GRAMMY WINNER

joined the uniquely talented individuals and ensembles vetted, panel-approved, and listed on our prestigious Touring Artist Roster



\$75,000

FELLOWSHIP GRANT DOLLARS

allocated to individual Virginia artists contributing to the state in the disciplines of Works on Paper and—for the first time in the VCA's history—Songwriting in FY23

\$5.2 million+

GRANT DOLLARS ALLOCATED

\$4 million of which is unrestricted support critical to arts organizations and instrumental in their programmatic success

50+

EDUCATION-SPECIFIC GRANTS

distributed annually to enliven classrooms and learning institutions in communities across Virginia through the arts

56,335

ARTISTS

engaged in FY22 through the grant and additional programs of the VCA

13

GOVERNOR-APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS AND

80

ADVISORY PANELISTS

representing all regions of the Commonwealth of Virginia and serving as thought leaders for the VCA's grants



PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT):
Redd Volkaert performing; opera singer for VCA-grantee Virginia Opera on stage; Virginia student reciting in the classroom; VCA Commissioner Sushmita Mazumdar

"Our artists have valuable skills and we are creating opportunities for them to share these skills with the community."

—
NANCY MCNAMARA | GRIMALKIN RECORDS

DENDRON
recipient of Education Grant

"This grant is what makes the difference between us bringing in an artist and us not bringing in an artist."

—
MEGHAN DUBOIS
FAIRFAX COUNTY
recipient of Creative Community Partnership Grant

"As a VCA Touring Artist, I engage the young musicians. It's important to do so because if you don't grow the next generation of artists, they aren't going to be there."

—
BOBBY BLACKHAT
NORFOLK
member of Touring Artist Roster

"The VCA is building up individuals to go out in the state and lead—lead with creativity, purpose, and ingenuity."

—
DENA JENNINGS
ORANGE
Chair, Virginia Commission for the Arts

"We brought in the Kiev Ballet for multiple sold-out performances this year. It was incredibly meaningful to share their talent with our community, especially knowing what each ballerina was going through because of the war in Ukraine."

—
SUSAN STONE | SUFFOLK CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
recipient of General Operating Support

"Together, we're on a mission to entertain, enlighten, and elevate audiences. And the VCA is critical to our success!"

—
DOUG LOVEJOY | VIRGINIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
ALEXANDRIA
recipient of General Operating Support

"Virginia can only be the best place to live, to work, and to raise a family if we have a vibrant arts landscape."

—
GLENN YOUNGKIN
RICHMOND
Governor of Virginia

Our Stories

Our dynamic arts community in which we invest embraces multiple mediums to illustrate the diverse and unique stories of, by, and for Virginians. In doing so, the people and the places across Virginia strengthen and support high-level content produced to inspire and engage our state's citizens.



STAUNTON

American
Shakespeare Center

STORIES KEPT ALIVE:
the work of Shakespeare in the
world's only re-creation of the
Blackfriars Playhouse



VCA GRANT AWARD:
GENERAL OPERATING
SUPPORT



Fairfax Symphony Orchestra

STORIES PLAYED:
the great art of classical music
for the community and young
people of Northern Virginia,
with an emphasis on reaching
low-income students in
programs that promote learning
opportunities and propel
academic achievement



VCA GRANT AWARD:
GENERAL OPERATING
SUPPORT



LEXINGTON

Sally Mann

STORIES CAPTURED:
the landscapes, the subjects,
and the complexities of Virginia
through black-and-white
photographs



VCA GRANT AWARD:
ARTIST FELLOWSHIP
IN THE DISCIPLINE OF
PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT): on stage at the American Shakespeare Center; Music Director of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Christopher Zimmerman; © Annie Leibovitz; film still from *Mom*; archival photo of Maybelle Carter; and Hamilton Glass, Richmond artist and muralist at James River Juvenile Detention Center



CHARLOTTESVILLE

University of Virginia
Film Festival
Indigenous Cinema
of the Americas

STORIES SHOWCASED:
the work of Indigenous filmmakers
and a platform for discussion
around the complex issues facing
Indigenous communities



VCA GRANT AWARD:
PROJECT / COMMUNITY
IMPACT



BRISTOL

Birthplace of
Country Music

STORIES TOLD:
the recording artists and the
multiplier effect of the 1927
Bristol Sessions



VCA GRANT AWARD:
GENERAL OPERATING
SUPPORT



GLEN ALLEN

Cultural Arts Center

STORIES EMBEDDED:
art is for every Virginian,
as demonstrated by their
community building and
programming including
"Artreach" at the James River
Juvenile Detention Center



VCA GRANT AWARD:
GENERAL OPERATING
SUPPORT

Our Growing Portfolio

The VCA acknowledges that to diversify our portfolio is to serve as a sound and strategic investor for Virginia. In 2022, the VCA welcomed first-time grantees to include these stellar organizations making a difference and positively impacting their communities.



THEATRE GUILD OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

The Theatre Guild of Buchanan County was developed in concept in 2016, opened its doors in November of 2021, and has since conducted multiple shows and engaged more than 500 performers and cast members. The organization's largest milestone and accomplishment to date is securing a long-term lease on a brand-new location, providing the opportunity to grow and flourish. As a rural Southwestern Virginia location, Buchanan County benefits greatly from this theatre as a strong performing arts presence contributes to the area's quality of life, positively impacting in the small community.

TIDEWATER AFRICAN CULTURAL ALLIANCE

Established in 2017, the Tidewater African Cultural Alliance employs African dance and music as the primary means of connecting with and bringing African culture to the Tidewater community. They are currently the only organization dedicated to infusing the region with authentic African cultural arts. Tidewater African Cultural Alliance program includes after and in-school activities, as well as partnerships within the area to include the City of Virginia Beach, Norfolk State University, Boys & Girls Club, and fellow VCA-grantee Teens With A Purpose.



ANY GIVEN CHILD SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Any Given Child Shenandoah Valley works to partner with school divisions and the community students with classroom instruction in the arts by qualified professionals, robust professional development for classroom teachers in arts integration, and the opportunity for students to identify as an artist. Their major focus is presenting live arts experiences for students, doing so during the school day to help ensure access for all K-8 students.



To learn more about the Virginia Commission for the Arts, to build on the successes of our 55 years, and to amplify our impact, visit vca.virginia.gov or email arts@vca.virginia.gov.

PHOTO: hundreds gather for a concert at VCA-grantee Shenandoah Music Festival

PUBLICATION TEAM | Virginia Commission for the Arts

DESIGNER | Banks Creative

This Impact Report is made possible by generous support from Virginians for the Arts

