

Arts Council Awards Grants To Three Reston Groups

Greater Reston Arts Center, Public Arts Reston, and Reston Community Players awarded grant funding.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Last week, The Arts Council of Fairfax County (ACFC), a nonprofit or organization funded in part by Fairfax County, corporations, foundations, individuals, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts announced it had awarded grants to three Reston arts organizations for fiscal year 2018.

Greater Reston Arts Center, Public Arts Reston, and Reston Community Players each received an Operating Support Grant. According to ACFC this grant funds arts organizations' basic operational needs. APCA awards funds through competitive grant applications to Fairfax County nonprofit arts organization in recognition of the valuable programs and services they provide to county residents while also contributing to the stability of these institutions.

Greater Reston Arts Center and Public Art Reston also received a Project Support Grant, which ACFC explains on their website, "...is a non-recurring grant used to support arts organizations in providing activities that engage new audiences in the arts and contribute to the vibrancy as well as the quality of life in Fairfax County."

Lily Siegel, Executive Director and Curator Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), expressed how grateful GRACE was to receive the funding.

"Not only do they help us keep our doors open to the public for free through their Operating Support grants, they encourage us to continue growing and pushing our limits through Project Support for such exhibitions as Radcliffe Bailey: The Great Dismal Swamp and Sue Wrbitan: Well Past the Echo and the forthcoming outdoor sculpture by Wrbitan in Reston Town Square Park. ACFC is an invaluable part of our community."

"Public Art Reston is extremely grateful to the Arts Council of Fairfax County for its support towards our operations and new public art projects that will take place in 2018. While 2017 marked the 10th anniversary of Public Art Reston's founding, 2018 marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Public Art Master Plan for Reston.

Thanks to grants from the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Public Art Reston can carry on its mission to inspire an ongoing commitment to public art and create a new generation of artworks in Reston and as a result has a greater impact in the community



Public Art Reston is one of three Reston arts organization that recently received grant funding from The Arts Council of Fairfax County. Pictured here is M.L. Duffy's 2016 welded stainless steel work, "Mutual Understanding/Mutual Respect." It is an example of one of the many pieces of large-scale art featured by Public Art Reston.



The 2018 Operating Support Grant by The Arts Council of Fairfax County helps support the operational expenses of Reston Community Players as they continue to produce high quality and creative stage performances such as "Aida," pictured here.

and Fairfax County," said Public Art Reston Executive Director Anne Delaney.

When Jolene Vettese President of the Board for the Reston Community Players, was asked about the award, Vettese responded by writing how the organization will use the award and the impact grant funding has on theatre in Reston. "With the grant award we received from the Arts Council, Reston Community Players is able to provide more funds for scholarships and enables us to continue to provide quality theater in Reston residents' own backyard."

For more information about the arts in Reston including Greater Reston Arts Center's upcoming installation which offers county high school students the opportunity to work with curatorial staff to create competent artworks to be exhibited in the gallery, Public Arts Reston's online map or tours of public art, artist talks and documentary films, or Reston Community Players current season beginning with their next show "Peter and the Starcatcher," a grownup prequel to Peter Pan, visit restonarts.org, publicartreston.org, and restonplayers.org respectively.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HEFFNER PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

From left: Binta Barry as Ted, Jake Lefler as Prentiss, Raeanna Nicole Larson as Molly Aster and Gary Bernard DiNardo as Boy/Peter in "Peter and the Starcatcher" from Reston Community Players.

Magical Frolic at Reston's CenterStage

Reston Community Players presents "Peter and the Starcatcher."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where & When

So, how does a young British orphan lad and his mates become the famous "Peter Pan and the Lost Boys?" How does an orphan even decide to never want to grow up? Does he have some help along the way from someone called a starcatcher? And what does a mysterious trunk have to offer up?

Well, the Reston Community Players will have some answers to those questions and more with its upcoming production, "Peter and the Starcatcher." The production is aimed at anyone interested in having fun while finding out how Peter Pan came to be and what a starcatcher might have to do with it.

Full of fantasy and imagination, the Reston Community Players production is directed by Jolene Vettese with music direction by Beth Atkins. There is a cast of a dozen actors taking on dozens of characters on stage. Featured players include Raeanna Nicole Larson as Starcatcher-in-training, Molly Aster and Gary Bernard DiNardo as Boy/Peter along with a cheeky villain named Black Stache played by Carla Crawley Ito.

"Peter and the Starcatcher" was the winner of five Tony Awards when it first appeared on Broadway in 2012. The show is based on the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson.

Vettese called "Peter and the Starcatcher" a unique and fun choice for RCP to produce for their audiences with its clever wordplay, daring movement

Reston Community Players presents "Peter and the Starcatcher" at Reston Community Center CenterStage, Hunter's Wood Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performances Jan. 19 to Feb. 3, 2018. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. with Sunday 2 p.m. matinee on Jan. 28, 2018. Tickets: \$23 Adults (19-64), \$20 seniors (65 and older), and \$20 students (18 and younger). Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restonplayers.org. Note: There is a special sensory-friendly matinee performance on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 2 p.m. This sensory-friendly matinee performance will aim to provide a positive theater experience for individuals of all ages with autism or other sensory-related disabilities.

and live music. "I wanted to explore what it is like to remember your childhood and to get out of the world of electronics and into the world of our imaginations," said Vettese. "This show is about remembering what it was like to be on the brink of growing up, remembering where our imaginations can take us, and the magic that exists in real life." And the production travels about: from the deck of a ship to a tropical island, and throws in modern references that pop up with great humor.

Inviting audiences to escape into "Peter and the Starcatcher," Vettese proposed that audiences "escape for just a little bit, to a world with Pirates, Sailors, and Mermaids, where starstuff exists and people can fly, where 'to have faith is to have wings.'"

On these cold winter nights, escaping into fun sounds delicious. And along the way take joy in learning a bit of what made Peter Pan who he is in this grownup prequel to the treasured story.