

Photo: Boca Toya (New York, NY) traveled to PRISMA International Festival of Contemporary Dance in Panama with support from USArtists International. Credit: Eduard Serra.

2021

Mid Atlantic Arts Annual Report



This is

Mid Atlantic Arts

A photograph of three performers on stage. The performer on the left is a woman with dark hair, wearing a black traditional Korean robe (jogori) over a dark top, and a large black traditional Korean hat (gat). She is smiling broadly. The performer in the center is wearing a red paper crown and a black top with a red sash. The performer on the right is wearing a yellow paper crown and a white top with a yellow sash. They are all holding microphones and appear to be singing or performing. The background is dark with some stage lighting.

Photo: Ak Dan Gwang Chil in performance at Frostburg State University (Frostburg, MD) with support from the Mid Atlantic Tours program. Credit: Missy Russell Martz.

Ak Dan Gwang Chil (ADG7) is a multi-award winning Korean music group, featuring six Korean traditional musicians and three powerhouse female folk singers. ADG7 performs repertoire from the sacred, shamanic, and secular gut (ritual music) and minyo (folk song) traditions of the Hwanghae-do region, a western province of North Korea. ADG7 toured to nine mid-Atlantic communities through the 2021 Mid Atlantic Tours program.

Creative catalyst

Cultivating and endowing
innovation and artful expression.

Saratoga International Theatre Institute (SITI) received support to travel to the Singapore International Festival of the Arts (SIFA) with support from the USArtists International program. Their production of *Three Sisters* with Nine Years Theatre (NYT), a Chinese-Singaporean ensemble, was planned to take place entirely in-person in Singapore. However, travel and union safety guidelines resulted in shifting to a hybrid model, with live performances by members of the NYT ensemble and filmed performances by SITI.

Photo: Cast of the Saratoga International Theatre Institute (New York, NY) and Nine Years Theatre (Singapore) perform *Three Sisters* with support from USArtists International at the Singapore International Festival of the Arts. Credit: The Pond Photography.

Opening doors

Collaborating with artists and institutions to create opportunities near and far.



It's more than the performance

Welcoming community connections
and providing support for outreach.



Photo: The University of Richmond's Modlin Center for the Arts (Richmond, VA) hosted an audience Q&A with Kaneza Schall & Christopher Myers CARTOGRAPHY with support from ArtsCONNECT. Credit: Shannon Hooker.

The Modlin Center at the University of Richmond in Virginia presented Kaneza Schall & Christopher Myers CARTOGRAPHY through the 2021 ArtsCONNECT program. To more deeply engage the community, students from Hermitage High School participated in an interactive workshop in which they developed skits/scenes for their peers that collectively mapped their own memories, lives, and expectations. All of the students attended the CARTOGRAPHY performance, and during the post-show Q&A with the artists several students were moved to connect and share their own immigrant stories.



Photo: USArtists International 2021 supported Ragamala Dance Company's (Minneapolis, MN) Just Festival (UK) engagement. Here Raneer Ramaswamy performs in *Fires of Varanasi*. Credit: Arun Kumar.

Ragamala Dance, a USArtists International grantee, presented *Returning to the Earth*, a virtual engagement at the Just Festival in Edinburgh, UK, consisting of a preview excerpt of their newest work, *Fires of Varanasi: Dance of the Eternal Pilgrim*, followed by a livestreamed panel discussion. *Fires of Varanasi* expands upon the birth-death-rebirth continuum in Hindu thought to honor immigrant experiences of life and death in the diaspora. Following the excerpt, an interfaith/intercultural panel discussion took place exploring how multiple faith traditions navigate the space between life and death and commemorate those who have passed.

Listening and learning

Curiosity and open minds lead to meaningful change.

Photo: Than Htay Maung, Burmese artist and baker, working on a mural for Moorefield, WV. This photo was taken during the fieldwork phase of the Central Appalachian Folk and Traditional Arts Survey and Planning Project. Credit: Amy Lough Fabbri.

The Central Appalachian Folk and Traditional Arts (CAFTA) Survey and Planning Project was a multi-year project to assess the needs and opportunities for a folk and traditional arts program in the region of Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia designated as Appalachian. The findings from that program informed the newly launched Central Appalachia Living Traditions (CALT) program — designed to promote the understanding, and recognition of folk arts and culture in Central Appalachia through a three-part program that invests in folk arts communities while seeding new folk and traditional arts experiences and honoring underrecognized practitioners of Central Appalachian traditions across the region.

Celebrating all voices

Mid Atlantic Arts values the abundant diversity of our region, nation, and world, and celebrates the many forms of cultural expression that bring meaning to our lives.

Letter from the Chair and Executive Director

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to share our Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report with you highlighting our work and activities.

It has been a year of ups and downs, but the arts field has continued to innovate, learn, share, and support each other in this, the second year of the pandemic. Artists and organizations shifted gears and produced virtual offerings for audiences near and far, found new ways to engage in-person, and kept on creating. Some presenters have opened, with safety precautions in place, and some artists have begun to tour and work in residency again.

In 2021, Mid Atlantic Arts also took some time to innovate and learn. We embarked on a branding process that looked at who we are and, more importantly, who we serve. You might notice some of the results of that process in this report—a new logo and language—and a new name. We are now Mid Atlantic Arts and have officially dropped “Foundation” from our name. We feel this aligns with our mission and is more in keeping with the work we do as both a creative and financial partner.

We continue to focus on our strategic plan goals, understanding that centering diversity, equity, inclusion, and access has never been more important. This includes expanding access and services for artists and organizations; making changes in the way we communicate; and taking steps as a staff and board to change our organizational culture.

Thanks to the many people and organizations who partner with us to create opportunities—our state arts agency partners, the National Endowment for the Arts, private funders and donors, panelists, board of directors, staff, and the many artists and organizations that inspire us to keep moving forward every day.

We believe curiosity and open minds lead to meaningful change. Thank you for joining us as we work toward that goal.

Romona Riscoe Benson *Theresa M. Colvin*

Romona
Riscoe Benson
Chair,
Mid Atlantic Arts

Theresa Colvin
Executive Director,
Mid Atlantic Arts



Photos:
Romona Riscoe Benson:
Phillip Martin Regusters,
Leaping Lion Photography
Theresa Colvin:
James Kegley Photography



Who we are.

Mid Atlantic Arts supports artists, presenters, and organizations through unique programming, grant support, partnerships, and information sharing. Created in 1979, Mid Atlantic Arts is aligned with the region's state arts councils and the National Endowment for the Arts. We combine state and federal funding with private support from corporations, foundations, and individuals to nurture diverse artistic expression while connecting people to meaningful arts experiences within our region and beyond.

MISSION

Mid Atlantic Arts nurtures and funds the creation and presentation of diverse artistic expression and connects people to meaningful arts experiences within our region and beyond.

VISION

Mid Atlantic Arts envisions a future in which artists and creators are actively engaged with diverse communities to energize the transformative power of the arts.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Artistry and Creative Expression

Mid Atlantic Arts values the pursuit of artistry and the promotion of creative expression. We believe that the arts are an essential part of life, enriching our human experience and contributing to communities' overall well-being.

Diversity

Mid Atlantic Arts values the abundant and expansive diversity that exists within our region, our nation, and the world. We honor and celebrate the mid-Atlantic's people, artistic and community resources and, most notably, our many forms of cultural expression, and believe them to be major sources of strength in our region.

Photo: The Dance Department at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers (New Brunswick, NJ) received an ArtsCONNECT grant in support of an engagement with Kyle Marshall Choreography. Here, Kyle Marshall leads a workshop for 8th grade students at Paul Robeson Community School. Credit: John Evans.

Equity and Access

Mid Atlantic Arts acknowledges that long-standing systems and practices within the arts sector have led to significant barriers to equitable access and investment for individuals and across communities. We are committed to the implementation of equitable practices through intentional and sustained focus and accountability.

Curiosity and Listening

Mid Atlantic Arts believes listening to and understanding those we serve leads to relevant and responsive programs and policies. We are committed to ongoing evaluation, analysis, and evolution of our work and practices. We are also committed to the development and support of learning communities, stakeholder convening, and the achievement of best practices to improve our services to the field.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Mid Atlantic Arts values the relationships with our many trusted partners across the region, the United States, and internationally that extend the reach and impact of our programs. We recognize the National Endowment for the Arts, our state and jurisdictional arts agencies, fellow regional arts agencies, donors, funders, service organizations, and other stakeholders as key allies in fulfilling our mission.

Top: PS:21: Performance Spaces for the 21st Century (Chatham, NY) partnered with Art Park in Buffalo to present Alarm Will Sound with support from ArtsCONNECT. Here, Alarm Will Sound performs John Luther Adams' "Ten Thousand Birds" to a socially-distanced audience in PS21's open air pavilion theatre. Credit: Elena Siyanko.

Bottom: The Delaware Friends of Folk (Dover, DE) presented ILYAIMY at the Delmarva Folk Festival with support from the Special Presenter Initiatives. Credit: John Kidd.





Our programs.

Mid Atlantic Arts programs serve artists, organizations, and communities in the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Through in-person and virtual experiences, we worked to be flexible in 2021 within the spirit of our mission and program intent.

The Alan Cooper Leadership in the Arts Award honors an arts practitioner who has made outstanding contributions to the arts through extraordinary leadership.

ArtsCONNECT supports touring projects collaboratively developed by presenters working together in the mid-Atlantic region. The tours include performances as well as complementary engagement activities designed to create greater understanding or connections between artists, audiences, and communities.

Mid Atlantic Arts Creative Fellowships provide artists with the time and space to create. Hosted in partnership with Millay Arts and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, writers, composers, and visual artists can apply for two-week, or one-month residencies underwritten by Mid Atlantic Arts.

Given annually to a mid-Atlantic region jazz master, the **Living Legacy Jazz Award** lifts up those who have a distinguished performance career and who have given of themselves with a significant contribution to mentorship or education.

The **Folk and Traditional Arts Touring Network** (FTAN) was a presenter-based membership network designed to bolster the presentation of folk and traditional arts in the mid-Atlantic region through professional development, strong network infrastructure, and fee subsidy for FTAN roster tours. This program ended in 2020, but due to the pandemic, projects occurred in 2021.

Photo: Mid Atlantic Tours roster artist The Honey Dewdrops perform at the Woodbridge HS Field with support from the Woodbridge Arts Alliance (Avenel, NJ). Credit: Rob Wasilewski.

Mid Atlantic provides administrative support for the **Individual Artist Fellowship** programs for the states of Delaware and New Jersey. Mid Atlantic staff convenes panels that review over 500 applications yearly and states participating in this partnership annually award over \$1 million to the fellowship winners.

Mid Atlantic Arts provides **Information Services** to the field on a regular basis and through a number of varied communication platforms.

The **Jazz Touring Network** is a presenter-based membership program that supports professional development, building partnerships, and working together to curate tours that reflect the richness of the field of jazz. Welcoming both those organizations with little to no experience presenting jazz and seasoned jazz presenters seeking to strengthen programming, application occurs annually through an open, competitive process. Once selected, membership is ongoing upon meeting annual requirements.

Mid Atlantic Arts supports **Accessibility Training** as part of our commitment to greater accessibility in the arts and cultural sector of the mid-Atlantic region. Through a partnership with Americans for the Arts, Mid Atlantic offered a series of webinars/virtual trainings in the spring of 2021 around accessibility issues.

Top: With support from the Special Presenter Initiatives program, the St. John School of the Arts (St. John, USVI) presented a virtual program with the Victor Provost Quintet and Alex Brown. Credit: Blue House Productions.

Bottom: Dayramir Gonzalez & Habana enTRANCe take a bow on stage at Flushing Town Hall (Flushing, NY). Flushing Town Hall is a member of the Jazz Touring Network. Credit: Shawn Choi.





Mid Atlantic Tours brings the best of the performing arts to communities across the mid-Atlantic region. Presenters select from a curated roster of artists that changes annually but maintains a programmatic commitment to a diversity of performance genres, regional artist representation, and engaging with communities underserved by the arts. No lengthy application process—presenters work directly with agents and eligible organizations receive support for their project.

Open to presenters nationwide, the **Performing Arts Global Exchange** is an annually curated roster of international performing artists selected to tour to communities across the United States. Each year, two countries are featured with a selection of artists across multiple disciplines. The program provides fee support directly to nonprofit presenters programming artists from the roster, and presenters host both public performances and community engagements in achieving the program's goals of cultural exchange and understanding.

Mid Atlantic Arts produces the National Finals of **Poetry Out Loud** in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Poetry Foundation. Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest that encourages high school students to memorize and recite great poems.



Top: Inside the CVW Event Productions control room for the live virtual 2021 Poetry Out Loud National Finals. Credit: James Kegley Photography.

Bottom: Percussionist Samuel "Smoke" Dews of Mid Atlantic Tours roster artist Rare Essence performs during the Richmond Folk Festival presented by The National Council for the Traditional Arts (Silver Spring, MD). Credit: Pat Jarrett.

Southern Exposure: Performing Arts of Latin America was an annually curated roster of exemplary performing artists from Latin America selected to tour to communities across the United States. Southern Exposure provided fee support directly to nonprofit presenters programming artists from the curated roster. Funded presenters included both public performance and community engagement in achieving the program's goals of cultural exchange and understanding. 2020 marked the final year of Southern Exposure—but due to the pandemic, tours continued through 2021. The program was replaced with the Performing Arts Global Exchange.

The **Special Presenter Initiatives** provide additional opportunities for the support of small to mid-sized performing arts presenters in Delaware, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and West Virginia. Fee support is available for engagements of performing artists based anywhere worldwide. Engagements include performances as well as community activities that enhance the performance experience and offer meaningful exchanges between touring artists and a presenter's community.

USArtists International® supports in-person and virtual performances by American artists at engagements at international festivals and global presenting arts marketplaces outside of the United States. The program funds individuals and ensembles across all performing arts practices and disciplines.

Top: Jazz Touring Network member Montgomery County Community College (Blue Bell, PA) presented Ladies Sing the Blues with support from the 2021 program. Credit: Lou Liguori.

Bottom: Howard Peller — “the Basket Farmer” — displays and demonstrates his home-grown farmed willow basket technique at the annual Y-Bridge Arts Festival in downtown Zanesville, OH. Credit: Jess Lamar Reece Holler // Caledonia Northern Folk Studios.



Plan Goals

GOAL ONE

Embrace and promote equity, diversity, inclusion, and access

Embed, model, and highlight exemplary practices of equity, diversity, inclusion, and access in all of Mid Atlantic Arts' policies and activities to address long-standing barriers to equitable access and build a stronger arts sector.

GOAL TWO

Support and strengthen the arts sector

Invest in artists, creators, and organizations through programs, services, and partnerships that support and sustain creative expression and enable new and diverse communities to experience this work.

GOAL THREE

Enliven communities through the arts

Foster partnerships between the arts and other sectors to provide collaborative approaches that promote community well-being.

GOAL FOUR

Build internal capacity

Build Mid Atlantic Arts' internal capacity to effectively respond to the needs of the field and address our mission.

Photo: Lehigh University's Zoellner Arts Center (Bethlehem, PA) used support from Mid Atlantic Arts Tours to support an engagement of the Acrobuffos in *Air Play*. Credit: Amanda Bellucci.



Working together, we are stronger.
We are grateful to the following
national agencies, state arts agency
partners, foundations, corporations,
and individuals for partnering with
us to support the arts.

Thank you.

Partners and Supporters

NATIONAL AGENCIES

National Endowment
for the Arts
Arts Midwest
Mid-America Arts Alliance
New England Foundation
for the Arts
South Arts
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STATE ARTS AGENCY PARTNERS

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 Mara Manus, NY
 Victor Provost, MD
 Harold Sapp, VA
 K. Rita Souweine, MD

Gifts made between July 1, 2020
 and June 30, 2021

Photo: Richmond, VA visual artist Sue Johnson received a Mid Atlantic Creative Fellowship for a month-long residency at Millay Arts. She created a series of large and medium scale works while in residence. Here are two of the works photographed on her studio wall. Credit: Sue Johnson.



Financial Review

Statement of Financial Position for the years ending June 30

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 1,133,265	\$ 727,255
Accounts receivable	1,011,595	53,721
Investments	1,807,826	3,528,534
Grants receivable	914,961	1,113,972
Prepaid expenses and deposits	66,663	67,247
Property and equipment	42,761	7,830
Deferred compensation investments	9,439	4,436
Total Assets	\$4,986,510	\$5,502,995
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 114,654	\$ 96,574
Grants payable	1,433,781	537,788
Loans payable	—	208,172
Deferred revenue and rent	652,438	91,408
Deferred compensation obligation	9,439	4,436
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,210,312	\$ 938,378
NET ASSETS		
Undesignated	\$ 938,624	\$ 481,232
Undesignated, board reserves	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total Net Assets without donor restrictions	1,938,624	1,481,232
With donor restrictions	837,574	3,083,385
Total Net Assets	\$ 2,776,198	\$ 4,564,617
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$4,986,510	\$5,502,995

Statement of Activities for the years ending June 30

	2021	2020
REVENUES		
Contributions and grants	\$ 3,159,942	\$ 3,652,982
Contracted services and other income	1,071,592	506,470
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 4,231,534	\$ 4,159,452
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Grants	\$4,221,670	\$ 1,624,339
Program services	1,092,943	1,060,426
Total Program Expenses	\$ 5,314,613	\$ 2,684,765
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Management and general	\$835,329	\$811,357
Development	88,635	133,179
Total Administrative Expenses	\$ 923,964	\$ 944,536
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 6,238,577	\$ 3,629,301
Change in Net Asset from Operations	(2,007,043)	530,151
Unrealized gain on investments	218,625	(26,107)
Change in Net Assets	(1,788,418)	504,044

Staff and Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Delise White
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