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2023 Mid Atlantic Arts Annual Report

Mid
Atlantic **Arts**

Photo: PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER (MD)
appeared at the European Capital of Culture,
Greece with support from USArtists International.
Here they perform the abduction section of
Persephone Reconsiders Her Fate.
Credit: Ioannis Kouskoutis.



445

grants to artists and organizations

The Japan Society (New York, NY) engaged Koryu Nishikawa V and Tom Lee/Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo Puppet Company for a presentation and activities around AKUTAGAWA, a stage portrait of Ryunosuke Akutagawa, father of the modern Japanese short novel. Told through the traditional puppetry style kuruma ningyo blended with dynamic video images, AKUTAGAWA is an amalgam of five of his famous short stories—including *Rashomon*, *Hell Screen (Jigokuhen)*, *The Dragon*, *Toshishun*, and *Kappa*.

Photo: Scenes from Akutagawa's short story *Hell Screen* (1918) presented at The Japan Society with support from ArtsCONNECT. Credit: Richard Termine.





232

unique communities involved

Floyd Community Center for the Arts (Floyd, VA) hosted “Living Traditions—A Celebration of Floyd County’s Folk and Traditional Arts” with support from the Central Appalachia Living Traditions Folk and Traditional Arts Experiences grant program. The free event included demonstration areas, musical performances, lectures, exhibits, a community weaving project, kids’ crafts, vendors, and food. Over 1,500 people attended!

Photo: Bryan Fitts blacksmithing demo. Credit: Kristine Carter.



1,100

performances and
activities supported

Emma Donovan & The Putbacks (Australia) visited The Myrna Loy (Helena, MT) in Spring 2023 as part of a pandemic extended Performing Arts Global Exchange tour.

Photo: Young people dance to Emma Donovan's children's songs, in an extremely successful, heartwarming storytime and song session at the Lewis & Clark Public Library. About 120 people came—of all ages—and participated. These two little girls danced to Emma's songs. Credit: Krysl Holmes.

\$4.1M

in direct support

Jazz Touring Network (JTN) member Ars Nova Workshop (Philadelphia, PA) hosted an engagement of Natural Information Society with special guests Ari Brown and Marshall Allen. JTN members receive support for engagements, professional development, and benefit from partnerships built with other Network members.

Photo: Natural Information Society at sound check, onstage at Solar Myth. From L to R: Lisa Alvarado, Ari Brown, Jason Stein, Marshall Allen, Mikel Patrick Avery, Joshua Abrams. Credit: Beau Gordon.





160K

people worldwide
touched by our work

The 79rs Gang travelled from New Orleans to Nancy Jazz Pulsations in France with support from USArtists International. They participated in the 50th anniversary of one of Europe's most prestigious jazz festivals and performed three shows in three different cities—Le Nouveaux Relax in Chaumont, Espace Django in Strasbourg, and Magic Mirrors in Nancy.

Photo: Members of 79rs Gang leading a secondline through the audience during their concert in Nancy, France. A staple of New Orleans tradition, 79rs Gang likes to end their concerts in this fashion. This music represents inclusion, participation, and call and response. Musicians leave all but tambourines, cowbells, glass bottles onstage to parade through the audience, inviting the audience to join them. Credit: Max Kawczynski.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for helping us to share and celebrate the work of artists and organizations in our region, our nation, and around the world. This document encompasses highlights and achievements, findings, and challenges compiled from our team's hard work and programs during 2023.

Please take some time to explore the impact your investment has on our work—and learn more about the people and communities directly touched by your support.

At this time of social complexities, we are focused on listening to our region and learning more about the creative communities that make a living in the mid-Atlantic, while exploring ways for our programs to become more centered in trust and equity. And while we do so, we are also trying to constantly ask ourselves and our communities some of these questions: What makes us unique as a region? What are the traditions and practices that define our cultural DNA? How can we as an arts organization protect and support the work of artists who are celebrating regional identity?

As we listen and learn from our communities, we are also looking at new ways to collaborate and shine a light on the amazing work happening all around us, pushing ourselves to be more just and equitable.

Thanks to you—our State Arts Agency partners, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the public, corporate, and private donors and funders that make our work possible, we feel we are moving forward toward a healthier future together.

As we move into a new year, we want to invite ourselves to acknowledge that none of this work would be possible without the soulful effort of the artists, organizations, and communities that are on the front lines of the creative ecosystem in our region, and that is our mission to be able to keep supporting their efforts for generating meaningful, inspiring, and socially driven experiences to bring our communities together in peaceful and equitable ways.

Romona Riscoe Benson
Chair, Board of Directors



Juan Souki
Executive Director





About us

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.

Photo: Jazz Touring Network Member Queens College Foundation (Queens, NY) presented Gretchen Parloto & Lionel Loueke: Lean In in concert in LeFrak Concert Hall. Credit: Shawn Choi.

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.

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.

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.



Top photo: The first event of an event series called, "Living Traditions" was held at the Albany Independent Fairground, in Albany, Ohio in 2023. Supported by a Central Appalachia Living Tradition Experiences grant, this event was a celebration of local traditions, the people who do them, and the communities surrounding them. Credit: Joel Prince.

Bottom photo: The Delaware Symphony Association (Wilmington, DE) presented Michelle Cann performing with the Delaware Symphony Orchestra during the Classics II—"Defying Stars" concert with support from the Special Presenter Initiatives program. Credit: Sam Wilson.





Top photo: Kanawha Valley Friends of Old-Time Music and Dance AKA KV Footmad (Charleston, WV) presented Dance of Hope through the Special Presenter Initiatives program. For the public performance, West Side Middle students joined Dance of Hope on stage, shown here dancing in Ugandan traditions. Credit: Jennifer Bauman.

Bottom photo: Trick of Light perform *The Griegol* as part of the Cultural Events Series at Frostburg State University (Frostburg, MD) through the Performing Arts Global Exchange program. Credit: Savannah Kent/Frostburg State University.



GUIDING PRINCIPALS, CONTINUED

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.

Strategic 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: CapitalBop (Washington, DC) was part of a 2023 ArtsCONNECT touring project featuring Hamid Drake's Turiya: Honoring Alice Coltrane. Here, Hamid Drake performs at Black Cat as part of the Home Rule Music Festival. Credit: Jamie Sandel.

2023 Programs

Alan Cooper Leadership in the Arts Award honors the legacy of an arts leader who has made outstanding contributions to the arts through extraordinary leadership. The Award seeks to recognize an active arts leader who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the arts sector within the mid-Atlantic region. A cash honorarium is included along with an acknowledgement event.

Artist Fellowships—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 \$2 million to the fellowship winners.

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.

Central Appalachia Living Traditions (CALT) Central Appalachia Living Traditions (CALT) is a multiyear program designed to promote the understanding and recognition of folk arts and culture in Central Appalachia by investing in cultural communities, seeding new folk and traditional arts experiences, and honoring underrecognized practitioners of traditions across the region.



Top photo: The Japanese Folk Dance Institute of NY (New York, NY) hosted a week-long event featuring cultural workshops, and culminating in a collaborative performance, The Festival of Japan: Drums + Dance, with support from the Folk and Traditional Arts Community Projects Grants program. Credit: Hideki Aono.

Bottom photo: Iber Exchange artist Caña Dulce y Caña Brava (Mexico). Credit: Courtesy of the Artist.





Top photo: Dancer Maggie Waller of Rennie Harris Dance Company conducts a Hip-hop masterclass at Shenandoah University (Winchester, VA) as part of an ArtsCONNECT community engagement activity. Credit: Photo by Shenandoah University / Alisa Daum.

Bottom photo: Project Bandaloop (Oakland, CA) performed at the Greenwich+Docklands International Festival in the United Kingdom with support from USArtists International. Here, BANDALOOP company member Becca Dean performs *Resurgam* on St. Paul's Cathedral. Credit: Basil Tsimoyianis.



The Folk and Traditional Arts Community Projects Grants

fund projects designed to support the vitality of traditional arts and cultural communities in the mid-Atlantic region. Eligible project activities include but are not limited to performances, public art collaborations, workshops, trainings, exhibitions, fieldwork, and artistic collaborations and must include a publicly accessible component.

Iber Exchange increases availability of music programming from Ibero-American countries throughout the mid-Atlantic region to promote a greater understanding of other cultures through the performing arts. Support grants of up to 50% of the negotiated artist fee are available to nonprofit presenters in the mid-Atlantic region that contract artists from the roster, for a public performance and community engagement activity.

Information Services—Mid Atlantic Arts provides information on the arts to artists, arts organizations, constituents, and stakeholders of the mid-Atlantic region on a regular basis and through a number of communication platforms. Information is provided via monthly newsletters, eblasts, social media postings, and press releases. Mid Atlantic Arts manages midatlanticarts.org providing detailed information on Mid Atlantic, its programs, and grant opportunities for artists and organizations.

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. Once selected, membership is ongoing upon meeting annual requirements.

Established in 1994, the **Living Legacy Jazz Award** honors living jazz master artists residing in the mid-Atlantic region who have kept the spirit and tradition of this evolving art form alive, maintaining the vitality of jazz for future generations through advocacy, mentorship, and the transmission of artistic skill and cultural knowledge.

Mid Atlantic Accessibility Offerings include convenings and training opportunities support our commitment to greater accessibility in the arts and cultural sector of the mid-Atlantic region. In partnership with Americans for the Arts, we offer free webinar packages on arts and disability justice for local and state arts agencies in the mid-Atlantic region. Mid Atlantic also provides travel reimbursement to State Arts Agency partners in our region for training related to best practice in accessibility and disability justice, including attendance at LEAD with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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 engagement with communities underserved by the arts.

The National Leaders of Color Fellowships is a transformative leadership development experience curated by WESTAF in order to establish multicultural leadership in the creative and cultural sector. By partnering with the other United States Regional Arts Organizations, the program has expanded nationwide and its mission has become a national endeavor.



Top photo: Rowan University (Glassboro, NJ) presented Third Coast Percussion with Flutronic as part of a 2023 ArtsCONNECT tour. Credit: Craig Terry.

Bottom photo: Jazz Touring Network member Arden Club (Arden DE) hosted Artemis at Arden Gild Hall. Credit: Rob Pfeiffer.





Top photo: Peters Valley School of Craft (Layton, NJ) hosted “Traditional Basketry & Beyond—An Exhibition with Artist Steven R. Carty” with support from the Folk and Traditional Arts Community Projects Grants program. Credit: Emily Haag.

Bottom photo: USArtists International grantee Company | E (Washington, DC) performs *Seen/Unseen* with artists of Sareyyet Ramallah at the Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival. Credit: Paul Gordon Emerson.



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, a region is 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.

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest that encourages high school students to memorize and recite great poems. It is a joint program of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Mid Atlantic Arts produces the finals competition during which state and territorial winners from the United States compete for more than \$100,000 in prizes.

The **Special Presenter Initiatives** provide additional opportunities for the support of small to mid-sized performing arts presenters in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, 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 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.

Partners and Supporters

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.

NATIONAL AGENCIES

National Endowment for the Arts
Arts Midwest
Mid-America Arts Alliance
New England Foundation for the Arts
South Arts
Western States Arts Federation

STATE ARTS AGENCY PARTNERS

Delaware Division of the Arts
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña
Maryland State Arts Council
New Jersey State Council on the Arts
New York State Council on the Arts
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Virgin Islands Council on the Arts
Virginia Commission for the Arts
West Virginia Division of Culture and History

FOUNDATIONS

Exelon Foundation
MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett Foundation
Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
Mellon Foundation
The Nora Roberts Foundation
The Trust for Mutual Understanding
The Wallace Foundation

CORPORATIONS

Alpine Group
Brownstone PR
Delmarva Power
Google, Inc.
HKM Employment Attorneys
Maynard C. Smith Construction Company
PECO, An Exelon Company
ZenBusiness

INDIVIDUALS**Luminary (\$1,000 – \$2,499)**

Vernon Araujo, USVI
 Romona Riscoe Benson, DE
 Theresa M. Colvin, MD
 Alan Cooper, MD
 Juanita Hardy, MD
 Nicholas Hawkins, MD
 John Strickland, WV
 Donna Walker-Kuhne, NY

Benefactor (\$500 – \$999)

Rod Armstrong, MD
 Susan Butler, DC
 Anita Gonzalez, DC
 James Lemons, NY
 Margaret G. Vanderhye, VA

Patron (\$250 – \$499)

Jessica Ball, DE
 Barbara Bershon, MD
 Calpulli Mexican Dance
 Company, NY
 Kim Chan, NJ
 Anne C. Fulwiler, MD
 E. Scott Johnson, MD
 Kevin O'Brien, NJ
 Pennsylvania Junior
 Baroque Music Festival, PA
 John Rainero, VA
 Hal Real, DE

Contributor (\$100 – \$249)

Paul Ching-Bor, NJ
 Brittney Huff, MD
 Karen Peterson and
 Dancers, Inc., FL
 Peter and Carol Kern, PA
 Mara Manus, NY
 Parangal Dance Company, CA
 Linda and Richard Roth, MD
 Teatro Avante, FL
 Terrance Simien and the
 Zydeco Experience, LA
 Carol Trawick, MD
 Kennard Wing, PA

Friend (\$25 – \$59)

Anaya Dance Theatre, MN
 Jacqueline Marie Crocetta, MD
 Rachel Fuld, PA
 Rebecca Habtour, WA
 Sue Hoffman, VA
 Bruce Labadie, CA
 William Mandicott, MD
 Carter Mangan Jr., NJ
 Akemi Naito, NY
 Pat Mckowen, WV
 Carol Agnes O'Neill, NJ

Gifts made between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.



Photo: Sarah Hennies performing "Falsetto" at the 2023 Archipel Festival, Geneva, Switzerland with support from USArtists International. Credit: Courtesy of the Archipel Festival.

Financial Review

Statement of Financial Position for the years ending June 30

ASSETS	2023	2022
Cash	\$ 4,814,170	\$ 9,323,874
Accounts and Grants Receivable	1,188,079	2,419,121
Investments	7,995,582	1,715,674
Prepaid expenses and deposits	105,649	79,700
Property and equipment	106,581	73,387
Right of use asset	317,869	-
Deferred compensation investments	15,515	8,118
Total Assets	\$14,543,445	\$ 13,619,874
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 186,660	\$ 148,720
Grants payable	903,605	2,849,819
Lease liability	351,990	-
Deferred revenue	2,737,396	467,856
Deferred compensation obligation	15,515	8,118
Deferred rent	-	39,209
Total Liabilities	\$ 4,195,166	\$ 3,513,722
NET ASSETS		
Undesignated	\$ 7,263,047	\$ 9,019,740
Undesignated, board reserves	3,000,000	1,000,000
Total Net Assets without donor restrictions	10,263,047	10,019,740
With donor restrictions	85,232	86,412
Total Net Assets	\$10,348,279	\$ 10,106,152
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$15,543,445	\$ 13,619,874

Statement of Activities for the years ending June 30

REVENUES	2023	2022
Contributions and grants	\$ 4,488,355	\$12,445,929
Contracted services and other income	2,114,291	1,032,688
Total Revenue and Support	\$6,602,646	\$ 13,478,617
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Grants	\$ 3,807,731	\$ 3,889,894
Program services	1,611,487	1,337,302
Total Program Expenses	5,419,218	\$ 5,227,196
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Management and general	\$ 1,021,766	\$ 716,713
Development	126,141	100,596
Total Administrative Expenses	\$ 1,147,907	\$ 817,309
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 6,567,125	\$6,044,505
Unrealized gain on investments	206,606	(104,158)
Change in Net Asset without donor restrictions	243,307	8,081,116
Total Change in net assets without donor restrictions	449,913	7,976,958
Change in net assets with donor restrictions	(1,180)	(751,162)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 242,127	\$ 7,329,964
Net assets, beginning of year	10,106,152	2,776,198
Net assets, end of year	10,348,278	10,106,152

Board and Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Romona Riscoe Benson, PA
Chair

Donna Walker-Kuhne, NY
Vice Chair

James Lemons, NY
Treasurer

Margaret G. Vanderhye, VA
Secretary

DIRECTORS

Vernon Araujo, USVI

Jessica Ball, DE

Kim Chan, NJ

Theresa M. Colvin, MD

Anita Gonzalez, DC

Juanita Hardy, DC

Nick Hawkins, MD

Asa Jackson, VA

Mara Manus, NY

Kevin M. O'Brien, NJ

John Rainero, VA

Marilyn Santarelli, PA

Guha Shankar, MD

John Strickland, WV

During the period
July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023.

STAFF

Theresa Colvin
Executive Director

Veronique Le Melle
Interim Executive Director

Robyn Busch
Director of Programs

Joel Chapman
Program Associate,
Folk and Traditional Arts

Mary Childress
Director of Finance and
Human Resources

Jackie Domenus
Program Director, Fellowships

Phillip Harmon
Director of Operations

Emily Hilliard
Program Director,
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Brittney Huff
Director of Development

Mackenzie Kwok
Communications and
Social Media Manager

Sarah Lewitus
Program Director,
Performing Arts and
Accessibility Coordinator

Jamie Melius
Grants Manager

Karen Newell
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Andrew Alness Olson
Program Director, International

Bo Plantz
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Stephanie Reyes
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Ernest Stuart
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Sarah Theune
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Ann Turiano
Program Specialist

Delise White
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