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**ARLINGTON ART TRUCK SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS'
2019 GARD AWARD AWARD FOR ARTS AND COMMUNITY LIFE**

Voting Open Now; Winning Project Announced on June 15 in the Twin Cities

ARLINGTON, VA - April 3, 2019—Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America, announced that the **ARLINGTON ART TRUCK** is one of 10 finalists selected from across the nation for the annual [Robert E. Gard Award](#). The award recognizes and celebrates exemplary projects from 2018 that crossed the arts into other aspects of community life in meaningful, measurable ways.

The [Arlington Art Truck](#), funded partly by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, is a mobile platform for fostering artistically enhanced civic engagement and increasing access to the arts by delivering cultural experiences where Arlingtonians live, work, and play, and gives them a chance to engage with county and nonprofit initiatives in Arlington, VA, in a unique, fun way. During the Art Truck season from April - October, artists-in-residence packed the van with projects ranging from interactive sculptures, installations, performances, and more. Each project was paired with a county or community partner so visitors could create or activate artworks as well as learn more about county and community resources. This resulted in 31 public activations with more than 6,000 Arlington residents, workers, and visitors participating.

Voting will be open for one month, from April 3 to May 3, 2019, and the winning project will be announced from the main stage at the [2019 Annual Convention](#) in the Twin Cities, Minneapolis, on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Read about the 10 finalist projects by visiting <http://www.americansforthearts.org/gardaward>.

"These Gard award finalist projects have integrated the arts into their communities in important and innovative ways," said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. "Through this work, each of these ten finalists—and thousands of other projects like them across the United States—have positively impacted the lives of residents and strengthened their communities as a whole, and their commitment is deserving of this recognition."

"Arlington Cultural Affairs is delighted to receive this recognition from Americans for the Arts," says the organization's Director, Michelle Isabelle-Stark. "The Arlington Art Truck exemplifies our commitment to expand the role of curator in the public realm, connecting artists with our diverse community to creatively explore the ideas of place, history, civic responsibility, and our shared humanity."



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The Robert E. Gard award is named in honor one of the founding fathers of the local arts movement and a champion of the arts role in the creation and maintenance of healthy, vibrant and equitable communities.

The nine other Gard Award finalists include:

- **Arts in Corrections Initiative**
Sacramento, CA
- **Build Better Tables**
Nashville, TN
- **Community CollabARTive**
St. Louis, MO
- **Fergus Falls' Year of Play**
Fergus Falls, MN
- **PreEnactIndy**
Indianapolis, IN
- **Price Hill Creative Community Festival**
Cincinnati, OH
- **Southside Civic Lab**
Fayetteville, AK
- **Station Hope 2018**
Cleveland, OH
- **Worcester Cultural Coalition PopUP**
Worcester, MA

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***Americans for the Arts** is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City, it has a record of more than 55 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.*

[Arlington Cultural Affairs](#) is a division of Arlington Economic Development, which delivers public activities and programs as Arlington Arts. Our mission is to create, support, and promote the arts, connecting artists and community to reflect the diversity of Arlington. We do this by: providing material support to artists and arts organizations in the form of grants, facilities and theater technology; integrating award-winning public art into our built environment; and presenting high quality performing, literary, visual and new media programs across the County.

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