TIES THAT BIND...

It’s more than just a title of one of this year’s projects. It speaks to the core of our work, as you’ll discover in this recap of the last season.

A sewing lesson literally ‘stitched together’ both individuals and communities, as participants discovered in the Arlington Art Truck’s fall activation, Ties That Bind by Lorenzo Cardim. Through the seemingly simple act of teaching community members how to sew on a button, the artist demonstrated that clothing can be conserved when buttons go missing, rather than tossing into a trash bin. Further, the fabric they practiced on represented the geographic boundaries of the many civic associations of Arlington. When the individual fabric pieces, each shaped like a specific neighborhood or civic association area, were stitched together, the final quilt became a tangible visualization of the nature of community.

In partnership with the Holt-Smithson Foundation and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Arlington Arts marked the 35th Anniversary celebration of Nancy Holt’s Dark Star Park with high-profile panel discussions and film-screenings marking this milestone of Arlington’s internationally-acclaimed public art program. By commissioning an original composition to coincide with the sculpture’s annual alignment with the sun, our partnership with new music leaders Janel and Anthony extended awareness of the artwork among DC’s music community. Ultimately, more than 350 attendees and several media outlets came together for the annual August 1st event.

In everything we do, Arlington Arts endeavors to create connection with artists, with our environment, and with you. We hope you enjoy this look back on some of our successes over the last few months.

2019 REVIEW VIDEO

View on YouTube
DARK STAR PARK

Nancy Holt’s *Dark Star Park* in Rosslyn aligns with the sun every August 1st at 9:32 am - coinciding with the anniversary of Rosslyn’s founding - creating a unique spectacle of shadows.

Arlington Arts joined the Holt-Smithson Foundation and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in celebrating the 35th anniversary of this seminal work of public art. The Hirshhorn hosted film screenings and a public discussion about Holt, her work, and her impact as a pioneer in Land art.

“I think in our current society, we forget that time is something that we humans have invented,” said Lisa Le Feuvre, executive director of the Holt-Smithson Foundation. “This is an artwork that shows that time is not just an invention; it’s natural.” [Local DVM]

A WORLD PREMIERE,
COMMISSIONED BY ARLINGTON COUNTY

Cellist Janel Leppin and guitarist Anthony Pirog, together and separately, have long been an important and active part of Washington D.C.’s new-music scene. “In both bucolic acoustic numbers and immersive dronescapes, the duo offers transport from mundane matters of the world.” [Time Out New York] The cinematic quality of their compositions, paired with a great sense of melody, made Janel and Anthony a perfect choice for creating work to pair with the celestial nature of the sculpture.

Leppin and Pirog visited *Dark Star Park* before composing their piece in hopes of evoking the earth’s rotation, which is instrumental in the sculpture. While the sonic sounds were timed to end with the shadow alignment at 9:32 a.m., the live performance on a small stage near the sculpture wasn’t performed in a vacuum. “We use improvisation in our performance, so we had a little wiggle room,” Pirog acknowledged. As they were playing they were looking at the ground and watching the shadows snap into place. “I felt like everyone went somewhere today, and that’s really special to us — that’s the most important thing,” Leppin said. [WTOP]
“Thank you for taking art on the road and for bringing it to our neighborhoods.”

“Great welcoming people, great community activity, glad to participate.”

“Very practical instruction - love that I learned a real skill. Fun map!”

“Art truck is always fun!”

For the fall Arlington Art Truck project, artist Lorenzo Cardim, with Charlene Wallace and Angela Latson, taught participants how to sew and repair clothing while building community connections. They sewed fun colorful buttons of all shapes and sizes onto fabric shaped like Arlington civic associations and neighborhoods, filling up segments of the map to collectively represent the diversity of Arlington.

“In late October, at Arlington Central Library’s Community Engagement Space, the artists sewed the individual civic association segments together into a bedazzling representation of the community!

“When I see the finished map with all the neighborhoods stitched up together, I reflect on how mending, sewing on a button or repairing our clothes can affect change in ways that are subtle but truly powerful. That we can see art not only as means of self-expression, but a viable way to economic prosperity and positive growth.” [Lorenzo Cardim]
National Chamber Ensemble’s 2019-2020 season, The Classics Re-Imagined, is transforming favorite orchestral works into a new experience. By selecting pieces originally scored for an orchestra, NCE tailors each work to be enjoyed in a chamber music setting. “The National Chamber Ensemble allows one a unique opportunity to hear the music in a form that’s stripped down, but without the loss of any of its sonorous depth.” [Darby DeJarnette, DC Metro Theater Arts]

A Multimedia Experience

National Chamber Ensemble adds another dimension to the classics by incorporating audio-visual content to their performances. The season includes an encore presentation on March 21 of Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons — the work for which they first began using multi-media presentations. While hearing the familiar music, audiences see images of landscape paintings by Italian artist Marco Ricci that were the inspiration for Vivaldi’s 1725 masterwork. Projections enhance the production quality for smaller groups in an entirely new way. Audiences tell Artistic Director Leo Sushansky, “After seeing the Four Seasons by NCE, they’ll never hear it the same way again.” [ARLnow]

“There is something intimate and welcoming about the National Chamber Ensemble that you don’t get elsewhere. The Gunston Arts Center [...] is friendly and accessible. As always, the National Chamber Ensemble blends music with a warm atmosphere that new fans of classical works will find approachable and old timers will appreciate as a unique offering in the DC metro area.” [DC Metro Theater Arts]
**SPRING EVENTS PREVIEW**

The Desegregation of Arlington Lunch Counters: 60th Anniversary Tribute by Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr.: Kennedy has designed seven cards for the Arlington Art Truck to commemorate the sit-in protests that occurred in Arlington from June 9-22, 1960 that challenged widespread segregation policies. Visitors will be able to letterpress one of the cards at each place the truck activates, alongside Kennedy or Arlington printmaker Justyne Fischer. On site will be our community partner the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington. More

Phase II of the Corridor of Light by artist Cliff Garten will be installed late-March as part of the Lynn Street Esplanade and Custis Trail Improvements adjacent to Key Bridge. The four Luminous Body sculptures are monumental in scale yet intimate in character. During the day the artwork reflects sunlight and at night is illuminated with LED lights. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled this spring. Check website for details.

The new addition of poet Dan Brady as Literary Arts Specialist demonstrates Arlington Arts’ continued commitment to the written and spoken word, including: the current search for Arlington’s 2nd Poet Laureate (2020-22); the 20th year of poetry aboard Arlington ART Buses via the Moving Words program; and free poems written just for you via the popular The Poet Is ‘In’ project! More

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**SAVE THE DATE**

25TH ANNUAL COLUMBIA PIKE BLUES FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2020

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**SPRING GRANTEE PRODUCTIONS**

**Synetic Theater:** *Phantom of the Opera*
Gaston Leroux’s timeless supernatural classic gets a fresh update as Irina Tsikurishvili brings her captivating presence and virtuosic skill sets to the title character of *The Phantom of the Opera* in this all-new, movement-driven adaptation. More

**Jane Franklin Dance:** *EyeSoar*
The connotation of “eyesore”, an unpleasant sight in a public place, spins in EyeSoar as audio, video and movement highlight the wonderful people and organizations in an industrial neighborhood. A tribute to the S Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington area, its landscape and the people who call it home. More

**Avant Bard Theatre:** *Ada and the Engine*
Ada Lovelace, the only legitimate child of the amorous poet Lord Byron, had a love of her own: mathematics. From prolific playwright Lauren Gunderson, Ada and the Engine is a whimsical scientific history that once again proves the future is, and has always been, female. More

**Bowen McCauley Dance:** *Spring Performance*
The program offers three world premieres set to live music, fabulous dancers, and guest artists that demonstrate the growth of this Company of 24 years. Experience an expanded collaboration between two award-winning artists, Lucy Bowen McCauley and Turkish Composer Erberk Eryilmaz. More

**The Arlington Players:** *Monty Python’s SPAMALOT*
This Tony Award-winning show delivers all the classic, quotable lines you know from the movies, but with a gutbustingly funny musical twist! Eric Idle’s hilarious dialogue and lyrics will leave you in stitches. But you’ll still be asking, was it an African or a European swallow? More
Arlington Cultural Affairs, a division of of Arlington Economic Development, 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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