

# A Framework for Arlington's Cultural Spaces

Report of the Cultural Facilities Task Force

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# Why Examine Arlington's Cultural Spaces

- ▶ 2015 -- Arlington Community Facilities Study identified challenges
- ▶ 2017 - Enriching Lives: Arlington Arts and Culture Strategy adopted by Arlington Arts Commission
- ▶ 2017 - CFTF formed
  - ▶ What cultural spaces do we currently have in Arlington?
  - ▶ What is the community's vision for cultural spaces in Arlington?
  - ▶ What are the guiding principles that should be followed to achieve the vision?
  - ▶ How should Arlington prioritize its needs for cultural spaces within the context of its other facility requirements?

# Arlington's Evolving Arts and Culture Ecosystem

- ▶ New Life for Aging and Underused Facilities
- ▶ Joint-Use Facilities
- ▶ Co-Locating in Redevelopment
- ▶ Special Event Permits
- ▶ Private Sector Partnerships

# Inventory of Cultural Spaces in Arlington

“Place that is either an affixed structure or purposefully designed landscape that allows a defined cultural activity where art can happen through programming or spontaneous action”

- ▶ Live Presentation Spaces
- ▶ Exhibition/Gallery Presentation Spaces
- ▶ Cinema Presentation Spaces
- ▶ Creation/Production Spaces
- ▶ Living Spaces
- ▶ Museum/Preservation/Collection Spaces
- ▶ Education/Instruction/Training Spaces

# Community Vision for Cultural Spaces

- ▶ March 3<sup>rd</sup> engagement session participants want cultural spaces and places that:
  - ▶ Are **adaptable**, but do not compromise on quality or experience of the art
  - ▶ Are **destinations** that enhance a neighborhood, are vibrant
  - ▶ Are **recognized and promoted**
  - ▶ Are **inclusive, accessible and welcoming**

*We envision a diverse and inclusive community with an imaginative array of spaces and places that enable a full range of arts and cultural activity for creation, presentation, enjoyment, and education.*

# Guiding Principles

- I. **Affirm Community Value of Cultural Space.** Incorporate a variety of cultural spaces in all walks of life. Maintain current cultural spaces and establish priorities for future cultural spaces in Arlington.
- II. **Leverage the Location of Cultural Spaces.** Strengthen and enhance neighborhoods, commercial areas, and community gathering locations to reflect cultural identity by locating cultural spaces throughout Arlington. Locate cultural spaces near public transit and parking options. Cluster varied cultural spaces to maximize cultural experience and amenities.
- III. **Provide Equitable Access To Cultural Spaces.** Plan cultural spaces with attention paid to the diverse needs of each type of activity and the audience for it. Recognize that participation in arts and cultural events is not monolithic. Engage with cultural community producers to determine that their cultural activities address the motivations for participation by members of our community.
- IV. **Link Cultural Spaces and Economic Prosperity.** Ensure that the provision of cultural spaces keeps pace with Arlington's growth. Build capacity so cultural organizations understand the benefits and complexities of managing, operating, owning, or sharing cultural spaces.

# Priorities and Next Steps

1. Keep the Process Going
2. Cultivate and Grow Stakeholder Involvement
3. Conduct a True Needs and Demand Study
4. Elevate Cultural Activities and Spaces in the County's Planning Discussions
5. Responsibly Plan for What is Needed