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Embracing Arlington Arts Applauds County Board for Additional Arts Grants Funding

(Arlington, VA) – The non-profit organization [Embracing Arlington Arts](#) applauds the County Board for approving additional funds for the important Arts Grants program. “We want to thank all the Board members, and particularly Susan Cunningham and Takis Karantonis for leading the effort to increase this funding for a still struggling performing arts and visual arts industry,” stated Janet Kopenhaver, the organization’s president.

According to the Arlington Commission for the Arts [website](#), the adopted budget includes \$250,000 of new funding to support the Arts Grant Program. This funding is comprised of \$150,000 in ongoing funds and \$100,000 in one-time funds. “These additional funds are especially crucial at this time because for at least 15 years, despite COVID, increased costs of goods and services, and many patrons not returning yet to the theater after the pandemic, there has been no appreciable increase in the arts grants pool,” Kopenhaver asserted. “While there have been one-time monies from various sources added to the pool from year to year, that funding has not been predictable and often came with restrictive requirements. We sincerely hope and urge the County not to put restrictive measures on these new funds and to make them available to offset general operating expenses of these non-profit organizations.” Kopenhaver added.

The organization has pledged to monitor developments with the allocation of this new funding to ensure that it is distributed in a fair and effective manner to the local arts organizations that provide entertainment, services and employment to Arlington residents and those in neighboring jurisdictions. “We firmly believe that the intention of the Board in approving these additional monies was that they be allocated to local arts organizations who are such an important part of our community, economy and quality of life,” Kopenhaver concluded.

[Embracing Arlington Arts](#) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance the vibrancy and health of arts and culture and ensure access to the arts to all. Interested supporters are encouraged to “follow” and “like” us on [Facebook](#); and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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