



Embracing Arlington Arts Annual Report of Successes – 2023

During 2023, Embracing Arlington Arts (EAA) achieved numerous successes to meet its [mission](#) to advance the vibrancy and health of the arts and culture in Arlington through advocacy and awareness programs, outreach initiatives and projects that enhance equitable access to the arts and cultural environment. The organization also made great strides in its long-term initiative of having a quality performing arts center built in Arlington. Our efforts would not be possible without the generous support of our [corporate sponsors](#) and individual donations. Here are some details:

- During 2023 Embracing Arlington Arts achieved two major milestones with its podcast show “Embracing Arlington Arts Talks.” First, the 300th episode was released, and episode downloads reached 15,000.
- The organization released its revised “one-stop” library [database](#) of 100 links to studies that provide evidence of the health benefits of the arts. The database is broken into five community sectors (Medically Disabled, Physically Disabled, Seniors, Students/Children, and Veterans), with five links for each of four art therapy genres (dance, music, theater/drama and visual arts). Each new version of the library ensures that no study is more than five years old.
- In order for arts organizations to meet the new Director of Economic Development which oversees Cultural Affairs in the Arlington County government, Embracing Arlington Arts hosted a “[Meet and Greet](#)” with the Director and over 25 arts organization representatives and artists.
- The organization continued producing its podcast show “[Embracing Arlington Arts Talks](#)” every week to bring more visibility to artists and arts organizations. Guests included artists, actors, theater leaders, arts dignitaries, gallery directors, dancers, musicians and more.
- Taking advantage of the crowded democratic primary for seats on the governing Arlington County Board, Embracing Arlington Arts moderated a debate with all six candidates that specifically focused on their vision and initiatives for the arts and culture industry.
- Through a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the organization hired a consultant to completely revamp its [website](#) and monthly *Update* newsletter layouts and formats.
- Our monthly [Update](#) that reports on the arts industry, includes a calendar of events to help arts organizations market their happenings, initiatives our organization is pursuing, details about podcasts, and much more continued to be sent out to over 1,600 readers.
- Members of the EAA [Board of Directors](#) have spoken to a number of groups and at several events to tout the importance of, and advocate for the arts, including civic associations, County Board meetings, County staff meetings and other Advisory Committees.
- The organization achieved a 20% increase in visitors to the website compared to 2022, and increased [facebook](#) “likes” and “follows” by over 25%.
- Numerous meetings were held with County leaders, decisionmakers, and developers on locating a site for the [performing arts center](#).