

## arts & humanities working group

*We are excited to announce the revival of the **Washington Grantmakers Arts & Humanities Working Group**. Arts and humanities have always been integral components of the philanthropic landscape in our region, but the conversation around them has grown quiet in the WG community.*

*We feel that this is the right moment to bring arts funders together again to discuss how we can collaborate to support our region's rich culture.*

*Below you will find some information about the Working Group from the last time it existed. The history of the group will help inform our next steps as we develop a mission and goals moving forward. We hope you will be able to join us on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 for our retreat. Please check the calendar on the Washington Grantmakers website ([www.washingtongrantmakers.org](http://www.washingtongrantmakers.org)) for more details.*

*If you are interested in being a part of the Working Group, please contact Christian Clansky – [clansky@washingtongrantmakers.org](mailto:clansky@washingtongrantmakers.org). All interested WG members are welcome, of course, regardless of funding priorities.*

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### **Background: 2005**

#### mission and philosophy

The Arts & Humanities Working Group (A&HWG) is comprised of funders in the National Capital Region and their partners in the community. A&HWG believes that arts, heritage, and culture are tools for building the community and improving the quality of life in our region; engines for regional economic development/community development, and healthy neighborhoods; and powerful vehicles for education and child/youth development. The group is committed to strengthening and elevating the arts, heritage, and cultural sector in the Metropolitan area, and to increasing investments in the sector.

#### benefits of membership

- Networking and learning among peers including fellow grantmakers, community-based arts groups, advocates, and policy makers.
- Leadership opportunities.
- An understanding of healthy communities as ones that provide:
  1. Nurturing environments for individual artists with space to live, work, rehearse, and perform; access to employment, benefits, professional development opportunities, direct financial support, community development opportunities, and mechanisms to communicate with media and audience.
  2. Access to community-based programming including out-of-school activities; professional performing arts; facilities; visibility; technical assistance; and advocacy.
  3. Knowledge about the community's heritage for residents and visitors through neighborhood-based cultural/heritage activities; research programs that promote and preserve community stories, history, and sense of place; creative re-use of historic assets as neighborhood economic development engines.

#### 2005 activities

##### **PG County Arts Corridor Tour**

A tour of the Arts and Entertainment Corridor in Prince George's County (Mount Rainier, Brentwood, North Brentwood and Hyattsville), the new building for World Arts Focus (Joe's Movement Emporium), and the new live/work apartments for artists developed by Artspace Projects.

##### **Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC)**

The A&HWG worked in partnership with the LINC campaign, launched by the Ford Foundation. An initial fund of \$150,000 was established at the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region to increase public awareness of the arts, build capacity of arts organizations supporting individual artists and support new artistic creation.

##### **Regional Cultural Policy Agenda**

The A&HWG also worked with The Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington on the implementation of a Regional Cultural Policy Agenda that focused on Art Education, Arts and Culture as an economic development vehicle and Sustained Funding for the Arts. The Funding Committee, chaired by Theresa Cameron, Humanities Council of Montgomery County and Jane Lipton Cafritz, DC Arts Commissioner and Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Board Member, conducted an assessment of support for the arts including resources from federal, local, and private entities.