

CARPE DIEM ARTS

Bringing the Arts to Life!



Annual Report FY23

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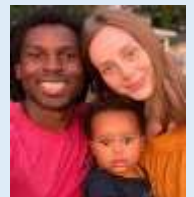
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December 2023

Dear Friends of Carpe Diem and the Arts,

In our last report, we shared both the challenges and triumphs of operating during the global pandemic.

We missed each other's company but carried on valiantly throughout shutdowns and social distancing – and we reinvented ourselves in the virtual spaces, along with everyone else.

Today, we are together again, but experiencing a different set of challenges: the terrible consequences of war, our planet in peril, gun violence, families in crisis, an uncertain future for our country.

The world needs a lift up. The Arts bring us together and provide an outlet for essential creative expression – celebrating diversity, inspiring hope, and building confidence and resilience.

When we see the joy our programs bring to preschoolers and seniors and everyone in between, we know we are on the right track. You will see glimpses of these impactful experiences highlighted in this report.

With your support, we could do so much more to bring Carpe Diem's life-affirming and healing arts programs to those who stand to reap the greatest benefit.

I hope you will be inspired by what you see in our FY23 Annual Report and will want to play a bigger role in bringing the visual, literary, and performing arts to life where they are most needed.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Busy Graham

Busy Graham, Founder and Director
Carpe Diem Arts, Inc.



CARPE DIEM ARTS

Bringing the Arts to Life!

MISSION

Carpe Diem Arts' mission is to inspire creative self-expression that empowers individuals, strengthens communities, and builds better futures, while also supporting the livelihoods of master teaching and performing artists who reflect the diversity of the communities we serve.

VISION

Through shared arts experiences in the visual, literary and performing arts, individuals and groups find common ground, discover new talents and interests, and build lasting relationships.

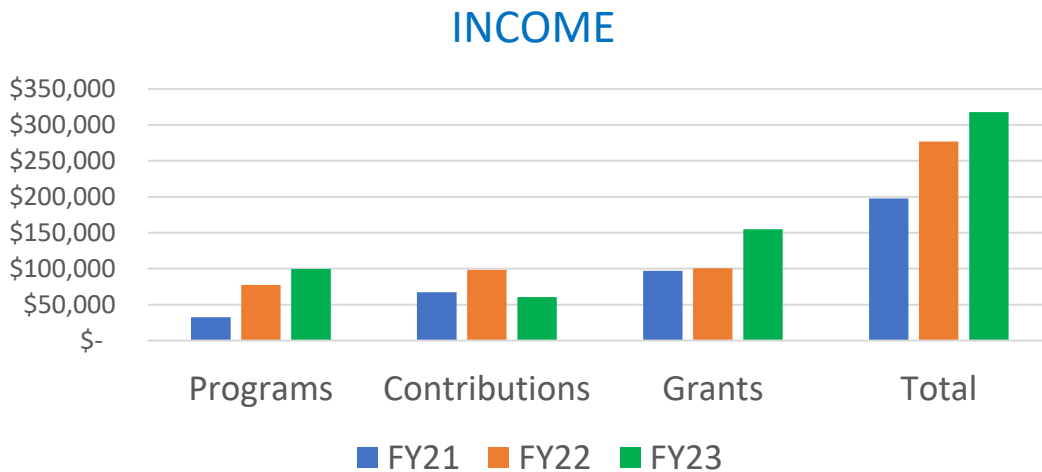
VALUES

Our guiding values are social justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and joy—employing the arts to unite, energize and inspire us to create the change we need to see in the world. *Bringing the arts to life in ways that matter and make a difference.*

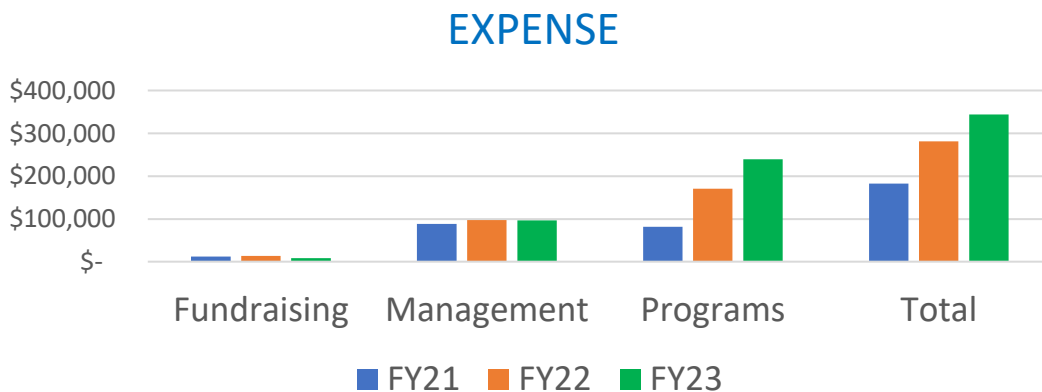


FINANCIALS

Income At a glance, the financials reveal steady growth in income over the last three fiscal years, as operations re-emerged from the pandemic shut-down. This growth was concentrated in program income and grants, while contributions from donors dipped from FY22 to FY23, mirroring a nationwide trend for nonprofits.



Expense As expected, program expenses exhibited a steady uptick year over year, from FY21 to FY23, as programming ramped back up. A small reported loss was offset by the release of donor restricted funds recognized as income in prior year.



None of these achievements would have been possible without general operating support from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, for which we are most appreciative.

With increased financial support from funders and donors, Carpe Diem Arts can continue program growth, reaching more of those in need, while also continuing our commitment to equitable compensation for staff and artists.

STATEMENT OF NEED

Carpe Diem Arts has earned a reputation for the outstanding quality, diversity, and integrity of our programs, and for developing supportive partnerships to further deepen our impact and broaden our reach – while also providing meaningful and remunerative work for hundreds of artists.

Demand for our programs is greater than ever: in schools, libraries, recreation centers, residential communities, and more – and we are seeing a reawakening of faith in the ability of the Arts to support and enhance learning, teach empathy, build confidence, and uplift voices.

Carpe Diem Arts stands ready to expand our reach to include more under-resourced communities, after having successfully piloted our signature programs. We have forecast a 25% growth in our FY2024 budget and need your support to ensure success. **Our goal is to raise \$100,000 by June 30, 2024**, and we are already more than a third of the way there.

We hope you will join us in affirming the power of the Arts to inspire creativity, strengthen communities, and build brighter futures.

Please support Carpe Diem Arts in our quest to broaden access to the Arts. For major gifts, please contact dianedowling@carpediemarts.org.

Thank you for your support!



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Post-pandemic, FY23 was a rebuilding year for us. Some sectors were eager to ramp up quickly; for example, our Arts Alive program serving seniors grew dramatically. Others were slow getting out of the gate, such as Jump Start with the Arts where preschoolers did not have a Covid vaccine. Youth ArtBeat shifted to schools from residential sites as low-income communities invested funds in rent assistance programs and needed time to recover. In the process, new connections were made that will allow us to achieve greater reach in FY24.

Our staff is small and mighty, but we could touch so many more lives with expansion of programs, professional branding, robust publicity and marketing, and augmented development efforts, all of which will only be possible with an infusion of new resources.

Program	# of Sessions	# of Touch Points*
Daily Antidote of Song	365	57,209
Arts Alive	283	2,971
School Assemblies	10	2,655
Ukes on the Move	26	2,519
Community Dance with FSGW	7	914
Jump Start with the Arts	23	765
Community Sing	11	743
Summer Sleepaway & Day Camps	33	612
Healthy Families Healthy Communities	56	572
Youth ArtBeat	36	432
TOTAL	850	69,392

* Touchpoint figures represent # of sessions times # of people at each session. We believe each time we interact with an individual, there is an opportunity to inspire their creativity, change a viewpoint, give them a new skill, and connect them with others.



Elvy Engdahl



Signature Programs: At-A-Glance

JUMPstart Arts
with the


Developing social, motor and cognitive skills through the arts



CARPE DIEM ARTS
Bringing the Arts to Life!

Youth ArtBeat

Developing social emotional wellness, cultural awareness, empathy, and confidence through the arts



CARPE DIEM ARTS
Bringing the Arts to Life!

Ukes on the Move!

Building confidence and voice through instrument ownership, shared learning, collaborative songwriting, and performance



CARPE DIEM ARTS
Bringing the Arts to Life!

COMMUNITY Sing!

Bringing people together for a shared musical experience led by talented performing artists



The 21st of each month

CARPE DIEM ARTS
Bringing the Arts to Life!

COMMUNITY Dance!




Second Thursday of each month

CARPE DIEM ARTS
Bringing the Arts to Life!

Arts Alive

Promoting the creative arts for lifelong learning and community engagement, health and wellness, happiness and fun.



CARPE DIEM ARTS
Bringing the Arts to Life!

*Daily Antidote
of Song*

**CARPE DIEM
ARTS**
Summer Camps



ARTS ALIVE

Arts Alive brings the joy of active participation in the arts to senior communities throughout Montgomery County (and beyond). The growth of our County's population has outpaced the state and nation, with seniors 65+ driving that growth up 50% from 2010 to 2022. There are now over 181,000 seniors in the County.*

According to the National Institute on Aging, "participation in the arts creates pathways to healthy aging... Music, theater, dance, creative writing, and other participatory arts improve older adults' quality of life and well-being, from better cognitive function, memory, and self-esteem to reduced stress and increased social interaction."

Carpe Diem facilitated over 280 programs in senior centers and retirement communities in FY23. We remain committed to expanding our reach in bringing a broad range of culturally diverse programs to those in most need of the opportunity to engage in the arts and gain a new lease on life!

*Source: usafacts.org / Census Bureau





Ukes on the Move teaches ukulele and songwriting to third and fourth grade students, building confidence and providing a springboard for a lifetime of music-making. The Ukes on the Move program was delivered at three elementary schools in FY23: Viers Mill, Oak View, and Weller Road – thanks to grants from the funders below and individual donors, like you.

A total of 279 students took home their own ukulele to keep, funded by Sparkjoy Foundation.

The demand for the program continues to grow exponentially.

"I love the ukulele! I'm starting a band with my brothers!"

~ Yima





Jump Start with the Arts is an early childhood arts enrichment program that includes public performances and arts integration for preschoolers. The goal is to provide a jump-start to healthy and joyful social and cognitive development in the early stages of learning, engaging young children in memorable, educational, developmentally appropriate, and culturally diverse experiences through the Arts.

In FY23, Carpe Diem Arts facilitated a pilot program with NEA funding at Title I Viers Mill Elementary School, providing children with the opportunity to engage in music and movement, visual arts, African drumming, puppetry, and storytelling – as well as 12 monthly performances in partnership with the Takoma Park MD Library.





Youth ArtBeat

After School Program for 3rd-5th grades
at Gaithersburg Elementary
Tuesdays & Wednesdays until 5:30 pm
from September 6 - February 1



Ukulele, Poetry & Songwriting
Your child will learn to play the ukulele, read and analyze poems, and write songs with classmates. Ukuleles will be provided. 12 sessions.



Quilt Portraits: My Life Matters
Your child will learn to measure and sew, learn about quilt patterns, and design a quilt pattern that reflects what is important in their lives. 12 sessions.



My Community, My Democracy
Your child will learn the seven "steps to democracy," including conflict resolution (Listen!), understanding the news (Learn!), and voting (Choose!). 12 sessions.





YOUTH ARTBEAT OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

In FY23, Carpe Diem's **Youth ArtBeat** program continued to serve elementary school-aged children in Title 1 schools. This past year, with a grant from the City of Gaithersburg, we brought a three-module arts-based program to Gaithersburg Elementary School. One module focused on literacy, one on math, and one on civics in partnership with The Civic Circle.

"Every school where Carpe Diem had programming raved about how impactful the program was and how more students are inspired to try the arts.... The Carpe Diem team is doing outstanding work in our community. They are known to be trustworthy, hardworking, and caring... Exceptional work... A true gift to the Gaithersburg community... Carpe Diem's incredible service and commitment to collaboration is strong, and the agency continues to impress us daily!"

~ Mary Armbruster, Senior Program Coordinator, Community Services



DAILY ANTIDOTE OF SONG



"The Daily Antidote of Song continues to be an antidote for all the difficult struggles of the world - just as much today as it was in the Spring of 2020."

~ Linda

"My husband struggles with severe dementia, and when he listens and sings along with the Daily Antidote, his mind and his memory are positively affected every day. The messages embedded in the songs and in the discussion with the artists are inspiring and uplifting, but the big surprise has been a roomful of new friends."

~ Penny

December 31, 2022, marked 1,000 consecutive days of hosting the Daily Antidote of Song at 12 noon ET, 365 days a year – bringing people together to share in a song and conversation with more than 400 recording artists from around the globe: "Making each day better one song at a time." The program was a finalist for a WAMMIE award in the "Do Good" category.

Launched in April 2020 as a way to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, the program has reached audiences in 49 states and 25 countries, with over 57,000 touch points in FY23 alone – and it's still going strong! You can support this program by buying the five-volume CD set featuring the Daily Antidote artists at dailyantidote.bandcamp.com.



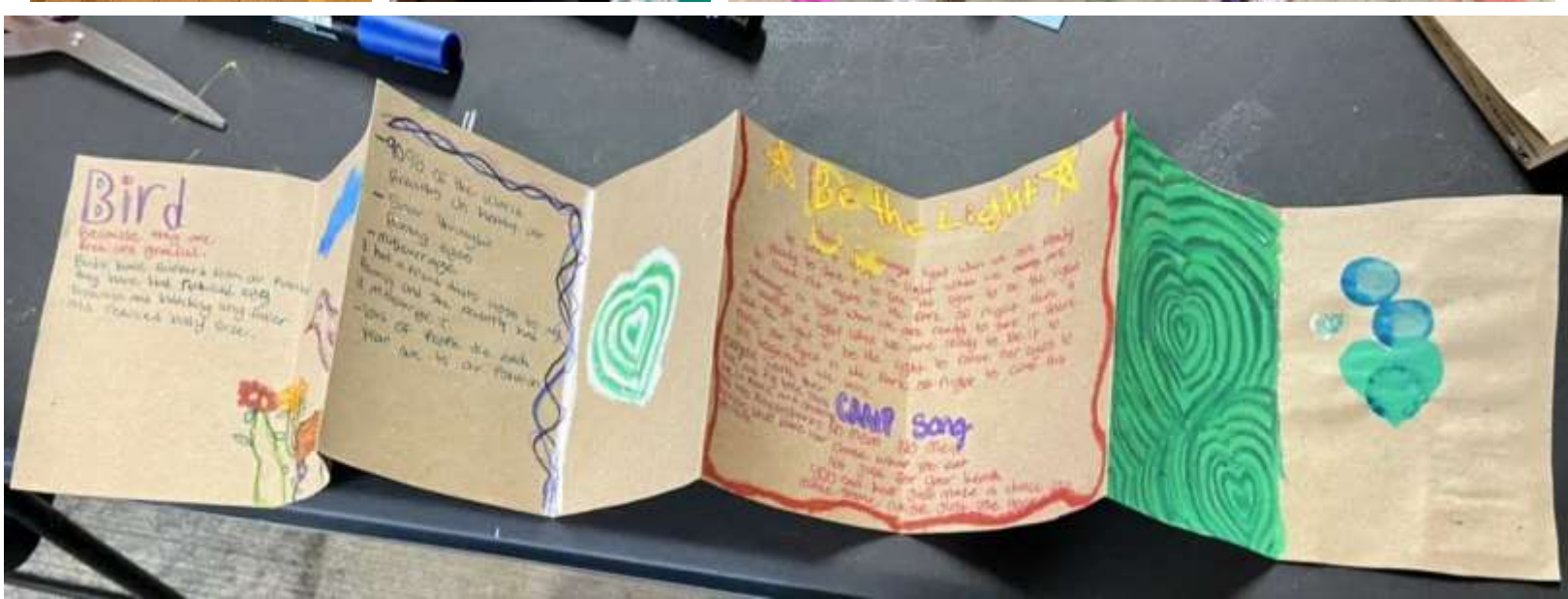
"The Daily Antidote is a breath of fresh air. It really saved my life during the pandemic, and I am so thankful."

~ Ysaye Barnwell, founding member of Sweet Honey in the Rock

SUMMER DAY CAMPS



In Summer 2022, Carpe Diem offered three weeks of summer day camps: the “Hamilton” camp for grades 3-5 in partnership with The Civic Circle, exploring songs and stories behind the revolutionary musical; an “Arts for Social Change” camp for grades 6-8, focusing on environmental issues related to clean air; and a week of Spanish immersion arts camp for grades 3-5. Each of the camps included various art activities, singing, and learning to play the ukulele.



SUMMER SLEEPAWAY CAMPS



"Carpe Diem has been my absolute favorite camp. I love getting to leave the suburb/city area and just immerse myself in nature. People here are all so encouraging! I hope many other young girls will get to enjoy this camp! LOVE YOU CARPE DIEM! My home away from home!" ~ Maya, 3rd time camper

"This was really interesting to explore the various types of bias that mix with racial biases. It's important to talk about this stuff, because it matters, to everyone." ~ Ruby, 8th grade

"I love the activities, everything we learn, the people, the food, the buildings. Everything is really nice!" ~ Juliette, 8th grade



SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES



"We enjoyed the Artists in Motion/Alchemy Ballet assembly for students. Our students were exposed to the arts in a way that they had not witnessed before. Many of them walked away, literally dancing, very excited about what they experienced!"

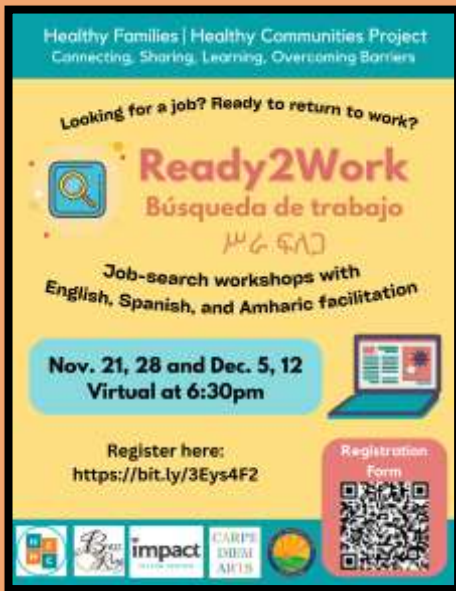
~ Dr. Cavena Griffith, Principal, Harriet Tubman ES,
Gaithersburg, MD

"Everyone loved the [Mr. Lilo Trio] programs on Friday! Thanks again for making this opportunity available to us."

~ Lisa Henry, Principal, Summit Hall ES,
Gaithersburg, MD



HEALTHY FAMILIES HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Healthy Families | Healthy Communities, a partnership of Carpe Diem Arts and Brass Ring Co., delivers a variety of creative arts and supportive programs that build community, deepen and strengthen connection, and break down silos. This program is geared toward residents of Takoma Park and is supported by a grant from the City.

"This space was an oasis of joy for me, as I struggled with cancer treatments. I was so happy to be doing arts activities, like wax resist art, origami cherry blossoms, and sewing. It was great to connect with others."

~ Fran, age 68

COMMUNITY SING

The **Community Sing** on the 21st of each month welcomes all ages in celebrating diverse cultures and traditions of song, the changing of seasons (solstices and equinoxes), heritage months, birthdays and holidays.

This past year, we hosted these multi-generational, multi-cultural gatherings in a combination of in-person and virtual sessions.

Carpe Diem! Online Community Sing!

Celebrating November!
US Native American Heritage Month, Canada's new Hindu Heritage Month, Voting Rights, and Gratitude
Our November singing is in honor of the great Kevin Locke



In honor of the great Kevin Locke



Shruthi Veena Vishwanath



Thea Hopkins



Rik Palieri



Eliza Blue



Emma's Revolution



Monday, November 21, 2022
6:30-8:00pm EST

Virtual and Free
Donations welcome!

INFO:
CarpeDiemArts.org

Carpe Diem! Community Sing!

In celebration of Earth Day and Environmental Awareness Month, Arab American Heritage, Deaf Awareness Month, Jazz Heritage Month & Mingus Centennial!



Hosted by Munit Mesfin!



Laura Baron



Aya Aziz



Neole Stella



Brian & Rosi Amador



Jackie Merritt & Resa Gibbs



Terry Leonino & Greg Artzner



Thursday, April 21, 2022
6:30pm ET

Virtual & Free

CarpeDiemArts.org

SILVER SPRING COMMUNITY DANCE



Post-pandemic, the monthly Community Dance returned in October 2022 to the Silver Spring Great Hall. Carpe Diem Arts is now partnered with the Folklore Society of Greater Washington in presenting these events.

We held 7 Community Dances, creating 914 touchpoints.

"Thanks to Carpe Diem Arts for bringing sparkle and connection into people's lives through the arts. I am especially grateful for the wonderful Silver Spring Contra Dance!"

~ Carrie Rose, flutist, composer, educator

April 13, 2023, marked the 10th anniversary of the Community Dance.

Thank you to Montgomery County for subsidizing the Great Hall rental fee with Community Access Program funds.



Folklore
Society of
Greater
Washington



MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE

Program	# of Sessions	# of Touch Points*
Brookletts Place Senior Center – lunchtime concert series	9	210
Chesapeake Center for adults with disabilities – performances	4	225
Claiborne Village Hall – community concerts	5	140
Easton Library partnership – family performance series	5	150
Easton ES & Chesapeake Multi-Cultural Resource Ctr programs	2	48
TOTAL	25	773



"Another amazing show! I always marvel at the talent that Carpe Diem Arts brings to our communities."

~ Randy Welch, local resident / bagpiper

"The positive impact of Carpe Diem Arts' programs can not be overstated. The performances I've witnessed have opened my heart and soothed my soul, often exposing me to cultures I knew little about. I've seen this organization provide such joy and delight to people from every walk of life. I'm a believer and a supporter!"

~ Sue Stockman, artist

"We are immensely grateful to Carpe Diem Arts for the performances they bring to our adults with various disabilities. These experiences have enriched the lives of up to 60 people at each concert. Participants are encouraged to interact with the performers, to learn about the instruments, and to hear about the stories behind the music – and they enjoy clapping and singing along, dancing and harmonizing. It is a joyous experience!"

~ Donna Harrison, President & CEO, Chesapeake Center, Easton, MD



DOCK STREET FOUNDATION



DEEPEN YOUR SUPPORT

"I admire Carpe Diem's programs, creativity, and many years of bringing high quality arts to County residents of all ages. In our world of nonprofits, Carpe Diem is a superstar and is willing to collaborate with everyone!"

~Eileen McGuckian, President, Montgomery Preservation (MPI)



DONATE NOW

- On Our [Website](#) or Contact us to Donate Stock
- Sponsor a Program, Camper, or Ukulele Purchase
- Share Your Event Space or Host a Fundraising Event
- Recommend Us to Other Donors

YES. Sign me up!

- Serve on the Board or Advisory Council
- Partner on a Project
- [Volunteer](#)
- Provide Your Skills or Teach
- [Contact Us](#), Find Out What You Can Do to Help



- Come to Events; Take a Class; Join in the Fun
- [Join the Mailing List](#)
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- Share Ideas

Mural project with artist Arturo Ho and residents of Mi Casa intergenerational housing community--made possible by a grant from AARP.



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Montgomery County and DC Area

GOVERNMENT

Arts and Humanities Council of
Montgomery County (AHCMC)
City of Takoma Park
City of Gaithersburg
Housing Opportunities Commission
Maryland State Arts Council
Montgomery County, MD
Montgomery County Libraries
Montgomery County Public Schools
Montgomery County Recreation Dept
National Endowment for the Arts
Silver Spring Regional Center

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El Golfo Restaurant
Finn Family Group
House of Musical Traditions
Nuance Communications
Sharp Insight, LLC.

FOUNDATIONS

AARP Foundation
Foley Hoag Foundation
Nora Roberts Foundation
Sparkjoy Foundation

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Country Dance & Song Society
Enterprise Community Partners
Essex House Tenants Association
Crossroads Community Foods Network
Folklore Society of Greater Washington
Friends of the Takoma Park MD Library
IMPACT Silver Spring
Institute of Musical Traditions

Labor Heritage Foundation
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Mi Casa-DC
Natural Voice Network
Pinewoods
Riderwood Senior Living Community
Sandy Spring Museum
Sidwell Friends School
Silver Spring Town Center, Inc.
Smithsonian Institution
Springvale Terrace Senior Residence
Sweet Honey in the Rock
Takoma Radio WOWD
The Civic Circle
Ubuntu Choir Network
Village Harmony
Washington Revels

Eastern Shore

GOVERNMENT

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Talbot Arts
Talbot County Public Libraries
Talbot County Public Schools

FOUNDATIONS

Dock Street Foundation
Mid-Shore Community Foundation

NON-PROFIT PARTNERS

Avalon Foundation
Brookletts Place Senior Center
Chesapeake Center
Chesapeake Christian School
Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center
Country School Parents' Association
First Night Talbot
Saints Peter and Paul School
Upper Shore Aging
WHCP Public Radio

TESTIMONIALS for CARPE DIEM ARTS!



"Of the many nonprofit arts organizations I have worked with across the nation, Carpe Diem Arts has the highest quality programming combined with the biggest, most authentic heart."

~ Mary Amato, award-winning author, singer-songwriter, dancer-choreographer, puppeteer, teaching artist

"We are very pleased with our partnership with Carpe Diem Arts. We especially appreciate the quality and diversity of artists – as well as the range of programs: music, storytelling, movement/dance, African drumming, and puppetry... it is truly a joy to watch children and their caregivers so actively engaged!"

~ Verónica Rivera-Negrón, Takoma Park Maryland Library



"The Daily Antidote: singing songs of hope, strength and love, joy, compassion, and resiliency – all as one community striving for a better world."

~ Kevin Ennis, Cerebral Palsy and Disability Rights Activist

"Carpe Diem Arts brings high quality, capacity-building programs and inspiring arts enrichment activities to children, youth and adults. Many of our participants have benefited greatly from these programs and resources and can now better advocate for themselves and their children – leading to greater civic engagement and economic stability."

~ Seble Seyoum, Program Manager, Long Branch Collective Action for Youth



"As a former art teacher and now advisory board member, I can say that the true beauty of Carpe Diem lies in understanding the value of arts and culture and translating that into actual support for artists and outreach to diverse communities."

Carpe Diem's dedication and thoughtful approach to arts programming should be the gold standard."

~ Asmara Sium, Creative Grounds



"Carpe Diem brings out the best in our community by making music, art, and celebration accessible to all of the people of Montgomery County and beyond. I cherish the exuberance, diversity and energy of the Carpe Diem community and am grateful that this remarkable organization is here for us through thick and thin."

~ U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin

"Every time I participate in a Carpe Diem Arts event, I know I am actively contributing to the health and vibrancy of my community in ways that will continue to ripple into the future."

~ Lea Morris, composer, recording artist, singer-songwriter, teaching artist



"Carpe Diem's programs reach across all ages, cultures, and backgrounds... My family has benefited from their many library and school programs, the Jump Start Family Fun Nights, and the Spanish Immersion arts camp. I am blown away by the caliber of artists. They and Carpe Diem are the heartbeat of hope for a better and brighter future."

~ Stephanie Powell, audience member and PTA President, Rolling Terrace ES, Takoma Park, MD

"Carpe Diem Arts is an essential showcase for the traditional arts that engages and enriches the lives of our communities."

~ Dom Flemons, Grammy Award-winning artist

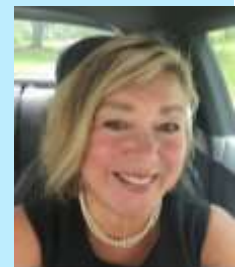


"I have seen first-hand the incredible impact of Carpe Diem Arts for over 10 years. The Carpe Diem team connects generations and communities. The quality, variety and creativity of the programming has been tested and they are excellent partners. We need their spirit and dedication more than ever!"

~ Gabe Albornoz, President, Montgomery County Council

"...As a journalist specializing in the arts & entertainment, I've met many artists who depend on Carpe Diem Arts. I've heard their stories, marveled at their talent and dedication, learned how they keep traditions alive—and have seen how Carpe Diem Arts provides support so they can bring their programs to ever-wider audiences... All arts organizations are in rough waters right now; none is more deserving of support than Carpe Diem Arts."

~ Chris Slattery, writer-journalist



A SAMPLING OF ARTISTS WE WORK WITH



Amadou Kouyate



Alchemy Ballet



Bintou Kouyate



Dereje Demissie



Smita Khatri



Thomas Young



Gabrielle Zwi



Arturo Ho



Lea Morris



Billy B.



Lilo Gonzalez



Phil Wiggins



Mr. Gabe



Kofi Dennis



Katie Aboudou



Anna Mwalgho



Gabriela Cohen



Gerdan of Ukraine



Devin Walker



Elena La Fulana



Munit Mesfin



Maureen Andary



Carlen Quiroga



Chris Noyes



Liz Brinker



Sue Stockman



Bunmi Akinola



Sabrina Mandell
& Mark Jaster



Franklyn
Johnson-Williams



Eric Maring



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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