

Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture

3-Year Strategic Plan

Vision

Arlington thrives because arts and culture enrich the life of our community, spark economic vitality, and invite us into relationship with each other in imaginative ways.

Mission

The Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture cultivates a sustainable and supportive environment for the arts and enlivens public space with accessible creative experiences to strengthen and enrich our community, create opportunities for artists, and invigorate the local economy.

Core Values

Collaboration and Community

The ACAC values and seeks to grow through collaborative partnerships. We strive to work with a diverse array of partners including local and visiting artists, local businesses and arts and culture organizations, other town committees, and anyone who supports our mission and shares our core values. We define “artists” and “the arts” broadly to include diverse media and content in traditional and contemporary forms.

Leadership & Advocacy

ACAC values and understands the importance of communication and advocacy with public officials, lawmakers, and business leaders on behalf of the people, institutions and initiatives seeking to make Arlington a better place through the arts.

Enrichment and Delight

ACAC values the power of the arts to transform the way we see ourselves and others, and strives to create opportunities to make enriching, quality arts experiences accessible for all who live, work in, and visit Arlington.

Innovation & Authenticity

ACAC aims to develop new levels of creativity and innovation, while maintaining the originality and authenticity of the programs and initiatives that are unique to Arlington’s people and resources.

Equity, Inclusion, and Respect

The ACAC is committed to pursuing policies and practices of cultural equity and encourages participation from people of all backgrounds. Cultural equity refers to the values, policies, and practices that ensure that all people are represented in the development of arts policy; the support of artists; the nurturing of accessible, thriving venues for expression; and the fair distribution of programmatic, financial, and informational resources.

Strategic Plan Goals:

Goal 1: Present Art and Performance in Public Spaces

Develop, commission, and present art and performance in public spaces, with a focus on work that fosters shared experiences, invites participation, and is accessible to all.

Goal 2: Develop Infrastructure to Support Working Artists and Arts Organizations

Identify and engage local artists and arts organizations, and assess and advocate for their needs. By acting as a resource and facilitator, lead and catalyze development of the arts sector. Articulate the role of the arts in enhancing quality of life. Build Arlington's reputation as a place of public engagement with arts and culture.

Goal 3: Practice Cultural Equity and Inclusion

Develop policies and practices of cultural equity and inclusion that expand accessibility and participation in the arts in Arlington.

Goal 4: Position Arlington as a Cultural Destination

Promote Arlington's artistic and cultural assets and activities by positioning the town as a cultural destination; creating a distinctive brand that attracts residents, visitors, businesses and investment; and fostering sustainable social and economic well-being.

Goal 5: Advance Operational Stability and Financial Sustainability

Systematize and document financial, recruiting, planning, communications and staffing practices. Diversify and increase funding streams by developing and stewarding relationships with individual donors, local businesses, and collaborative program partners. Identify grant opportunities to bring additional funding into Arlington.