

# VIRGINIA BEACH ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

## OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

### ANNUAL REPORT FY2015

#### MISSION STATEMENT

To make Virginia Beach a great city, the Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission is dedicated to integrating the arts and humanities, in their full ethnic and cultural diversity, into the fabric of everyday life. Toward this end, the Commission serves as an advisory and funding entity, stimulating and supporting excellence and accessibility in the arts and humanities for all citizens.

## History

Since 1979, the Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission has developed and promoted local cultural organizations and activities as part of its mission to enrich the quality of life of the citizens of Virginia Beach. In partnership with the community, the Commission promotes excellence in the arts by initiating and supporting programs, activities and policies that inspire, nurture and reflect the cultural diversity of the City.

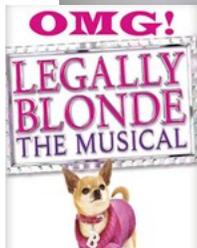
*The Commission exists to assist the growth of worthwhile programs in the arts and humanities in the City of Virginia Beach.*

## Project Grants

- In Fiscal Year 2014 (most recent data available) the Arts and Humanities Commission funded over 386 performances and programs within the City of Virginia Beach.
- Commission-sponsored programs reached a combined audience attendance of approximately 235,000.



- This fiscal year, funding from the Arts and Humanities Commission, for example, sponsored the Virginia Beach Forum's speaker, beloved sports personality and author, Dick Vitale; the *Ryan McGinness: Studio Visit* exhibition and *New Waves 2015* at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), *Gypsy* and *Legally Blonde* at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts produced by Virginia Musical Theatre.



- Arts organizations receiving Commission grants in 2014 returned \$315,000 in direct revenue through admission taxes and venue rental to the City and returned .69 cents on each dollar of the Commission's annual appropriation back to the City.

## Leadership and Organizational Development Grants

- In 2014, four eligible arts and humanities organizations received LOD grant funding which allowed representatives from each organization to attend an array of classes, workshops and conferences related to non-profit management.

## Public Art

The City's Public Art Program is overseen by the Commission's Public Art Committee.

- The Sandler Center Art Gallery continues to offer exhibition opportunities for serious visual and fine craft artists exhibiting two dimensional works.



Exhibits are rotated on a bi-monthly basis. The Art Gallery is located on the 2nd and 3rd floor lobbies of the Sandler Center. The gallery is free and open to the public, Monday through Friday from 10am-6pm, Saturdays from 10am-2pm and during any performance at the Sandler Center. The addition of the Art Gallery helps in establishing the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts as a world-class center for both the performing and visual arts in Hampton Roads.



- **Good Game Sculpture:** On April 22, 2014 the Kempsville PONY Baseball League donated the *Good Game* sculpture by artist, Richard Stravitz, to the City of Virginia Beach. The sculpture is a life-size bronze statue of a young teen-age baseball player, created to commemorate the 50-year history of PONY baseball played in the Kempsville area of the City of Virginia Beach. The sculpture is placed in the new Kempes Landing Park and was dedicated on April 18, 2015. It has been warmly embraced by the entire community.
- **Oceanfront Library Teen Art Contest:** The Arts and Humanities Commission’s Public Art Committee was invited to join the Virginia Beach Public Libraries in the selection and judging process for the Oceanfront Library Teen Art Contest. On June 16, 2014 the work of a Great Neck Middle School student was chosen as the winner. Due to the generosity of a member of the Selection Committee, another student was given the opportunity to create her work as well.
- **Walmart Handmade Art Murals:** The new Walmart at Town Center commissioned local artist, Diane Husson, to create six handmade art tile murals focusing on waterways, animal and plant life, tall ships, fishing, mermaids, sea creatures and pirates. The new artwork was unveiled at the building’s grand opening on October 8, 2014.



## Marketing

- **CO-OP Ads:** The Arts Commission is also a marketing resource for local arts groups. The Commission sponsors co-op advertisements in local newspapers to make advertising more affordable for local organizations. This year, the Arts Commission partnered with *VEER Magazine* and *The Virginian-Pilot* to provide this valuable resource.
- The Arts and Humanities Commission’s website, [www.VBgov.com/arts](http://www.VBgov.com/arts) continues to bring all of the arts and cultural information in Virginia Beach to one comprehensive location. The site provides access to online grant applications and forms, gives an overview of the public art sculptures located in the City and displays the Commission’s meeting schedule and upcoming events.

## 2015 GRANT RECIPIENTS

*Ballet Virginia International*  
*Little Theatre of Virginia Beach*  
*Symphonicity*  
*Teens With a Purpose*  
*The Tidewater Winds*  
*Tidewater Arts Outreach*  
*Virginia Arts Festival*  
*Virginia Beach Forum*

*Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)*  
*Virginia Musical Theatre*  
*Virginia Opera*  
*Virginia Stage Company*  
*Virginia Symphony Orchestra*  
*World Affairs Council of Greater Hampton Roads*  
*Young Audiences of Virginia*