

GUIDE TO THE ARTS

32 PAGES OF GALLERIES, ARTISTS, MUSIC AND THEATRE

FOOD & DRINK:

TOUR OF UN-MEGA-MARTS

A PLACE IN THE COUNTRY:
PRESERVING THE MEADOWS

HEALTHY HABITAT:
OF DEER & OTHER WILDLIFE

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Art of Autumn



Virginia Commission for the Arts

by Greg Huddleston

If you have a favorite arts organization — maybe you love classical music and subscribe to a symphony orchestra or regularly enjoy taking a picnic basket and lawn chairs to the Bluemont concert series on warm Saturday evenings in the summer — then you most likely have the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) to thank for helping to make such cultural offerings available. Without support from the VCA, organizations like these and many others would suffer and perhaps cease to exist.

Based in Richmond, the VCA is responsible for helping to fund many arts organizations throughout the state including a large number in the Piedmont region (see partial listing below). The VCA's primary purpose is to channel funding from the Virginia General Assembly and National Endowment for the Arts to art and cultural organizations throughout the state.

As stated on its website, the VCA builds and strengthens the cultural infrastructure through supporting Virginia's individual artists, arts entrepreneurs, businesses, and institutions. "We are working to create more opportunities for collaboration within our agency, other state agencies, heritage and historical groups, and with arts organizations across the state," says Executive Director, Foster Billingsley.

Projects and organizations funded by the VCA represent a cross section of the arts and reflect our value of a more than 200-year old heritage of craftsmen and women working in Colonial Williamsburg to the huge interest today in early bluegrass and

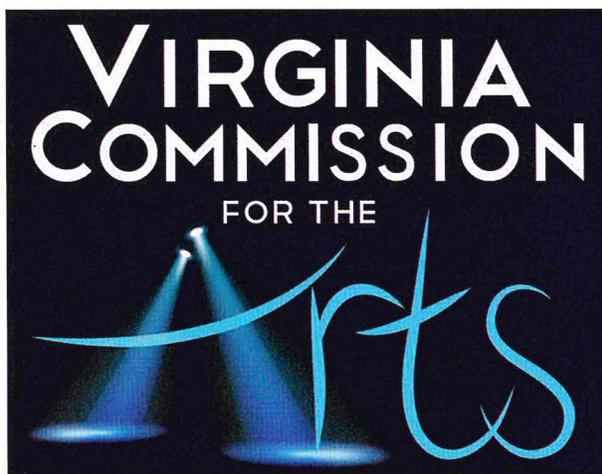
Americana music. Arts organizations such as the Piedmont Council for the Arts in Charlottesville have benefitted as well from funding from the VCA.

In addition to the staff in Richmond, the VCA has 13 commissioners who represent the 11 Virginia congressional districts with two at large members. Seven regional advisory panels and four state-wide panels also help make decisions on grant applications. Those who serve on these panels are local artists, arts administrators, trustees of arts organiza-

Quader, will provide one-on-one mentoring to young music students free of charge to the participating schools. This new orchestra project is made possible in part with funds from the VCA.

"This is a new era for the VCA with a new vision and energy as well as new challenges especially economic. In response, we are finding new ways of defining ourselves and the services we provide. At times like these, we must take a serious look at our role and purpose in the arts in the Commonwealth. I invite your readers to join our conversation and contribute any and all ideas that can help to move us forward," says Billingsley.

To learn more visit www.arts.virginia.gov. ■



In communities large and small throughout the Piedmont, the Virginia Commission for the Arts helps to sustain the arts.

Here is a very partial list of organizations that were recently awarded grants.

tions, arts educators, and arts supporters. Recipients of funds include arts organizations, K-12 schools, universities, colleges, local governments, and artists.

The commission is quick to acknowledge the importance played by the arts in the education of all children. With this in mind, the VCA helps to fund many projects that support this core value. For example, this fall the Warrenton-based Piedmont Symphony Orchestra will begin a new educational outreach project, PSO Music Mentors, which will place professional musicians from the orchestra in middle and high school string orchestra classrooms across Fauquier County. The musicians, along with conductor Glenn

American Children of SCORE
 Arts Center of Orange
 Chateaufort Foundation
 Community Music School of the Piedmont
 Fauquier Community Theatre
 Fredericksburg Festival for the Performing Arts
 Kid Pan Alley
 Loudoun Academy for the Arts Foundation
 Loudoun Lyric Opera
 Windmore Foundation for the Arts
 Ash Lawn Opera Festival
 Live Arts (Charlottesville)
 Piedmont Council for the Arts
 Piedmont Symphony Orchestra
 Rappahannock Art League
 Youth Orchestra of Central Virginia