



# MASONARTS

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

# MASON ARTS

**Left:**  
CVPA degree celebration  
Photo by Evan Cantwell /  
Office of University Branding

**Below:**  
Bill Reeder,  
Photo by Eric Thornton



**Finding Our Rhythm:**  
A Collaborative Sculpture,  
Girasol O'Neill,  
Photo provided by  
Mason Exhibitions



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**Above:**  
Hylton Performing  
Arts Center

**Right:**  
Center for the Arts,  
Photo by Evan Cantwell /  
Office of University Branding

## "Let us interrupt you, let us make you pause..."

Musical theater fans will instantly recognize the rhythm of that headline, adapted from **Stephen Sondheim's** famous lyric "Let me entertain you, let me make you smile..." But the variations are what I want to celebrate with you today.

Now I have a lot of love for entertaining and making people smile; they're included in the larger idea of the interruption, the pause. I call it larger because I think the highest calling of any work of art is to allow us to suspend our daily rush for a few minutes or a few hours, to bring us into closer communion with the creative impulse of the artist(s), to reflect on our own response to the images, sounds, stories, movements we're experiencing. That response may well be a smile, but it could also be a furrowed brow, a leap of the heart, an involuntary tear, an intake of breath, an upwelling of joy, even a full-body shiver. I'm not making this up; I've had all those experiences just in the past few months, all of them in a Mason Arts setting.

None of that would have been possible without the interruption, the pause, the decision to attend. **Etymological digression:** What a great word, attend. "To be present, to pay attention to, to apply the mind, to wait..." according to Merriam-Webster, which also reminds us that the root of the word contains the Latin *tendere*, "to stretch toward."

How about that? When we attend an exhibition or a performance, we are stretching toward something, paying attention to it, being present for it. We're opening ourselves to new insights and emotions, and often in the company of others, intentionally or accidentally. Longtime readers of this space may know what's coming next—the arts create community. And what a community we have created together in Mason Arts.

I hope this Annual Report interrupts you for a while. Our very versatile community of artists, scholars, students, patrons, and philanthropists did some transformative work last year. I think it will, at the very least, make you smile.

Cheers,



**Rick Davis**  
Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts  
Executive Director, Hylton Performing Arts Center  
Professor of Theater



# IMPACT 2024–25

Mason Arts brings people together to create, experience, engage in, and enjoy the arts, in every possible form and fashion. A hub of creative energy, artistic excellence, and imaginative innovation in Northern Virginia, the reach and impact of the 17 units within Mason Arts resonates across the world. We are proud to showcase how our academic units, community arts programs, galleries, and performance venues intersect, influence, and expand our community through inclusive arts opportunities for everyone.

## 1,819

STUDENTS MAJORING IN COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (CVPA) ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

## 4,138

STUDENTS SERVED BY MASON COMMUNITY ARTS ACADEMY AND MASON GAME AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

## 318K

FOOT TRAFFIC IN GALLERIES, HYLTON CENTER, AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

## 273

DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED; A TOTAL OF \$630K

## \$2.9M

GROWTH IN THE MASON ARTS ENDOWMENTS

## \$263,150

RAISED BY ARTS *by George!*



*Interstitial* showcased recent work at the **Hylton Performing Art Center by George Mason's School of Art MFA** candidates exploring transformation, memory, and meaning through painting, photography, design, and digital media.

*Photos by A.E. Landes Photography*

# MASON ARTS

Dewberry School of Music alum **Dylan Toms, BM Performance/Theater Minor '18**, joined the cast of *Finn*, a new Kennedy Center musical from *Doc McStuffins* creator Chris Nee.

In March 2025, **Mason Arts** joined with Washington, D.C.-area venues and offered free tickets to performances for federal employees or contractors separated from positions.



Doc Nix with Virginia Senator **Tim Kaine**, who brought his harmonica to **EagleBank Arena**, performing alongside George Mason's **Green Machine** during a home basketball game.

**President Gregory Washington** and **Dean Rick Davis** explored how Mason Arts builds community through creativity on the President's podcast *Access to Excellence*. Listen now by scanning the QR code.



Listen Now

*Photo by Ron Aira / Office of University Branding*

# IMPACT 2024–25

## Metro Art in Transit Partnership

Four CVPA students brought their creativity to **Washington's Metro system**, where their animations now appear on digital displays across six stations. The collaboration, supported by faculty mentors, initiated a five-year partnership that provides George Mason artists with a daily public platform to showcase their work to thousands of commuters, turning travel into moments of reflection and discovery.

## Furniture as Social Justice—A School of Art Class

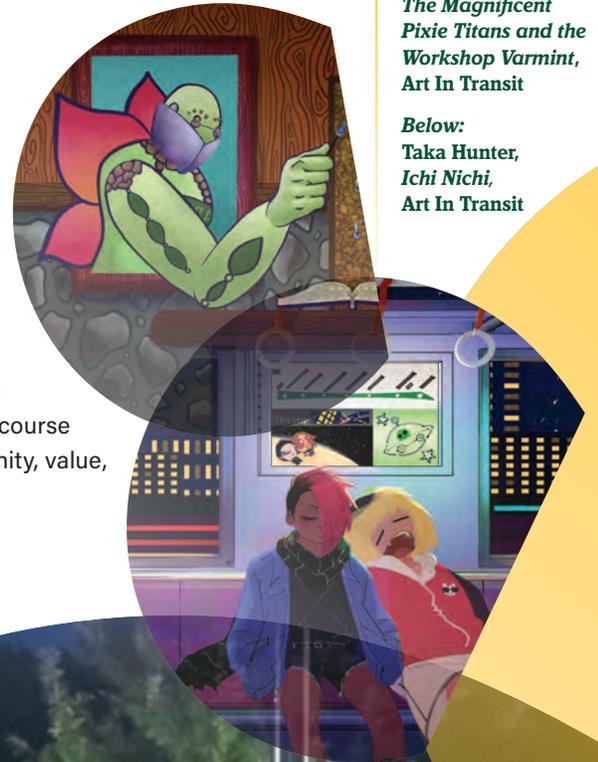
In Spring 2025, AVT 496: *Furniture Design as Social Justice* (Instructor: **Mallory Kimmel**) asked students to design furniture that challenges the politics of space. Offered through the Art and Social Change minor, the course blended theory and making to explore how design can reshape community, value, and accessibility through experimental object-making.

## Ballet Hispánico Residency Activates Community Outside of Mason Arts Spaces

**Ballet Hispánico's** residency filled the **Fairfax Campus** and wider community with the energy of Latin social dance, open classes, and conversation. The week concluded with a performance at the Center for the Arts celebrating the richness and diversity of Latinx culture through works including *Sombrerísimo*, *Buscando a Juan*, and *Club Havana*. The co-presentation with City of Fairfax was a vivid example of Mason Arts connecting global artistry with the local community.

*Left:*  
Joseph Cameron Rhodes Murdock,  
*The Magnificent Pixie Titans and the Workshop Varmint*,  
Art In Transit

*Below:*  
Taka Hunter,  
*Ichi Nichi*,  
Art In Transit



*Above:*  
Valerie Hunt, *Man with the Suitcase*, Art In Transit

*Right:*  
Jennifer Perez,  
*Stardust Playground*,  
Art In Transit

*Above:*  
Ballet Hispánico,  
workshop on Wilkins Plaza  
Photo by Ron Aira /  
Office of University Branding

*Right:*  
Student presents work  
in *Furniture Design  
as Social Justice*,  
Photo by Ayman Rashid





On this page, counter clockwise: Student work was displayed during Virginia Opera's *Loving v. Virginia* Photo by Laura Mertens; *Opera as Social Change* Honors College class taught by Dean Rick Davis; Rachelle Etienne-Robinson, Arts Management student, co-curated *Black Dress II: Homage* at Pratt Manhattan Gallery; Instrument Petting Zoo and Caleb Matthews at *Arts Alive!* held at the Hylton Center, Photos by Carol DeVany

## Arts Management Student Highlighted in Vogue

Arts Management student and Mason Arts staff member **Rachelle Etienne-Robinson** co-curated *Black Dress II: Homage* at Pratt Manhattan Gallery, featured in *Vogue*. The exhibition celebrates generations of Black designers and creatives whose work has shaped American fashion, honoring a legacy of innovation and cultural influence.

## Loving v. Virginia Honors Class and Lobby Exhibit

In partnership with **Virginia Opera's** new production of *Loving v. Virginia*, **Dean Rick Davis** taught *Opera as Social Change*, an Honors College course examining how art can shape civic dialogue. Students' final projects, inspired by the landmark Supreme Court case, were exhibited in the Center for the Arts lobby surrounding the performances. A 65-minute digital version of Dean Davis's course is available to view on Mason Arts Amplified.

## Arts Alive! at the Hylton Center— a Family-Friendly Arts Festival

Held each fall, *Arts Alive!* transforms the **Hylton Performing Arts Center** into a venue-wide celebration of creativity and community. The free, family-friendly festival features live performances, workshops, and art activities, spotlighting the vibrant range of local artists and organizations that make Prince William County's cultural scene thrive. *Arts Alive!* is co-produced by the Prince William County Arts Council and the Hylton Center.





## Remembering Dean Bill Reeder

(1945–2025)

**William Reeder's** life and work defined the very heart of Mason Arts. As the founding dean of the **College of Visual and Performing Arts**, he helped shape the college into a place that fostered creativity, learning, and community.

Reeder joined George Mason University in 2001 to lead the newly-formed college after a distinguished career as an operatic tenor and arts administrator. Before coming to George Mason, he served as vice president and general manager of **Washington Performing Arts Society**, executive director of **Levine Music**, president of the **Saint Louis Conservatory of Music**, and executive director of **Opera Music Theatre International**. Earlier, as a leading tenor with the **Zurich Opera Company**, he performed more than 40 major roles across 15 European opera houses.

At George Mason, Reeder's leadership was both visionary and practical. He guided the college through unprecedented growth, increasing its operating budget from \$9 million to \$30 million and leading the development of more than \$150 million in new facilities. His efforts helped secure the **Art and Design Building**, the expanded **deLaski Performing Arts Building**, and the **Music Theater Building**—spaces that continue to support the next generation of artists and scholars.

Reeder also championed the creation of the **Hylton Performing Arts Center** on the university's **Science and Technology Campus**. Through persistence and partnership, he brought together civic leaders, donors, and community members to realize a long-imagined goal: an arts center that would serve Prince William County and the greater Manassas region. That vision continues to thrive today as a cornerstone of cultural life in Northern Virginia.

After stepping down as dean in 2015, Reeder continued to teach in George Mason's **Arts Management** Program, one of three new academic programs launched under his leadership, alongside **Film and Video Studies** and **Computer Game Design**. His commitment to mentoring students and advancing the arts never wavered.

Throughout his five-decade career, Reeder's influence extended far beyond George Mason. He was recognized nationally for his leadership in arts management and fundraising, helping raise more than \$500 million for education, social services, and the arts. His achievements earned honors, including the **Fairfax County Arts Council's Jinx Hazel Award** and the **New Jersey Governor's Award for Excellence in Arts Education**.

In recognition of his extraordinary contributions, George Mason University has established the **William Reeder, Founding Dean Endowment in the Arts**, ensuring that his legacy of creativity, service, and collaboration will continue to shape the university for generations to come.

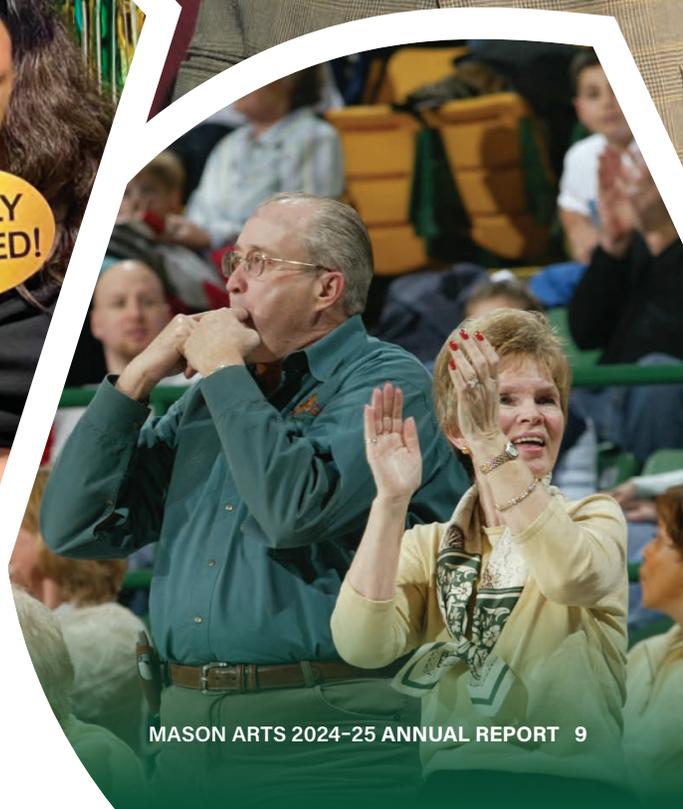
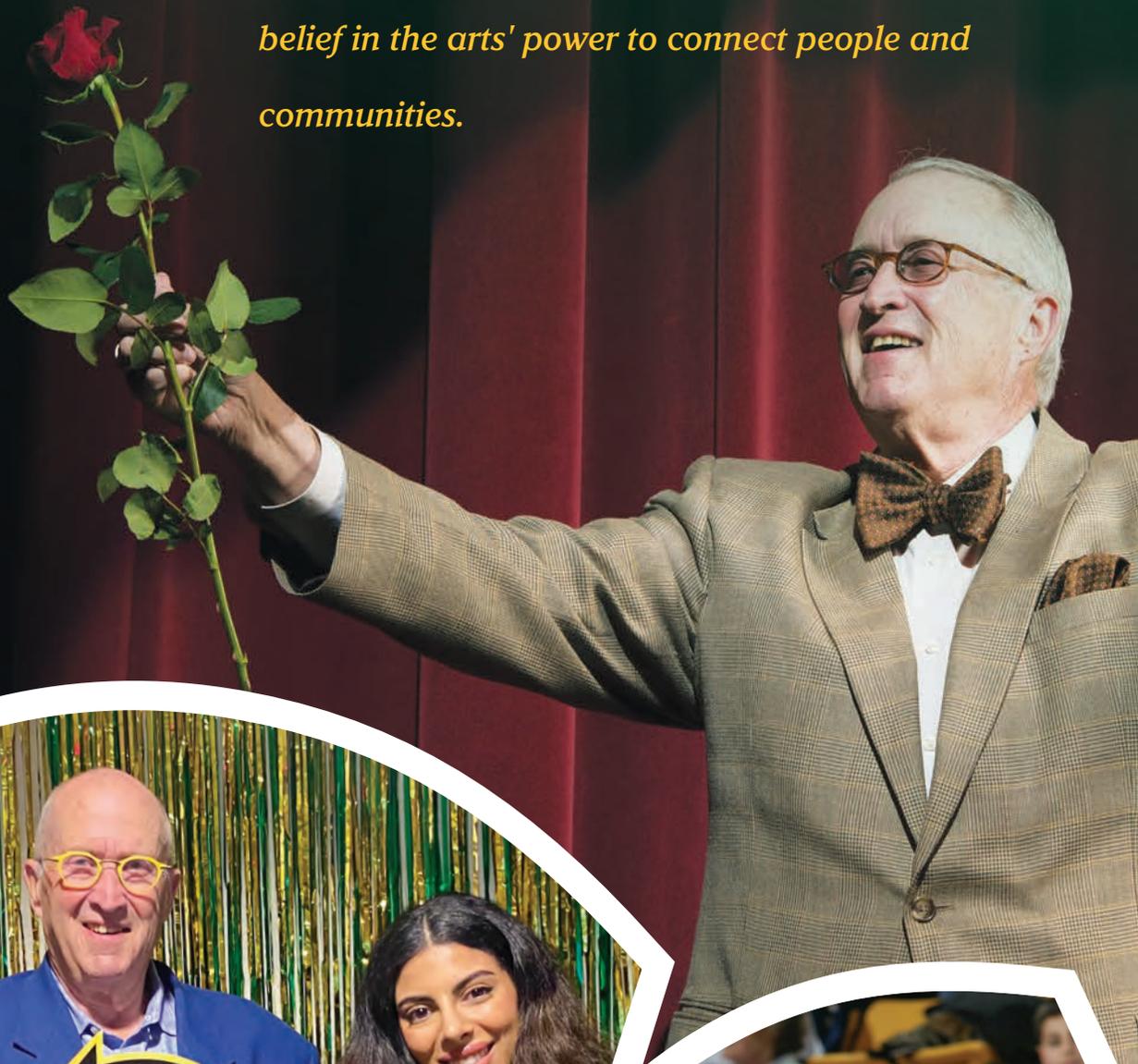
Reeder will be remembered for his kindness, advocacy for artists at every stage, and his strong belief in the arts' power to connect people and communities. His legacy endures in the spaces he built, the programs he envisioned, and the countless students and colleagues whose lives he transformed.

*Bill Reeder's Celebration of Life, held at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, is available on Mason Arts Amplified.*



From the top, counter clockwise: Bill Reeder on the Hylton Center stage; at graduation before retirement; at a George Mason Patriots men's basketball game

*Reeder will be remembered for his kindness, advocacy for artists at every stage, and his strong belief in the arts' power to connect people and communities.*



# ACADEMIC UNITS

SCHOOL OF ART • ARTS MANAGEMENT • COMPUTER GAME DESIGN • SCHOOL OF DANCE  
 FILM AND VIDEO STUDIES • REVA AND SID DEWBERRY FAMILY SCHOOL OF MUSIC • SCHOOL OF THEATER

The impact of the **College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA)** is amplified and expanded by our students, alumni, faculty and staff throughout Virginia, the greater Washington, D.C. area, and the world at large. 359 students graduated into professional performance, teaching, entrepreneurship, and other exciting roles across a myriad of industries. The transformational learning opportunities found only at George Mason University inspire our students and alumni to use their talent and their education to create opportunities wherever their paths lead.

*From the top:*  
**Jordon Jones;**  
 School of Dance 45th Gala, Photo by Tim Coburn



George Mason alumna **Jordon Jones, BFA Film and Video Studies '18**, contributed to **PBS Digital Studios' Rituals**, a **Webby People's Voice Award-winning docuseries** celebrating the cultural traditions of marginalized communities in the Deep South. By honoring histories too often overlooked, Jones advances storytelling that reshapes culture. This work reflects the audacity and vision George Mason fosters in students, preparing graduates to create lasting impact.

The **School of Dance** celebrated its **45th Mason Dance Company Gala Concert**, a tradition that began in 1980 with just three majors and two faculty members. Today, more than 80 students perform works by world-renowned choreographers on the **Concert Hall** stage. Supported by the **Fête fundraiser**, the Gala Concert sustains scholarships and professional pathways, demonstrating how George Mason's collaborative spirit and commitment to excellence enhance students and the broader arts community.

Collaboration is a hallmark of the George Mason experience. Student composers in the **Dewberry School of Music** partnered with **University Libraries' Special Collections** to turn archival materials into new musical works. In the **School of Art**, students designed book covers for **Stillhouse Press** with the **English Department**. Across disciplines, George Mason students learn by creating together and transforming ideas into meaningful work.



**CVPA 2025 Degree Celebration,**  
 Photo by Ron Aira /  
 Office of University Branding

## Enrollment Data

**359 Degrees awarded in 2024-25  
 (Undergraduate, Masters, Doctoral)**

Students Majoring in CVPA Programs	Fall '23	Fall '24
Art	624	633
Arts Management	53	36
Dance	72	80
Film and Video Studies	190	175
Computer Game Design	364	452
Music	297	282
Theater	148	100
Other	32	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>1,819</b>



From the top:  
Chanel Christy,  
School of Art;  
Book Covers for  
Stillhouse Press;  
Steven Luu, Photo  
by Evan Cantwell /  
Office of University  
Branding;  
Marit Majeske  
in the Hylton  
Center

# GM COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

George Mason University®



This year, **GDUSA** magazine named George Mason graphic design majors **Chanel Christy** and **Jonāi Sheppard** among its **2025 Students to Watch**. The recognition introduced their work to more than 50,000 art directors, designers, and educators nationwide. For both students, it's a moment of arrival—proof that their creativity resonates beyond the classroom and affirmation that they belong among the next generation of design leaders.



When the Hylton Performing Arts Center opened in 2010, alumnus **Marit Majeske, MA Arts Management '14**, was part of the founding team. Today, she leads the **Education Initiative**, connecting more than 22,000 learners each year with workshops, field trips, and artist residencies. Her work shows how George Mason graduates turn creativity into community impact—making the arts accessible, engaging, and essential to lifelong learning.

After surviving war, displacement, and injury, student and U.S. Air Force Veteran **Steven Luu, BFA Art and Visual Technology '22**, discovered healing through art. Sculpture became a way to process memory and transform pain into peace, often using recycled materials as symbols of renewal. Now, Luu shares that practice with other Veterans through workshops and exhibitions, showing how creative expression can bridge trauma and hope while opening paths toward collective healing.



# ACADEMIC UNITS

SCHOOL OF ART • ARTS MANAGEMENT • COMPUTER GAME DESIGN • SCHOOL OF DANCE  
FILM AND VIDEO STUDIES • REVA AND SID DEWBERRY FAMILY SCHOOL OF MUSIC • SCHOOL OF THEATER

## Student, Alumni, Faculty, and Staff Achievements from 2024–25

**James Bah**, BA Film and Video Studies '25, founded **George Mason's Black Filmmakers Association** to connect and support Black storytellers on campus. His projects include directing a music video for rapper Bobby Feeno and contributing to the Academy Award–nominated Netflix film *Rustin*.

Professors **John Kocur**, BM Music Education '06, and **Charles Ciorba** of the **Dewberry School of Music** co-authored *Straight from the Source*, a guide that redefines how students learn jazz improvisation. By grounding students in recordings, history, and culture, the book preserves jazz's roots while shaping how future musicians learn.

At the **George Mason University Alumni Association's** 2024 Celebration of Distinction, CVPA alumni **Kwanza Nicole Gooden**, BA Film and Video Studies '13, and **Bobby Lacy**, BA Music '16 and MA Arts Management '21, were honored with the **Thomas W. Iszard IV Distinguished Alumni Award** and the **Green Machine Distinguished Alumni Award**, recognizing their creativity, leadership, and contributions to the arts community.

Through a Community Building Blocks Materials Grant, Sculpture 2 instructor **Brian Davis** guided students in transforming salvaged doors into art, exploring themes of renewal. The project reflects George Mason's belief that creativity thrives when sustainability, resourcefulness, and hands-on learning intersect.

School of Art Director **Zoë Charlton** unveiled *Third Watch* in Baltimore's Station North, part of the \$1 million Bloomberg Philanthropies–funded *Inviting Light* project. The installation honors first responders and symbolizes protection, showing how public art can renew neighborhoods and reflect George Mason's belief in creativity as a force for connection.

**Calvin Evans**, DMA Musical Arts '25, won first place in **George Mason's Three Minute Thesis®** competition with research on Quincy Jones as a film composer. His achievement highlights George Mason's commitment to both rigorous scholarship and communicating ideas with clarity and impact.

Alumnus **Luke Hartwood**, BA Theater '23, designed and coached puppetry, as well as properties, for **Keegan Theatre's** production of *Hand to God*. Trained in both performance and design/technology, Hartwood is shaping regional theater with imagination and versatility, embodying George Mason's value of innovation in the arts.

From the left: James Bah; John Kocur; Kwanza Nicole Gooden; Bobby Lacy; Salvaged Doors by Brian Davis; Inviting Light project by Zoë Charlton; Calvin Evans; Luke Hartwood



Award-winning designer and School of Art professor **Dr. Miriam Ahmed** has released *Zillybits Adventures: The Dragon Under the Stairs*, the second book in her illustrated series for children ages 5–6. Blending creativity and inclusivity, Ahmed brings her design expertise to stories that spark imagination and learning.

Composer and orchestrator **Mara Keen, BM Music Composition '19**, signed with **ABKCO Music & Records, Inc.**, as announced by *Billboard*. With credits on Netflix's *Princess Power* and Scruppack Productions' *Just One More Thing*, Keen is building a career that brings George Mason-trained talent to global audiences.

Students **Xavier Jimenez, BA Film and Video Studies '25**, and **Mauricio Alarcon, BA Film and Video Studies '24**, received **Capital Emmy Student Production Awards**. Jimenez won for *Media Production Program: Behind the Scenes* (Commercial), while Alarcon's senior film *La Vida* captured the Fiction–Long Form category, reflecting George Mason's culture of creativity and strong faculty mentorship.

School of Dance student **Sydney Heldman** premiered *Kokomo* at the **Aurora Dance Festival**. At George Mason, Heldman has choreographed original works, trained with leading companies, and developed a choreographic voice that is already reaching professional stages.

**Steven Franco, BFA Theater '23**, debuted at **Signature Theatre** in *In the Heights*, performing in the ensemble and covering the role of "Piragua Guy." His artistry and resilience, sharpened at George Mason, show how graduates bring diverse voices and stories to national stages.

School of Dance Professor **Lawrence M. Jackson** brought new choreography to DeSales University's Dance Ensemble Concert in Pennsylvania. By collaborating with nationally recognized artists, Jackson enhanced George Mason's impact in the broader dance field and demonstrated professional collaboration to students.

**Rhyan Elliott, BA Film and Video Studies '20**, served as production supervisor for the Oscar-winning film *Anora*. Elliott credits George Mason's mentorship and hands-on projects as the foundation for a career that now contributes to major film productions.

Alumni **Robert Rubama, BFA Dance '18**, and **Hope Spears, BFA Dance '21**, returned to campus to teach and mentor current students. Their residencies demonstrate how George Mason fosters a lifelong artistic community, where graduates bring experience, creativity, and guidance back to the next generation.

Alumnus **Rebecca Wahls, BA Theater '15**, returned to campus to screen her debut feature, *Him*, a film starring **Kira Omans, BA Theater '17** and supported by George Mason's **Young Alumni Commissioning Project**. Now distributed nationally, the project exemplifies how George Mason empowers graduates to turn vision into impactful work.

Sculpture professor **John von Bergen** is reshaping Art and Visual Technology (AVT) aesthetics with virtual reality through George Mason's MIX VIS/VR Lab. Students step into immersive virtual environments to test theories and sharpen perception, blending global artistic practice with new technology.

Forensic artist **Joe Mullins** and his students helped Loudoun County investigators give a face to a 1973 Jane Doe. Using 3D modeling and sculpture, their work brought renewed attention to the cold case and new hope for justice.

**From the top:**

**Dr. Miriam Ahmed; Mara Keen; Sydney Heldman; Steven Franco; Lawrence M. Jackson; Robert Rubama; Rebecca Wahls; John von Bergen; Joe Mullins**





## Goldman's Enduring Gift Fosters Creative Innovation

**Dr. Jonathan Goldman** has long believed that lasting impact comes from building systems that support others. As director of IT and security for George Mason's **College of Engineering and Computing**—and a member of both the **Friends of the Center for the Arts** and the **Mason Arts Board**—he has seen how innovation and creativity thrive when disciplines work together.

In 2023, Goldman established the **Goldman Family Endowment**, followed by a significant planned gift in 2024 to ensure that his family's support for students continues for years to come. "I was inspired to support our students by my wife, **Susan Aitel**, and her earlier creation of an endowment for string players," Goldman said. "I wanted to mirror her contribution but in a slightly different direction."

The endowment benefits students in woodwinds, classical guitar, theatrical production, and systems engineering—areas that reflect both their shared interests and a belief in supporting those who make ideas possible. Through this enduring gift, the Goldman family's commitment to education and collaboration will continue to shape George Mason's community well into the future.

## Podesta Collection Gift: Renowned Art for Daily Inspiration

For decades, Washington, D.C. collectors **Tony and Trisja Podesta** have shared their renowned art collection with institutions such as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the National Gallery of Art. Now, they have entrusted George Mason with gifts from this extraordinary collection.

From photography to sculpture, these works can be viewed on George Mason's **Fairfax Campus**, many in Buchanan Hall. Their generosity ensures that art is not only preserved in galleries but also experienced daily by students and visitors, reminding us that creativity belongs to everyone.



*From the top:*  
**Jonathan Goldman**; a piece from **Tony and Trisja Podesta's** art collection

## Mason Arts Board

**Victoria N. Salmon,**  
*Chair*

**Marilyn T. Smith,**  
*Vice Chair*

**Annie Bolger,** *Treasurer*

**Mike Brown**  
**Rose Mary Flores**  
**Troche**

**Gardner Gillespie**  
**Molly Grimsley**  
**Kelly Harms**

**Charniele Herring**  
**Nancy Jean-Louis**  
**Mary Sanders Jones**  
**So Lim**

**Kimberly Macedo**  
**Lynette Matz**  
**Willy Meaux**  
**Val McWhorter**  
**Paulette Miller**  
**Ida Portland**  
**Robert K. Purks**  
**Jay Speer**

**Sadhvi Subramanian**  
**Anika Tené**  
**Isaac W. K. Thweatt**  
**Edward Weiner**  
**Mary Zigo**



### Altheim's Legacy of Learning and Connection

Ruth Altheim discovered George Mason through the **Senior Citizen Waiver Program**, where she has taken more than 30 courses in fine art, humanities, social sciences, and music. "It satisfies a deep curiosity about the world, gives me hope," she said.

Inspired by the sense of connection she found here, Altheim established a planned gift to support the **College of Humanities and Social Sciences** and the **Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music**. Her generosity ensures future students will experience the same transformative opportunities that have shaped her own journey.



Ruth Altheim and Jeffrey Millstein

*"[Taking arts courses] satisfies a deep curiosity about the world, gives me hope."*

— Ruth Altheim

#### Ex-Officio Members

- Jenna Day, *Mason Community Arts Advisory Board*
- Jonathan Goldman, *Faculty Arts Club*
- Linda Harber, *Co-President, Friends of Music*
- Barbara Jacksier, *Co-President, Friends of Music*
- Janice Sutera Wolfe, *President, Friends of the Center for the Arts*

# COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMS STATS & FACTS

GREEN MACHINE • MASON COMMUNITY ARTS ACADEMY • MASON EXHIBITIONS  
MASON GAME AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY • VETERANS AND THE ARTS INITIATIVE  
VIRGINIA SERIOUS GAME INSTITUTE • VISITING FILMMAKERS SERIES

# 3,700

STUDENTS SERVED BY  
MASON COMMUNITY  
ARTS ACADEMY

# 438

STUDENTS SERVED  
BY MASON GAME AND  
TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

# 5

RESIDENT COMPANIES  
AT VIRGINIA SERIOUS  
GAME INSTITUTE

# 76K

FOOT TRAFFIC  
IN ALL 7  
GALLERIES

# 50%

OF EVENTS FROM THE VISITING  
FILMMAKERS SERIES THIS YEAR FEATURED  
GEORGE MASON ALUMNI AND FACULTY

# 250+

GREEN MACHINE  
PERFORMANCES

# 3,987

NUMBER OF MILITARY-CONNECTED  
INDIVIDUALS SERVED  
(65% INCREASE FROM FY24)



## Mason Exhibitions Arlington

**Mason Exhibitions Arlington** marked James Baldwin's centennial with *Nothing Personal*, an exhibition exploring his 1964 collaboration with photographer Richard Avedon. The show revisited their conversation on fame, race, and identity—reminding visitors how art and dialogue can challenge perception and reflect the times.

## Virginia Serious Game Institute (VSGI)

**Scripted**, a George Mason-founded company in residence at the **Virginia Serious Game Institute**, raised \$1.5 million to advance decentralized AI technologies. The team's success underscores the kind of innovation taking shape within George Mason's entrepreneurial community and its growing impact on future-focused industries.

## Green Machine

At the Field Music School Association's fifth annual **HarmoniCon**, hosted by the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, **Green Machine Historical Ensembles' Emily Barone** and **Dominic Giardino** led sessions on phrasing and early American performance practices. Their participation connected George Mason's ensembles with a broader community of musicians dedicated to preserving and sharing America's musical heritage.

## Visiting Filmmakers Series

The **Alan Cheuse International Writers Center** and **Visiting Filmmakers Series** presented *James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket* with award-winning director **Karen Thorsen**, followed by a discussion with **Film and Video Studies** Program director **Cynthia Fuchs** and English and African and African American Studies Professor **Keith Clark**. The screening offered audiences a powerful reflection on Baldwin's legacy and the enduring relevance of his call for empathy, equality, and shared humanity.

**From the top:**

**Nothing Personal**, Photo provided by Mason Exhibitions;

**VSGI team members**, Photo provided by VSGI;

**Green Machine at HarmoniCon**, Photo provided by Green Machine;

**Karen Thorsen**, Photo provided

**Veterans and the Arts Initiative guitar workshop**

# COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMS

GREEN MACHINE • MASON COMMUNITY ARTS ACADEMY • MASON EXHIBITIONS • MASON GAME AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY  
VETERANS AND THE ARTS INITIATIVE • VIRGINIA SERIOUS GAME INSTITUTE • VISITING FILMMAKERS SERIES

The **Community Arts Programs** within Mason Arts are critical connectors. From young children and their parents to adults of every age, finding a place within Mason Arts often begins with one or more of these organizations or programs. Each class, performance, event, and conversation invites people to share and reflect on their all together different perspectives and life experiences. By bringing people together to explore, experience, and participate in the arts, we are transforming the world.



Article



Video

## Green Machine Plays at NCAA Tournament

When George Mason women's basketball made its first NCAA Tournament appearance, the **Green Machine** brought the sound of home to Baton Rouge. Featured in *USA Today* for their unforgettable performances, the band's mix of students from every corner of the university—only 10 percent music majors—captured national attention and the spirit of community that defines their sound.

## Offerings to the Potomac from Mason Exhibitions

*Offerings to the Potomac*, on view in **Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery**, honors the Indigenous communities whose stories and traditions shape this region. Curated by **Dr. Gabrielle Tayac** with **Mason Exhibitions** and student collaborators, the exhibition invites reflection on care, ancestry, and the responsibility to protect the lands we inhabit.

## Mason Community Arts Academy Proudly Hosts Clarinetist Evgenii Mikheev

Clarinetist and **Edmund S. Muskie Fellow** **Evgenii "Eugene" Mikheev** spent the summer at the **Mason Community Arts Academy (MCAA)** exploring music education from the classroom to program administration. His time with youth programs and summer camps offered a deeper look at how the arts can connect teaching, leadership, and community building.



**Above:**  
**Finding Our Rhythm:**  
**A Collaborative Sculpture,**  
**Girasol O'Neill,**

*Photo provided by Mason Exhibitions;*  
**Eugene Mikheev and MCAA student,**  
*Photo provided by MCAA*

**Right:**  
**Green Machine**





## Mason Game and Technology Academy Partners with Prince William County Public Schools

A new **Virginia Department of Education** grant is expanding computer science opportunities for **Prince William County Public Schools** students through George Mason's **Mason Game and Technology Academy (MGTA)**. Middle and high schoolers are learning coding and design with **Python** and **Unity**, while paid internships and teacher training ensure lasting access to hands-on, future-focused education.



## Launch of Korea Serious Game Institute at Mason Korea

**Mason Korea** marked a milestone with the launch of the **Korea Serious Game Institute**, an extension of George Mason's long-standing innovation in game design. The new institute brings together leaders in technology, health, and education to explore how serious games can drive learning, research, and social impact across industries.



## FAVS Alum Advocates for Inclusive Storytelling

**Alex Plank, BA Film and Video Studies '10**, is helping change the film industry through advocacy for authentic neurodiverse representation. As an actor, producer, and founder of **WrongPlanet.net**, he brings lived experience to projects like *Ezra*, featuring performances by **Plank, Robert deNiro, Rainn Wilson**, and **Whoopi Goldberg**, which he discussed with students during a post-screening Q&A at George Mason's **Visiting Filmmakers Series**.



Video

*From top to bottom:*

**A student leans in to their lesson during a class with Mason Game and Technology Academy, Photo provided by Mason Game and Technology Academy; Launch of Korea Serious Game Institute, Photo provided by Sang Nam and James Casey; Activist, filmmaker, and actor Alex Plank on set Photo provided by Alex Plank**

## Veterans and the Arts Initiative

At the **Hylton Performing Arts Center**, the **Veterans and the Arts Initiative** brings together intergenerational Veterans to share experiences through art, music, and storytelling. The program fosters connection and belonging through creativity, honoring the voices of those who have served while supporting community through artistic expression.

### 10th Anniversary

Celebrating a decade of creativity and connection, the Veterans and the Arts Initiative at the Hylton Performing Arts Center has reached more than 20,000 military-connected individuals through free workshops and concerts. What began as a single Veterans Day program has grown into a trusted space where Veterans, Servicemembers, military family members, and caregivers come together to share their stories through the arts.



**Veterans and the Arts Initiative celebrates its 10th anniversary, Photo by A.E. Landes Photography**



## The Hylton Center: Galvanizing Artistic Force and Community Builder

The **Hylton Performing Arts Center** is more than a venue. It is a vibrant cultural hub for Prince William County, Manassas, and the surrounding area, connecting people to the arts on stage, in classrooms, and across the region. During the 2024–25 season, more than **104,000 individuals** participated in one or more of the **623 performances and events** held at the Hylton Center. The Hylton Center’s **Education Initiative** successfully maintained its high level of community commitment. The program **engaged a total of 22,224 learners** through diverse virtual and in-person programming throughout the year, with a considerable portion of this engagement delivered through accessible virtual and in-person field trips. Furthermore, the Initiative hosted two artists-in-residencies, the Villalobos Brothers and Elena Moon Park & Friends, who collectively spent eight days in the community, providing a total of 13 unique activities that enriched the educational experience for thousands of students, educators, and community members.

The **Veterans and the Arts Initiative** is nationally and internationally recognized for its leadership in community-based arts programming, standing at the forefront of arts offerings for military-connected communities. Thanks to its rising reputation, the Initiative experienced an unprecedented **65% increase in program participation** this year. Highlights for the 2024–25 season include celebrating the initiative’s **10th Anniversary** and a partnership with the Hylton Center’s Education Initiative, resulting in a collaboration with **The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own”** that reached **1,523 public school students** through two field trip performances. The Hylton Performing Arts Center supports and enriches communities far beyond its own concerts and programs and is considered home to 11 local and regional arts organizations, collectively known as the Hylton Center **Arts Alliance**. During the 2024–25 season, the Arts Alliance presented **230 unique performances and events**, expanding offerings in ballet, symphonic and choral music, opera, theater, and more on Hylton Center stages. Crucially, the Hylton Center provides over \$500,000 in annual subsidies to its Arts Alliance members, which includes significant rental fee reductions, marketing assistance, ticketing support, and priority calendar booking.

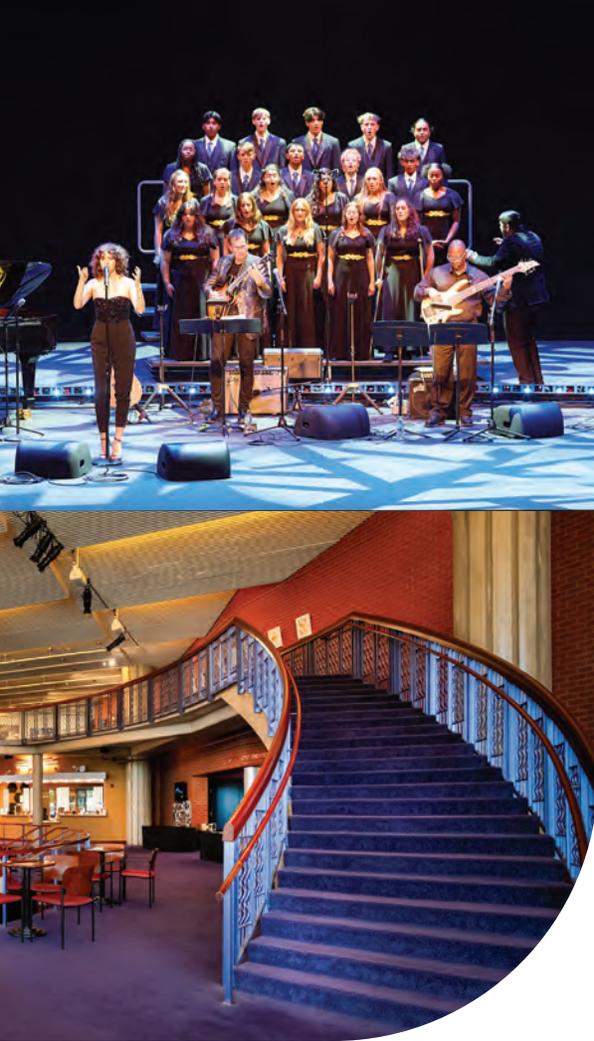
The 2024–25 season affirmed the Hylton Performing Arts Center’s role as a dynamic community arts space that unites and uplifts the region through the arts. High-impact initiatives at the Hylton Center, including the Education Initiative and the Veterans and the Arts Initiative, clearly demonstrate George Mason University’s belief that the arts should promote access, a sense of belonging, and lifelong learning. Moving forward, the Hylton Center remains strategically positioned to drive artistic excellence and ensure the long-term cultural and economic vitality of the Greater Prince William County area.

*Photos from bottom left:*

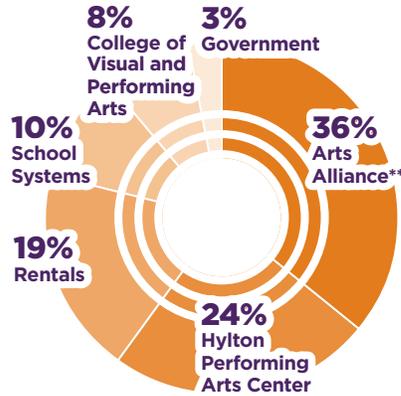
**Balsam Range at American Roots Series; Mandy Gonzalez Masterclass with local students; Hylton Center’s Didlake Grand Foyer; Mandy Gonzalez in Concert, Photo by Will Martinez**



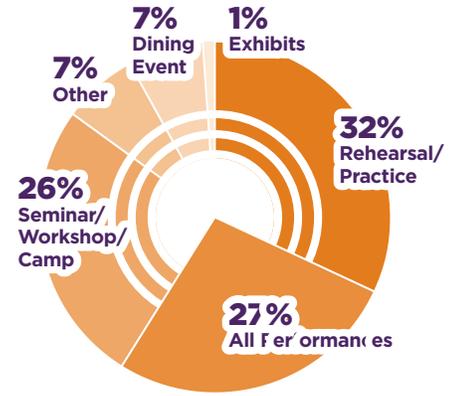
# BY THE NUMBERS



## Venue Usage by Constituency



## Venue Usage by Event Type



**104,486**  
Annual Foot Traffic

**623**  
Total Number of Facility Uses

**\$11M**  
Hylton Center Endowment  
Cash and Pledges Value

**3,300**  
Total Volunteer Hours

**980**  
Number of Gifts

## Education

14,819	Virtual Field Trip Attendees
4,383	In-Person Field Trip Attendees
1,860	Pre-Performance Engagement and Discussions
688	Artists-in-Residence Attendees
474	Workshops / Masterclasses / Q&A / Lifelong Learning Institute / Backstage Tours

22,224 Learners of all ages experienced arts education at or through the Hylton Performing Arts Center.

## Tickets Issued (Tickets/Number of Performances)

17,511/35	Hylton-Presented Performances*
29,466/84	Arts Alliance**
10,442/19	External Rentals
388/4	College of Visual and Performing Arts

The 2024–25 season welcomed more than 57,807 attendees to performances.

\*Includes Hylton Presents, Hylton Family Series, American Roots Series, and Matinee Idylls

\*\*Includes Arts Partners and Affiliate Arts Organizations



## GIVING STORIES

### Didlake Sponsorship of Accessibility Services

**Didlake, Inc.**, a Virginia-based organization dedicated to creating employment and community engagement opportunities for individuals with disabilities, continues to advance accessibility across Mason Arts. A long-time supporter of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, Didlake’s leadership in the inclusion space is reflected in the naming of the Didlake Grand Foyer and in expanded accessibility services that now reach both the Hylton Center and the Center for the Arts on George Mason’s Fairfax Campus.

This expanded partnership enhances the experience for patrons with disabilities through new services and infrastructure, including interpretation services, captioning, sighted guides, audio description, and sensory kits designed to make performances more comfortable. Ushers receive advanced disability awareness training to ensure that all guests are supported and welcomed.

Didlake also supported the creation of an Accessibility Services brochure, now available at the Hylton Center, which outlines available resources for visitors and underscores George Mason’s commitment to inclusive design.

By expanding accessibility across its venues, this partnership strengthens George Mason’s mission to remove barriers to participation and make the arts a shared experience for all.

### Marion Wall/Wall Foundation (Gala Honoree)

The Hylton Performing Arts Center honored longtime supporter **Marion Wall** and the **Wall Foundation** at this year’s Gala, recognizing decades of leadership and advocacy for the arts in Prince William County. A lifelong resident of Manassas, Wall helped champion the creation of the Hylton Center, seeing it as a vital gathering place for the community.

“I think the arts bring us together,” Wall said. “We may differ in many ways, but they give us a chance to appreciate something together.”

From early experiences attending National Symphony Orchestra performances in the 1940s to continued support today, Wall’s vision has remained constant: that access to the arts enriches and unites a growing region.





*Left:*  
**Friends of the Hylton Center  
at Sons of Serendip Reception**

*Below:*  
*From left to right:*  
**Dr. Gregory Washington, Deborah Johnson  
and Latoya Smith with Dominion Energy,  
Nicole Washington at the Hylton Center  
15th Anniversary Gala,  
Sean Kelley Photography**



### **Dominion Energy (Gala Honoree)**

**Dominion Energy's** commitment to community extends far beyond providing reliable energy—it fuels creativity, learning, and connection. Through the **Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation**, the company invests in education and the arts across Virginia, strengthening access and opportunity.

At George Mason University, Dominion Energy's support spans **University Life**, the **College of Engineering and Computing**, and the **College of Visual and Performing Arts**. A longtime partner of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, the company has advanced programs such as the **Veterans and the Arts Initiative**, helping ensure the arts remain accessible to all. Recognized at the **Hylton Center's 15th Anniversary Gala**, Dominion Energy continues to champion the transformative power of the arts across the Commonwealth and beyond.

### **Take a Giant Step**

In Fall 2024, the long-awaited "Take a Giant Step" art piece was unveiled in the Hylton Performing Arts Center's Education and Rehearsal Wing. This stunning piece draws inspiration from the jazz master work "Giant Steps" by acclaimed saxophonist and composer **John Coltrane**. A musical challenge that budding jazz players use to demonstrate their proficiency, this installation represents the major steps a musician achieves in successfully mastering the piece. This work of art celebrates the generosity of donors to inspire, connect, and uplift our community through the arts.

*Photos from left:*  
**Marion Wall; 15th Anniversary Gala program; Jim Carroll performing during the "Take a Giant Step" art piece ribbon cutting, Photo by A.E. Landes**



**This expanded partnership with Didlake enhances the experience for patrons with disabilities through new services and infrastructure, including interpretation services, captioning, sighted guides, audio description, and sensory kits designed to make performances more comfortable.**

### Hylton Center Executive Board

<b>Sheyna Burt, Chair</b>	Dawn Davis	Kris Nohe
<b>Joyce Connery, Vice Chair</b>	Colby Grant	Rene Stewart O'Neal
<b>Rick Davis, ex officio</b>	Seth Hendler-Voss	Marcus Thomas
Jatin Ambegaonkar	Rod Hall	Ann B. Wheeler
Shaun Anderson	Jason Hickman	Gayle Whitlock
Heather Aram	Deb Jewell	Randall Edwards, <i>Emeritus</i>
Sheryl Bass	Doug Keen	Carol Merchant Kirby, <i>Emeritus</i>
Steve Burke	Denise McPhail	

### Hylton Performing Arts Center Arts Alliance

#### Arts Partners

The Creative And Performing Arts Center  
(CAPAC)  
Manassas Ballet Theatre  
Manassas Chorale  
Manassas Symphony Orchestra  
Onyx Youth Orchestra  
Prince William Little Theatre

#### Affiliate Arts Organizations

ARTfactory  
Pied Piper Theatre  
Northern Virginia Ballet  
Old Bridge Chamber Orchestra  
Ordway Conservatory of Ballet  
Virginia National Ballet



### Financial Statement 12 months ending June 30, 2025

#### Earned Income

Ticket Sales	543,486
Ticket Fees	95,728
Rental Fees	938,823
<b>Total Earned Income</b>	<b>1,578,037</b>

#### Expenses

Administration	392,706
Development	561,895
Marketing	753,970
Productions	1,989,220
Artists Fees	618,514
Veterans and the Arts	269,506
Education	188,869
Building	582,789
George Mason University Operating Support	590,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,947,469</b>

#### Support Income

Contributions*	882,165
George Mason University Operating Support	3,530,745
Veterans Support	150,000
<b>Total Support Income</b>	<b>4,562,910</b>

#### Net Income

Debt Service	3,125,127
Restricted (see note 2) June 30, 2025 Balance (cash and pledges)	4,445,512
Endowment June 30, 2025 Balance (cash and pledges)	11,091,614

#### Note 1:

Debt Service is funded by Prince William County (60%), the City of Manassas (10%), and George Mason University (30%) as per the tripartite agreement.

#### Note 2:

Restricted funds include money specifically raised for capital reserves, capital projects, and certain programmatic initiatives.

\*Contributions represent cash and cash pledges received for the current year operating support. This line will not equal the full contributed income as reported by Development.



## The Center for the Arts: Where Campus and Community Come Together

Since opening its doors in 1990, the **Center for the Arts** has served as both a creative home for George Mason University and a cultural destination for Northern Virginia. More than 6.5 million patrons have passed through over three decades to see world-renowned artists and to watch students take their first steps on a professional stage. From the beginning, the center has been a place where campus and community converge.

Each year, the *Great Performances at Mason* series brings national and international artists in music, dance, and theater to campus. Artist residencies, masterclasses, and pre-show discussions give students and audience members direct access to professional artists, curating events and performances as meaningful learning opportunities. Some residencies also involve campus clubs and community partners, extending the experience well beyond the **Concert Hall**.

Students from the **Schools of Music, Theater, and Dance** perform regularly in the nearly 2,000-seat Concert Hall. For many, it's their first time working in a venue of this scale.

Activities take place in the lobby, too. The 2024–25 season included after-show dance parties with visiting artists like **Versa-Style Dance Company**, **Angélique Kidjo**, and **Squirrel Nut Zippers**, where students and audiences hit the floor together. Student work was displayed during productions like **Virginia Opera's** *Loving v. Virginia*, connecting what happens onstage to what's being created in the classroom.

The center also hosts graduation ceremonies, cultural celebrations, **Coach's Show with Mason Athletics**, and **GAMEmason** all of which bring the entire George Mason community together under one roof.

Now, the center is being reimagined through the **Give Voice initiative**, a \$35 million fundraising effort as part of *Mason Now: Power the Possible*. The renovated center will continue to do what it has always done: bring people together and welcome every voice.



*From the top:*  
**Center for the Arts**, Photo by Evan Cantwell/Office of University Branding;  
**Versa-Style Dance Company**, Photo provided by the artist; **Squirrel Nut Zippers**,  
Photo provided by the artist; **Green Machine performs at the Coach's Show**,  
Photo by Nate Henry



**CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
George Mason University®

Ballet Hispánico field trip performance

**10,522**

PARTICIPANTS IN FREE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

**73**

EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT EVENTS FOR LEARNERS OF ALL AGES

**3,682**

STUDENTS AND CHAPERONES SERVED BY FIELD TRIPS



**CENTER FOR THE ARTS FOOT TRAFFIC**

SEASONS

17-18	218,185
18-19	225,914
19-20	127,131*
20-21	6,948*
21-22	60,987
22-23	137,086
23-24	145,346
24-25	137,985

\*Reflects pandemic closures

**PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE**

**133,435**  
PEOPLE ATTENDED PERFORMANCES

Presenter	18-19	19-20*	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
College of Visual and Performing Arts	61,264	27,793	26,574	35,983	35,955	44,399
Great Performances at Mason and Family Series	40,376	28,493	14,191	26,922	34,247	34,893
George Mason University	42,468	28,059	8,761	35,213	35,191	33,865
Rentals	81,706	42,786	6,621	33,575	35,338	20,278

**EVENT USAGE BY CONSTITUENCY**

College of Visual and Performing Arts .....	<b>71%</b>
George Mason University .....	<b>11%</b>
Great Performances at Mason and Family Series .....	<b>10%</b>
Rentals.....	<b>8%</b>

**311**

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS HOUSEHOLDS  
(AS OF JUNE 30, 2025)

Friends of the Center for the Arts receive backstage tour of Cirque Mechanics



## Financial Statement 12 months ending June 30, 2025

### Earned Income:

Ticket Sales	1,295,185
Rental Fees	359,891
Other Revenue	81
<b>Total Earned Income</b>	<b>1,655,157</b>

### Expenses:

Administration	858,823
Marketing	1,684,539
Development	316,883
Productions	3,191,880
Building	590,886
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,643,011</b>

**Net Operating Income (Deficit) (4,987,854)**

### Support Income:

Contributions	121,470
University Operating Support	5,169,357
<b>Total Contributions and Support</b>	<b>5,290,827</b>

**Net Income 302,973**

## Friends of the Center for the Arts Board of Directors

**Janice Sutera Wolfe,**  
*President*

**Paulette Miller,**  
*Co-Vice President for Events*

**Ida Portland,**  
*Co-Vice President for Events*

**Dianne Blais**  
**Meghan Crowley**

**A.J. Driscoll**  
**Wendy Frieman**

**Shirley Joyce**  
**Evelyn Kiley**

**Linda Kostrzewa**  
**Michael Kostrzewa**

**Mark Roddy,** *Vice President*  
*for Membership*

**Bob Warakomsky,** *Vice President*  
*for Communications*

**Roy Wagner,** *Budget Officer*  
**Joyce Goche-Grimes,** *Secretary*

**James McAtamney**  
**Susan Murphy**  
**Christine O'Hare**  
**Sonja Palomaki**  
**Rylan Pedagno**  
**Walt Smith**  
**Joan White**

*From the top:*  
Arturo Sandoval; Silkroad Ensemble;  
Angélique Kidjo; Photos provided by artists



# GIVING STORIES



**MASON NOW**  
POWER THE POSSIBLE



## Mason Arts Elevated: Launching the Give Voice Initiative

On February 5, 2025, George Mason University hosted Mason Arts Elevated at the **Center for the Arts**, an evening that celebrated creativity, community, and the public launch of the **Give Voice initiative**. University leadership, donors, and guests gathered to unveil plans for the center's next chapter as a modern, accessible, and world-class arts venue.

The program opened with a reception followed by performances from across Mason Arts. From the **Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music**, pianist **Kai Shi** performed Rachmaninoff's Etude Tableau, Op. 39, No. 6, and violinist **Annette Lee** and pianist **GaYoung Lee, MM Performance '19**, presented Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor. Theater students **E Griggs, Elise LeGault, and Jennah Sidiabed** performed "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Dance major **Rocio Barragan** presented *Me Voy Con el Viento*, choreographed by **Natalia Collado**.

**President Gregory Washington, Dean Rick Davis, and Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations Trishana Bowden** spoke about how the Give Voice initiative will sustain the center's legacy as George Mason's cultural heart, connecting students with working artists and opening its doors to the wider community. The Give Voice initiative is a \$35 million fundraising effort within *Mason Now: Power the Possible*. Through it, the **College of Visual and Performing Arts** is preparing this beloved space for the next generation of artists, audiences, and learners.

The **Concert Hall** will be reshaped with improved acoustics and better sightlines, and new center aisles on both the orchestra and balcony levels will make it easier for audiences to access their seats. A second elevator and expanded restrooms will improve accessibility throughout the building. The lobby will be remodeled to create inviting spaces for gallery exhibitions and pre-show gatherings, with enhanced café and bar service. New studio, classroom, and community spaces will give students and visiting artists more room to work, and technical systems throughout the building will be modernized to meet the needs of today's performers.

"For decades, our Center for the Arts has been a beacon for talent and innovation, a proving ground for students learning their craft and pursuing their passions, and home to world-class performances as the cultural hub of our region," President Washington said. "The Give Voice initiative will ensure that the arts remain a front door to the university."

A lead gift of \$10 million from **Barry Dewberry and Arlene Evans** set the transformation in motion. A \$6 million commitment from the **Peterson Family Foundation** followed. Upon completion, the venue will be renamed the **Barry Dewberry and Arlene Evans Center for the Arts**, with the Concert Hall and lobby renamed in recognition of the Peterson family. At the close of the fiscal year, nearly \$18 million had been raised. "This transformation will create a modern, technology-rich, and artist- and audience-friendly home for all who enjoy the arts, whether as a creator or audience member," Dean Davis said. Following the public launch, the Center for the Arts has invited the community to get involved, with information available in the lobby and online. Learn more at [cfa.gmu.edu/givevoice](https://cfa.gmu.edu/givevoice).



## Evelyn Kiley Creates First Programming Endowment

For years, **Tom and Evelyn Kiley** have been steadfast supporters of the arts at George Mason University, sharing their love of classical music through annual sponsorships at the Center for the Arts. Evelyn has now established the **Tom and Evelyn Kiley Classical Music Endowment**, the Center's first programming endowment dedicated to classical music within the *Great Performances at Mason* series.

Created in memory of her late husband, a longtime George Mason mathematics professor, the endowment ensures that the Kileys' shared passion for classical music will continue to inspire audiences for generations to come. "Helping to continue classical music as an indispensable part of *Great Performances at Mason*—as a variation on the theme 'The Arts Create Community'—seemed natural for two lifelong classical music fans," Kiley said.



## The DiGiovannis Champion Mason Arts and Student Success

**Friends of Music at Mason** members **Peter and Sally DiGiovanni** have deepened their commitment to the university through gifts supporting students and the future of Mason Arts. In 2024, Peter created the **Peter N. DiGiovanni Endowed Music Fund** to provide scholarship support for students in the **Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music**.

A year later, the couple expanded their philanthropy with a legacy gift to the endowment, additional funding for student aid, and a contribution to the **Give Voice Initiative**, naming the café in the reimagined Center for the Arts. "Music is very important in our lives. We want to make it easier for deserving students to have access to higher education in music, with the goal of improving their own lives as well as the lives of the people they interact with through music," Peter DiGiovanni shared.



*On left page:*  
Seating in Concert Hall Architectural concept rendering by Quinn Evans;  
Theater students E Griggs and Jennah Sidiabed singing

*On this page, from the top:*  
Evelyn Kiley, in middle, with Dave and Alane O'Neill, Photo by Josh Brick;  
Dean Rick Davis, Sally and Peter DiGiovanni

# MASONARTS AMPLIFIED

## By the Numbers

9,717

SITE VISITS  
(343% INCREASE FROM FY24)

1,704

SUBSCRIBERS  
(22% INCREASE FROM FY24)



## Behind the Scenes of Mason Arts Amplified

Created at the beginning of the pandemic lockdown in 2020 as Mason Arts at Home, to broaden community arts access, streaming platform **Mason Arts Amplified** ([amplified.gmu.edu](http://amplified.gmu.edu)) hosts filmed performances, conversations, lectures, and other creative projects from across the **College of Visual and Performing Arts, Center for the Arts, and Hylton Performing Arts Center**. By offering curated programming on demand, the site makes Mason Arts experiences available to students, faculty, staff, and the broader community virtually anytime, anywhere.

But what goes into a Mason Arts Amplified title? To capture a live performance, the digital production process begins with careful planning by the **CVPA Digital team**. Camera placement, mic placement, shot design, and more are mapped in collaboration with creative stakeholders, with attention to preserving the scale, pacing, and character of the original event for the digital audience.

This work must also take into account parameters of a given venue and schedule. (Some productions require eight or more cameras, plus support gear and monitoring equipment, taking up a lot of space in a theater.) Whether an orchestral concert in the Center for the Arts or an intimate masterclass in Horizon Hall, the digital production team's goal is to safely, effectively capture the essence of the live event in a form that translates naturally to screen.

This "raw content" is then refined in post-production, where visuals and audio are edited. This is when the "movie magic" happens. In some cases, even small mishaps from a live performance can be invisibly removed, to protect the flow of the piece. The final project is then exported and sent for captioning, often provided by George Mason's **Assistive Technology Initiative (ATI)**.

After platform graphics and text are confirmed by the **Mason Arts marketing department**, the final video is uploaded to Mason Arts Amplified, where the on-demand format gives viewers the flexibility to watch anytime. Most programming is available to view for free, with select titles from the Hylton Center and the Center for the Arts offered at a low-cost rental, reducing geographic and financial barriers for viewers.



*From the top:*  
Eileen Ivers, *Photo provided by the artist;*  
Filming for Mason Arts Amplified  
Cirque Kalabanté, *Photo provided by the artist;*  
Dean Rick Davis and Linda Monson perform a duet

## Top Five Most Popular Pieces of Content

- "George Mason Things" with Rick Davis and Linda Monson
- Visual Voices with Kei Ito
- Cirque Kalabanté Afrique en Cirque
- Eileen Ivers: Raw Roots Tour
- Ballet Hispánico Pre-Performance Discussion

Featured selections from the 2024–25 season include Britain's renowned Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with **Isata Kanneh-Mason**, Cirque Kalabanté's acrobatic extravaganza *Afrique en Cirque*, and community panel conversation *Accessibility as Inclusion*, moderated by **Niyati Dhokai**, Program Director of the **Veterans and the Arts Initiative** and Research Associate Professor, CVPA.

These titles and more reached viewers well beyond campus this year, drawing engagement from across the region and from international audiences, including viewers from Canada, Singapore, Bangladesh, and Sweden. Through the platform's growing catalog, the work of Mason Arts can be shared more widely, connecting the university's creative community with audiences in our backyard and across the world.



Watch Mason Arts Amplified at [amplified.gmu.edu](https://amplified.gmu.edu)



**GEORGE  
MASON  
UNIVERSITY®**

## Legacy Society

Mason Arts acknowledges the forward-looking generosity of the following individuals who have established legacy gifts to support the future of the arts at George Mason as of June 30, 2025.

John S. Aler, III  
 Ruth Altheim  
 Anonymous  
 Annie and John Bolger  
 Mr. Ronald A. Boykin  
 Thomas Michael Brawley  
 Agnes M. Brown  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sidney O. Dewberry  
 Ruth A. Eaves  
 Stevie and Gardner Gillespie  
 Jonathan Goldman  
 Linda E. Gramlich  
 Lee-Ann Heflin  
 Frank Johns  
 Charles and Shirley Joyce  
 Jerry Long, in memory of Pat Long  
 Carol Mattusch  
 Mark D. Monson, in honor of Nancy G. Monson  
 Dr. Teresa R. Pohlman  
 Mary Ballard Postma and Hans Postma  
 Ms. Elizabeth C. Price and Mr. Mike Brown  
 Shirley B. Rice  
 Jeffrey and Shawn Robertson  
 Dr. Victoria N. Salmon and Mr. John J. Salmon  
 Gary and Diane Schnurpusch  
 Darlene M. Scott  
 Inge Wekerle Steiner  
 Leo and Linda Stoltz  
 Mildred E. Tasker  
 Violette Thouvenin  
 Daniel Tucciarone and Thomas Sabal  
 Captain Robert Warakomsky, USCG (Ret.) and Patricia Warakomsky  
 James L. and Barbara W. White

## Endowments

**Grace Aitel Award Endowment (Strings)**  
*Ms. Susan Aitel and Mr. Jonathan Goldman, 2020*

**The Beck Foundation Scholarship for Computer Game Design**  
*The Beck Foundation, 2018*

**Dr. Barry and Velma Berkey Music Scholarship Endowment**  
*Dr. Barry Berkey and Mrs. Velma Berkey, 2004*

**John S. and Judith T. Bland Memorial Scholarship Endowment (Vocal Studies)**  
*Mrs. Robyn David and multiple donors, 1989*

**Dr. Sam di Bonaventura Memorial Scholarship Endowment (Strings)**  
*Ms. Darlene M. Scott, 1999*

**Juliette Carolyn Brooks Herring (JCBH) Memorial Scholarship Endowment**  
*Charniele Herring and multiple donors, 2023*

**Jean Carrington Cook Piano Scholarship Endowment**  
*C. Barrie Cook, M.D., 1995*

**Lucy C. Church Scholarship Endowment (Vocal Studies)**  
*Mr. and Mrs. Randolph W. Church, 2003*

**de Laski Scholarship Endowment (Music, Dance, Theater)**  
*de Laski Family Foundation, 2001*

**Peter N. DiGiovanni Music Endowment**  
*Peter and Sally DiGiovanni, 2024*

**The Paul and Jenny Ebert Horn Studies Scholarship Endowment**  
*Paul and Jenny Ebert, 2019*

**Emerging Artists Scholarship Endowment**  
*Linda E. Gramlich, 2019*

**Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts—Spotlight Scholarship for the Arts, 2005**

**Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts—Ruth Haycock Endowed Scholarship in Piano**  
*The Honorable Jane Woods and Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts and multiple donors, 2006*

**Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Scholarship in Music for the Mason Community Arts Academy, 2004**

**Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts—The Thomas Galen Scott Memorial in Music Education, 2015**

**Gillespie Scholarship Endowment**  
*Gardner and Stevie Gillespie, 2019*

**Goldman Family Scholarship Endowment**  
*Jonathan Goldman, 2023*

**Geoffrey Gonyo Memorial Scholarship Endowment**  
*John and Jean Gonyo, 2022*

**Sholom and Pearl Hendin Music Scholarship Endowment**  
*Linda and Harlan Harber, 2022*

**Heritage Chair in Arts and Cultural Criticism Endowment**  
*Multiple Arts Gala Committee Donors, 1986*

**Heritage Chair in Music Endowment**  
*Multiple Arts Gala Committee Donors, 1992*

**Hylton Performing Arts Center Endowment**  
*Multiple donors, 2006*

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TOTAL GIVING FY25

## 20%

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF UNIQUE DONOR HOUSEHOLDS FROM FY24

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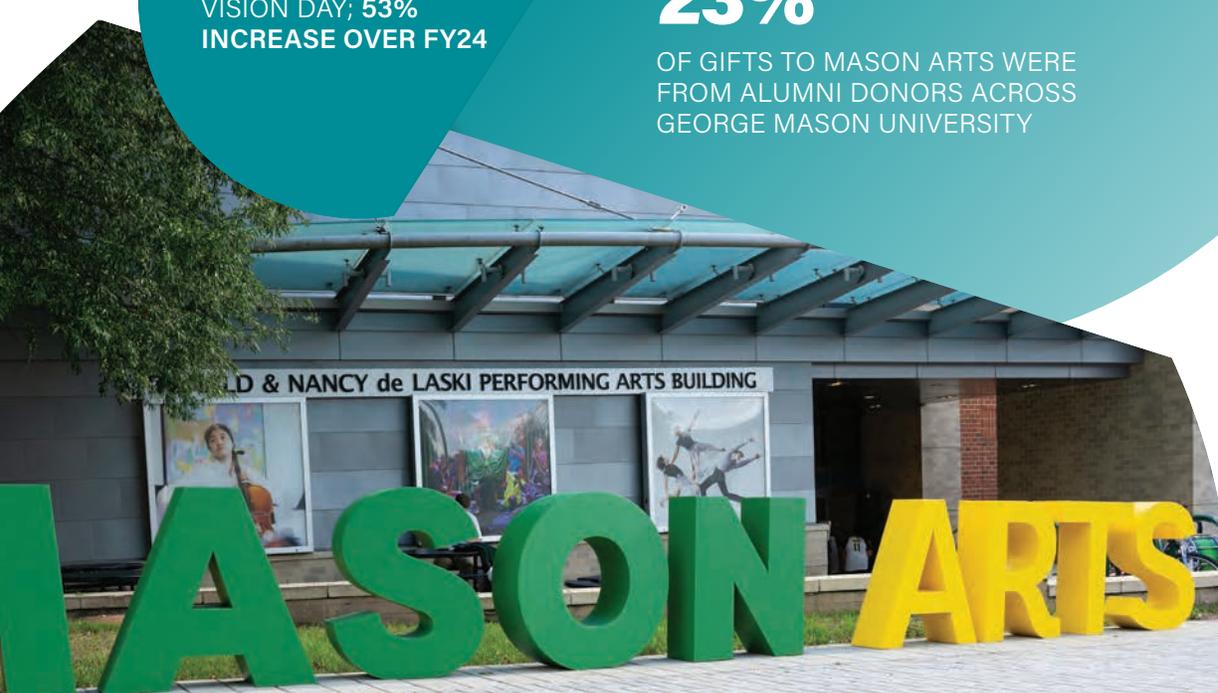
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*Above:*  
**ARTS by George!**  
Headliner  
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*Middle:*  
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*Bottom:*  
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