

ARLINGTON CENTER FOR THE

Arts

THANK YOU!

*We appreciate your support
and all the reasons you give:*

YOU VALUE...

having a place for kids to explore
their creativity and let their
imaginations run free



YOU UNDERSTAND...

schools don't have the resources
to immerse kids in the arts

YOU BELIEVE...

artistic kids deserve as much
attention as athletic kids

YOU WITNESS...

your child's curiosity and self-
esteem growing in ACA's
vacation arts program



YOU KNOW...

our teens have so much to
contribute and need creative
outlets for their energies

YOU ENJOY...

gathering each summer
with family and friends for
Shakespeare in the Park

Dear Friends of ACA,

I'm writing to you today with a special appeal to make a contribution to the creative life of our community. As a supporter of the Arlington Center for the Arts, I know you have seen the magic that happens when creativity is sparked and nourished – in a child just beginning to feel his power to create or perform; in an adult reawakening her long-buried passion for painting or writing; in the proud community feeling and fellowship that comes with each annual Shakespeare in the Park or Arlington Open Studios.

Your annual contribution to ACA's year-end fundraising drive helps us maintain the Arlington Center for the Arts as a home base for a creative community – for our kids and teens, for our local artists and musicians, for all of us who value living in a vibrant, creative arts-oriented community. We thank you for your past support, and hope you'll feel inspired to give again this year.

A home for creative kids and teens. At the core of our programming is the conviction that creative kids and teens need to find a home that values and supports their creativity. In the past year, ACA launched a new After School Arts Enrichment Program, expanded preschool and teen summer programs, and mounted our first-ever art exhibit for teens.

A mother of one of ACA's summer campers said it best: *"It's so important for highly creative kids to spend time in an environment where they are fully appreciated for their creativity...and to meet the artistic counselors and teachers and see that sports is not the only avenue to success."* With a contribution to ACA's Annual Fund, you will help ensure our community's creative kids will continue to find a nurturing and supportive home base here at ACA.

A place to explore your own creativity. ACA is not just for kids! Adult students, from beginners to experienced artists, also have a place to explore and develop their creativity in a safe and nurturing environment. In morning and evening classes, our adult students draw, paint, sculpt, and create a wonderful community of neighbors and friends here in ACA's classrooms.

"I've been in quite a few art classes [elsewhere]," writes one ceramics student, *"and often they start feeling competitive or judgmental... [but my ceramics teacher at ACA] created an atmosphere where you were comfortable being yourself."* With your support, we can continue to offer this vital creative space to everyone who is interested in exploring their creativity, deepening their craft, or just connecting with friends and neighbors in a supportive, creative atmosphere.

A home for local artists and musicians. This fall, one hundred local artists and musicians came together for ACA's 10th annual Arlington Open Studios, an exciting, vibrant weekend festival of the arts. Open Studios serves as an annual showcase for local artists to share their work with the public, and also gives artists the inspiration to keep plugging away at the very challenging work of surviving as an artist all year long.

YOU DISCOVER...

you CAN draw or paint or write with the help of one of ACA's talented teachers



YOU CONNECT...

with friends and neighbors in an art class, concert or gallery opening

YOU ARE INSPIRED...

by all the amazing artists at Arlington Open Studios



YOU BELIEVE...

our local artists and musicians need a place to share their work

YOU WANT...

a vibrant local arts scene in your community



YOU GIVE...

because your life and community is enriched by the Arlington Center for the Arts

WE THANK YOU!

For your contribution to ACA'S ANNUAL FUND

"I had a great year this time around - lots of people, great conversations," wrote a young artist participating in Open Studios for the third year. *"I came away really empowered and with some leads to collaborate with other artists...and I even sold a new piece!"* Your contribution to ACA will help nurture the local artists who add so much beauty, insight, surprise, and delight into our lives.

Events for a vibrant, creative community. ACA's annual events make Arlington and our neighboring towns a more vibrant and exciting place to call home. This past summer, ACA's annual Shakespeare in the Park drew an enthusiastic crowd of over 500 people to Robbins Farm Park on a perfect summer afternoon, for the teen troupe *Rebel Shakespeare's* performance of *Hamlet*.

"So proud it's in our town!" said one fan. *"Shakespeare in the Park is one of the highlights of the summer and the best way I can think of to introduce children to Shakespeare...A great tradition"*

ACA is committed to being a catalyst for a creative community through free public events like Shakespeare in the Park, Images of Arlington, and Arlington Open Studios. Together with your support, we can continue to bring vibrant free public events to the community, which make this area such a special place to live.

What has ACA added to your life? We'd love to hear from you! If you find that ACA has enriched your life, and the life of your family and community, please consider making a donation to ACA's Annual Fund drive again this year. Contributions of ANY amount are welcome and needed.

Your donation will be doubled! *For the fifth year in a row, an anonymous artist has pledged to match every contribution we receive in response to this drive.* Your every dollar will make an impact, AND your contribution will be doubled!

Please give whatever you can today. You may use the enclosed reply envelope, or donate online at www.acarts.org. Together, we can ensure continuing creative opportunities for our kids, teens, artists, and our community.

We thank you so much for your continuing support!

Sincerely,

John Budzyna
Executive Director

PS – All donations to ACA are tax-deductible. And remember, *your contribution will be matched by our anonymous artist-donor, doubling the impact of your donation!*