

MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY

The Arts & Humanities Working Group (AHWG) is comprised of funders in the National Capital Region and their partners in the community. AHWG believes that arts and humanities are tools for building the community and improving the quality of life in our region; engines for regional economic and community development; and powerful vehicles for education and youth development.

The group is committed to strengthening and elevating the arts, heritage, and cultural sector in the Metropolitan area through collaboration, and to increasing investments in the sector by leveraging resources.

AHWG employs two strategies for accomplishing its goals:

- Sharing information and best practices among funders
- Advocating on behalf of arts and humanities organizations, individual artists, and scholars to funders and public officials to increase awareness and support

In 2009-10, the second strategy is a particular focus in light of the recession and consequent priority changes for funders.

CURRENT AND RECENT ACTIVITY

- Kicked off Washington Grantmakers' "2009 Thought Leader" series with Bob Lynch, President and CEO of Americans for the Arts. He spoke about how support for the arts directly serves education, health, youth development, lifelong learning, economic and community development, civic engagement, and building a creative workforce for the 21st century economy
- Convened local and national public funders – including the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities – for a roundtable discussion about public arts funding during the recession.
- Maria Rosario Jackson, a senior research associate at the Urban Institute, presented to the group on her research around cultural vitality in communities and the indicators and issues that impact the health and vibrancy of a community's arts and cultural sector.
- Participated in a private, curator-led tour of the Smithsonian's Ansel Adams and Georgia O'Keeffe exhibition and learned about the organization's educational outreach programs.
- Visited the Music Center at Strathmore in Montgomery County, MD, to learn about both the performance facilities and the same-space collaborations between its resident groups: The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), CityDance, Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras (MCYO), National Philharmonic, and the Washington Performing Arts Society (WPAS).
- Developing a messaging campaign for 2010 focused on the arts and humanities as integral parts of life.

MEMBERS INCLUDE

Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County
The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation
Humanities Council of Washington DC

Philip L. Graham Fund
MARPAT Foundation
The Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
Howard & Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation

CONTACTS

Michael Bigley, *Chair* - MBigley@cafritzfoundation.org
Christian Clansky, *Program Associate* – clansky@washingtongrantmakers.org