

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF MAKING MAGIC, TOGETHER!



VIS ARTS



FY2024

DEAR FRIENDS

Every day at VisArts, we see how art has the power to turn an ordinary object such as a canvas, a slab of clay, or a sheet of glass, into artwork that is deeply meaningful and beautiful. This transformation often feels like magic.

VisArts is a place where people connect and find community. Through our contemporary art exhibitions, artist residencies, educational programs, and community events, we supply the ingredients, but our artists, students, staff, volunteers, and supporters make the magic.

We're grateful to you for making our last fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) such a success and have highlighted some magical moments so you can see the impact of your generosity.

Sincerely,

Alice Nappy
Executive Director



In the past year, your feedback helped us enhance our programs and inclusivity – from training faculty on accessible best practices and offering more classes in specialized mediums to featuring artists who highlight the diversity of our community. We're proud that 97% of you felt welcome at VisArts, according to program evaluations, and we're always looking for ways to serve you better.

YOU SPOKE, WE LISTENED

All year, you shared your stories of transformation with us. Here are just a few anonymous comments from our FY24 Community Survey:

VisArts has changed my life!

VisArts made me feel very connected to the MoCo arts community.

Our son has a lot more confidence in his art since he started classes at VisArts.



MAKING FRIENDS

It wouldn't be summer at VisArts without the sights and sounds of young artists transforming our usually quiet workspaces into a cacophony of creation. Last year, **524 campers** created their own masterpieces in ceramics, painting, woodworking, glass, and more at **VisArts Summer Camp**, winner of Bethesda Magazine's Best Summer Art Camp Award.

LAUNCHING CAREERS

VisAbility Art Lab, our supported studio for artists with disabilities, mentored **46 individuals** who built their portfolios and gained workforce skills while building community. Taking their show on the road, artists sold their work in juried events at the Takoma Park Folk Festival, the American Visionary Art Museum, and the Arc Baltimore's Art in the Round.



Sam Fratantoni
VisAbility Art Lab Artist

I sold a fluid painting at the Rocktoberfest! I had fun talking to other humans and being social. VisAbility Art Lab is a cool place to hang out and you can be social in a cool way with other artists.





Throughout the year, VisArts hosts numerous cultural celebrations **led by community artists**. Last fall, we celebrated **Diwali**, the Indian holiday known as the Festival of Lights that symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and truth over ignorance. Participants created two Diwali-inspired art projects – a diya and kolam.

EMBRACING TRADITIONS



SHOWCASING ARTISTS

Not even the rain dampened the spirits of the nearly **10,000 art lovers** who donned parkas to enjoy VisArts' 12th Annual **Rockville Arts Festival** in May. During the free, public, two-day event, visitors strolled and shopped at our vibrant outdoor art gallery featuring original art by **130 fine artists and artisans**, watched pottery wheel demonstrations, and participated in several community art-making projects.

Winning an award at the Rockville Arts Festival was a huge validation. The festival was a highlight and a pivotal point in my career, giving me the confidence to maybe explore art full time in my future.



Lisa Markowitz
Rockville Arts Festival
Award Winner





BUILDING COMMUNITY

If you wandered VisArts' Artists' Concourse during opening night of our Annual Student and Faculty Shows last spring, you could feel the glow of more than **80 artists** proudly displaying their creations with friends, family, and fans. Last year, our education community included more than **7,300 adult students** and **75 teaching artists**, learning from and supporting each other.

HONORING CRAFT

More than **250 friends and fans** gathered at VisArts last winter to celebrate our **Inaugural Craft Resident Artist Xiaosheng Bi**, a renowned ceramics artist, instructor, and longtime VisArts Associate Artist. Supported by the Windgate Foundation, VisArts' Center for Craft Studies provided master classes and community events such as this artist talk, demonstration, and book signing.

It's wonderful to be here. To be around artists feels good. It's lonely to be home in my basement studio! To work so close to exhibitions is inspiring. It's good to talk to people about art.

Xiaosheng Bi, VisArts Associate Artist





What better way to feel inspired than to create art in a professional gallery? In addition to enjoying **25 exhibitions** featuring artists from across the globe last year, art lovers had the chance to participate in several demonstrations and artmaking workshops, like this fabric dyeing event led by contemporary craft artist and former Bresler Resident Megan Koeppel.

This program was an opportunity to work with so many different people and meet new local artists. People were really interested in working with the body in a more expressive way.

Megan Koeppel, 2024 Bresler Resident Artist

INSPIRING CREATIVITY

VISARTS SUPPLIED THE INGREDIENTS

37,981

Square feet of galleries,
classrooms, and studios

1,694

Educational and
artistic programs

15,089

Free and discounted
studio hours

\$92,095

In scholarships and
artist stipends

YOU MADE THE MAGIC

32,575

Community members
experienced art

385

Individuals and
organizations
donated money

425

Exhibiting and
teaching artists
inspired audiences

245

Volunteers
contributed time

Together, we're transforming individuals and communities through the visual arts.