



# HCAA Newsletter

*This newsletter is supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.*

Please remember to keep your artist profile up to date online at [hcaaonline.org](http://hcaaonline.org)

Visit  
[HCAAonline.org](http://HCAAonline.org)

for info on

- Installation/deinstallation days/times
- Exhibit registration
- Receptions
- Artwork by Members
- Join/renew HCAA membership
- & more!

## From the President’s Desk: New Year—and a New Era for Arts in America



by HCAA President Eileen Cave

I started the new year returning to the art studio with great results, and able to make the admission that when focused without distractions, no TV or internet, I was able to inspire my best creativity. That personal creativity now must also be coupled with a vigilance to not only continue to produce our best in an industry that has cycles of support. The first quarter begins the funding support cycle for fiscal year 2026. Focusing on the state timetable, I always participate in MD Arts Advocacy Day in Annapolis, February 13, to advocate for arts and arts education funding. Maryland has been fortunate, but there are reasons for concern for this year’s funding at the county, state, and federal levels, as ideology conflicts may threaten funding for the arts. I share the following facts for your consideration.

“The U.S. art market accounts for 42% of the \$65 billion global art economy (in 2023). Tariff and tax policy changes could have an adverse impact. Travel bans could disrupt international collaborations, barring artists from majority-Muslim countries from participating in U.S. exhibitions and performances. Advocacy groups like the Artist Freedom Initiative (AFI) are preparing for similar challenges.” The recent halt on Federal loans and threats to new budget funding for the National Endowment for the Arts affect funding down to the county level. Philanthropy expert Melissa Cowley Wolf points to broader challenges facing the arts sector, including shifting donor priorities. “The younger generation doesn’t view art as a driver of social or climate justice in the same way,” she explained. “Without renewed government support, private funding alone may not sustain many institutions.”

“Cultural funding in the U.S. often hinges on the budgets of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). These two agencies and institutions, like the Smithsonian and the Kennedy Center, are crucial in supporting creative projects nationwide. The NEA’s annual budget of \$207 million pales compared to the National Science Foundation’s \$9 billion, but its impact

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(President's Desk from page 1)

on small and medium-sized arts organizations is profound. Around 60% of NEA funds go directly to local organizations; the rest is distributed through state arts agencies.”

From February 13, and all the legislative budget reviewing at the state level, through the allocations of the Prince George's County budget, the eyes, ears, and voices of the arts community must be engaged, vibrant, AND vocal.

Source for quotations: Artlyst website, 1/22/25

## What's in a Name?

by Diane Elliott

If you paint a still life of a rose in a vase, maybe you won't have trouble coming up with a title for the painting: *Still Life with Rose*. If your work is abstract, naming it may be a bit more challenging. Either way, why not extend your creativity to the title you choose?

Let's look at that still life. Why did you paint it? Where did the vase come from? Why did you choose that color rose, or that color table or background—Is there a mood you want to convey? Is there a backstory? Or a poem or quotation it brings to mind? On the basis of these questions, my imaginary still life could have one of the following titles:

*Before It Fades*

*Annie's Dime Store Vase*

*Quietude*

*David Always Brings a Rose*

*Every Day I Will Give You a Color*

Any one of these is more evocative than *Still Life with Rose*.

You can also use a title to draw attention to an important detail. Maybe, in my still life, there's a window nearby, and a bird in a tree outside the window, and I'm interested in the contrast between the free bird and the cut flower. My title could be *Clipped* or, if the painting is playful, *Buddies*. (I know, not everyone loves puns. But you get the idea.)

My mosaics are usually abstract. I don't know where I'm going until I get there, so I don't name them until they're done. Once in a great while, a line of poetry or a quotation will inspire me, like the piece I'm working on now, which will be called (unless it morphs into something else, as a previous attempt did) *We Are Secret Rivers*. Most of the time, though, I sit with a piece when it's done and free associate about the shapes and colors. That's gotten me *Dancing Through* and *Water Runs All Ways*. Still not sure I like that second one; maybe I'll shorten it to *Water All Ways* or *Water Ways*.



*Dancing Through*

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*(Name continued from page 2)*

There is a history of not titling works of art. In Europe, naming an artwork was a rarity before the 18th century. Works didn't travel or change hands, and subjects were representational and familiar, so no description was needed. The titles by which we know famous works (including *Mona Lisa*) were given long after the art was created. Since the mid-twentieth century, some artists have insisted that their language is visual and that naming a work imposes an unrelated language, limiting the viewer's experience of the work.

However, viewers often say "Untitled" seems pretentious or, at best, unwieldy. (How do you identify an abstract painting with no title when describing a favorite work to a friend?) Some artists or galleries number an artist's untitled works (preferably in the order of their completion, and similar to some composers' catalogs), but saying your favorite painting is Rothko Untitled (No. 16) doesn't give an uninformed listener a clue. Also, in museums and many galleries, artworks have tombstones (the labels next to the art) that include interpretation and/or description, so language may be inescapable.

There are a number of AI sites that will name a work for you, which might be entertaining, but do you really want AI doing your creating for you? And you still have to do the heavy lifting, typing in a description of the work. But, if you're curious, you can search for AI artwork title generators online and give it a try. I entered a description of *Dancing Through* and got the suggestions *Emerald Reverie*, *Whispers of Nature*, and *Stunning Simplicity* (all with additional subtitles). No thanks.

A title is another way of connecting with your work, for you and the viewer. Whether you title it, number it, or don't, give it some thought.

***HCAA is seeking individuals interested in becoming president of the organization. Duties include the following:***

***Overseeing the HCAA calendar for arts installations***

***Overseeing promotional support of our venues***

***Handling contact with our venues***

***Overseeing the budget and sanctioning HCAA expenses***

***Providing vision and guidance for the organization***

***If you are interested, please contact Eileen Cave at [ecaveart@gmail.com](mailto:ecaveart@gmail.com)***

## Member Profile: Monica Lyles

by Delia Mychajluk

Monica Lyles is a visual artist, but, in her family of origin, music was the primary creative activity. Lyles' father and grandfather were musical, and her father sang in a choral group. Lyles initially played piano and then flute.

As a child in North Carolina, she loved art classes and loved to draw. Her mother promoted her interest by enrolling her in a summer immersion course, beginning a lifelong passion for learning new techniques.

Lyles also loves photography, which she was exposed to by her father, who was always taking pictures. In her last two years of high school, she was a yearbook photographer. An art teacher in high school, Mrs. Jones, taught her how to develop black and white photographs in the dark room, helping Lyles see photography as an art form.

Although enamored of art, Lyles was encouraged to pursue a more financially stable career, and opted for a degree in the business of science, working in that area after college. But art remained a strong interest.

Just prior to the COVID pandemic, Lyles took a pottery course through Art Works Now, which she enjoyed. During the pandemic, working full time from home, she took an Art Works Now collage course, and has continued working in collage. Her current art practice includes primarily acrylic ink pouring and collage. She loves the fluid art, as no two pieces are alike, and there is the element of surprise. She says collage, conversely, is like putting a puzzle together.

Abstract artists Mark Rothko, Alma Thomas, and Odili Odita, as well as collage artist Romare Bearden, are artists Lyle finds particularly inspiring.

Lyles participated in her first vending event with Art Works Now in 2021. She currently has an art business where she sells originals, prints, and functional items based on her art. She also sells fluid art earrings, which incorporate some of the runoff paint from her paintings.

Lyles' work can be viewed on the HCAA website or on her website, [MonicaCreatesDaily.com](http://MonicaCreatesDaily.com). She is also on Instagram, user name [@monicacreatesdaily247](https://www.instagram.com/monicacreatesdaily247).



Monica Lyles with one of her acrylic ink works, *Peacock Feathers*

***Are you or a family member or friend interested in computers? We need 1 or 2 volunteers to help support our website and create our flyers. Volunteers will get invaluable training from our webmaster and flex/improve their skills, all while helping HCAA fulfill its mission. Please consider volunteering in this or another capacity.***

**Contact Eileen Cave at [ecaveart@gmail.com](mailto:ecaveart@gmail.com)**

## Arts Organizations and the Artist

by Aimee Doyle

Arts organizations are all about artists. And all artists can benefit from knowing about arts organizations and participating in the available programs. There are many arts organizations out there—from the local, like our own Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance, to the nationwide, like the National Endowment for the Arts. This article will focus on those organizations in the “middle” and describe what each of them has to offer the individual artist.

### Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC)

The PGAHC is headquartered in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and has its website at <https://www.pgahc.org/>. Its mission is to advance the arts in Prince George’s County. It provides leadership, programs, services, and support in areas including advocacy, grants and financial assistance for artists, arts organizations, and arts education initiatives.

PGAHC offers a Community Grants Program that provides financial support to artists for specific projects. One grant program is the Arts-In-Education Grant, which is designed to support artists, arts educators, and organizations in Prince George’s County that provide high-quality arts and cultural activities to County youth in traditional or nontraditional educational settings, from kindergarten through high school. There are five categories of support, and the maximum grant award is \$5,000.

Another program is the Artist Fellowship Grant, which provides project support for individual artists and cultural practitioners in Prince George’s County who significantly contribute to the arts, have an established body of work, and substantively impact the lives of residents through artistic excellence. The focus of this grant is the creation of new work, or a project that expands artistic practice in a new way. Artists can receive a grant of up to \$5,000.

On the website, artists can access the eligibility requirements, online application form, and useful information on how to apply. Grant opportunities and deadlines vary, so it’s useful to check back on the website often, think ahead, and ask questions before applying for a grant.

Besides grant opportunities, PGAHC also provides space for artists to display and sell their work. PGAHC has an art gallery called Arts’tination, which is located at The National Harbor. Arts'tination hosts workshops, classes, networking events, and happy hours.

### The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC)

The MSAC offices are located at the Baltimore Trade Center, and the website can be found at <https://msac.org/>. Founded in 1967, MSAC is an agency of the State of Maryland's Department of Commerce whose mission is to “play an essential role in ensuring every person has access to the transformative power of the arts.” It’s worth noting that, according to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Maryland ranks third in the nation in per capita funding for the arts.



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*(Arts Orgs continued from page 5)*

MSAC awards grants to independent artists and attempts to distribute the grant awards throughout the counties in Maryland. One program is Creativity Grants, which awards funds both for general operating support and for specific projects. Funding grants range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 and there are rolling deadlines for applications. The site provides a list of former Creativity Grantees. Another program is the Grants for Artists program, which provides funding specifically for artists' living and working expenses (rather than particular arts projects). There are grants that are tailored to support specific kinds of artistic endeavors, such as the Folklife Apprenticeship, which supports traditional arts education by funding a mentor artist and apprentice artist to work together for one year. MSAC also bestows Heritage Awards, which recognize long-term achievement in the traditional arts.

Finally, there is a Professional Development Opportunity Grant, which awards funds up to \$2,000 per individual artist. Artists must identify a specific professional development opportunity in which they would like to participate, that occurs within the application time frame. Even if artists don't pursue a grant, MSAC provides professional development opportunities throughout the year, as well as a regular schedule of free virtual and in-person sessions, including the following:

- Technical assistance on grant programs
- Topic-specific sessions of interest to artists and arts administrators
- Informal meet-and-greets at "Coffee with the Council"
- Office hours, held in person at various locations across the state

Upcoming professional development sessions are listed on MSAC's Eventbrite page.

Options for making money through art include the Public Art Across Maryland program, which commissions artwork for new or renovated state buildings and public spaces throughout Maryland. Another possibility is the Maryland Arts Directory, which is a free online platform maintained by Maryland Art Place, a gallery in Baltimore. It showcases work for sale and has search features to "browse artwork," "find an artist," "find an arts organization," and more. Artists, arts organizations, and arts businesses can create a free Arts Directory profile to highlight their work and other offerings.


MSAC also participates in The Maryland Arts Summit, an annual, in-person convening of Maryland's arts sector, which is organized by Maryland Citizens for the Arts. The Maryland Arts Summit, hosted at UMBC, is a statewide conference presented by and for the Maryland arts sector, which includes, but is not limited to: Arts Advocates, Arts Educators & Teaching Artists, Independent Artists, Arts Organizations, Youth, Community Stakeholders, Arts, and Entertainment Districts, County Arts Agencies of Maryland, Public Artists, Boards of Directors, and Folklife Artists.

***The annual HCAA meeting will be held sometime in March. Members will be sent the date, time, and venue as soon as they are confirmed. All attendees will be entered for a free raffle of a 10-inch mosaic mirror, donated by member Diane Elliott***



## HCAA CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

**"Dawn of New Beginnings"**  
January 4 - April 4, 2025



Reception: Sunday, March 2nd, 3 - 5 PM

Franklin's Restaurant and Brewery  
5121 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781


Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT EILEEN CAVE, [ecaveart@gmail.com](mailto:ecaveart@gmail.com) OR VISIT: [WWW.HCAAONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.HCAAONLINE.ORG)

*"A color without its complement is dead."*

Joe Bowler

**"Dawn of New Beginnings"**  
January 4 - April 4, 2025



Fleisher's Jewelers  
5200 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781


Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance

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*"Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainty."*

Erich Fromm

**"Dawn of New Beginnings"**  
January 12 - April 19, 2025  
PRINCE GEORGE'S PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER  
6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



RECEPTION: Sunday, February 9  
2:30 - 4:00 PM

Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT EILEEN CAVE [ecaveart@gmail.com](mailto:ecaveart@gmail.com) OR VISIT: [WWW.HCAAONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.HCAAONLINE.ORG)

*"Creativity is a wild mind and a disciplined eye."*

Dorothy Parker

## HCAA Calendar February through March 2025

March 2      3-5 PM      Franklins Reception "Dawn of New Beginnings"

Annual Meeting      Date, Time, and Venue to be announced

See the HCAA online calendar at <https://www.hcaaonline.org/hcaa-events/monthcalendar/2024/> for updates.

Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance

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Delia Mychajluk, Pete Pichaske



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### **HCAA Board Officers**

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### **THANK YOU! HCAA EXHIBIT SPONSORS**

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[outdoors.pgparcs.com/Sites/Bladensburg\\_Waterfront\\_Park.htm](http://outdoors.pgparcs.com/Sites/Bladensburg_Waterfront_Park.htm)

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