

# Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission

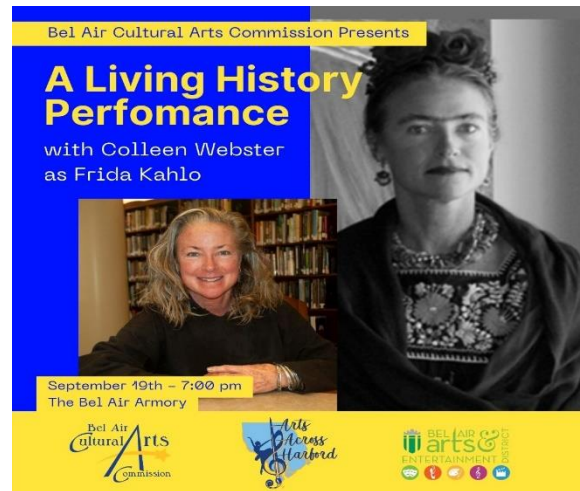
## FY24 Annual Report

### Event Participation and Sponsorships:

#### Arts Across Harford

##### Living History with Colleen Webster

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) participated in Arts Across Harford by sponsoring the Living History performance with Colleen Webster as Frida Kahlo on September 19, 2023, at the Bel Air Armory. The CAC sponsored Ms. Webster's fee in the amount of \$450.00 as a gift to the community with free admission to the performance. There were 71 attendees at this performance.



#### Plein Air Festival Quick Draw Competition

The CAC sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> prize award for juried artists in the amount of \$750.00 for the Quick Draw competition during the Maryland Center for the Arts' Plein Air Festival, which was also held during Arts Across Harford. The CAC was listed as a premier sponsor of the Quick Draw on the website of the 2023 Plein Air Festival.

#### Ain't Misbehavin' Big Band

The CAC sponsored the performance of the Ain't Misbehavin' Big Band, a big band concert and dance created in partnership with the Bel Air Armory manager. CAC sponsored the cost of the band in the amount of \$500.00. This event was promoted with a digital advertisement on Facebook in the amount of \$50.00. The event was held on March 20, 2024, with 133 attendees.



### **Armory Rental Sponsorships**

- Authors & Artists on November 4, 2023, in the amount of \$600.00. There were 508 attendees at this event.
- Ballet Chesapeake for three (3) abridged performances of The Nutcracker on December 5, 2023, in the amount of \$500.00. There were 908 attendees at this event.
- Take a Chance on Art on March 16, 2024, in the amount of \$540.00. Take a Chance on Art is an art lottery fundraiser for Harford Artists Association featuring artwork, music, food, and drinks from local restaurants. There were 130 attendees at this event.
- The Harford Education Foundation Plein Air & Art Exhibition on April 20, 2024, in the amount of \$600.00. The Plein Air & Art Exhibition featured the artwork of Harford County Public School students. There were 400 attendees at this event.



### **Public Art Projects:**

#### **Police Department Public Art Project**

The CAC allocated funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 for a work of art to be installed in the lobby of the newly constructed Bel Air Police Department. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued in November 2023 with seven (7) submissions received. CAC awarded the bid to Harford County artist Trish Keck. The artwork was completed in April 2024 and installed in the Police Department lobby in May 2024.



#### **Approvals**

The CAC approved the purchase in the amount of \$59.00 for a plaque recognizing the donation of watercolors by artist Alice Humphries for display in the Community Room at the newly constructed Town Hall.

The CAC approved a \$63.33 reimbursement to artist Sandy Schlehr for materials to repair the “Bel Air, the Heart of Harford” mosaic heart sculpture, which was damaged when removed for Town Hall construction. The mosaic heart was repaired and reinstalled at Town Hall in May 2024.

The CAC approved the purchase of a plaque displaying the correct name of the “Bel Air, the Heart of Harford” mosaic heart sculpture in the amount of \$176.00.

### **Public Art Tour**

The CAC, in partnership with the Arts & Entertainment District, promotes the GIS-based Public Art Tour, which includes 43 pieces of public art available for viewing in a two-mile self-guided walk and short drive through Bel Air. An audio component was added to the Public Art Tour in June 2024 with funding from the FY24 MSAC Operating Support Grant to enrich the visitor experience by providing engaging and informative narration about the artwork and locations on the tour.

### **Marketing:**



CAC approved the updating, redesign and printing of the rack card marketing the work of the CAC. The rack card has been distributed at local arts meetings, arts events, the Bel Air 150 “Then and Now” showcase, and it is on display at the Visitors Center.

Staff has advertised CAC-sponsored events and initiatives on social media through the A&E Facebook page, through the A&E website and on community calendars of events.

CAC approved the design and purchase of a table runner with the CAC logo and the design and purchase of a retractable banner featuring the CAC logo and CAC-sponsored initiatives to be displayed at events throughout the year. The CAC members agreed to allocate funds to purchase 300 shopping bags with the CAC logo for distribution at the Authors and Artists event and the Bel Air Festival for the Arts. In addition, CAC members agreed to allocate funds to purchase 250 pens with the CAC logo to distribute at events throughout the year.

Staff distributes rack cards and information for the Public Art Tour at events and through the Visitors Center. It is also marketed through the A&E District website, Facebook page and monthly newsletter. The Public Art Tour was advertised in *Harford's Heart*, the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (SSO) program, *Harford Magazine*, the Bel Air Town Derby program, and in programmatic digital ads in the *Baltimore Sun*.

Members attended multiple events to represent the Commission and share information with members of the public regarding the work of the Commission.

### **Meetings:**

Staff attended the Maryland Citizens for the Arts' Maryland Arts Summit on June 20, 2024.