

CARPE DIEM ARTS!

Bringing the Arts to Life



Covid Couldn't Keep Us Apart

Annual Report FY 2021

CARPE DIEM ARTS!

Bringing the Arts to Life

MISSION

Carpe Diem Arts' mission is to inspire creative self-expression that empowers individuals, strengthens communities, and builds better futures, while also supporting the livelihoods of master teaching and performing artists who reflect the diversity of the communities we serve.

VISION

Through shared arts experiences in the visual, literary and performing arts, individuals and groups find common ground, discover new talents and interests, and build lasting relationships.

VALUES

Our guiding values are social justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and joy—employing the arts to unite, energize and inspire us to create the change we need to see in the world. *Bringing the arts to life in ways that matter and make a difference.*





Silk scarves created by 12-14 year old girls with teaching artist Sue Stockman at Carpe Diem Arts Summer Camp on the Eastern shore

Dear Friends of Carpe Diem and of the Arts,

At a time when our world remains off-kilter and we are all adjusting to the ever-changing Covid safety protocols, we at Carpe Diem Arts believe more strongly than ever in the power of the Arts to keep us buoyed and resilient, instilling hope and inspiring creativity to light the way. We are ever more grateful for our supporters who bolster our efforts through donations, connections, advice, and a positive spirit.



Covid could not keep us apart. We shifted many of Carpe Diem's visual, literary and performing arts programs between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 to the virtual mode – and experienced artists up close and personal in our own homes, created new virtual communities, and provided connection and activity for those who needed it most during this unsettling time. The joy on the faces of participants, even within the constraints of those tiny window frames, made it all seem worthwhile. I am proud of our staff and our artists for stepping up and meeting the challenge to keep the Arts alive.

Speaking of artists, we take great heart in having provided meaningful employment to over 100 remarkably diverse master teaching and performing artists. We thank them for sharing their talents and global vision with our community.

We appreciate the continued support of the Carpe Diem Arts Board who helped us shape our strategic next steps, our staff, our Advisory Council members, volunteers, and partners, and we thank you - our donors and funders who share our passion for this work in bringing the arts to life in ways that matter and make a difference.

As we like to say, "When the Arts walk in, the lights go on!"

We hope you will enjoy perusing this Annual Report—and we look forward to the chance of seeing you at some of our upcoming events, whether online or in-person!

With gratitude and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Busy Graham".

**Busy Graham, Founder and Director
Carpe Diem Arts, Inc.**

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Allen Perper
Chair & Acting
Treasurer



Megan Gallagher,
Secretary



Paula Posas



Dianne Harrison



Josephine Garnem

Others who served on the Board during the year: Nanette Alvey (Co-Chair), Linda Harris, Jo Rasi

STAFF

Busy Graham, Founder & Executive Director

Diane Dowling, Chief Financial Officer

Denise Jones, Community Engagement Director

Jo Rasi – Daily Antidote of Song

Munit Mesfin – Jump Start with the Arts, Family Fun Night, Ukes on the Move

Binta Coulibaly – Artists for Social Change

Katie Aboudou – Graphics and Design

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ada Villatoro

Asmara Sium

Barry Bergey

Christina Campo-Abdoun

E. Stewart Hickman

Elena Velasco

Hawah Kasat

James M. Harkless

Jeff Green

John Simson

Lamar Davis

Linda Harris

Margaret A. Walker

Peggy Seeger

Philip B. Zipin

Sebastian Johnson

Senator William C. Smith, Jr.

STATEMENT OF NEED

Historically, the Arts receive only 4% of all donations nationally each year; yet, the Arts have a transformative power that should be celebrated and supported.

Carpe Diem Arts creates programs that introduce preschoolers and children, youth, adults and seniors to art forms of varied cultures, broadening their vision, understanding and appreciation of the larger world in which they live, and offering an opportunity to experience new ways to express themselves.

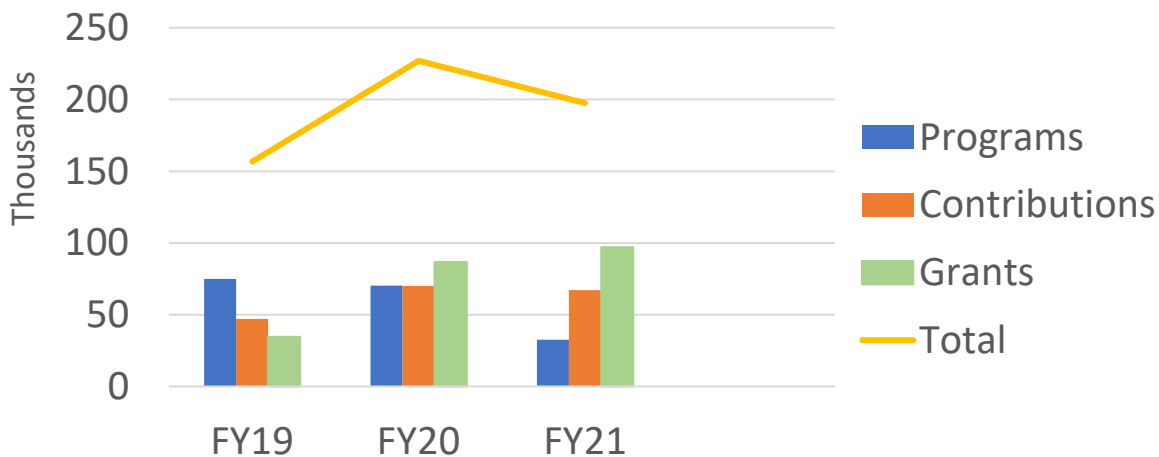
Now more than ever, Carpe Diem Arts needs your support to bring people together through the Arts, to lift them up, to gain strength from each other, and to find kindness, community and a sense of belonging. *To empower the individual, strengthen communities, and build better futures.*



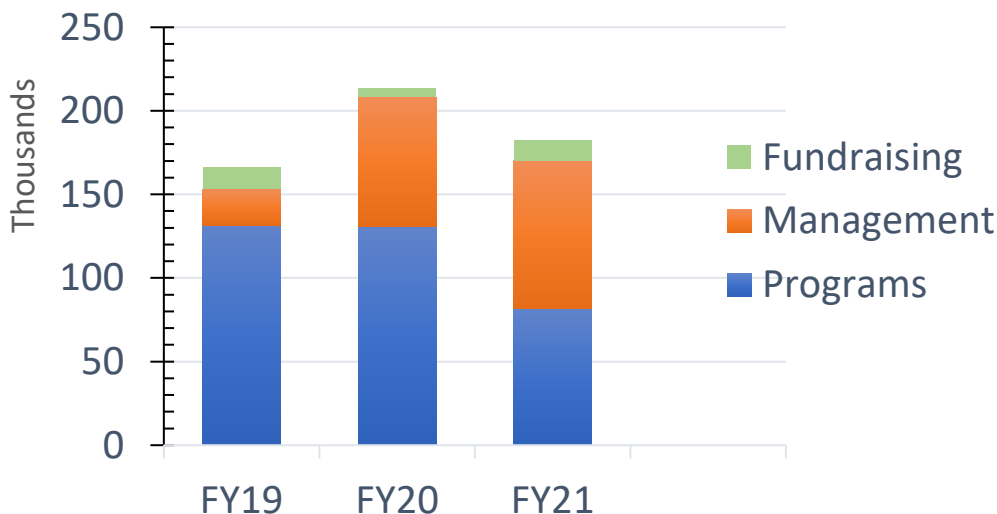
From the FY21 virtual production of "Be the Light" – a song written by Lea Morris, inspired by Amanda Gorman's Inauguration Day speech. Please enjoy this virtual chorus production by Lea Morris in collaboration with Carpe Diem Arts, featuring some of our staff, our families and members of our program community.

FINANCIALS

Income: Program income declined due to Covid; however, more encounters were created with free, virtual programming. Grants increased with strong government support during Covid.



Expense: As program opportunities fell due to Covid, so did program expenses.



"It is an immense privilege to partner with Carpe Diem Arts. Their talented artists teach and inspire us, sparking creativity, honoring diversity, and enriching the lives of children and adults alike."

- Jana Sharp, Sharp Insight, LLC

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Due to Covid restrictions and safety precautions, all our FY21 programs were virtual. This expanded our reach, created new communities, and brought performances into people's homes – *"from the artist's living room to yours."* Data below includes participation via Zoom and viewership via FaceBook Live.

Program	# of Sessions	# Served
Daily Antidote of Song	365	87,634
Community Family Sing	12	12,553
Family Fun Night events for Jump Start with the Arts	12	8,886
Healthy Families Healthy Communities	46	1,599
Youth ArtBeat	262	44
Summer ArtVentures, in lieu of in-person camps summer 2020	57 sessions across 11 classes	93
TOTAL	754	110,809



Signature Programs: At-A-Glance

* On hold in FY21 due to the pandemic

YOUTH ARTBEAT

Out-of-school time programs for children and teens,
with a focus on immigrant and low-income communities.

JUMP START WITH THE ARTS *

Providing a jump-start to healthy and joyful social and cognitive development
in the early stages of learning. Outreach programs to low-income
preschools and Head Start programs.

UKES ON THE MOVE *

Introducing children, teens, adults and seniors to music-making and songwriting
via the most accessible, affordable, portable instrument... the ukulele!

ARTS ALIVE *

Delivering engaging and culturally diverse programs, hands-on workshops,
residencies, and performances for seniors.

CARPE DIEM SUMMER ARTS CAMPS

With our language immersion camps for ages 8-10 in Takoma, DC,
and sleepaway camps on the Eastern Shore, MD, for girls ages 10-14 on hold, we
launched a virtual series of short arts programs called Summer ArtVentures.

HOUSING COMMUNITY ARTS

Working with affordable housing developers to strengthen foundations for building
healthy families and creative communities through the arts. Delivered virtually in
FY21, we served partner organizations including the Enterprise/Community
Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC) and Housing Opportunities
Commission of Montgomery County (HOC).

CARPE DIEM PUBLIC PROGRAMS

in partnership with various local nonprofits, presenters and sponsors

Monthly Community Family Sing, virtual in FY21 *(21st of each month)*

Monthly Silver Spring Contra Dance in SS Civic Building *(2nd Thursdays) **

Jump Start Family Fun Night, virtual in FY21 *(1st Thursdays)*

Free Minds Write Night at Seekers *(bi-monthly) **

Concerts and special events at various venues, including Montgomery College *

Centered on Arts offerings % Montgomery County Recreation Department *

Workshops, classes, residency offerings in the visual, literary and performing arts *

"I found another thing I like to do – making music and writing songs. If I could, I would write a song every day!"
- Kiara

From a Summer ArtVentures songwriting class with a group of 10-13 year olds, taught by award-winning singer-songwriter and recording artist Lea Morris.

Music and lyrics by Ellie Hinton, Ida Ellsworth, Jakob Planert, Nella Higgins, Sabina Kirkpatrick, Stephen Hooks

Change To Come

[Click for Video](#)

G-F-C x3 G Am / C / D / G

FIRST CHORUS

Stephen and Yumi Hooks

G
I'm tired of staying home
F
Of missing my friends
C
Tired of online school
G F
Tired of everything being closed
C
Having to stay apart at the pool
G F
Tired of having nowhere to go
C
Except for where I'm from
G Am C \ \ \
I know this can't go on forever
D G G F F-F#-G
Waiting for a change to come

D/ G /D/ G / Em/ C/ D

FIRST VERSE

Ellie Hinton

D
I remember the last day
G
Right before the pandemic
D
It was a Wednesday
G
It was kind of hectic
Em Em/D#
They decided to shut down the whole school
Em/D Em/C#
Just for two weeks
C D
But it's gone on and on and on

REPEAT FIRST CHORUS

Sabina Kirkpatrick

SECOND CHORUS

Ida Ellsworth

G F
Tired of poverty and suffering
C
Some not getting paid enough
G F
Tired of some people thinking that color of
C
skin puts them above
G F
Tired of pollution in the land and sea
C
Global warming is just plain dumb
G Am C \ \ \
I know this can't go on forever
D G G F F-F#-G
Waiting for a change to come

SECOND VERSE

Nella Higgins

D
Coming up through history
G
We're getting closer together
D
We've come such a long way
G
But we can still do better
Em Em/D#
We help each other and learn to care
Em/D Em/C#
A little more every day
C D
And it goes on and on and on

REPEAT SECOND CHORUS

Stephen and Yumi Steve Hooks

Final 3 lines -- Sabina, Ellie, Ida

D G
Waiting for a change to come
D G
I'll be working for a change to come
F G
Let's be the change to come.

YOUTH ARTBEAT AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

In FY21, Carpe Diem's Youth ArtBeat programs virtually served elementary-aged children primarily from immigrant and refugee families in low-to-moderate income housing developments. These programs are offered in partnerships with other nonprofits, housing organizations, local schools and townships. Children receive academic support as well as arts enrichment – including African drumming and dance, storytelling, singing and songwriting, instrument building and other STEAM activities.



"It helps to expose my child to new forms of art, learning, and caring staff that she does not get in school."

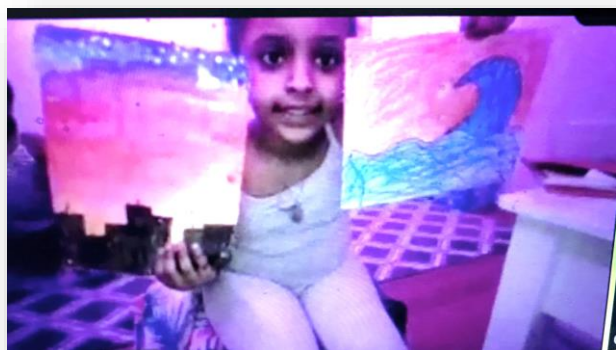
- Parent survey response

"Art is fun. Do cool things – paint and draw."

-Student survey response

My most favorite thing is:
"When we get to learn new things and do a lot of art!"

-Student survey response



DAILY ANTIDOTE OF SONG



The brainchild of Jo Rasi and launched at the outset of the pandemic in response to comments she heard about feeling alone and isolated due to Covid, this daily sing-along was formed in partnership with Washington Revels. After one year of daily production, in April 2021 the **Daily Antidote of Song** moved fully to Carpe Diem Arts.

We create a virtual space every day at Noon Eastern Time where people from varied geographic locales and generations come together, are greeted by name, are led in song, and have conversation about current topics, essentially *"Making each day better, one song at a time!"*

"The Daily Antidote is a breath of fresh air. It really saved my life during the pandemic, and I am so thankful."

- Ysaye Barnwell, founding member of Sweet Honey in the Rock

"The Daily Antidote of Song has become my family. We come together to do more than sing. We laugh, we cry, we dance (yes, dance), share information about music concerts or other singing opportunities, tell jokes, show off pets, clap, snap, play instruments, but most of all WE SEE EACH OTHER."

- Carolyn Wolfe

"This beautiful moment of singing together has a way of raising your vibration, letting a little ray of hope in, and shifting your mood a little bit. Song is an incredible medicinal for your state of mind and for your body."

- Maggie Wheeler, singer-songwriter



Daily Antidote of Song
CARPE DIEM ARTS WEEK

Hosted by Arnae Batson, Kathy Bullock and Jo Rasi
Every day at 12 Noon (ET) - Celebrating Year Two of Singing!

April 19 - Maggie Yacoub
April 20 - Emma's Revolution
April 21 - Rowan Corbett
April 22 - Lilo Gonzalez
April 23 - Kevin Locke
April 24 - Hubby Jenkins
April 25 - Reggie Harris

www.facebook.com/DailyAntidote



Daily Antidote of Song
NEXT GENERATIONS WEEK

Hosted by Some Alternative Roots and Carpe Diem Arts

Every day at 12 Noon (ET)

May 10 - Sam Amidon
May 11 - Alex Cumming
May 12 - Elias Alexander
May 13 - Hubby Jenkins
May 14 - Mia Bertelli
May 15 - Fabrizio Cammarata
May 16 - Nora Brown

www.facebook.com/DailyAntidote



Daily Antidote of Song
ARCHIVE CHALLENGE WEEK

co-hosted by Steve Winick and Jennifer Cutting
Library of Congress American Folklife Center

Every day, noon ET, free. Celebrating 450 days!

JUNE 21 - Jeff Warner
JUNE 22 - Debra Cowan
JUNE 23 - Moira Smiley
JUNE 24 - Jayme Stone
JUNE 25 - Dan & Claudia Zanes
JUNE 26 - Windborne
JUNE 27 - Joe Hickerson

www.facebook.com/DailyAntidote

Artwork by
Betsy Fulford

*Thank you for
sharing your
talent with us.*



CARPE DIEM ARTS MONTHLY COMMUNITY FAMILY SING



From the January 21, 2021 Community Family Sing
Jaja Bashengezi (DRC) & Kinobe (Uganda)

The **Community Family Sing** on the 21st of each month welcomes all ages in celebrating diverse cultures and traditions of song, the changing of seasons (solstices and equinoxes), heritage months, birthdays and holidays. Multigenerational, multicultural gatherings.

"Carpe Diem Arts has been a bright light shining through the good times and the challenging times. As performers and appreciators, (and in Claudia's case, as a music therapist), we know first-hand the transformative power of the arts for individuals and communities."

The work of Carpe Diem Arts is wide and deep and absolutely essential. Our lives have been uplifted by the vibrant commitment and welcoming spirit of this organization."

- Dan & Claudia Zanes,
GRAMMY Award
recipient, Smithsonian
Folkways recording
artists



Carpe Diem Arts and Washington Revels **Virtual Community Family Sing** Celebrating Arab American Heritage Month, Jazz Heritage Month, and Earth Day



Dan & Claudia Zanes • The Vox Hunters • Chic Street Man • Huda Asfour • Walter Parks
James Harkless • Dave Mallett • Doug Elliott • Glenn Pearson & Matt Pearson



Wednesday, April 21, 2021 6:30pm ET

JUMP start with the Arts.

Jump Start with the Arts is an early childhood arts enrichment program that includes public performances, arts outreach programs, and workshops. The goal is to provide a jump-start to healthy and joyful social and cognitive development in the early stages of learning, engaging young children in memorable, educational, developmentally appropriate, and culturally diverse experiences through the arts. Jump Start “**Family Fun Night**” is a monthly performance series for preschoolers and families. Proceeds benefit our arts outreach fund for low-income early learning centers and Head Start programs.





“Carpe Diem works relentlessly to provide space for community members to engage in music and the arts, and they do it with an eye towards inclusion and equity, which you can see in the artist roster, and in the kinds of community partnerships they have nurtured. Art has an important role to play in rebuilding our bonds as a society post-pandemic, so it’s a critical time to support Carpe Diem to propel this recreating and rebuilding with all.”

- Andrés Salguero & Christina Sanabria of Latin Grammy-winning music duo 123 Andrés



HEALTHY FAMILIES HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Healthy Families | Healthy Communities, a partnership of Carpe Diem Arts and Brass Ring Co., delivers a variety of creative arts and supportive programs that build community, deepen and strengthen connection, mutual support, and community engagement. This program is geared toward residents of Takoma Park due to financial support from the City.



Check out these Community Events Just for YOU!
October 2020 through May 2021
* Free Virtual Programs for Takoma Park/Takoma DC *
For Parents, Youth and Adults

Looking to Connect with Other Neighbors But Not Sure How?
Want to Learn More About Parenting and Children's Needs?
Do Creative Crafting? Dance for Exercise? Cook Healthier Meals?
Wish You Could Enjoy More Live Music?

- **Parent Workshops** for Pre-K to Grade 5 — Tuesdays, 6:30 to 7:45pm
English & Amharic facilitation — Oct 13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/10, 11/17
- **Quilting Conversations** — Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:45pm
Slow down, unplug & refresh with paper & fabric art engagement and conversation
Oct 7 & 21; 11/4 & 8; 12/2 & 16; Jan 6 & 20; 2/3 & 17; 3/3 & 17
- **Girls Club** — Wednesdays, 5:00 to 6:00pm
Middle School Girls LifeSkills/Leadership — Oct 14, 21, 28; 11/4, 11, 18; 12/2, 9, 16
- **House Concerts** — Quarterly, Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30pm
Share a memorable experience together — Nov 19, Jan 28, Mar 25, May 27
- **Healthy Cooking Class** — Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30pm
For sustainable in-season meals — Oct 22, 11/5, Jan 21, 2/4, 4/22, 5/6
- **Dance for Fun & Fitness** — Tuesdays, 6:30 to 7:30pm
Learn cultural dances & move that body! — Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 9, 16
- **Friendship Bench** — Community Public Art Project, April and May 2021

Healthy Families | Healthy Communities Project • Connecting, Sharing, Learning, Overcoming Barriers
All programs are Free & Virtual • Oct 2020 – May 2021 • <https://fb.me/HealthyFamilies4all>

"I love coming to Quilting Conversations. I get so much support and we help each other. Thank you."

- Almaz

"Girls Club is really good because we don't have anyone to talk to like this. And you guys are really nice."

-Temla

"The Parent Workshop is a very supportive program and you and your team are very engaging. We are the beneficiaries. Thank you for choosing a project to work on [that's] community based. The topics are truly touching ones, [with] targeted interest."

- Enku

Stats

11

Classes

Students enrolled in classes covering topics like photography, songwriting, singing, and using art to explore social purpose.

57

Class Sessions

Some classes were 5 days in a row; others were one or two days each week for 4 weeks.

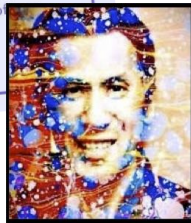
93

Participants

Most classes were filled with children, though the ever-popular Reggie Harris drew a mix of

SUMMER CAMPS AND ARTVENTURES

In Summer 2020 we developed ArtVentures, a series of virtual workshops as an alternative to our traditional summer camp programming.



CARPE DIEM ARTS! SUMMER ARTVENTURES

RADIO PLAYS

VISUAL ARTS

MUSIC

BOOK CLUBS

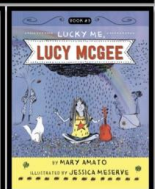
DANCING, SINGING & MORE!



SCAN ME

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
CHECK IT OUT!

WWW.CARPEDIEMARTS.ORG



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Maryland's Eastern Shore

Due to Covid safety concerns and programming constraints, our outreach to Eastern Shore communities and schools was severely impacted. We did succeed in producing a monthly virtual Cultural Heritage Series from February to June 2021 in partnership with the Brookletts Senior Center and the Talbot County Free Library with funding support from the Talbot County Arts Council, Mid-Shore Community Foundation and the Maryland State Arts Council. The attendance on Zoom did not meet our expectations, despite the great lineup (see flyer below), as screen fatigue began to set in.

17 artists were featured in the virtual series.

Audience reached: 2,350 (reflects additional views on Facebook).

CARPE
DIEM
ARTS

CARPE DIEM ARTS BROOKLETTS & TCFL VIRTUAL CONCERT SERIES






Hosted by Karen Somerville

FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2021 | 4TH FRIDAYS AT 4 PM

FEB 26	BLACK HISTORY MONTH, VALENTINE'S DAY Karen Somerville, Kathy Bullock & Phillip Bullock
MAR 26	IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH Rakish: Maura Shawn Scanlin & Conor Hearn Lea Gilmore
APR 23	ARAB-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH & EARTH DAY Chris Noyes, Maggie Yacoub
MAY 28	JEWISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH Caron Dale, Patricia Shih
JUNE 25	CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, JUNETEENTH Andrea & Harold Blackford and James Harkless from Jubilee Voices, Dan & Claudia Zanes



Chris Noyes



Maggie Yacoub



Caron Dale



Patricia Shih



Andrea & Harold Blackford
and James Harkless



Dan & Claudia
Zanes

On Zoom and Facebook Live

INFO: CarpeDiemArts.org







PARTNERS, SPONSORS, & SUPPORTERS

MoCo and DC Area

GOVERNMENT

Arts and Humanities Council of
Montgomery County (AHC MC)
City of Takoma Park
Housing Opportunities Commission
Maryland State Arts Council
Maryland State Dept of Education
Montgomery College
Montgomery County Libraries
Montgomery County Recreation Dept
Silver Spring Regional Center

CORPORATIONS / BUSINESSES

Blessed Coffee
Brass Ring Company
Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center
El Golfo Restaurant
Finn Family Group
House of Musical Traditions
Sharp Insight, LLC.

NON-PROFIT PARTNERS

Artivate (formerly Class Acts Arts)
Enterprise Community Development
Ethiopian Community Center
Folklore Society of Greater Washington
Free Minds Book Club
IMPACT Silver Spring
Institute of Musical Traditions

Library of Congress

Mi Casa-DC

Montgomery County Collaboration Council

Montgomery County Public Schools

Montgomery Housing Partnership

One Common Unity

Silver Spring Regional Center

Silver Spring Town Center, Inc.

Smithsonian Institution

Spring Knolls Coop Early Learning Center

Springvale Terrace Senior Residence

Takoma Radio WOWN

Ubuntu Choir Network

Washington Revels

Eastern Shore

FOUNDATIONS

Dock Street Foundation

Mid-Shore Community Foundation

Talbot County Arts Council

NON-PROFIT PARTNERS

Avalon Foundation

Brookletts Place Senior Center

Chesapeake Center

First Night Talbot

Talbot County Public Libraries

Talbot County Public Schools

WHCP Public Radio



Letter from Peggy Seeger – in Support of Carpe Diem Arts

Dear friends,

My family has deep roots in America, in music, and in singing for liberty and justice.

At a time when our basic human rights are threatened, when truth and civility have been compromised, and images of violence and strife are part of our daily lives, we need the town criers and we need the arts.

We have seen time and again how the arts serve as a catalyst in breaking down barriers and finding what it is that unites us.

I have known about the work of Carpe Diem Arts ever since I performed at a house concert produced by Busy Graham some years ago in my old family home in Silver Spring. The evening brought back fond memories from when Mike and I were preschoolers and would sneak out of bed and eavesdrop as Woody Guthrie, Alan Lomax, Huddie Ledbetter (Leadbelly), my brother Pete and father Charles swapped songs and stories into the wee hours of the night. My mother Ruth Crawford Seeger was the music teacher in those days at the newly founded Silver Spring Nursery School (1941), and was working on her first book, "American Folksongs for Children," which became one of the most popular and respected resources for teachers of young children.

I love knowing that those great old Guthrie, Leadbelly, Lomax and Seeger songs are still being sung at the monthly Carpe Diem-Revels Community Family Sings! I am also heartened to know of Carpe Diem's programs for preschoolers and for seniors. These programs make such a difference at both ends of our life cycle—by stimulating our brains and enlivening our spirits.

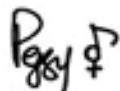
Another feather in Carpe Diem Arts' hat is its focus on outreach to underserved audiences, and on bringing diverse groups of people together to share in memorable experiences of the visual, literary and performing arts from a broad range of cultures and traditions.

The images of immigrant children participating in Carpe Diem's Youth ArtBeat after-school programs evoke a sense of something being right in the world.

Whenever, wherever we can bring about those moments of joy, we must.

Please give as generously as you can in support of Carpe Diem Arts and the work this stalwart nonprofit is doing to bring the arts to life in ways that matter and make a difference.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy" followed by a stylized symbol resembling a combination of a lowercase 'e' and a female gender symbol.

Peggy Seeger

DEEPEN YOUR SUPPORT

"You can depend on me for my contributions. In these stressful times I believe the arts are more important than ever. They help us keep our humanity and connect us with so many different people beyond our circle of friends and family. And, of course, they give us so much joy! Thank you for all you do."
- Patty LeBlanc, Carpe Diem supporter



DONATE NOW

- On Our Website
- Provide Financial Aid for Campers
- Share Your Event Space or Host an Event
- Sponsor a Program, Students, or Instruments
- Recommend Us to Other Donors

YES. Sign me up!

- Serve on the Board or Advisory Council
- Partner on a Project
- Volunteer!
- Provide Your Skills or Teach
- Contact Us, Find Out What You Can Do to Help



- Come to Events; Take a Class; Join in the Fun
- [Join the Mailing List](#)
- [Like Us on Facebook](#)
- Choose Us for [Amazon Smile](#)
- Share Ideas!



TESTIMONIALS for CARPE DIEM ARTS!



"Carpe Diem brings out the best in our community by making music, art, and celebration accessible to all of the people of Montgomery County and beyond. I cherish the exuberance, diversity and energy of the Carpe Diem community and am grateful that this remarkable organization is here for us through thick and thin."

~ U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin

"Every time I participate in a Carpe Diem Arts event, I know I am actively contributing to the health and vibrancy of my community in ways that will continue to ripple into the future."

~ Lea Morris, composer, recording artist, singer-songwriter, teaching artist



"I have learned a lot. 10 chords so far! I've also learned that if I don't give up easily, I can achieve much more. If you believe in yourself, you are capable of more than what you think. Life isn't easy and you have to work hard to succeed... I feel proud... I never imagined myself on a stage with a uke in front of lots of people singing and playing. I am hooked."

~Jeimy, 3rd grader---re. "Ukes on the Move" residency

"Carpe Diem Arts is an essential showcase for the traditional arts that engages and enriches the lives of our communities."

~ Dom Flemons, Grammy Award-winning artist



"I have seen first-hand the incredible impact of Carpe Diem Arts for over 10 years. The Carpe Diem team connects generations and communities. The quality, variety and creativity of the programming has been tested and they are excellent partners."

We need their spirit and dedication more than ever!"

~ Gabe Albornoz, President, Montgomery County Council

"...As a journalist specializing in the arts & entertainment, I've met many artists who depend on Carpe Diem Arts. I've heard their stories, marveled at their talent and dedication, learned how they keep traditions alive—and have seen how Carpe Diem Arts provides support so they can bring their programs to ever-wider audiences... All arts organizations are in rough waters right now; none is more deserving of support than Carpe Diem Arts."

~ Chris Slattery, writer-journalist





*"Of the many nonprofit arts organizations
I have worked with across the nation,
Carpe Diem Arts has the highest quality programming
combined with the biggest, most authentic heart."*

~ Mary Amato, award-winning author, singer-songwriter,
dancer-choreographer, puppeteer, teaching artist

*"Free Minds' long-time and special partnership with Carpe Diem Arts
has brought us to new heights of artistic collaboration
that we would have never dreamed of on our own."*

~ Tara Libert, Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop



*"The Daily Antidote: singing songs of hope, strength and love,
joy, compassion, and resiliency—
all as one community striving for a better world."*

~ Kevin Ennis, Cerebral Palsy and Disability Rights Activist

*"The Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County
is grateful to Carpe Diem Arts for the remarkable quality and
rich array of programs brought to our residents and communities...."*

*These programs provide educational and cultural enrichment and
lift everyone's spirits, inspiring creativity and engagement.*

*We appreciate Carpe Diem's deep commitment to equity and diversity,
access and inclusion...while also promoting critical thinking
and civic engagement across generations and cultures."*

~ Fred Swan, Resident Services Division Director, HOC



*"As a former art teacher and now advisory board member,
I can say that the true beauty of Carpe Diem lies in understanding
the value of arts and culture and translating that into
actual support for artists and outreach to diverse communities.
Carpe Diem's dedication and thoughtful approach
to arts programming should be the gold standard."*

~ Asmara Sium, Creative Grounds

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Contact Us

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Carpe Diem Arts, November 2021