

CREATIVE MARKS



SPRING 2014

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (CAPAC, INC.)

FOCUS



COME OUT AND PLAY AT OLD HICKORY!



Pick up your clubs and get ready your swing to join us for **Scene on The Greens-Take Two!** Our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament is a month away and promises to be another relaxing day of fun and laughs

for all. Captain's Choice/Best Ball will be the game. \$125/ golfer or \$500/team.

To sign up online, visit www.capacweb.org. Event and Hole sponsorships are still available. Register today!



Can They Hold Onto 1st Place?

Despite pouring rain, players took to the greens during our 2013 tournament. With a bold winning lead above the rest, (pictured l-r, with Celebrity Guest Michael Williams in orange, center) William Williams, Dr. Luke Torian & Danny Hopson took home the 1st Place Trophy.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| July 25 | Annual Golf Tournament
Old Hickory Country Club |
| Aug 1-2 | CAPAC Bailamos Dancers Auditions
James McCoart Building |
| Oct 11 | CAPAC's 10th Anniversary Gala
Hylton Performing Arts Center |

ANGLES

Heavyweight champion Joe Louis (2nd from left) and golf pioneer Charlie Sifford (2nd from right) played their fair share of rounds at Langston Golf Course in northeast D.C., opened in 1939 amidst all segregated courses in the DC area.

Photo courtesy Jimmy Garvin
Legacy Foundation



DIRECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

Denise M. McPhail



CAPAC Executive Director Denise McPhail with fellow alumni of the Lean, Mean 2013 Leadership Prince William Class at the June 13th Evening of Excellence Awards Ceremony

As I look toward our 10th anniversary celebration, I salute the tireless efforts of Board President Loretta Freeman and the loyal volunteer professionals who have dedicated their time over the years to advance the mission of CAPAC. With an amazing sold-out seven shows of *The Wiz*, I commend the work of Chaz Pando and Tyrell Lashley at the helm of a dynamic Production Team, who thought highly enough of CAPAC's

leadership to nominate me for the Kathy Ellington Award and Loretta for the Leadership Prince William Vision Award. During the awards ceremony, I was touched by the support for our work. This fall, we will work with Bill Reeder, Dean of GMU's College of Visual & Performing Arts, on long-term strategic planning to coalesce our Board, fortify our fiscal foundation and expand our programming.

We are excited to see doors continually open to strengthen CAPAC's future.

So You Think You Can Dance?

CAPAC AMBASSADORS—Dancers Wanted

The CAPAC Ambassadors are a touring ensemble created in response to the community's demands for quality performances outside of the theater. Under the direction of choreographer Ms. Catrina Stroman, the **Bailamos Dancers** will be the newest part of the ensemble, to be comprised of dancers ranging in age from 10 to adults. Auditions are scheduled on the dates below at the James McCoart Building's Powell's Creek Conference Room, located 1 County Complex Court in Woodbridge. *Experience preferred.*

Friday, August 1 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Saturday, August 2 10:00am - 12:00pm

For details on how to prepare for your audition, please visit our website at:

www.capacweb.org/auditions

TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR ANNIVERSARY ARTS BENEFIT GALA

CAPAC'S FIRST DECADE

Cultivating Community Through The Arts

An evening of elegance and arts is prepared for our members, supporters and friends who will join us for our 10th Anniversary Arts Benefit Gala on Saturday, October 11th at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. Seating is limited so if you want to share our special moment, don't delay in purchasing your tickets online at www.capacweb.org.

Tickets are \$80/guest and must be purchased in advance. We will do our best to accommodate group seating requests based upon the order of ticket purchases.

If you would like to show your support by becoming a sponsor or purchasing an ad in our souvenir journal, email us at give@capacweb.org.

GIFT THE ARTS

Friend	\$1+
Patron	\$100+
Benefactor	\$500+
Advocate	\$1000+
Champion	\$2000+
Hero	\$3000+
5-Star Group	\$5000+
Lyrical Club	\$7500+
Ovation Circle	\$10000+

Your tax-deductible donation is welcome along the spectrum of support that will keep us thriving and elevating our work. We thank you for your generosity.

To request a Donor Commitment Packet, email us at:
give@capacweb.org

Please make checks or money orders payable to CAPAC and submit to your CAPAC rep or mail to:

LINES

"The life we live becomes the meat of artistic expression."

"I am always becoming."

~ Ruby Dee, actress, writer, activist (1922-2014)

SEEN & HEARD: Take Our Seat in the Merchant Hall



Seat No. 219 in the Hylton's Merchant Hall displays an engraved donor tag for CAPAC

The next time you are in the Merchant Hall, the main performance theater of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, take our seat: 219.

As one of the Hylton's Founding Residence Arts

Partners at the Hylton, CAPAC proudly joined its "Take A Seat" campaign in 2009 to help raise funds to build this European-style opera house.

In May, we celebrated the end of our journey

to pay off the cost of the seat and the fulfillment of our promise.

Our engraved name tag now proudly appears on one of the 1,200 seats in this state-of-the-art modern space.

ART EFFECTS: Inaugural Arts Council Poet Laureate Circle

On June 14th, Prince William County became the first county in Virginia to launch a Poet Laureate Program and announced its first Poets Laureate during a special "Poetry & Jazz on the Lake" event in Occoquan.

The 14 nominees were inducted into the inaugural Prince William County Arts Council Poet Laureate Circle and will collaborate on projects to promote the art of writing poetry.

CAPAC Board Member Dora Muhammad was one of the local poets honored with induction. Here is an excerpt of her poem *Maya's Song* she recited at her induction.

*the art of your heart
beat beat beating
bare bold fierce rhythms
wise are your words
opening visions streaming dreams
across the universe sky
birthing galaxies of possibility
within us through contractions of
dawn and dew and solar dust
literary light casting
compassionate mornings
the lyrics of your life
accompanied melodies
of freedom for our spirit
tap tap tapping out
transparencies of truth
revealing voice blessing hope
uncaging power out of forgotten
traces in narrow spaces
from the incongruent
shapes of our lives
you taught us to
sketch symmetries
of grace
to see humanity
face-to-face*



CAPAC Board Member Dora Muhammad's spoken word at the Prince William County Arts Council Poet Laureate event was her poem in memory of her mentor Dr. Maya Angelou

DO YOU LOVE THE
WORK OF CAPAC?

Our mission is to provide educational excellence, enrichment and quality entertainment through the arts while inspiring the community to participate in cultural diversity.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN
SHOW SUPPORT...

Become a member

Give a tax-deductible donation

Audition for a role

Volunteer on a production crew

Support a committee

Advertise in a program souvenir book

Spread the word

ENJOY THESE BENEFITS
WITH YOUR ANNUAL
ENROLLMENT

· **Reserved Seating**
for Mainstage Productions

· **Ticket Exchange**

· **Listing in Program Books**

· **Discount on Ads**
in Program Books

· **Opening Night (or Closing) Reception**
(selected performances)

Sign up for our
e-newsletter:

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info@capacweb.org

A PHENOMENAL SOLD-OUT RUN OF THE WIZ



'CAPAC's *The Wiz* has captured the dynamic energy and uplifting spirit of the production' - DC Metro Theater Arts

GROUP SALES CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS!

The support of the family and friends of the cast, crew and CAPAC leadership was key in our success at the box office. The initiation of our first Group Sales Campaign was also integral in generating this support. We recognize the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Girl Scouts Troop 6038, and The Upper Room Christian Cathedral for their patronage through this special campaign.



Over the two-week run of *The Wiz*, CAPAC once again set ground-breaking records at the Hylton Performing Arts Center with a fully sold out run of shows.

Garnering five stars from *The Washington Post's* DC Metro Theater Arts, the production was heralded as "big, flashy and funky," "hugely complex," but never

"overwhelming or overwrought."

With a cast and crew of nearly 60 children, teens, adults and a dog, Director Chaz Pando remained undaunted in the creative challenge of bringing his vision to the stage in his first large-scale musical directorial debut.

Here are excerpts of the *Post* review:



The costumes ... the most impressive and professional I have seen on a local stage ... practically sculptures, an astounding mélange of fabric and found objects that somehow



held together despite the highly kinetic dancing in the show.

The Cowardly Lion (Roy Patten Jr.) had the audience eating out of the palm of his paw... nailed the essence of the grandstanding but terribly insecure Lion ... his fourth-wall-breaking asides had the audience in stitches.

Kanysha Williams' incredible acting and singing (as Dorothy) culminated in a spine-tingling rendition of "Home," which received a well-deserved ovation.

(Rayshun) Lamar (The Wiz) made me find religion Saturday night ... due to his unbelievable energy and astounding vocal ability.

The tornado, the yellow brick road, and the sleep-inducing-poppies were all communicated by dancers. The actors' bodies became the canvas that Mr. Pando used to tell his story.

The curtains may have closed, but this production left an indelible mark on all of our hearts.

CLOSING PERFORMANCE IN MEMORIAM



(l-r) Kay Harris, Kyrai Martin and Sheila Anderson receive flowers on behalf of CAPAC from Executive Director Denise McPhail before the final show

During the production period of The Wiz, members of the Production Team lost family members yet their resilient spirit allowed them to endure to the end. Our closing performance was dedicated to the memory of these loved ones.

Deacon Elijah Salters
father of
Sheila Anderson, Stage Manager

Shannon Jones
sister of
Kay Harris, Choreographer

Alma Marie Thompson
mother of
Traci Thompson, Backstage Manager
& Kyrai Martin, Assistant Choreographer



SPOTLIGHT: GIFTED HANDS BEHIND CAPAC CURTAINS



“IT’S OK TO USE A PATTERN TO GIVE STRUCTURE BUT I LIKE TO CREATE MY OWN PATTERN. I AM ABLE TO PUT MYSELF IN IT.”



An instinctive fascination with the creative process grounds the work of **Arnita Jordan**. Ever since her aunt sat her down as a nine-year-old to teach her to sew, she has been inspired to create. “It’s ok to use a pattern to give structure but I like to create my own pattern,” she shared. “I can’t go wrong because I made it up. I am able to put myself in it in some way.”

Her grandfather, who was a painter, was one of the greatest influences on her artistic development. While she paints, Arnita’s art reaches into photography, embroidery and hand-crafted gifts and party favors. The diversity of her craftwork is

enjoyed by the clientele of her business, A Special Touch by Arnita (www.aspecialtouchbyarnita.com) which offers made-to-order custom products for all occasions as unique as patient examination robes for a doctor’s private practice to air freshener dolls with painted wooden faces.

Her range of items includes fans and purses, to ethnic attire and ministry robes. Children and seniors hold a special place in her heart – whether its making puppets for classroom mobile art cart when her daughters attended elementary school or currently designing bibs with inspirational sayings for the elderly sick. It

brings Arnita great joy to tailor one-of-a-kind pieces for her clients such as a memorable order for a robe of many colors.

“I like the challenge of thought to make their vision come to life,” she described of her process.

Arnita joined CAPAC as a backstage volunteer when her two girls participated in CAPAC’s first production, “I Am One Send Me - The Life of Jennie Dean.” She continued to add the God-given talent of her sewing artistry over the past decade to CAPAC costumes.

Humbly summarizing her commitment: “I was put here to do something with my hands.”





THE POET TREE

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave
And suddenly we
see that love costs
all we are
and will ever be.
Yet it is only love
which sets us
free.



Touched By An Angel
By Maya Angelou
1928-2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Loretta Freeman, *President*

Alonzo Wilson, *Treasurer*

Vernell Lewis, *Secretary*

Sheila Anderson

Janice Broome Brooks

Deidre Crawford

Chalet Jean-Baptiste

Dora Muhammad

Chaz Pando

Pamela Sessoms

SPOTLIGHT: GIFTED HANDS BEHIND CAPAC CURTAINS



With an incomparable passion for sewing, **Remeja Thompson** has shared her talent with CAPAC for the past four years. Since the age of 10 when her hands first embraced a sewing machine under the guidance of her mother, Remeja is always in awe when she sees her clothing on a person.

She understood her abilities to be her gift from God not only because it was so natural and easy for her, but after her realization that it wasn't as simple for other people to do it. As a professional seamstress running her own business, SewDiva, she has designed a wide

**“I HAVE DONE MORE WITH ONE HAND
THAN I EVER DID WITH TWO HANDS.”**

array of products for her clientele, from wedding gowns, home décor, and garments for Biblically-themed church plays.

Her greatest accomplishment was her work on the design team for *The Wiz* because of the variety of concepts. She says her heart has been filled by the overwhelmingly positive responses to her work on *The Wiz*.

And one can certainly gain a greater appreciation for her work when you learn that she lost her hands in a medical incident which caused her to give up sewing for three years. But she refused to give up, relying on her faith in God to continue with her work. Her resilience is evident in a sewing room fitted out with seven different machines, walls covered in pictures, patterns upon patterns, and fabric of works in progress trickling over to her living

room and kitchen.

Her entire home is her creative sewing studio where she sews in the morning; and during the day; and at night until about 2am; and when she can't sleep. Remeja is always sewing.

Her vision is to design a line of women's clothing, teach sewing and one day live above a sewing loft.

“I have done more with one hand than I ever did with two hands. It is not a handicap or a disability. It's more a challenge,” she said.

“It pushes me to do more and believe that I can do anything. Not only that I can do this--but do it even better,” she shared, as she put on the finishing touches on a men's seersucker two-piece one-button suit, with pleated pants and cuffs.

CAPAC COMMITTEES

There is a place for your time and talent at CAPAC. Join one of our committees to help further the vision and expand our programming reach. If you desire to become more active within our organization, email us at capac4va@capacweb.org

