

Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission

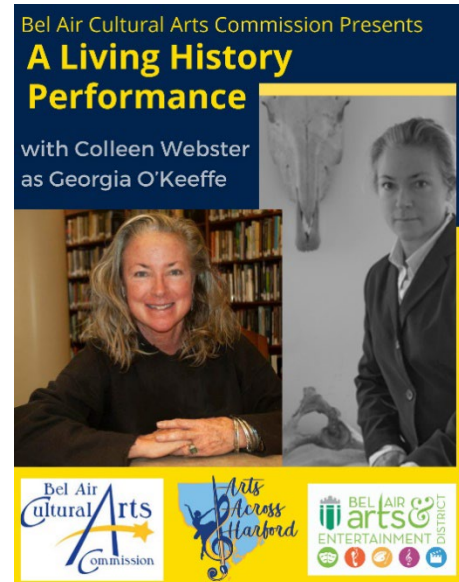
FY25 Annual Report

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 Georgia O'Keeffe on September 17, 2024, at the Bel Air Armory. The CAC sponsored Ms. Webster's fee of \$450.00 as a gift to the community with free admission to the performance. This event was promoted with a digital advertisement in the amount of \$50.00, but was sold out before that threshold was reached. There were 143 attendees at this performance.



Plein Air Festival Quick Draw Competition

The CAC sponsored the 1st prize award for juried artists in the amount of \$750.00 for the Quick Draw competition on September 14, 2024, 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 2024 Plein Air Festival.

Ain't Misbehavin' Big Band

The CAC sponsored the performance of the Ain't Misbehavin' Big Band, a performance held at the Bel Air Armory. The CAC sponsored the cost of the band in the amount of \$500.00. This event was promoted with a digital advertisement on Facebook and Instagram in the amount of \$50.00. The event was held on March 26, 2025, with 105 attendees.





Disco Sistas / Brothas & Company Urban Line Dancing

The CAC sponsored an urban line dancing class for the first time with Disco Sistas / Brothas & Company at the Bel Air Armory. The CAC sponsored the fee of Disco Sistas / Brothas in the amount of \$625.00. This event was promoted with a digital advertisement on Facebook and Instagram in the amount of \$50.00. The event was held on April 22, 2025, with 65 attendees.

Armory Rental Sponsorships

- Authors & Artists on November 2, 2024, in the amount of \$600.00. There were 688 attendees at this event.
- Ballet Chesapeake for an abridged performances of *The Nutcracker* on the evening of December 5, 2024, in the amount of \$500.00. There were 95 attendees at this event.
- Take a Chance on Art on March 29, 2025, 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 90 attendees at this event.



Public Art Projects:

Family Group Sculpture – Alice Anne Park

The CAC purchased a sculpture entitled *Family Group* from Cricket Forge in Durham, NC in the amount of \$1,499.00 to be installed by the TOBA Department of Public Works in Alice Anne Park. The *Family Group* is a forged steel sculpture designed by Don Drumm depicting a family with four children. The Department of Public Works will construct a pedestal for the *Family Group* sculpture.

Little Free Art Gallery – Armory Marketplace

The CAC approved the cost of materials in the amount of \$194.92 for the Harford County Woodshop to construct a Little Free Art Gallery box and post to be installed at the parking lot entrance to Armory Marketplace. The CAC approved a donation in the amount of \$200.00 to the Harford County Woodshop. The CAC approved a payment of \$350.00 for artist Megan Drumm to paint the gallery box and post. The Little Free Art Gallery provides a location for the community to share art in the same concept as the Little Free Library. The Harford Artists Association will monitor items placed in the gallery box. The Little Free Art Gallery was installed at Armory Marketplace by the TOBA Department of Public Works in July 2025.



Bel Air Spring Art Exhibition

The CAC presented its first annual “Bel Air Spring Art Exhibition” in partnership with the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Public Library and Harford County Public Schools. The exhibit featured artwork by students at Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School, Bel Air Elementary School, Bel Air Middle School, and Bel Air High School. The student art exhibit was displayed in the library’s exhibit room throughout the month of May 2025 during regular library hours. The exhibit was viewed by 672 visitors.

Approvals

The CAC approved the purchase in the amount of \$72.50 for a plaque recognizing artist Trish Keck’s painting entitled “Commitment to Community,” which was sponsored by the CAC during FY24 and installed in the lobby of the Bel Air Police Department in May 2024.

The CAC approved the purchase of a gift card in the amount of \$100.00 to artist Sandy Schlehr in appreciation for the repairs completed to 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 in the amount of \$44.00 for the Little Free Art Gallery at Armory Marketplace. The plaque recognizes the construction of the gallery by the Harford County Woodshop and painting of the gallery by artist Megan Drumm.

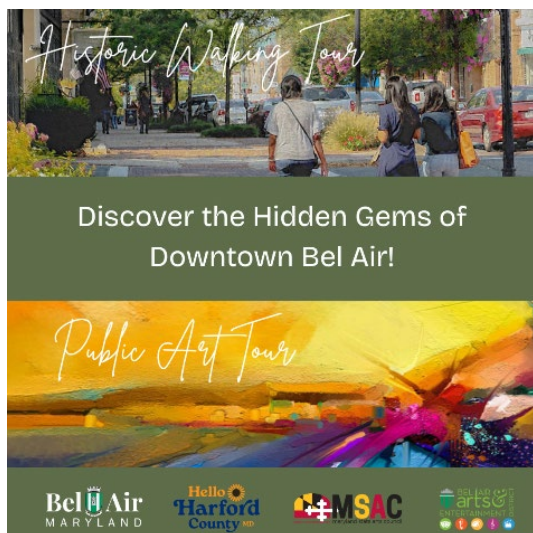
Public Art Tour

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. The Public Art Tour also contains an audio component designed to enrich the visitor experience by providing engaging and informative narration about the artwork and locations on the tour.



Marketing:

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



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 and 100 notepads 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. In FY25, the Public Art Tour was marketed in conjunction with the newly created GIS-based Historic Walking Tour through the A&E District website, Facebook page, Instagram feed, and

monthly newsletter. The Public Art Tour, along with the Historic Walking Tour, was advertised in *Harford's Heart*, the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (SSO) program, the Bel Air Town Derby program, and in digital advertisements on Facebook and Instagram.

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 Maryland Arts Day in Annapolis on February 13, 2025, to advocate for continued arts funding to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) from the State of Maryland in FY26.