

PRINCE GEORGE'S ARTS AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL



# MARCH NEWSLETTER

## Youth Poet Laureate

### Michaela Lacy

#### Congratulations to the new Youth Poet Laureate

Congratulations to the new Youth Poet Laureate, Michaela Lacy. She is recently a new resident from Wisconsin, who brings an extensive poetry resume with her. Already, Michaela has had a wonderful start to 2018 by creating a platform of youth empowerment.

The Prince George's County Youth Poet Laureate program assists and engages our future leaders through poetry, performance, human relations, education and civic engagement across the county. The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council is honored to support this important program.



2018 YPL FINALISTS



MICHAELA LACY

## Black Panther Movie Screening and Party

The Gateway Media Arts Lab and the Prince George's Film Office were proud to host a

screening of the new Marvel Comics superhero film, Black Panther, on February 17th, 2018. A Gmal Wakanda and Afro-Futurism themed party followed the movie screening at Gateway Media Arts Lab.



NEWS STORY

NEWS STORY

## Arts Integration Meeting

**On February 20th, 2018, The Arts Integration Network Meeting brought together public-school teachers and professionals who want to see an arts integration into public school curriculums.** John Ceschini welcomed the audience to the Arts Integration Meeting, followed by Dr. Kevin Maxwell, who praised the principals and teachers of Prince George's County for implementing such a successful arts integration policy. Dr. Maxwell stated how giving children the opportunity to be creative will lead to ingenuity and creativity that will help the U.S. thrive. The day was full of energetic and passionate individuals eager to learn new methods to bring art to their students in an engaging and accessible way. PGAHC presented Paula Brown Performing Arts Center (Temple Hills, MD) as featured community arts partner.

NEWS STORY

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## Maryland Arts Day in Annapolis

**An enthusiastic, passionate, and cheering crowd fills the seats at St. John's college auditorium on February 22nd, 2018.** The attendees are participants in Maryland Arts Day, an arts advocacy event presented by Maryland Citizens for the Arts that connects arts professionals with lawmakers from every legislative district in Maryland. Maryland Arts Day is an exceptional experience for those who believe in the power of art and its economic and cultural importance to our state. It is a special moment where diverse voices come together to advocate for funding and greater access for arts experiences in our communities and education system. Prince George's County historically has the largest delegation comprised of local artists, arts administrators, arts educators, citizen advocates, business and civic leaders as well as participants from Leadership Prince George's Class and Emerging Leadership Program. Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) is proud to be a partnering organization with Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA).





NEWS STORY

NEWS STORY

## The Poetry Poster Project

The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council is proud to support the wonderful **Poetry Poster Project**. The exciting reception held at the Metro 3 Building on February 23rd, 2018, featured poems from Sister Joy Alford, Forestine Bynum, Edgar Gabriel Silex, Diane Parks, Lady Di Beverly, and the 2017 Youth Poet Laureate, Samantha Jackson. The venue was filled with incredibly evocative artworks by Diane Wilbon Parks.





NEWS STORY

NEWS STORY

## Youth Art Month Exhibit

Student artists from Prince George's County Public Schools showcased their work in the North County Art Exhibit from February 26th through March 1st, with a reception on February 28th at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council is proud to support these young, budding artists.



NEWS STORY

NEWS STORY

## Sopranos Slay

Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) in partnership with PGAHC presented Sopranos Slay on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. This exciting classical event was dedicated to CAAPA's vision "Bringing Color to the Classics!". Pianist and Flutist Wrayzene Lynnette Willoughby welcomed the audience with instrumental music preceding the program. The Sopranos Ensemble, accompanied by CAAPA Artistic Director Dr. Lester Green and Alma Sanford on the piano, featured Meroe Adeeb, Yolanda Bryant, Patricia Portillo, Millicent Scarlett, Laree Simon, Pamela Simonson, Sylvia Twine, and Zhanae Taylor-Watson. The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council is proud to support this wonderful organization.



NEWS STORY

NEWS STORY

## The Largo Choir

**Residing in Prince George's County is a magnificently talented group of sixty-five high school students, who together, create the Largo High School choir.** The choir's vision is to promote performance experiences designed to allow each student to achieve their potential artistically and academically. Their diverse repertoire includes sacred, pop, blues, folk, foreign language, classical, jazz, gospel and inspirational. The choir's inspiring service uplifts the spiritual life of the community with their ministry rooted in service, fellowship, and praise. Dyonna Nelson, one of the members of the choir, expressed that it is the sense of family, camaraderie and the dedication to hard work that makes the Largo choir thrive.

Recently, the GRAMMY Foundation selected the Largo choir as a GRAMMY® Signature School Enterprise Award Semifinalist. In 2017, the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) foundation awarded the choir as a Merit Music School for their commitment to music education. Additionally, the choir received a professional recording contract, which resulted in the Largo Choir CD "Rejoice! A Celebration of Music" being created. After the group's Washington Metropolitan Area tour blitz concluded at the end of 2017, they performed an official release concert at the Kennedy Center on Sunday, December 17th. The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council is proud to support this incredibly accomplished choir and developing film documentary.



NEWS STORY

NEWS STORY



# Eric Checco Theatre Residency

**PGAHC Artist In Residence Program brings world renowned choreographer producer to Suitland High School. Talented students from the Center for the Visual and Performing Arts collaborated with French resident Director Eric Checco, along with Director Pete Spencer and Assistant Director LaShawnte Hollowman, to portray a contemporary view of Shakespeare's Othello at Suitland High School on Thursday, December 7, 2017.**

In an interview with CVPA, Eric Checco states that he believes we can "change the world when we work together". He is an Artistic Director who combines classical drama and urban culture to create avant- garde theater production. Checco thanks the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council for their support and contributions towards the production by expressing that "it is very important".

The Center for the Visual and Performing Arts is a rigorous four-year arts program, which gives artistically accomplished high school students from Prince George's County the ability to prepare for a future in the arts. This program, founded in 1986, functions as a school within a school at Suitland High School.

In addition, Checco, the ceremony's artistic director, facilitated the admission and performance involvement of 165 Prince George's County public school students from three schools at the Danone Nations Cup World Final youth soccer tournament. The students danced during the closing ceremonies to DNCE's pop hit, "Cake by the Ocean", choreographed by Willy Laury. The nationally-televised performance aired on ABC7.





## UPCOMING EVENTS



### *You Are Invited*

In partnership with The Prince George's County Arts and Humanities Council, The Arts and Cultural Heritage Division of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is pleased to announce a reception from 6pm-8pm on March 26, 2018, for the artists of the Juried exhibition, Bring It! and the mural at the House of Delegates.

**LOCATION:** Prince George's County Delegation Room on the first floor of 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. Visitors must have a valid driver's license and pass through a security check.



## ONE TO WATCH





## **One to Watch:**

**Robert E. Jackson**

**Founder & Executive Director of B-Roll Media & Arts, Inc.**

**Robert Jackson is an accomplished and seasoned audio technology and visual media professional who founded B-Roll Media & Arts, Inc.** B-Roll Media & Arts is an organization that provides arts and media education and training to under-served youth. Robert Jackson, Founder/Executive Director, started B-Roll in 2012 because wanted to use his knowledge and life experiences to provide positive educational experiences for young people in various aspects of the media.

Last year B-roll Media & Arts served over 120 students who participated in 12 media and arts classes held in Prince George's County. Some of the classes included Sound Engineering, Visual Arts, Photography, Broadcast Journalism and TV/Film Production. Jackson works with community groups, and local schools systems to help identify participants who would benefit from his media education and training program. Once enrolled the students are exposed to the fundamentals of various media principals with a curriculum that provides solid instructional and hands on learning activities. Jackson's goal is to bring stories to life on film and educate the young participants on how to turn a passion for media into a successful long-term career.

Jackson is a graduate of American University and a veteran of the U.S. Navy. His experience stretches across major broadcast networks such as CNN, BET, NBC, and NPR. Jackson also runs a success full service production company called Scorpio Sound Services. With over 20 years of professional experience Jackson, along with the assistance of his many esteemed colleagues, sees the need to expose and train the youth in our community for occupations they may not otherwise have exposure to and to provide them with the necessary knowledge and experience to enter the media workforce.

Interested in B-Roll Media & Arts Programs visit their website at [www.b-rollmedia.org](http://www.b-rollmedia.org)





# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ARTS

Maryland State Arts Council **Part of the Maryland Department of Commerce**

## **Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council**

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The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) seeks to create a world-class cultural environment where diverse high quality arts and humanities programs are available for all Prince George's County residents and visitors.

Learn more at [www.pgahc.org](http://www.pgahc.org)  
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