DISTINCT & DIVERSE VOICES

Impact Report July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024





STRATHMORE



Distinct & Diverse Voices



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When we amplify different voices, we build bridges. We foster understanding and strengthen community. We create spaces where every individual feels valued and engaged. *With your generous contributions*, this spirit of belonging shaped everything we accomplished this year:

- Nurturing Rising Talent From Seán Heely's Concert Hall debut to Jordan Jinosko's premiere with the MCYO Philharmonic to Emon Surakitkisson's exhibition of Asian American and Pacific Islander art, we celebrated artists whose work reflects the rich diversity of our community.
- **Expanding Audiences and Access** More people enjoyed meaningful connections with these distinct artistic voices through increased low- and no-cost opportunities.
- Building Community Through BLOOM Our signature engagement initiative continued to grow across Montgomery County, bringing live performances to underserved neighborhoods and providing free music education to students.
- Embracing Global Perspectives Our Windows series
 showcased broad international viewpoints, including the South
 African-inspired Calabash Arts Market for Sona Jobarteh's concert,
 demonstrating how diverse traditions make our community's
 cultural life more vibrant.

The arts belong to all of us, and when multiple artistic voices are heard and celebrated, we all feel more connected. Thank you for helping create a true sense of belonging for everyone with your vital support.

Monica Jeffries Hazangeles

Monica Jeffries Hazangeles President and CEO

OVERALL REACH 2023-2024



133,669 attendees at ticketed events

1,526 artists presented

27,435 youth served

50,278 free tickets distributed

Over **200** live music performances across our stages

Extended reach through our Music Center partners! Baltimore Symphony Orchestra National Philharmonic Washington Performing Arts Levine Music CityDance Young Artists of America interPLAY Orchestra











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NOURISHING ARTISTS

TOP FIDDLE

In **December 2023**, US National Scottish Fiddle Champion Seán Heely reached a career milestone when he headlined *Seán Heely's Celtic Christmas* at the Music Center at Strathmore. Backed by 25 musicians and dancers, Heely performed for his largest audience yet in a show that combined traditional Celtic music, dance, and holiday cheer.

Heely is the first alum of **Strathmore's Artist in Residence (AIR) program** to headline a full production in the Concert Hall. Since 2005, AIR has served more than 100 musicians, offering mentoring, professional development, artistic guidance, and high-visibility performances. The program played a pivotal role in Heely's growth, equipping him with the skills and network that continue to support his career—his AIR mentor, legendary fiddler Bonnie Rideout, even inspired his touring model.

Heely first introduced *Celtic Christmas* in smaller versions at AMP in 2019 and 2021, then scaled it up at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in 2022. The Music Center premiere featured new arrangements and additional collaborators, including dancers and the MacMillan Pipe Band.

Following his sold-out show, Heely secured agent representation and is now working on a national tour and album.





6 ascending artists received mentorship and performance opportunities through Strathmore's Artist in Residence program, which included 13 public concerts and 6 free workshops, reaching a total of 1,445 people

550 student musicians trained in orchestral and chamber ensembles through Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras of Strathmore, which presented 9 concerts in the Concert Hall for a combined audience of 5,220

17 Music in the Mansion concerts welcomed 1,060 attendees

41 Strathmore Presents performances in the 1,976seat Concert Hall drew a total audience of 63,743

6,687 visitors explored art exhibitions, attended opening receptions, and discovered unique and handmade items at the Shop at Strathmore in the Mansion

2,680 guests enjoyed local musicians performing at Afternoon Tea

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NOURISHING ARTISTS

A HARMONIOUS PARTNERSHIP

When Kristofer Sanz, artistic director of **the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras (MCYO) of Strathmore**, discovered composer Jordan Jinosko's music on Facebook, he not only programmed her piece for a world premiere but also began a collaborative relationship with the composer that helped nurture her creative voice.

With support from Strathmore donors Edward Grossman and Rochelle Stanfield, MCYO commissioned a second piece, *Tales from the Aviary*—a vibrant, threemovement work inspired by birds and flight. Written specifically for MCYO's Philharmonic ensemble, it premiered in **March 2024**. Jinosko and Sanz worked closely throughout the process to create a performance that was both expressive and artistically ambitious.

Their ongoing partnership exemplifies Strathmore's commitment to supporting artists by providing meaningful performance opportunities and a platform for bold, new, and diverse voices.





NEXT GEN SONGWRITERS

As the annual **Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards** continued to grow, founder Cathy Bernard saw an opportunity to further grow the program and concert production at Strathmore. She created the award in honor of her uncle Fred Ebb—the legendary lyricist behind *Cabaret, Chicago*, and the iconic song "New York, New York"—who didn't achieve mainstream success until his 40s, after years of living with his mother and being urged to pursue more "practical" paths. This competition uplifts emerging songwriters by offering the kind of opportunity Ebb lacked early in his career.

Presented for the first time at the Music Center in **April 2024**, the Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards align with Strathmore's mission to nourish potential and support artists at every stage in their development. Along with cash prizes, the winner receives 25 hours of studio time with Innovation Station Music and two hours of business consulting. The awards also include a youth category for songwriters under 18, helping to expand access and elevate the next generation of musical talent.

EXPANDING ACCESS

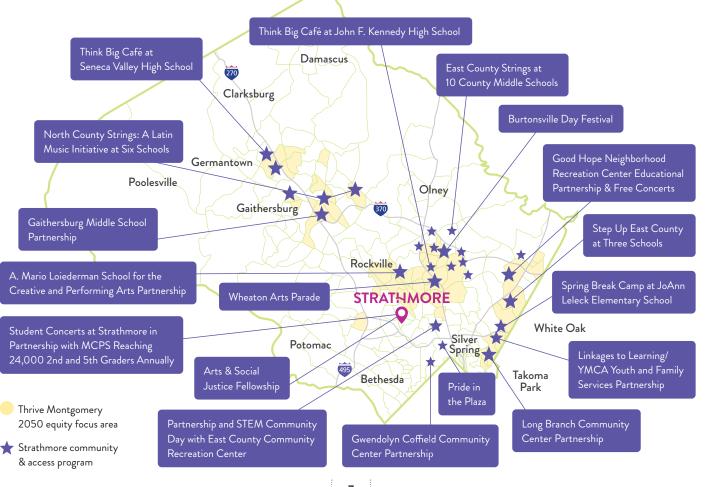
"BLOOM"-ING ACROSS MOCO

Strathmore's **Bloom access initiative** has brought free and low-cost arts programs to underserved areas of Montgomery County for nearly 10 years—well before many were designated as equity focus areas by Thrive Montgomery 2050 in 2023.

Bloom engages creative partners like schools, nonprofits, and community centers to co-design programming that reflects local priorities and expands access to the arts. From after-school dance with Step Afrika! to free concerts at Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center and creative camps at JoAnn Leleck and New Hampshire Estates elementary schools, Bloom reaches more than 25,000 children and residents annually.

A recent analysis showed that Bloom programs already serve nearly all of the county's equity focus areas, reinforcing the value of the arts in driving positive social change. Strathmore's efforts are rooted in lasting relationships and a belief that access to the arts is a right, not a privilege. Each program is a step toward greater equity, belonging, and creative opportunity.





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EXPANDING ACCESS

ARTS AMPLIFIED

For almost a decade, **AMP by Strathmore at Pike & Rose** served as a vital space for artist growth, experimentation, and community. With its 230-seat cabaret-style setup, AMP offered a more intimate and accessible concert experience than the Music Center, attracting audiences who may not typically attend larger venues. It also served as a stepping-stone for rising artists, including those in Strathmore's Artist in Residence program. Celtic fiddler Seán Heely, for example, workshopped his first holiday show at AMP—an effort that eventually sold out the Music Center.

From its first concert in March 2015 to its final performances in June 2024, AMP reflected Strathmore's commitment to inclusivity, creative risk-taking, and building long-term relationships with artists. While the venue closed to make room for a commercial interest in the development, its spirit lives on in Strathmore's ongoing efforts to expand access, welcome new audiences, and spotlight artists whose backgrounds and stories reflect the region's diversity.





12 free Bloom concerts at Good Hope and Praisner Recreation Centers reached 1,705 attendees

10 Live from the Lawn free summer outdoor concerts with **7,650** attendees

240 middle and high school students participated in Bloom's multi-week, tuition-free after-school strings program

36 performances at AMP drew a combined audience of **5,064**

ACCESS/INCLUSION

Strathmore's Think Big Café, a collaboration with MCPS and Glenstone emphasizes creativity and learning. **150** students from Seneca Valley High School in Germantown and Watkins Mill High School in Gaithersburg received free workshops with professional artists throughout the school year to help them prepare their individual projects as part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program. In FY2024, Strathmore launched its Community Access Tickets program, making tickets under \$30 available in the orchestra section for every Strathmore Presents performance. When possible, the program also distributes free community tickets, which are always quickly used. Nearly **2,000** no-cost tickets have already been given out and the program continues to expand.





4 sensory-sensitive programs served 162 people

12 virtual Creative Writing
Workshops, offered on a
pay-what-you-can basis in
partnership with Community
Building Art Works, engaged
621 participants

330 students in grades 1–5 received free arts instruction at summer camps in the Silver Spring/Langley Park area

Emon Surakitkisson returned to the Mansion at Strathmore in May 2024 to curate *Translation Through Art*, an exhibition uplifting the voices of Asian American and Pacific Islander artists from the DMV and Baltimore. Artists using diverse media reflected on connection, healing, and growth.



GOING DEEPER

ORCHESTRATING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Through a longstanding partnership with **Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)**, Strathmore has welcomed every MCPS second grader to the Concert Hall each fall since 2004. Over four days, 12,000 students experience a live performance by the **National Philharmonic**, creating an early and lasting connection to the performing arts.

In 2023, the Philharmonic's new youth concert conductor, Naima Burrs, was brought in to refresh the program. Working closely with the MCPS Fine Arts Office and Strathmore's education team, Burrs updated the repertoire to reflect a broader range of composers and cultural traditions—introducing works like *Paconchita* by Oscar Navarro and the Nigerian children's song "Stand Up Sit Down" (*Simama Kaa* in Swahili) alongside classical staples like Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* and audience favorites like the *Star Wars* theme by John Williams.

More than just a fun field trip, these concerts extend classroom learning. The curriculum-aligned program includes adaptable lesson plans for teachers introducing the four instrument families through movement, listening, and singing. Strathmore and its partners make it possible for every second grader to experience live music in a way that is both engaging and personally meaningful.





24,000 MCPS 2nd and 5th grade students and teachers attended the 19th annual Strathmore Student Concerts

823 ticket holders participated in free cultural and educational events tied to performances on the Concert Hall stage

104 military community members took part in free arts workshops, performances, and exhibitions in the Mansion during Community Building Art Works' A Day of Belonging

1,922 students engaged in free in-school programs led by former Artists in Residence across MCPS schools

13 Visual Art exhibitions and accompanying tours and activities

GOING DEEPER

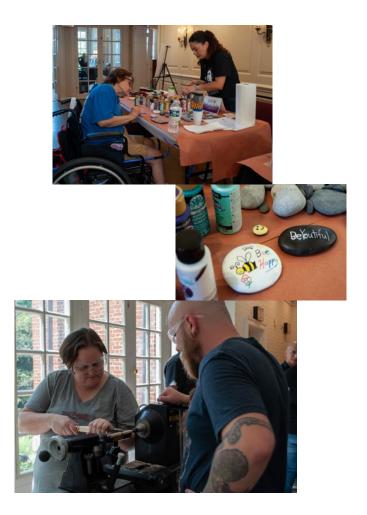
A WINDOW INTO CULTURE

Before and after Sona Jobarteh's powerful **April 2024** concert, audiences explored a lively marketplace celebrating African cultures through music, art, and activism. Jobarteh—a Gambian vocalist, composer, educator, and the first female Kora virtuoso from a West African Griot family—is internationally acclaimed for blending tradition with a modern, accessible style that honors and preserves her cultural heritage. **The Calabash Arts Market** enriched the evening by providing meaningful context and engagement with the performance.

This event was part of Strathmore's educational initiative, **Windows**. Designed to deepen audience connections, the Windows series pairs select performances with complementary events that explore the artist's work and perspectives beyond the stage. Offerings like dance workshops, cultural showcases, and community jams create immersive opportunities for learning and exchange.

Over the past decade, Strathmore has expanded its international programming, with Windows amplifying diverse perspectives from both global and American artists—including BIPOC, queer, and other underrepresented voices. Through this work, Windows has become central to Strathmore's mission to inspire a fuller appreciation and understanding of the arts.





ART & HEALING

For years, local veterans, healthcare workers, family caregivers, and other community members gathered at Strathmore for monthly writing workshops co-hosted with **Community Building Art Works (CBAW)**. When the pandemic began, the workshops moved online, and the community expanded globally, finding healing through art.

In 2023, the idea of an in-person reunion evolved into *A Day of Belonging*—a full-day gathering focused on community, creativity, and care. That **August**, approximately 100 veterans, caregivers, and supporters came together at the Mansion at Strathmore for professionally facilitated art-based workshops, conversations, and shared experiences.

Attendees described it as a rare safe space where they could be fully present without pressure to be perfect. They cried, listened, consoled, and even wrote and performed a collective poem. The event affirmed how vulnerability, creativity, and community can foster healing and lasting bonds.

FY24 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Production Income	\$6,026,839
Rental Income	\$2,895,590
Other Income	\$272,402
Contributed Revenue	\$4,010,257
Investment Income	\$1,340,518
Net Change to Pension and Post Retirement Benefits	(\$463,063)
In-Kind Contributions	\$2,398,212
TOTAL REVENUE	\$16,480,755

\$13,515,058
\$2,074,356
\$1,112,380
\$16,701,794

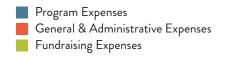
NET LOSS

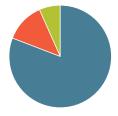
(\$221,039)

REVENUE



EXPENSES





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