



**B L O M**

**BY STRATHMORE**

**EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ARTS**

# EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ARTS





Bloom captures the essence of Strathmore’s role in the community—helping the arts to thrive and making sure that everyone has the opportunity to experience them. We do this by providing free and low-cost events, extending our resources throughout the county, and collaborating with partners who make a positive impact.

The intention behind Bloom has been a part of Strathmore’s mission since its founding. Numerous programs, such as our Step Up program in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), have been in place for many years.

In 2016, we expanded our commitment to taking the arts beyond our walls, particularly in the eastern part of Montgomery County—we briefly called that expansion the “East County Initiative.”

As community programming and school initiatives grew, we needed to create an umbrella for our work specifically focused on expanding access to participating in the arts, and Bloom was born.

Since expanding access to the arts is our top priority, seventy percent of Bloom programs take place out in our community, and nearly all include creative partnerships with local organizations, schools, and artists. Through conversations, surveys, and a close network of community partners, Strathmore has developed programs in response to what the community has expressed it wants and needs most.

# ARTS THROUGH SCHOOLS

In collaboration with MCPS, Strathmore is able to remove financial, transportation, and other barriers that may otherwise prohibit children from experiencing the power of the arts. We achieve this through:

- **Field Trips & Performances for Students**  
Every MCPS student gets the opportunity to visit Strathmore's venues for curriculum-enhancing performances during their early years.
- **Tuition-Free Arts Enrichment**  
From strings to step, Strathmore brings tuition-free after-school arts enrichment to students. These programs include East County Strings, Latin Strings and Percussion, Step Up East County, and more.
- **School Partnerships & Artist Residencies**  
Strathmore works with educators and master teaching artists to create custom performances, workshops, camps, and demonstrations throughout the year. These programs are concentrated in schools where a high percentage of students qualify for free or reduced-cost meals and are provided free of charge to both the school and students.



## ARTS THROUGH SCHOOLS PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- **Student Concerts at Strathmore**  
20,000+ children annually experience the wonder of live performance at Strathmore. We produce and present free concerts for every MCPS 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grader focusing on classical music and the blues.
- **East County Strings**  
Hundreds of middle school students receive tuition-free after-school coaching from professional instrumentalists and participate in a large-scale public performance.
- **Latin Strings and Percussion**  
Middle and high school students in upper Montgomery County learn Latin American music for strings and percussion and perform for the community—all at no charge.
- **Sing Out**  
A free after-school choral program for schools without a chorus class option. Our goal is to build interest and resources to create permanent choral music programs.
- **Step Up East County**  
Students receive free after-school instruction from our artistic partner Step Afrika!. Strathmore brings students to see a professional step performance at the Music Center and produces a culminating student showcase performance.
- **Think Big Café**  
A fee-free, creative, multi-disciplinary, year-long artistic adventure for MCPS students.
- **School Partnerships, Artist Residencies & More**  
Each year Strathmore designs and produces dozens of custom arts education experiences in partnership with artists and educators where need is greatest. These include artist residencies, camps, workshops, and more.



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### LATIN STRINGS AND PERCUSSION

Over 100 middle and high school students learn Latin American music for strings and percussion and have an opportunity to perform for the community.



Siril Stephen was a self-taught percussionist when he participated in Latin Strings and Percussion. Of his experience he said, “This program opened my eyes to music I hadn’t explored before. I learned different techniques and styles of playing that I would have never otherwise learned.”

Siril’s talent and passion for percussion earned him scholarships for Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras’ Philharmonic and private lessons.

“Many of our students have a desire to make great music but do not have access to private lessons. For our more impacted students, master music-making can sometimes seem out of reach. I believe the Latin Strings and Percussion program helped to humanize what it is to make great music for our students.”

Mary Lee Young,  
Instrumental Music Director,  
Redland Middle School

# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS & PUBLIC EVENTS

Strathmore has created strategic community partnerships to help bring accessible arts programs to every corner of our community. Some of these collaborations include:

- **Free Concerts & Community Festivals**

Music lovers of all ages can enjoy free concerts presented on Strathmore's campus, at Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center in eastern Montgomery County, and at numerous local festivals with our Bloom Pop-Up Stage.

- **Classes & Camps**

Through partnerships with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation and other community organizations, Strathmore is able to offer multi-disciplinary arts classes and camps with no or reduced tuition fees.



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS & PUBLIC EVENTS INCLUDE:

- **Free Concerts at Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center**  
Strathmore offers free performances in eastern Montgomery County throughout the spring and summer.
- **Free Summer Concerts at Strathmore**  
Live from the Lawn, a tradition that welcomes thousands of local residents each summer, has been running since long before the Music Center at Strathmore opened!
- **Sensory Friendly Programming**  
Working with national experts, Strathmore continues to increase the scope of programming for children with sensory sensitivities—including backstage tours, rehearsals, concerts, and story sessions.
- **Classes at Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center**  
Strathmore worked with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation to make this new center arts friendly and offer low-fee classes in a variety of arts disciplines.
- **Corridor Concerts**  
Each year, over 300 community members perform alongside professional artists in free concerts that celebrate culture and bring people together.
- **Community Festivals**  
Strathmore works closely with community leaders to produce diverse performances at existing local festivals with our Bloom Pop-Up Stage.
- **Arts Sessions at Montgomery County Recreation Free Summer Camps**  
In collaboration with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation and Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, Strathmore provides multi-disciplinary arts sessions as part of a free seven-week summer camp which serves more than 450 children.



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### ARTS PROGRAMS AT GOOD HOPE NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTER

“Strathmore’s partnership with the Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center has exposed our community and surrounding neighborhoods to art forms they may have not otherwise encountered. From the amazing musicians that perform free concerts and introduce our community to diverse genres of music to the Step Up program which engages students, I believe the association with Strathmore has given our community new and creative ways to express themselves.”

Ma’Lisa Easterling  
Recreation Specialist, Good Hope  
Neighborhood Recreation Center

“This partnership has given our kids the opportunity to learn the art of stepping while teaching the principles of teamwork, commitment, and discipline. It also allows the community to experience a different type of activity that wasn’t offered before. They learn and apply skills that transfer into real life and help prepare them for success.”

Jennifer Boston,  
Step Up parent liaison



# SUPPORT

Strathmore believes in creating a vibrant arts community that welcomes everyone. Contributions from generous donors and sponsors make it possible for us to launch, maintain, and grow these programs and experiences. Your investment allows us to ensure that no one is denied the opportunity to engage in the arts. For more information, please contact us at [donors@strathmore.org](mailto:donors@strathmore.org).

To make a fully tax-deductible contribution, please visit

[STRATHMORE.ORG/BLOOM](https://strathmore.org/bloom)



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

## PARTNERS

Montgomery County Department of Recreation  
Montgomery County Public Schools  
Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington  
Baila4Life: After School Dance Fund  
Bmore Houseful  
Burtonsville Day  
Community Building Art Works  
Glenstone  
Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center  
Scrap Arts Music  
Step Afrika!  
Thriving Germantown  
Wheaton Arts Parade  
YMCA Youth & Family Services

## SUPPORTERS

*Bloom is made possible in part through support from the following institutions:*

AARP  
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