



B L O M

BY STRATHMORE.

**EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ARTS**

# THE ARTS ARE OURS.®

EXPANDING ACCESS  
TO THE ARTS



At Strathmore, we believe the arts are essential. We champion the power of shared artistic experiences to help us connect, empathize, and grow.

Bloom demonstrates our commitment to engaging the full diversity of our 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 Montgomery County, and collaborating with partners who make a positive impact.

Seventy percent of Bloom programs take place out in our community, and nearly all are co-created with local organizations, schools, and artists.





# ARTS THROUGH SCHOOLS

In collaboration with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and with philanthropic support, Strathmore removes 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 and North County Strings, Step Up to College, 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 schools and the 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 featuring classical music and the blues for every MCPS 2nd and 5th grader.
- **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.
- **North County Strings**  
Middle and high school students in upper Montgomery County learn Latin American music for strings and perform for the community—all at no charge.
- **Step Up**  
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.
- **Customized Arts Education**  
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

### ARTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

The Arts and Social Justice Fellowship (ASJF) supports youth leadership at the intersection of arts and social change. High schoolers from DC, Maryland, and Virginia attend performances at regional venues, engage in thematic workshops with mentors and their peers, and create final projects exploring issues of importance to them through media of their choosing.

Presented by Strathmore with core partner Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, ASJF was launched in 2022 as part of their co-presentation of Octavia E. Butler's "Parable of the Sower" by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon. This educational program seeks to identify the next generation of artists whose activism reflects Butler's dynamic lineage.



“This was such a great experience! I met so many amazing and inspiring people through this fellowship and I learned so much.”

*Ambar, Class of 2022*

*This program is made possible with generous support from Dr. Deborah M. Smith & the Dr. Allen A.B. Herman Fund, Victoria J. Perkins, and Hope Brown Saxton.*

# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS & PUBLIC EVENTS

Strathmore has established a vast network of community partners to help it deliver accessible arts programs to every corner of Montgomery County. 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 multidisciplinary arts classes and camps with free or reduced tuition.



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS & PUBLIC EVENTS INCLUDE:

- **Free Concerts at Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center**  
Strathmore offers free performances in eastern Montgomery County year-round.
- **Free Summer Concerts at Strathmore**  
Live from the Lawn, a tradition that welcomes thousands of local residents each summer, has been running since 1984!
- **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.
- **Community Festivals**  
Strathmore engages deeply 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, Strathmore provides multidisciplinary arts sessions as part of free summer camps at multiple community center sites.



## 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*

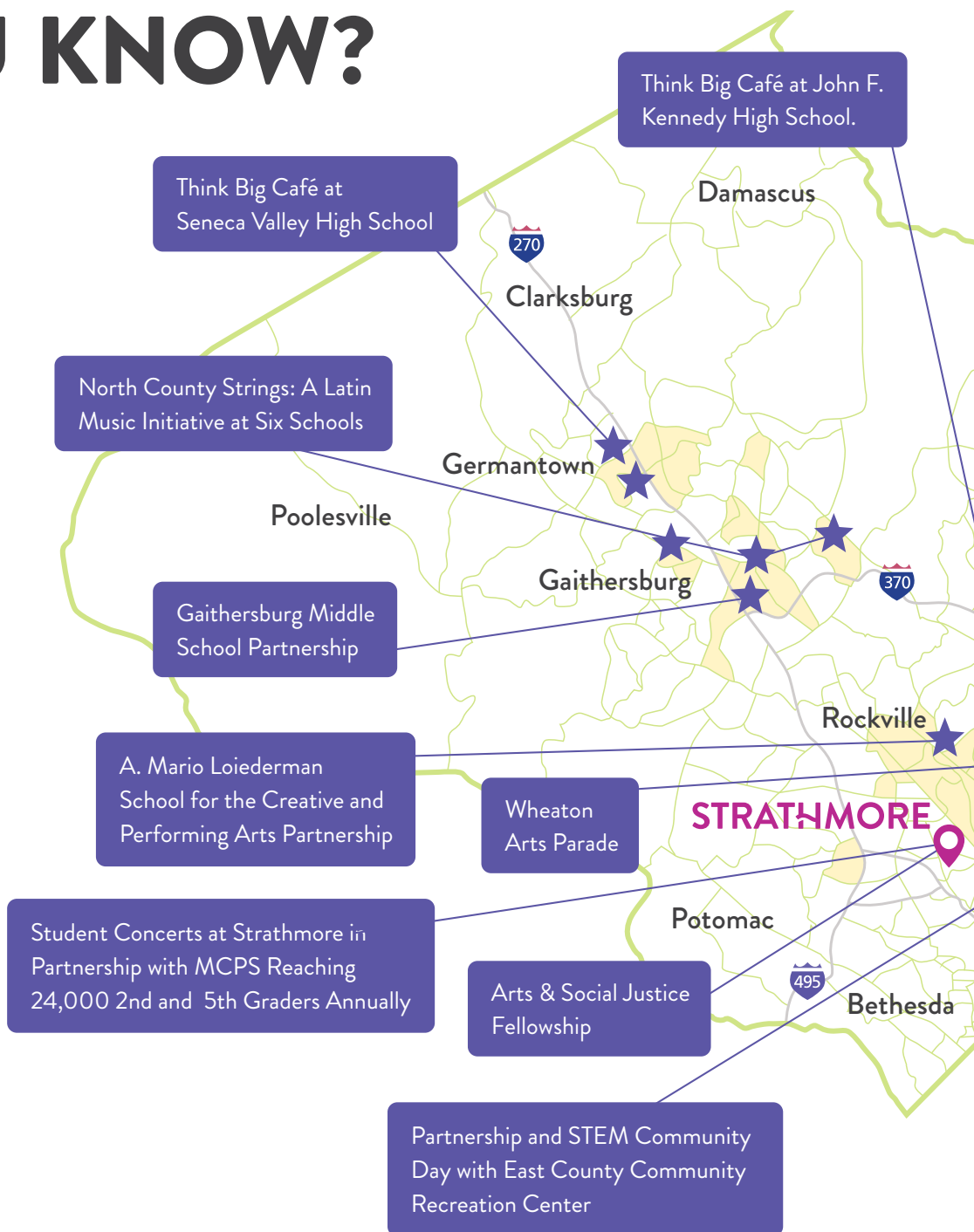
“I’ve seen a noticeable difference in my students not just in their energy and teamwork, but in the classroom too. Their focus, confidence, and sense of responsibility have all grown. The partnership between Strathmore and Step Afrika! is giving our kids more than just an outlet for creativity but also tools for success in every part of their lives.”

*Soshana Pierre-Louis  
Teacher, Greencastle Elementary School*

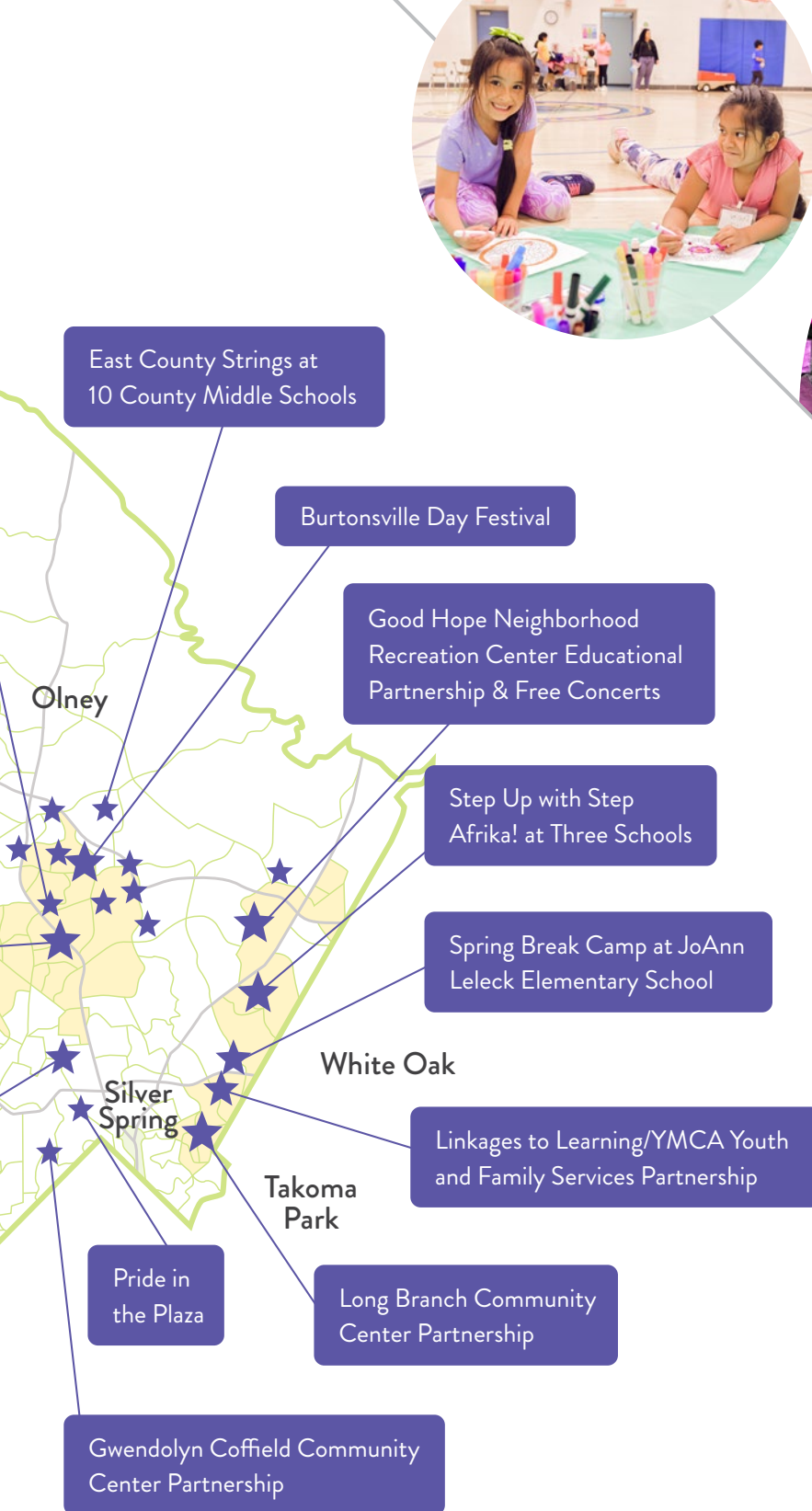


# DID YOU KNOW?

Together, we bring arts to students and the community all around the county!







- Thrive Montgomery 2050 equity focus area
- ★ Strathmore community & access program



# 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 impactful programs and experiences. Your investment ensures 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 Public Schools  
Montgomery County Department of Recreation  
Baila4Life: After School Dance Fund  
Burtonsville Day  
Coffield Recreation Center  
Community Building Art Works  
Glenstone  
Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center  
Linkages to Learning  
Long Branch Recreation Center  
Step Afrika!  
Wheaton Arts Parade  
Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company  
YMCA Youth & Family Services

## SUPPORTERS

*Bloom by Strathmore is made possible in part through support from the following institutions and funds:*

Gwyn and Nancy Ackland Memorial Fund	Marinus and Minna B. Koster Foundation
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*Strathmore also extends its gratitude to the many individual donors  
who invest in our Bloom programs each year.*





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