

Press Contact:
Amanda Bomfim
703-347-7427
amanda.bomfim@cfnova.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CFNOVA Awards \$210,000 in Arts and Environmental Grants Through Growing Community Endowments

Total discretionary grants for 2026 nearly \$1 million

Fairfax, VA (April 20, 2026) – The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is investing \$210,000 in arts and environmental organizations – mobilizing long-term philanthropic resources to strengthen community connection, creativity, and sustainability across the region.

Seventeen regional nonprofits were selected for their work preserving natural spaces, expanding arts access, and engaging residents through creative and environmental programming. Grantees serve communities across Northern Virginia, with awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

The grants totaling \$210,000 are made possible through the Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts and the Environment Fund, both permanent endowments (often called ‘forever funds’) housed at the Foundation. In addition to [the \\$745,000 the Foundation has granted](#) last month, the Community Foundation has granted nearly \$1,000,000 in discretionary support to grantees during this fiscal year to date, reflecting the Foundation’s growing discretionary grantmaking and long-term commitment to sustained community impact.

Grants will provide support operationally and programmatically. For example, the Community Foundation is partnering with George Mason University this year in helping establish the Virginia State Climate Office at their institution. *"This generous grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia will help us establish the Virginia State Climate Office (VaSCO) at George Mason University,"* explained Dr. James Kinter, Director, Virginia Climate Center, George Mason University. *"VaSCO will do the hard, ongoing work of monitoring our weather and climate, assessing its impacts, and making sure every community in the Commonwealth can access the resources they need to prepare and adapt."* The Fairfax-Jubil Aires will use the CFNOVA grant to *"extend [their] out-reach to new segments of the Fairfax community, attract new members to [their] fold, and utilize the services of outside consultants to further refine [their] singing and performance skills."*

These grants support nonprofits that are closest to our region’s challenges and solutions facing Northern Virginia communities. Learn more about CFNOVA’s arts and environmental leadership – and the endowments that power this work – at cfnova.org.

###

[ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA](#)

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is building a region that works for everyone by advancing philanthropy and community leadership. Since 1978, we have united thousands of generous Northern Virginians with the causes they care about through donor-advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and charitable endowments. We cultivate enduring partnerships with nonprofits, foundations, government, businesses, and community members, maximizing impact to drive meaningful change. Through Insight Region®, our original research initiative, we deliver data-driven insights that reveal the trends and issues shaping Northern Virginia's future.

The Community Foundation proudly serves all Northern Virginians in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park. Learn more at www.cfnova.org.

Grant Impact in each CFNOVA locale:

Arts Grantees Serving All of Northern Virginia

Fairfax Jubil-Aires

"The Fairfax Jubil-Aires will use the generous grant from the Community Foundation to help us extend our out-reach to new segments of the Fairfax community, attract new members to our fold, and utilize the services of outside consultants to further refine our singing and performance skills."



Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington

"We are grateful to the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and the Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts for believing in the work we do every day. As a free-admission museum that connects the community to contemporary art and artists, general operating support is among the most meaningful funding we can receive. It gives us the flexibility to sustain our exhibitions, artist residencies, education classes, and public programs, while keeping our doors open to everyone. This grant will ensure that MoCA Arlington remains a vibrant, accessible creative space for all of Northern Virginia." Catherine Anchin, Executive Director, Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington





Shakespeare Opera Theatre Inc.

"On behalf of our board, staff, volunteers and performers, thank you to the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia for this award. This Ross Roberts grant will support our mission to continue to provide exciting classical performing arts in Northern Virginia."

Sound Impact

"We are so grateful to the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia for supporting and amplifying youth impacted by the justice system by funding our Use Your Voices residencies. Your support ensures more young people will have access to creativity and artistic expression, allowing their voices to be heard."



Virginia Bronze Ringers of Northern VA

"Virginia Bronze is honored to receive the 2026 Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts grant from CFNOVA. This grant will help support our mission to promote the art of handbells in Northern Virginia, which we achieve by raising awareness of our unique instrument through performing concerts, hosting handbell festivals, handbell workshops and hosting social events to help support other local handbell musicians. The grant will also help support our outreach project to Title 1 schools in Fairfax County by enabling us to expand our 'Chime Loan Program' by enabling us to purchase additional chime sets and add more schools to the program." - Diane Seemann, General Manager



Environment Grantee Serving All of Northern Virginia

George Mason University



"What sets VaSCO apart is its unwavering commitment to universal access. By guaranteeing low- and no-cost resources to localities and stakeholders across Virginia, we are making certain that the same world-class weather, water, and climate data and training tools are available to our rural communities and our largest cities. As a public university, it is our duty to provide access to the highest-quality climate science," – Dr. James Kinter, Director, Virginia Climate Center, George Mason University

Arts Grantee Serving Alexandria

Local Motion Project

“Support from the Ross-Roberts Fund will allow Local Motion Project to build on our momentum—strengthening our leadership, expanding opportunities for artists to create and perform, and deepening community engagement so more people can experience the transformative power of the arts.”



Arts Grantee Serving Arlington County

The Arlington Players

“TAP will use funding from the Ross-Roberts Fund to support general operating expenses in its 76th season programming, which will allow TAP to advance progress towards its goals of accessibility, outreach, and growth.”

Arts Grantees Serving Fairfax City and Fairfax County

City of Fairfax Theatre Company

"Funding from the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia will further CFTC's vision of community unification through empowerment of people of all ages and backgrounds to create, learn, inspire, and connect. This award will directly support both CFTC's mainstage productions and youth drama camps, increasing their capacity for long-lasting community impact."



Reston Community Orchestra

"The grant from the Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts will support both our artistic growth and core operations by enabling us to present new and returning featured guest performers, and hold concerts in larger venues. It will sustain essential costs while allowing us to expand our programs and artistic partnerships, and reach a wider audience."

Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art

"We're honored to be selected as a grantee of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's 2026 Ross Roberts Fund for the Arts. This support allows us to expand our public programming and ensure more Northern Virginians have access to free contemporary art." - Jonell Logan, Executive Director & Curator at Tephra ICA



Environment Grantees Serving Fairfax City and Fairfax County

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

"DU's wetland enhancement project will restore tidal influence and enhance drainage capacity in two impounded wetlands within Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Fairfax County, Virginia, part of the Lower Occoquan Watershed, benefiting wildlife and people."

Earth Sangha

"The Earth Sangha is extremely grateful to the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia for their support of our Native Plant Propagation program which aims to restore native plant communities in northern Virginia while training future conservation professionals. The support from the Foundation will help us grow more local ecotype, native plants to support grassroots restoration projects across Northern Virginia and train Conservation Interns in the full range of native plant propagation and restoration activities to prepare them for a future career in conservation."



Seedling Inc.

"Seedling Inc. will use these funds to run a year-long science program at the YMCA Fairfax Reston and expand into Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services centers. Students will build indoor gardens and grow native plants to learn how to keep our local land and water healthy."

Environment Grantees Serving Loudoun County

Defensores de la Cuenca

"Funds will support general operations with a primary focus on the Loudoun County Tree Ambassadors program, leveraged with other resources to implement a community tree planting and two years of maintenance. Support includes stipends, trees, materials, staff time, travel, and equipment rental."

Goose Creek Association

“Thank you to the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia for this award. This funding strengthens our work in water quality monitoring, riparian buffer restoration and planting, and public education—helping us create lasting change for Goose Creek and our community.” - Alyson Borowczyk, Executive Director, Goose Creek Association



Environment Grantee Serving Prince William County

Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District



“The community will become more involved and learn how to protect and improve water quality in local waterways, thereby safeguarding their drinking water source for future generations”

Funding amounts by focus area in each CFNOVA locale:

Grants were awarded across all CFNOVA localities, reflecting both regionwide and place based impact.

Grantees Serving All of Northern Virginia | \$70,000 | 6 organizations

Focus Area	Funding Total
Arts Fairfax Jubil-Aires (\$5,000) Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington (\$20,000) Shakespeare Opera Theatre Inc. (\$5,000) Sound Impact (\$10,000) Virginia Bronze Ringers of Northern Virginia (\$5,000)	\$45,000
Environment George Mason University (\$25,000)	\$25,000

Grantee Serving Alexandria | \$10,000 | 1 organization

Focus Area	Funding Total
Arts Local Motion Project (\$10,000)	\$10,000

Grantee Serving Arlington County | \$10,000 | 1 organization

Focus Area	Funding Total
Arts The Arlington Players (\$10,000)	\$10,000

Grantees Located in Fairfax City and Fairfax County | \$80,000 | 5 organizations

Focus Area	Funding Total
Arts City of Fairfax Theatre Company (\$10,000) Reston Community Orchestra (\$5,000) Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (\$20,000)	\$35,000
Environment Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (\$20,000) Earth Sangha (\$20,000) Seedling, Inc. (\$5,000)	\$45,000

Grantees Serving Loudoun County | \$30,000 | 2 organizations

Focus Area	Funding Total
Environment Defensores de la Cuenca (\$20,000) Goose Creek Association (\$10,000)	\$30,000

Grantees Serving Prince William County | \$10,000 | 1 organization

Focus Area	Funding Total
Environment Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District (\$10,000)	\$10,000