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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Launches  
The Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts**

*Fund to celebrate, promote, and support the arts in Northern Virginia*

November 1, 2018 (Oakton, VA) – The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia launched The Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts. The mission of the new fund is to celebrate, promote, and support the arts in Northern Virginia. Thanks to a generous donation from Stephen Roberts and his donor advised fund, the Sue Goetz Ross and Stephen S. Roberts Endowment Fund, this new fund is endowed as part of The Permanent Fund for Northern Virginia, forever able to make grants to support the arts in our region.

To kick it off, the Community Foundation convened a volunteer panel to review Letters of Intent submitted by local arts organizations and awarded \$10,000 to 1<sup>st</sup> Stage to support its capacity building and strengthen its development and education initiatives.

“I am honored to be able to assist in the launch of the Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia,” said Stephen Roberts. “The arts (in our case singing classical music) brought me and my late wife Dr. Sue Goetz Ross together and then gave us many years of pleasure and enrichment together. The arts are an essential part of the life of any community and I am glad that our Community Foundation is now in a position to support them throughout Northern Virginia.”

The goals of the Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts are to:

- Build a world class, dynamic, vibrant arts and culture sector by:
  - Celebrating artistic genius and success
  - Growing the capacity of existing arts organizations

- Assisting in the creation of new art organizations
- Increase understanding of the central and critical role of the arts in healthy communities
- Activate support for the arts

To learn more about the Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts, or to make a donation to this fund, please visit <https://www.cfnova.org/our-programs/the-ross-roberts-fund-for-the-arts>.

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's Permanent Fund, which now includes the Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts, has grown from \$3 million to \$10 million in current and planned gifts since the Community Foundation launched a campaign in October 2017. It now includes several funds that will forever support our region, including in the areas of children and youth, education, arts, the environment, health, mental health, aging, innovation, military personnel and poverty relief. More information is available at <http://www.cfnova.org/permanentfund>.

**About the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia:**

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia grows philanthropy to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Comprised of donor advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and other charitable endowments, the Community Foundation connects donors to community, and helps meet community needs with community resources.

Last year the Community Foundation awarded more than \$7.1 million in grants and scholarships and currently reports \$66 million in managed philanthropic assets.

For more information please visit us at [www.cfnova.org](http://www.cfnova.org) , on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityFoundationforNOVA/>, Twitter <https://twitter.com/CFNova>, and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/communityfoundationfornova/>.

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