



A STRONGER COMMUNITY

*Impact Report
Fiscal Years
2020–2022*



STRATHMORE

Valued and Vibrant



We believe the arts are essential. They reflect our humanity, help us understand, connect, empathize, and grow. Everyone needs and deserves access to them—especially when times are hard.

When the pandemic forced us to close our doors in 2020, we prioritized connection and worked harder than ever to deliver on our mission. We found creative ways to support artists, unite our community, and share meaningful, multi-dimensional arts programs with students and patrons when we could not gather. We reimagined what being together could look like with virtual versions of exhibitions and ensembles, outdoor events such as *Monuments*, and performances on our open-air Patio Stage, creating new types of shared arts experiences to ground us during turbulent times.

In August of 2021, we began to thoughtfully reopen our indoor venues with the comfort and wellbeing of our students, audiences, staff, and artists at the forefront of our planning. Reuniting in person, we once again witnessed the power of the arts to uplift and strengthen a community. Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, Strathmore remained resilient, leading with optimism, lifting diverse artistic voices, and launching some of our most ambitious projects to date.

As we set our sights on the year ahead, to span new horizons with inspiring work, we thank you for your tremendous support and invite you to reflect with us on some of the defining moments of this extraordinary chapter!

Monica Jeffries Hazangeles
President and CEO

FY20 A YEAR OF CREATIVE CONNECTION



Tightrope walker David Dimitri gets a birds-eye view of Strathmore's 16-acre campus.

L'HOMME CIRQUE BROUGHT THE BIG TOP TO STRATHMORE

The season started on a high note as acclaimed tightrope acrobat David Dimitri brought his one-man show, *L'homme Cirque*, a stunning spectacle of high wire flips, human cannon stunts, and acrobatic feats, to Strathmore's lawn for two weeks in summer 2019. The show delighted thousands of "kids" big and small, connecting us to the wonder of the arts.

INSPIRED PAIRINGS CELEBRATED ARTISTIC COLLABORATION

In November 2019, Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE and the Arturo O'Farrill Ensemble performed together as part of Inspired Pairings, Strathmore's curated, season-long celebration of collaborations that magnify and enhance the work of the paired artists. Their exhilarating work, *New Conversations*, combined African, Caribbean, and contemporary choreography with live Afro-Cuban jazz music. In a free preconcert event, Brown and O'Farrill discussed their creative process and reflected on the paths followed by African American and Latino artists in the contemporary dance and jazz worlds. Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE also held three free master class workshops for dance students in the community.





ARTS & THE BRAIN SERIES EXPLORED THE ARTS AND AGING

Strathmore's Arts & the Brain series examined how the arts impact aging and vitality in four sessions that included innovative neuroscientific research and even an artistic initiative that reimagines the hospital soundscape of the future. The series was co-presented by AARP Maryland and welcomed over 450 attendees across all sessions at AMP.

STORIES AND HISTORY FORGED NEW CONNECTIONS IN THE MULTI-DIMENSIONAL *NO BLUE MEMORIES*

Emmy-winning ensemble Manual Cinema brought *No Blue Memories: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks* to Strathmore in January 2020 as part of the perspective-broadening Windows series. The show tells the story of poet Brooks—the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize—through shadow puppetry, silhouetted actors, and a live jazz score. Audiences were invited to add dimension to their experience through in-depth and intimate events including a hands-on workshop, a preshow lecture with scholar and poet Kim Roberts, and a poetry reading that celebrated DC's grassroots poetry scene hosted by Dwayne B of Spit Dat.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY PROGRAM OFFERINGS EXPANDED

As part of our continuing efforts to expand arts access for audiences with autism and sensory-sensitivities, Strathmore introduced Sensory-Friendly Backstage Tours. These small-group experiences are designed to introduce audiences to the innerworkings of the Concert Hall so they may feel more comfortable when visiting our performing arts venue. Attendees can stand on the Concert Hall stage, explore the artists' dressing rooms, learn how sound and lights work, and more.

WE STAYED "CLOSE TO" ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES WHILE BEING APART

Though our venues were forced to close in March 2020, we continued to provide accessible arts experiences and support artists. Almost immediately, Strathmore began offering free digital content to our audiences, and by June 30, over 140,000 patrons had joined us. Our weekly Live from the Living Room series featured free livestream concerts in every genre by our incredible network of Artists in Residence.

For children and families, our Saturday Family Jam Sessions transitioned online for musical lessons each week. Virtual Art Talks gave children and adults the chance to meet visual artists and learn about their work, and online writing workshops and book clubs brought our community together through shared experiences and connection.



FY21

A YEAR TO CHERISH ART & COMMUNITY



MCYO students and their families celebrate the meritorious recognition and financial awards presented to them by representatives of The Links, Silver Spring, MD Chapter.

MONUMENTS TOOK THE ART OUTDOORS

The trees came alive during *Monuments: Creative Forces* by Australian artist Craig Walsh. The exhibition featured moving, dimensional video portraits of six artists whose work and artistic endeavors are changing the shape of our community in profound ways. Their faces, projected onto towering trees, challenged the traditional concept of monuments to celebrate living, contributing, members of our region. At a time when opportunities to engage with the arts in person were limited, *Monuments* was an accommodating and uniting arts experience for our community.



PAPER WORKS UNFOLDED IN THE MANSION

The Mansion was our first indoor space to reopen to the public, starting with *Paper Works: The Art of Paper*, an exhibition nearly two years in the making. Magazine and book pages, cardboard, wallpaper, and fine quality artist papers took center stage as artists sculpted, collaged, folded, carved, layered, and cut to transform the familiar materials into something extraordinary. Strathmore also presented solo shows of two local artists, fiber sculptor Shana Kohnstamm and painter Emon Surakitkoson. A virtual opening reception took visitors on a journey through the exhibitions from the comfort of their homes, while socially distanced visits offered safe reflection.





THE PATIO STAGE WELCOMED AUDIENCES BACK TO LIVE MUSIC

In summer 2021, Strathmore reopened gradually and created an environment for as many people as possible to comfortably return to the arts. We launched the outdoor Patio Stage to provide quality concerts for eager audiences and safe paid performance opportunities for artists. Concerts kicked off with the Wynton Marsalis Septet and, due to unseasonably cold weather for spring, the show made a surprise return to the Concert Hall. Marsalis shared a beautiful sentiment from the stage, saying “I’m home.”

STRATHMORE ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PERFORMED, COLLABORATED, AND LEARNED ONLINE

For the first time in the history of the program, Strathmore hosted two classes of Artists in Residence concurrently! Members of our Artist in Residence classes of 2020 and 2021 performed in virtual livestreams, including a dramatic Fresh AIR debut concert from the stage of an empty concert hall in 2020. We welcomed them back for live performances at the Patio Stage in summer 2021. All the while, the professional development programs and mentorship that are key to the Strathmore AIR program shifted to Zoom, and we were even able to add a special conversation with Wynton Marsalis.



OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH STEP AFRIKA! CONTINUED IN NEW WAYS

Strathmore was proud to provide commissioning support to our longtime artistic partner Step Afrika! for two virtual performances—*STONO* in September 2020 and *Step Xplosion* in April 2021. Audiences were dazzled by the company’s dynamic movement and storytelling, and in *Step Xplosion*, they were treated to sweeping views of Strathmore’s campus. Our Bloom by Strathmore partnership continued as well, with students in Step Up East County receiving after-school instruction from Step Afrika! online.



UKULELE PROGRAMS CREATED JOY AND COMMUNITY

It turns out the tiny instrument with a big personality is beloved in-person and online. Our annual summer UkeFest went virtual, and the program’s team worked their wizardry to make the experience just as amazing for participants. It was so successful that we added a virtual Winter UkeFest and Baritone Uke Day. Offsite, our Bloom by Strathmore beginner ukulele classes at Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center also went online, and we partnered with Carpe Diem Arts who graciously loaned free ukuleles to participants to take home.



FY22

A YEAR OF RESILIENCE & REUNION



Youssou N'Dour returns to Strathmore's stage.

WE HONORED UNIQUE TAKES ON THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

As the artistic highlight of our season, Strathmore presented a stage rendition of Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower*, a triumphant work that illuminated deep insights on gender, race, and the future of human civilization, created by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon. *Parable of the Sower* not only sold out two performances in the Concert Hall but was also the anchor for an array of deep engagement opportunities, including the launch of the Arts and Social Justice Fellowship, and numerous discussions and lectures through which to explore the material.

After having to cancel in 2020, Strathmore was proud to finally present Step Afrika!'s *Drumfolk* in March 2022. This work brought light to a little-known but significant slave rebellion in 1739. Strathmore has partnered with Step Afrika! for over 15 years, bringing the percussive art form of step to audiences across our region.



GLOBAL VOICES ENERGIZED AUDIENCES AND DEEPENED CONVERSATIONS

Global highlights at the Music Center included four-time Latin Grammy winner Marisa Monte. The artist dazzled a sold-out Music Center audience with selections from her newest project *Portas* (Phonomotor/Sony Music)—her first solo release in a decade. Prior to the performance, dozens of patrons joined a panel of women artists and arts administrators for a discussion about overcoming justice and equity barriers to create personal spaces and communities.



ARTISTS SHARED PERSONAL EXPLORATIONS OF A CHANGED WORLD IN OUR GALLERIES

In spring 2022, Strathmore contracted with artist Julio Valdez to curate the exhibition *Recent Works* in the Mansion. The intimate display included a selection of paintings, drawings, and prints from the artist's *Water Paintings*, *Pandemic Portraits* and *I Can't Breathe* series. The resulting exhibition explored themes of displacement, identity, belonging, and community.

Interdisciplinary artist Terence Nicholson's exhibition *Pivot*, addressing gentrification, civil unrest, food deserts, gun violence, and more, was another highlight of our Exhibitions season.



FY22 HIGHLIGHTS



BLOOM EXPANDED PERFORMANCES TO THOUSANDS ACROSS MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Strathmore's Bloom initiative continued to expand access to live arts experiences to audiences throughout Montgomery County. Thousands of residents connect with Strathmore, artists, and each other at events such as the Burtonsville Multicultural Festival and the Wheaton Arts Parade, and at Strathmore showcases for its East County Strings and Latin Strings and Percussion programs.

Our collaboration with Montgomery County Recreation presents diverse cultural arts programming at Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center in Silver Spring. Since summer 2018, hundreds of residents have attended our Bloom at Good Hope free outdoor concert series with extraordinary performances by Strathmore's Artist in Residence alums.



SUMMER CAMP SITES REOPENED AFTER TWO YEAR HIATUS

In the summer of 2022, we expanded our partnership with Montgomery County Recreation, which provides Summer Fun Centers for young people with safe, structured, and enriching activities. We supplemented camp programming with arts sessions at Gwendolyn E. Coffield Community Recreation and Long Branch Community Recreation Centers.

At the Summer Fun Centers, children ages 6–11 danced with Esperanto Bean; learned steelpan percussion with Dominic Lewis, Francis Richards, and Josanne Francis from Steel on Wheels; and took art classes with Arturo Ho.



MARYLAND CLASSIC YOUTH ORCHESTRAS (MCYO) OF STRATHMORE CELEBRATED 75 YEARS

MCYO, which annually trains over 500 talented musicians in grades 2–12, celebrated its diamond anniversary with concerts, celebratory receptions, and honored guests. The organization, recognized as one of the country's most outstanding youth orchestra programs, is the oldest and most established in the Washington, DC area.



STRATHMORE AND WOOLLY MAMMOTH LAUNCHED INAUGURAL CLASS OF ARTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FELLOWS

Eight Arts and Social Justice Fellows met biweekly for education and discussion inspired by Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower*. Participants developed leadership skills, connected with networks of other students and professionals with similar interests, and expanded their capacity to drive projects from start to finish. Student projects included a wide range of themes around climate justice, queer identities, Black history, mental health, feminism, immigration, and human rights. The fellows showcased their projects in July 2022 at AMP.

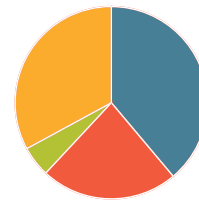
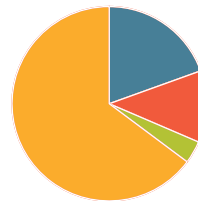
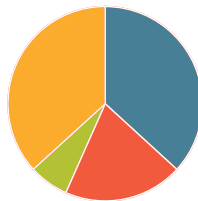
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Before the pandemic hit in March 2020, Strathmore was on track for a record-breaking year. Forced to pivot from in-person performances to virtual events, we kept our focus on delivering on our mission. Through Covid relief funding and the generosity of our patrons and donors, we were supported and stable during difficult times. With creativity and care, we have rebounded well, and are making the transition from relief support back to strong annual funding.

	FY20	FY21	FY22
Production Income	\$3,529,499	\$1,040,289	\$3,979,088
Rental Income	\$1,902,725	\$636,956	\$2,361,929
Other Income	\$632,366	\$200,211	\$525,530
Contributed Revenue-Non Emergency	\$3,526,076	\$3,455,743	\$3,369,507
Investment Income	(\$37,494)	\$1,837,097	(\$1,273,578)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$9,553,172	\$7,170,296	\$8,962,476
Program Expenses	\$8,862,170	\$4,503,263	\$9,485,560
General and Administrative Expenses	\$2,552,445	\$2,247,589	\$2,069,736
Fundraising Expenses	\$675,777	\$516,676	\$631,073
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,090,392	\$7,267,528	\$12,186,369
Net Income (Before Emergency Funding)	(\$2,537,220)	(\$97,232)	(\$3,223,893)
Emergency Funding	\$100,000	\$2,541,846	\$5,974,993
Net Income (With Emergency Funding)	(\$2,437,220)	\$2,444,614	\$2,751,100

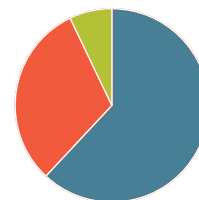
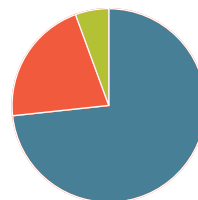
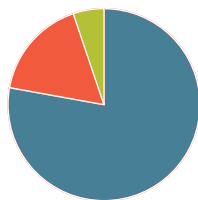
REVENUE

- Production Income
- Rental Income
- Other Income
- Contributed Revenue—Non Emergency



EXPENSES

- Program Expenses
- General & Administrative Expenses
- Fundraising Expenses



THANK YOU, DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Strathmore thanks the individuals and institutions who have made contributions between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2022. Their support of at least \$500 and continued commitment enables us to spotlight distinctive, dynamic, and diverse artistic voices on stage, on our gallery walls, and throughout our community.

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