



B L O M

BY STRATHMORE

**EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ARTS**

# 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 the county, and collaborating with partners who make a positive impact.



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 co-created programs alongside the community.

# 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.
- **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 partnership with MCPS and Glenstone where 10<sup>th</sup>-grade International Baccalaureate students receive support and inspiration from local artists for their Middle Years Program Personal Projects.
- **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.

### Arts & Social Justice Fellowship

Centering on youth leadership, young people's vision of the future, and building community in the face of crisis, this fellowship seeks to identify the next generation of artists and activists.

## 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 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 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 works with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation to make this center arts friendly and offer low-fee classes in a variety of arts disciplines.
- **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, Strathmore provides multi-disciplinary 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*

“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  
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:*

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation	Marinus and Minna B. Koster Foundation
Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County	Jeffrey and Carolyn Leonard Endowment
Capital One Services Inc., LLC	Lockheed Martin Corporation
Fitzgerald Subaru Rockville	Maryland State Arts Council
GEICO Philanthropic Foundation	Montgomery County Public Schools
Philip L. Graham Fund	Nora Roberts Foundation
Dr. Allen A.B. Herman Fund	PEPCO, an Exelon Company
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Jordan Kitt's Music/Rockley Family Foundation	WGL Holdings, Inc.

*Strathmore also extends its gratitude to the many individual donors who also invest in our Bloom programs each year.*

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