OUR VISION Glen Echo Park inspires creativity and offers shared artistic experiences in a welcoming historic natural setting.

OUR MISSION The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc. presents vibrant artistic, cultural and educational offerings at Glen Echo Park and promotes the Park as a unique destination for our region’s diverse population. It nurtures a dynamic community of artists and performers while preserving and managing historic facilities within a National Park.

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(Carousel Operator)
Lisa Fahlstrom
Dear Friends,

With the generosity of our partners and supporters, Glen Echo Park experienced another successful year in 2016. The Park continues to serve as one of the area’s greatest arts and cultural resources.

More than 375,000 area residents and tourists came to the Park this past year. Visitors enjoyed opportunities to develop their own creative genius through dance, visual arts, and music or to share in the creativity of others by attending a children’s theater performance, concert, or exhibition.

Exciting new programs at the Park include The Sculpture Studio residency (see Highlights, p. 4), expanded class offerings and studio space for our resident silversmithing studio, and additional programming at Glen Echo Park Aquarium. We also welcomed Praline Bakery as our new café operator.

We extend our appreciation to our talented arts partners and the entire Glen Echo Park community as well as the National Park Service and Montgomery County. Furthermore, we thank our generous donors who help ensure that everything that is distinctive about the Park – from the glassblowing cottage and pottery yurts to the historic Spanish Ballroom and Stone Tower Gallery – remains open for the public.

We are pleased to highlight some of our recent accomplishments in this report.

With thanks,

Katey Boerner
Executive Director

Jennifer A. English
President, Board of Directors

ABOUT THE GLEN ECHO PARK PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc. manages one of the liveliest visual and performing arts sites in the Washington area. Each year, more than 375,000 people come together at Glen Echo Park to renew their creative spirit through classes, festivals, exhibitions, dances, children’s theater, music performances, nature programs, and more.

Established by Montgomery County in 2002, the Partnership is a nonprofit organization charged with managing Glen Echo Park’s programs and facilities. Its mission is to present vibrant artistic, cultural, and educational offerings at the Park and to promote the Park as a unique destination for the region’s diverse population.

In collaboration with Montgomery County and the National Park Service, the Partnership works with resident artists and organizations to develop distinctive arts programming; operates the historic Dentzel Carousel; presents an extensive social dance program; produces festivals and special events; conducts fundraising and marketing; and manages and maintains all facilities.

ABOUT GLEN ECHO PARK

Glen Echo Park is one of the finest cultural resources in Montgomery County. It is home to 13 resident artists and arts organizations, a thriving social dance program, a restored 1921 Dentzel Carousel, a summer concert series, numerous art studios and galleries, an environmental education program for children, and hundreds of classes in visual and performing arts, including ceramics, painting, photography, glass, music, dance, and more. These activities, as well as free summer concerts, festivals, and special events, bring more than 375,000 visitors to the Park each year. The park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more information.
“My wife spotted a stone carving course in the Glen Echo Park catalogue a decade ago and, soon after, we were hooked. Directly manipulating stone with hammer and chisel has a visceral quality that appeals to me; there is something deeply satisfying about practicing such an ancient art form. Nizette Brennan is a master carver and sculptor and has taught us an enormous amount about process and form. The other students in the Sculpture Studio have become good friends and have challenged me to want to do better work.”

- Jon G., Student Sculpture Studio

ARTABILITY The Partnership received its first grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in support of ArtAbility, a special collaboration with Imagination Stage to serve middle school students with autism. Other new funders this year included the Maximus Foundation, the Nora Roberts Foundation, and the Andrew Family Foundation.

The program included a spring series of family events and a two-week summer program in which middle school students were paired with teen mentors. Examples of spring family events included a sensory friendly tour and hands-on workshop at the new Glen Echo Park Aquarium and a private concert at the Park by two members of the National Symphony Orchestra followed by a music workshop where students created their own music with voice and instruments.

Launched in 2013 and supported over the years with major funding from the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation, ArtAbility provided participants with a wide range of artistic opportunities, including drama, music, dance, puppetry, and the visual arts. Through ArtAbility, hands-on arts participation served as a vehicle to develop vital life-long learning skills, such as self-esteem, cooperation, flexibility, self-expression, perseverance, creative problem solving, and communication.

SCULPTURE STUDIO BECOMES NEW RESIDENCY In 2016 the Partnership was pleased to add The Sculpture Studio, directed by Nizette Brennan, to the Park’s array of high quality artists and organizations in residence. For over 20 years, Brennan had presented stone carving and sculpture classes at the Park, making use of available, but not dedicated, space. Having a designated sculpture space in the Park both stimulates Brennan’s individual work and provides a consistent foundation for innovative and dynamic sculpture production, allowing for expansion of classes and programs.

The studio is dedicated to providing the community with the materials, tools, space, and skills to create sculpture and functional art. A committed group of sculpture artists work regularly at the studio designing and producing contemporary and traditional carved stone pieces.

Introductory and advanced classes in stone carving are offered weekly by Brennan, whose career includes successful public art commissions, solo exhibits, and awards. Isamu Noguchi, her mentor, said of Brennan’s work: “The growth of her art is tied to an understanding of stone. From direct cutting comes knowledge of the nature of stone, and from this knowledge, the possibilities of its meaning. She has found her own meanings through the truth of stone.”
NEW VIDEOS CELEBRATE GLEN ECHO PARK HISTORY  As many people know, Glen Echo Park in its current form – an arts and cultural center in a beautiful natural setting – began in the 1970s. Prior to that, the site was home to the private Glen Echo Amusement Park from the early 1900s through the late 1960s.

The Partnership received a grant from Heritage Montgomery in 2015 to conduct interviews with Glen Echo Park artists from the early years – 1970s and 1980s – as well as with visitors to the Park when it was an amusement park (1900s-1960s). In 2016, we received a follow-up grant, also from Heritage Montgomery, to produce short videos for the Park’s website and a longer video to be available for play in the visitors lobby and at special events and festivals.

Marketing staff worked with Montgomery Community Media, as well as other video producers, to take the raw footage of 15 interviews and create these final products, which tell the stories of the Park’s rich history and together have now been viewed almost 1,000 times.

A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

THE PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHED A STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE made up of several board members, staff members, and other advisors who are working with consulting firm Conscient Strategies to develop a 3-5 year “living strategic plan” for the Partnership.

The process started with obtaining input from many stakeholders in the Park, including resident artists and arts organizations, staff, and patrons, and analyzing current program and financial data as well as revisiting the vision for the Park. A strategic plan is being developed that will identify overarching strategic objectives and goals to support the artistic community and enhance the experience of Park users. The plan will focus on presenting a cohesive set of high quality experiences that engage visitors and stimulate learning and creativity, while contributing to a financially sustaining operating environment within our historic setting.

The process of refining the plan and developing an implementation strategy is expected to last through 2017.
Financial Highlights

GLEN ECHO PARK
BY THE NUMBERS

375,000
visited the park

50,000
attended social dances

56,000
rode the carousel

31,000
attended festivals, concerts and special events

36,000
viewed exhibitions

7,200
enrolled in classes

104,000
attended children’s theater productions

FY2016 REVENUE

- Rental Income: $649,359
- Utility Reimbursements: 144,857
- Grants: 234,335
- Contributions: 367,307
- Dances and Events: 252,536
- Education Programs: 177,440
- Retail and Carousel: 169,705
- Other: 37,522

Total Revenue: $2,033,062

FY2016 EXPENSES

- Program Services: $1,644,168
- Management and General: 117,169
- Fundraising: 182,943

Total Expenses: $1,944,280
Thank You to Our Donors

Sustainers ($10,000 and above)
Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority
National Endowment for the Arts
Jim and Carol Travis Foundation
Anonymous

Benefactors ($5,000 and above)
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Montgomery County Executive’s Ball
Occasions Caterers
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Nora Roberts Foundation
Washington Talent Agency

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*In-kind Sponsors
The Partnership presented the *Carousel Memories* Gala in the Park on May 14, 2016. The event honored Carol Trawick, President of the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation, Chair of the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Partnership’s first Board President, for her outstanding leadership and support. First Lady Catherine Leggett, Ambassador Constance Morella, and Mayor Jeffrey Z. Slavin, Town of Somerset, served as Honorary Chairs. Anjali Varma, Owner of Kidville Bethesda and The Modern Mompreneur, served as Gala Chair. The event raised a record of over $140,000 to support the Park’s arts programs and our historic Dentzel Carousel.

The upcoming Gala in the Park will take place on May 20, 2017. The event will honor Yumi Hogan, First Lady of Maryland, for her support of the arts in Maryland. We will also honor the Town of Glen Echo and offer special recognition to Richard Cook as the Park’s Honorary Historian. Judy A. Greenberg, Director of The Kreeger Museum, will serve as Honorary Chair.