

# Heard.

An arts program for silent stories.  
*Because everyone deserves to be heard.*



## 2021 Annual Report

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# Message from the Executive Director

*Dear Heard supporter,*

*Welcome to our first Heard annual report! We are eager to share this with you because **you** helped get us here. Never did we imagine, when we held our first writing class in the basement of Historic Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia, in January 2017, how far-reaching and impactful Heard would be!*

*We thank you.*

*We envisioned that writing class as a safe space for adults in need to express themselves. And even that took eight months to plan. We had no idea how much we would grow, how many people we would positively impact, and how many arts we would offer in 2022.*

*Our growth was organic. Our writing classes seemed to work, we said, so why not try improvisation? By the end of 2017, 196 people (some more than once) attended our 28 classes. We were ecstatic!*

*Who could have imagined that as 2021 ended, despite COVID's wrecking-ball attempt to shut us down, we held a record 216 classes with 1,834 non-unique participants, and two writing contests at two area detention centers?*

*As we share our story and successes with you, please meet another population we serve – our professional, deeply committed, and highly empathetic artists who help our clients create, imagine, play, explore, and dream in a safe, trusting space.*

*Our success is truly a team effort. Our artists, program partners, donors, and each of you all work together to help bring creativity and confidence to those we serve. As one client said, "Thank you for making me feel like a human."*

*Please enjoy our report and take a moment to appreciate yourself for the good you have brought to the world.*

*Jane*

**Heard's mission is to foster creativity, confidence, self-worth, and life skills in adults who are underserved, unknown, and unheard by offering them artistic expression through experiential instruction and participation.**



# A Look Back at 2021

## 2021 By the Numbers

- ✓ 216 classes - *A new record*
- ✓ 1834 participants (non-unique individuals) - *A new record*
- ✓ Writing contests in two detention centers with entries from 46 authors
- ✓ 12 outstanding artists
- ✓ 16 committed program partners
- ✓ \$23,000 raised in our first year of Spring2ACTion, and first place in the small nonprofit category



## A Special Note about Writing Contests

Not all our work is done through classes. Each July and August we sponsor writing contests in area detention centers that are enthusiastically supported by staff and those who are incarcerated. Their original work is judged by local media professionals, and we award prizes to first, second and third place winners in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

In 2021, 15 authors from the City of Alexandria William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center submitted 17 poems, 6 fiction, and 5 non-fiction entries. Authors from the Arlington County Detention Facility wrote 24 poems, 2 fiction, and 6 non-fiction entries.

In addition to prizes, the authors' work was featured in local media and as part of an AWARE poetry event hosted by the City of Alexandria poet laureate, Kanikki Jakarta, on October 17. Voices Unbarred, a nonprofit theater group whose actors are all formerly incarcerated, read our poems at several events hosted by The Justice Arts Coalition.

# Quotes from our Clients



***“This class gave me confidence and made [me] open up.”***

***“With the subjects suggested to write about I found words about myself I didn’t know I felt.”***

***“If there is an opportunity being incarcerated it is to improve our creative modes of expression and interaction. Thank you!”***

***“...[Reminded] me of important life skills that include ‘how to accept new ideas’ ‘active listening’ positive communication and open mindedness...Thank you...thank you! Helped prepare me to return to my life more healed.”***

***“I like that there’s always a prompt and a main focus to express ourselves creatively and learn/reflect about ourselves.”***

***“I personally would like Sharmila to come back ASAP to teach us more creative ways to show how we feel and to express our emotions.”***

***“This class has made me feel more comfortable expressing myself & actually enjoy doing it.”***

# Our Program Partners



City of Alexandria Department of Health and Community Services

- Domestic Violence Shelter
- LGBTQA Task Force
- Sexual Assault Survivors' Group
- Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Services (SUD)

City of Alexandria William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center



*Friends of*  
**GUEST HOUSE**



**computer core**  
BUILDING CAREERS AND COMMUNITY

NOVA JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER



Arlington County Detention Facility

- Community Readiness Unit
- General Population



**COMMUNITY LODGINGS**  
*Opening Doors to Independence*



***“So often we tend to overlook the arts and categorize it as lofty or secondary to other subjects/classes that have a concentration on building employment skills, or substance abuse education.***

***However, over the past few years we've learned that the arts/creativity have a substantial and positive impact on the participants (self esteem, goal building and discovery of personal skill sets).***

***Thank you HEARD for you continued partnership.”***

***Camille Watkin, Inmate Service Counselor,  
Arlington County Detention Facility***

# You Make it Happen!

| <b>Heard Financials</b><br>January - December 2021 |                                  |                  |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b><u>Income</u></b>                               |                                  |                  |
| Federal, state & local government                  | City of Alexandria               | 6,250.00         |
|  | Virginia Commission for the Arts | <u>3,825.00</u>  |
| Total federal, state & local government            |                                  | 10,075.00        |
| Private Contributions & Grants                     | Individual contributions         | 19,688.88        |
|  | Foundations                      | 12,500.00        |
|  | Corporate sponsors               | 1,000.00         |
|  | Program partner reimbursement    | 1,000.00         |
|  | Businesses                       | 150.00           |
|  | Other                            | <u>100.00</u>    |
| Total Private Contributions & Grants               |                                  | 34,438.88        |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                |                                  | <b>44,513.88</b> |
|  |                                  |                  |
| <b><u>Expenses</u></b>                             |                                  |                  |
| Contract Services                                  | Artist compensation              | 22,050.00        |
|  | Executive Director               | 5,000.00         |
|  | Strategic Planning               | 2,210.00         |
|  | Web site support                 | <u>2,687.50</u>  |
| Total Contract Services                            |                                  | 31,947.50        |
| Operations   | Advertising                      | 256.68           |
|  | Technology & computer software   | 1,148.54         |
|  | Postage & delivery               | 270.60           |
|  | Printing and copying             | 58.57            |
|  | Supplies                         | 213.96           |
|  | Writing Contest Prizes           | <u>381.20</u>    |
| Total Operations                                   |                                  | 2,329.55         |
| Other Expenses                                     | Insurance - Liability            | 1,131.00         |
|  | Memberships                      | <u>180.00</u>    |
| Total Other Expenses                               |                                  | 1,311.00         |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                               |                                  | <b>35,588.05</b> |
| Net Income   |                                  | 8,925.83         |



# Major Contributors

City of Alexandria  
**OFFICE OF  
THE ARTS**



**MASON  
HIRST**  
*Foundation*

**CAUDRON • MEGARY • BLACKBURN**  
Wealth Management Group  
*of Wells Fargo Advisors*





# Our Art Team



**Solveig Eggerz**  
Creative Writing



**Nina Sichel**  
Creative Writing



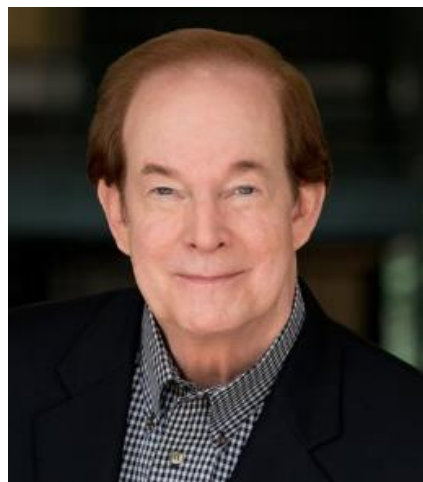
**Alexandra Fleming**  
Creative Writing



**Fannie Allen**  
Etiquette



**Wendi Kaplan**  
Poetry



**Mike Baker**  
Acting, Public Speaking,  
Voiceovers

# Our Art Team



**Sharmila  
Karamchandani**  
Visual Arts



**Elizabeth (Betsy)  
Allen**  
Creative Writing



**Christopher "C."  
Thomas**  
Spoken word poetry



**Keely Kirk**  
Improvisation



**Bharati Soman**  
Singing



**Alison McHugh**  
Visual Arts



# Board of Directors



**Jane Hess Collins**  
Founder & Executive Director



**Michael Collins**  
Board Member & Chair



**Gloria Wright**  
Board Member & Secretary



**Julie Cupp**  
Board Member & Treasurer



**Dallice Joyner**  
Board Member

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**"This is the coolest thing ever!"  
"Thank You!"**

Email: [director@heardnova.org](mailto:director@heardnova.org)  
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Website: [heardnova.org](https://www.heardnova.org)

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*Heard is an IRS Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit. EIN 32-0592893*