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## **Maryland Citizens for the Arts announces renewal of *Arts Step Up for State Employees* program**

The Maryland state government has been forced to furlough nearly all of its 67,000 State employees, for the third year in a row, to curtail costs during the current recession. Arts organizations in Maryland face their own revenue shortfalls and sympathize with the plight of affected state workers, as well as all Marylanders facing pay cuts, lay-offs, and benefit reductions.

In a gesture of small but meaningful support, many arts organizations have agreed to participate in the **Arts Step Up for State Employees** program, coordinated by MCA. Each of the more than 35 organizations below, representing 15 Maryland counties, is offering a special discount or giveaway to all State employees in Maryland during the course of fiscal year 2011 (through June 30, 2011). Originally launched in December of 2008, the Arts Step Up program has grown each year as it has been renewed with further public worker layoffs.

In past years, the program has received praise from both state workers and from elected officials, including Governor Martin O'Malley: *"In the midst of a national recession, it can be easy to overlook the positive impact that the arts can have on our lives," said Governor O'Malley. "I want to thank the arts community for this thoughtful gesture. Our State workforce – the best team of public servants in the nation – certainly appreciates it and looks forward to taking advantage of the opportunity."*

MCA's Executive Director, John Schratwieser, on the **Arts Step Up for State Employees** initiative: "Arts organizations across Maryland continue to feel the pinch of a slowly recovering economy. Nevertheless, they recognize the important role they play in revitalizing their own communities and are ready to step up, once again, in support of state employees who share the burden of these difficult economic times. As the state's arts advocacy organization, MCA is proud to coordinate this effort for the third year in a row."

To find out about these special arts opportunities for State employees, visit the **Arts Step Up for State Employees** page of MCA's website:

[http://www.mdarts.org/advocacy/talking\\_points/arts-step-up-in-support-of-state-employees](http://www.mdarts.org/advocacy/talking_points/arts-step-up-in-support-of-state-employees)

New organizations and special offers are being added to the program daily. State employees will need to show their State identification cards to take advantage of these offers.

## **Participating Organizations**

(As of 9/13/2010)

<i>Adventure Theatre</i>	<i>Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts &amp; Culture</i>
<i>Annapolis Symphony Orchestra</i>	<i>Harford Ballet Company</i>
<i>Arts on the Block</i>	<i>Hippodrome Theatre</i>
<i>American Visionary Art Museum</i>	<i>Hopkins Symphony Orchestra</i>
<i>Baltimore Choral Arts Society</i>	<i>Imagination Stage</i>
<i>Baltimore Folk Music Society</i>	<i>Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts</i>
<i>Baltimore Museum of Art</i>	<i>Maryland Symphony Orchestra</i>
<i>Baltimore Symphony Orchestra</i>	<i>National Philharmonic</i>
<i>Candlelight Concerts</i>	<i>Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center</i>
<i>Carroll County Arts Council</i>	<i>Round House Theatre</i>
<i>CenterStage</i>	<i>Somerset County Arts Council</i>
<i>Chesapeake Arts Center</i>	<i>Strathmore</i>
<i>Church Hill Theatre</i>	<i>The Writer's Center</i>
<i>Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts</i>	<i>Walters Art Museum</i>
<i>Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts</i>	<i>Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art</i>
<i>Columbia Pro Cantare</i>	<i>Washington County Museum of Fine Arts</i>
<i>Cosmic Symphony</i>	<i>Waterfowl Festival</i>
<i>Fredericktowne Players</i>	<i>World Arts Focus/Joe's Movement Emporium</i>
<i>Garrett County Arts Council</i>	

### **MARYLAND CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS**

Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA) is a statewide arts advocacy organization, founded in 1977 to represent all Maryland artists and arts organizations of every discipline. Its principal mission is to promote adequate funding for the Maryland State Arts Council and to advocate for the arts at the state and federal levels. MCA implements effective strategies to enhance the arts in Maryland by building partnerships, advocating for funding stability, and promoting the visibility of the arts in our state.

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