

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude and joy that I share the Roanoke Cultural Endowment's 2024 Annual Report with you. This past year marked meaningful progress as we continued building the foundation for sustainable support of arts and culture in our community. Our strong partnership with the City of Roanoke has been central to this work, affirming a shared vision of ensuring that the nonprofit organizations who inspire, educate, and connect us will one day benefit from steady operational funding in perpetuity.

The accomplishments highlighted here are possible only because of your generosity, trust, and belief in this mission. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are shaping a lasting resource for Roanoke's future—one that invites each of us to play a part in making it possible.



STRONUL

Shaleen Powell Executive Director

Board of Directors

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Background: The Eye @ Science Museum of Western Virginia, photo by Katie Brooks

Foreground: Opera Roanoke photo by Dongsoo Choi

Cover illustration by Isabelle Hill



About Us

The Roanoke Cultural Endowment (RCE) is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of Roanoke's arts and cultural community. By building a \$20 million endowment through public and private support, RCE will provide ongoing funding to more than two dozen local arts organizations. Our goal is to create a stable, enduring source of support that allows these organizations to continue serving the community for generations to come.

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Mission:

to cultivate a legacy of stability, engagement, and vitality for arts and culture in the City of Roanoke through advocacy and grant making.



Vision:

to foster a vibrant community where arts and culture are accessible to all and valued as a critical component of a healthy economy and region, today and for future generations.



Values:

Collaboration | Inclusion | Integrity Stewardship | Sustainability

Sign-up for RCE's Quarterly Newsletter:



RCE Through The Years

2011

Arts & Culture Plan adopted by City Council specifying the need for a sustainable funding model for arts & culture



2012

Ideas solicited from arts & cultural organizations • Research conducted on funding models in peer cities

2013

Focus groups held with local arts & cultural organizations • Economic impact study on arts & culture completed • Cultural summit held in Roanoke for public input



2014

City of Roanoke endorses a public/ private partnership for endowment

2015-16

Roanoke Culural Endowment incorporates and acquires nonprofit status • RCE Board is recruited and Executive Director hired • RCE develops strategic plan

2017

Initial fundraising begins

PRIVATE DONOR GIFTS

PUBLIC GIFTS



ROANOKE CULTURAL END WMENT

Our Sustainable

Funding Model

\$20 MILLION

Operational grants distributed in 3-year cycles



Partner Spotlight:

City of Roanoke





Joseph L. Cobb Mayor, City of Roanoke

The arts save my life - every day. The arts impact and enhance our economy - every day. The arts inspire creativity, vitality and delight - every day. Wherever I go in Roanoke, I experience the transformative presence of the arts and experience first-hand the depth to which the arts are helping our city and region shine. As Mayor and as a donor to the Roanoke Cultural Endowment, I urge you to join me in celebrating the arts through your gift to the endowment so that we can continue to empower, uplift, and support our thriving arts and cultural community.



Planning Workshop Series for arts & cultural nonprofit organizations

2019

RCE commissions Americans for the Arts Personalized Economic Impact Study on the Arts in the City of Roanoke • Sponsors inaugural Star City Arts Festival in Elmwood Park

RCE sponsors inaugural Roanoke Arts Pop! event at the Taubman Museum • RCE produces its first annual appeal and quarterly newsletter

Buzz4Good series on the arts in Roanoke • Facilitates Adaptive Leadership Training series for arts & cultural nonprofit organizations

2023

RCE updates its strategic plan • Partners on NEA OurTown grant for Arts Connect Neighbors project • Co-convenes arts & cultural organizations to advance collaborative arts marketing in our region



2024

RCE hits \$7 million towards its fundraising goal

Operational Funding

When RCE reaches its \$20M endowment goal, it will provide annual operating grants to Roanoke's arts and cultural nonprofits in perpetuity. Operating support helps sustain an organization's mission by covering essential expenses such as salaries, rent, utilities, and administrative costs.



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As someone who has served both on the Roanoke Cultural Endowment Board and as chair of the Agency Funding Advisory Committee for the Roanoke Arts Commission, *I have come to understand how essential general operating support is for our arts and cultural nonprofits.* These grants provide the flexibility organizations need to strengthen their infrastructure, retain talented leaders, and focus on delivering impactful programs.

By freeing nonprofits from the constant cycle of project-specific fundraising, we enable them to invest their time and resources where they are most needed, respond to opportunities, and innovate in ways that benefit the community. Most importantly, operating grants demonstrate a level of trust that empowers organizations to create solutions rooted in their deep understanding of the community they serve. Sustainable, flexible funding is not just an investment in the arts—it is an investment in the long-term vitality of Roanoke.



Patice L. Holland, Esq.
Former RCE Board Member

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Local Arts & Cultural Nonprofits

Home to more than two dozen arts and cultural nonprofits, Roanoke is the heart of arts and culture in southwestern Virginia. RCE's sustainable funding model will allow these arts organizations to continue their impact well into the future.*

5 Points Music Foundation

Center in the Square CommUNITY ARTS-reach Cultural Arts for Excellence Exit, Pursued by a Bear Theatre Grandin Theatre Harrison Museum of African American Culture Jefferson Center Local Colors Mill Mountain Theatre Mill Mountain Zoo Opera Roanoke Roanoke Ballet Theatre Roanoke History & O. Winston Link Museums Roanoke Symphony Orchestra Roanoke Valley Sister Cities Roanoque Baroque Science Museum of Western Virginia Southwest Virginia Ballet The Spot on Kirk The Studio School Taubman Museum of Art Virginia Children's Theatre





















SCIENCE MUSEUM

of WESTERN VIRGINIA































Virginia Museum of Transportation



Corporate Spotlight:



Q&A with Duke Baldridge, President

The Data is Clear

The Arts are an Economic Driver in Roanoke, generating:

\$64.2 million in economic activity



1.774





\$41 million

in household income to local residents



\$6.5

in local and state





Dominion Risk Advisors made a multi-year commitment to support the Roanoke Cultural Endowment-a powerful example of corporate leadership in strengthening our region's arts ecosystem. What inspired you to make this long-term investment?

There are a number of reasons that we support the RCE, personally and professionally. As citizens, my wife, Mary Catherine, and I love the arts. They bring beauty to our lives and those of others. We are grateful for the generous leadership of those who created the museums, music venues, companies, and theaters that we all enjoy. It is a civic calling to honor that leadership by building a generational foundation of support for the arts. Professionally, our business believes that the community is one of our stakeholders. We support education, mental health, economic development and the arts. Each of these areas of interest build a healthy, vibrant community of which we can all be proud.

As a business owner, how do you see Roanoke's arts and cultural scene contributing to economic vitality, workforce retention, and quality of life in our region?

Working in downtown Roanoke for the past 37 years, I have heard dozens of times about how the arts bring people together. They create an energy to which people respond. We know that there are professionals and businesses who want to be located in a community with great musical companies and visual and performing arts. Without these cultural assets, they would choose to live and work elsewhere. Those people are our customers; we need them to be here so that our business can thrive. We really don't support the arts for a financial return, but we do know that the community's collective support of the arts benefits our business.

From your perspective, why should other corporate leaders view support for the arts not just as philanthropy, but as smart economic strategy?

Every business benefits from a healthy, energetic community. The arts stimulate people; they bring customers to town; and help us retain great employees. It is hard to think of an industry that does not benefit from the arts. Candidly, as businesses, supporting the arts is our shared responsibility.

Roanoke's creative energy and cultural experiences make this a uniquely appealing place to live, work, and visit. How has the arts community influenced the way you think about doing business here?

Mary Catherine and I enjoy art of all kinds, but our favorites are probably visual and performing arts. A perfect night for us is dinner and the theater, and a great afternoon is browsing art in a gallery. We would not want to live nor work in a community that lacks what we have. We love Roanoke and the arts are a core part of that love. Supporting the arts is a huge part of our corporate vision - "we will reinvest in the community in life-changing ways!"

Donor Spotlight:

Charlotte Porterfield

For me, supporting the Roanoke Cultural Endowment is about legacy - leaving something meaningful behind that will benefit our community long after I'm gone. The arts have always played an important role in shaping Roanoke's character, and I want to help ensure they remain a vital part of our region's future.

By donating to RCE, I'm contributing to a permanent source of funding that will support local arts and cultural organizations year after year. It's a way to turn a personal value into a lasting impact. Knowing that my gift helps build a sustainable legacy for the arts in Roanoke gives me a deep sense of purpose and pride.



Legacy Spotlight: Karen Shreeman



by Andrea Shreeman, daughter

Thank you to the friends and family who contributed to the Roanoke Cultural Endowment in memory of our mother, Karen Shreeman's, lifelong dedication to arts and culture. Mom's love of literature, storytelling, theater, dance, and visual art took her around the world in appreciation of great artists and their work.

She was a continuous student of visual art who made many lasting friendships when she set out to take every class available through the art program at Virginia Western Community College. Karen valued highly her memberships to many Roanoke arts organizations and waited in anticipation each year for Festival in the Park, and other events showcasing the talents of Roanoke's rich local artist community. Our hearts are beaming with pride that even in her passing, the fantastic cultural legacy of Roanoke, Virginia has been strengthened by those who loved Karen in life.

Community Engagement Daisy Art Parade



In the spring of 2024, RCE again had the privilege of collaborating with the Roanoke Arts Commission and local arts and cultural organizations to parade art through downtown Roanoke in the second Daisy Art Parade (DAP). With over 50 parade entries, the day was filled with color, energy, and community spirit as Roanoke wholeheartedly embraced this one-of-a-kind event.

Rooted in the belief that making art brings people together, DAP is more than a lively display of handmade creations, it is an invitation to connect and celebrate through the joy of the creative process. In the months leading up to the parade, our group, the Arts Connect Krewe,

shared laughter and camaraderie while crafting whimsical critters inspired by Cole Porter's song "Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love."

As RCE continues building our endowment fund, moments like the Daisy Art Parade highlight the power of collective creativity. These gatherings shine a spotlight on Roanoke's artistic spirit and strengthen the connections that will carry our community forward. By stepping into the parade, RCE reaffirms its commitment to fostering an arts community where partnerships grow and creativity brings people together.

Bill and Diane Elliot, Photo by Kent Turner

Other Highlights

Bi-monthly Executive Director Meetings

With the Roanoke Arts Commission (RAC), RCE co-convenes a meeting of Roanoke arts and cultural organizations' Executive Directors every two months.

Culture Calendar Sponsorship

With support from the Davis H. Elliot Company, RCE sponsored WFIR's Culture Calendar in 2024. Culture Calendar offers weekly updates on arts and cultural happenings in the Roanoke community.



Roanoke Regional Partnership's Experience Conference

RCE helped organize a panel on arts vibrancy for Roanoke Regional Partnership's 2024 Experience Conference.

Community Engagement It's Here Roanoke!

Two years of conversations, collaboration, and planning set the stage for a shared vision of Roanoke's arts and culture. In 2022, RCE received ARPA funding to convene an adaptive leadership workshop series for local arts and cultural organizations. Among the strongest ideas to emerge was the need for a unified identity to showcase the remarkable scope of Roanoke's arts and cultural scene. Out of that vision, a task force was formed to explore collective marketing opportunities and define a brand that could celebrate and amplify the arts in our region. RCE was honored to join the task force alongside staff support from the Roanoke Arts Commission (RAC), the Taubman Museum of

By 2024, that vision became a reality with the launch of It's Here Roanoke. This new brand identity serves as a rallying point for artists, arts organizations, cultural institutions, and community partners, providing a single, engaging platform to connect residents and visitors alike with the breadth of opportunities the Star City has to offer.

Art, and Jefferson Center to play an active role in shaping this

To help bring the first phase of the brand to life, RCE contributed \$4,000 in seed funding, which was matched by the RAC, ensuring a strong debut at the Anthem Go Outside Festival (GO Fest) in October 2024. The It's Here Roanoke tent buzzed with activity all weekend, offering hands-on arts experiences, distributing branded materials, and sparking conversations about upcoming cultural events across the region.

The creation of *It's Here Roanoke underscores the power of collaboration in strengthening our cultural community.* As Roanoke grows and adapts, this new brand identity provides a unifying voice to showcase the arts as an essential part of daily life. Together, we are creating every day the place we want to be.

Learn more at www.itsHereRoanoke.org











Other Highlights

Arts Connect Neighbors

important initiative.

Arts Connect Neighbors is a program aimed to unite neighborhoods through creativity. It is an effort of the RAC, RCE, and Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates with funding from the City of Roanoke and the National Endowment for the Arts.



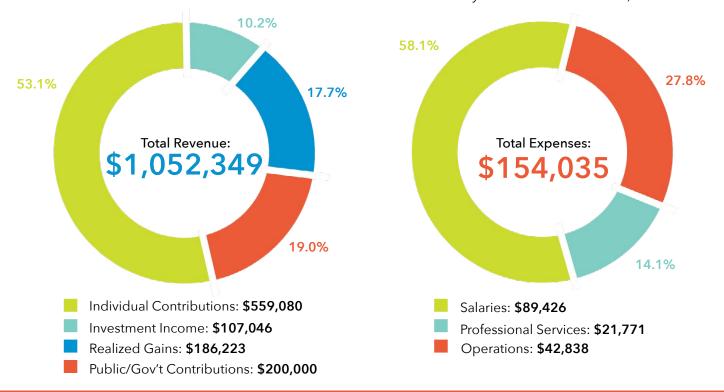
CultureCheck Roanoke Study

CultureCheck Roanoke is a joint project of the RAC and the RCE in collaboration with Virginia Tech's M.F.A. program in Theatre, Arts Leadership. This study helped inform the ongoing integration of Roanoke's arts and cultural sector into long-term community planning.



Financial Snapshot

The information below is intended to give a quick overview of our finances. Upon completion, the current audited financial statements will be available on our website. *Please note our fiscal year ended December 31, 2024*.



Amount Raised as of December 31, 2024

Gifts and Pledges To-Date:

\$6,929,844

Legacy Commitments:

\$5,000,000+









Founding Donors

Thank you to those who have made a contribution through December 31, 2024. We work diligently to ensure our listings are accurate. If you find an error, please accept our apology and let us know.

Anonymous (15)

In honor of Mr. Davis H. Elliot In honor of Rita L. Firestone In honor of Mary Lee Hunt In memory of Cheryl Mosley Philip and Anna Agee

Dr. George and Millie Anderson Don and Wendy Andree Briggs and Cathy Andrews Tom Angleberger and Cece Bell Jack and Ginger Avis Avis Construction Company, Inc. Edward and Amy Bagliani Jackie Baldwin

In memory of Don Baldwin Thomas Bamford

In memory of Susan Bamford Alton Barton, Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. Luthur A. Beazley Paul G. Beers

The Berding Family

In memory of our parents, Frances & Thomas Welsh, Jr. and Jean & Herbert Berding, Jr.

Jason and Shelby Bingham

Robert Bittle II

Carl and Mary Bivens

Wilson Blain

Kim and Tommy Blair

Katie Bower

Brad Bradley

Betty Branch

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In memory of Karen Shreeman Charles and Donna Brinkman

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Joe Cobb

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Rupert Cutler and Brenda McDaniel

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Michael L. Dame

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Mark Darnel

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In memory of Karen Shreeman

Dorothy Dickason

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Dominion Risk Advisors

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Neil Dorsey

Rhonda Dortch

In memory of Karen Shreeman

Jo Lynn Draper

In honor of Roanoke Ballet Theatre

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Russ and Heather Ellett

Bill and Diane Elliot

Becky and Lou Ellis

In honor of David Wine

Meridith Entingh

Wendy Farkas

In memory of Karen Shreeman

Farrell Foundation

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In memory of Karen Shreeman

Kevin Finch

Leona Fisher

Eric Fitzpatrick Charitable Fund

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The Flippin Fund of Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia Foti, Flynn, Lowen & Co.

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Cathy Greenberg

Karli and Will Griffeth

Nancy Griggs In honor of Pedro Szalay

Amitav Hajra

Greg and Michele Haley

Anne Hall Owen

Edwin C. Hall

Iva Hammie

Cathryn Hankla

John and Ashley Harlow

Bev and Leon Harris

Cheryl Hartman

In honor of Jane Gabrielle

David Haskins

In honor of Davis H. Elliot

Lucy L. Hazlegrove

In memory of our daughter Page

Hazlegrove

Dr. Bonnie Hennig-Trestman and Dr.

Robert Trestman

Carolyn Henritze

Douglas Henson

Stewart and Mary Hill John and Jean Hitchins

Patice L. Holland

Founding Donors (continued)

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In memory of Paul Howard

Keith Humphry

David Hunt and Ellen Aiken

Jay and Paula Irons

Peter Irot and Rachel Nuñez

Doug Jackson

Susan and Geoff Jennings

Bonnie and Pegram Johnson

Cameron Johnson

Ruth A. Johnson

Deborah B. and Robert F. Kaplan

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In memory of Karen Shreeman

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Christopher C. Keeley

George A. Kegley

Rick Kelley

Jason and Carolyn Kiser

William Lambert

Stan and Elise Lanford

Tom and Anna Lawson

Ann and Robert Lawson

Sherman P. Lea, Jr.

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Lovegrove

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In memory of Karen Shreeman

Debbie Meade and Hazel Bernard

Mandy Mills

Donna L. Mitchell

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In loving memory of Karen Shreeman

Tammy Montgomery

Cheryl Mosley

Jim and Jenn Mullens

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In memory of Dr. Richard W. Smith

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Powell Charitable Foundation

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Annette Schell

Scott Insurance

Annie Schultz and Rick Sheridan

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In memory of Karen Shreeman

Patrick Shank

Michael and Elizabeth Shasberger

Russell Shores Dr. Allan Sklar Stephanie Sloan Perry In memory of Karen Shreeman Eddie and Missy Smith Garnett E. Smith

In memory of Patsy T. Smith Jean Smith

Jonathan and Christi Stewart Audrey and Bob Stone

Lesleigh Strauss

In memory of Sheila S. Strauss

Lori and Steve Strauss

Wayne and Kay Strickland

Robert Stutes

Nancy Sullivan

Dan and Laura Summerlin

Juan F. & Carmen T. Moreno

In memory of Karen Shreeman

Su Taylor

Celeste B. Tethal

Edward N. Thornhill

Linda and John Thornton

In honor of Lucas Thornton

Lucas and Isabel Thornton

Victoria Thornton

In memory of Joycelyn "Fudgie

Lee" Farrelly

Tom and Mary Evelyn Tielking

Bradley Timofeev

Dave and Ann Trinkle

William Trinkle

H. Keene Varner Peter Volosin and Malcom Quigley

Elisabeth von Bulow

Paula Wade

Christopher M. Walters Family

Foundation

Doug and Karen Walters

Mary and Douglas Waters

Wells Fargo Advisors

Pam and Austin West

Betsy Whitney In honor of David Wine

David and Leah Wiley

Lee and Lainy Wilhelm

John B. Williamson III

Bart and Lynn Wilner In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Victor F. Foti

Wilson Family Fund

Mary Ann and J. David Wine

Mike and Danielle Wise

Barry and Libba Wolfe

Ann Marie Wood

Jan and Robyn Wright

Rebecca Wright Janice and Keith Young

Ways to Give

Your support of the Roanoke Cultural Endowment is an investment in the future of our community's arts and culture. Every tax-deductible gift helps ensure sustainable funding for Roanoke's arts and cultural nonprofits. There are many ways to give.

Current Gifts:

- One-time or recurring contributions
- Gifts of stock or securities
- Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)
- Donor Advised Fund (DAF) contributions
- Corporate or foundation support

Legacy Gifts:

- Bequests through your will or trust
- Beneficiary designations from retirement accounts or life insurance
- Other planned gifts

Whether you wish to make an immediate impact or leave a legacy for the future, your gift can be tailored to fit your goals. For guidance on how to proceed, resources are available on the RCE website, or you can reach out directly to RCE's Executive Director, Shaleen Powell:



shaleen@roanokeculturalendowment.org | 📞 540-556-9123





Name: Roanoke Cultural **Endowment Restricted** Name of Receiving Institution: Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Account #: 6206-3968 DTC #: 0164 Federal Tax ID #: 47-2754436



Make checks payable to "Roanoke Cultural Endowment" Mail to: P.O. Box 22 Roanoke, VA 24002



Donate Securely Online roanokeculturalendowment.org or scan QR code below:



Roanoke Ballet Theatre, photo by Laura White



Multi-year Pledges Complete the pledge

form on our website: roanokeculturalendowment.org Mail to: P.O. Box 22, Roanoke, VA 24002



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