

June 22, 2020

# ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM

FALL 2019 - EARLY SPRING 2020



PAGE 1

## **ACES "ARTS & CULTURE"**

The ACES "Arts & Culture" program kicked off its 4th anniversary year this Fall 2019. During this timeframe, over 185 students and faculty from 10 of our high schools and 2 Montgomery College campuses attended a concert opera performance at Strathmore Music Center by the magnificent Maryland Lyric Opera, our 3rd Annual Careers in the Arts Workshop at Strathmore Music Center with professional musicians and renowned artist specialists/professors, 3 visits to the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), 2 performances by our very own Montgomery College Performing Arts Department, and a performance of the beloved "Step Afrika" ensemble at Strathmore Music Center.

This year, we also initiated a new "swim lane" for our ACES "Arts & Culture" program. An introductory bridge was created for our students to find out about the course offerings right here at Montgomery College's Visual, Performing, and Media Arts/Technologies Department. Both the Media Arts & Technology Department AND the Performing Arts department warmly welcomed our ACES students and faculty to visit the departments "in action". Developing a strong bridge to these departments will give our students opportunities to potentially choose one of the arts courses when attending MC, as well as nurture our students envisioning a career in the arts.

Below are some highlights - in pictures & words - of some of our "Arts & Culture" adventures, Fall, 2019 - March, 2020.

## **ACES STAFF AND STUDENTS VISIT THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE (NMAAHC)**

Our ACES staff, faculty, and students visited the NMAAHC, the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. From the majestic architecture of the magnificent building structure, you enter a historical timeline that deepens your understanding of the plight AND the triumph of the African American challenging journey here in America. The museum's mission is deeply woven throughout one's visit - which is to "stimulate open dialogue about race, and promote reconciliation and healing". As Lonnie G. Bunch III, Founding Director (and presently the first African American Director of the Smithsonian Institution) "This building will sing for all of us".



**Montgomery College Rockville  
Campus Students at the NMAAHC**



**ACES students from Montgomery  
Blair High School at the NMAAHC**

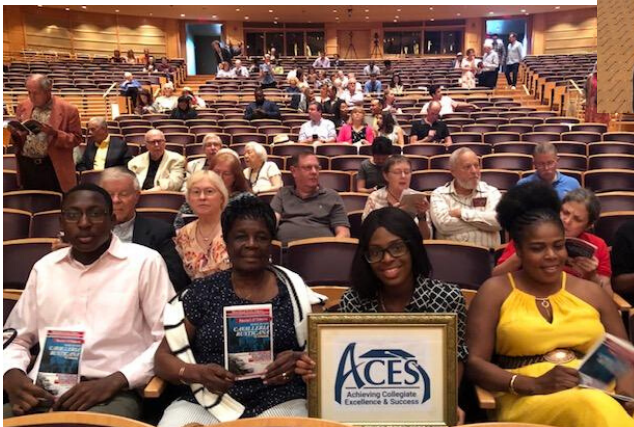


**ACES Staff, September 2019**

## MARYLAND LYRIC OPERA (MDLO)

Maryland Lyric Opera (MDLO) invited our ACES students and families to a concert opera presentation of “Il Tabarro/Cavalleria Rusticana” by composers G. Puccini, and P. Mascagni. Special thanks to Brad Clark, Founder and Artistic Director, Maestro Louis Salemno, Music Director, & Matthew Woorman, General Manager, for inviting us to this intense and glorious production as their guests.

Please note: As a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic, performances were cancelled as of March 15, 2020. MDLO continued to [“Give Back”](#) during this time. How proud we are of our sponsor, MDLO, for supplying hospitals, service organizations, vulnerable populations and essential workers with PPE during this pandemic.



**ACES students and families  
attending the Maryland Lyric Opera  
(MDLO)**



### 3RD ANNUAL CAREERS IN THE ARTS WORKSHOP

For our third annual "Careers in the Arts Workshop" we gathered the finest of artists in our DC/MD/VA community to come and meet with our ACES students who are considering Careers in the performing and visual/digital arts. Thanks to our treasured collaborators - The Strathmore Music Center Education Department, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra - we brought together over 75 ACES students to listen to career artists including, [Tom Teasley](#), our emcee for our Careers workshop and award winning solo percussionist/educator, sound designer for theatre/film/tv; Christopher Morgan, dancer extraordinaire, and Executive Director of [Dance Place](#); Josanne Francis, Steelpan musician and [Strathmore Music Center AIR artist](#); and Erik Swanson, Department Chair, Associate Professor, Digital Animation, Media Arts & Technologies Department, Montgomery College. The Mansion at Strathmore Music Center was "rocking" - not only because of the amazing percussionist Tom Teasley, but because of the dynamic conversation between our "thriving artist" panelists and ACES students about careers in the arts. Please enjoy our [video](#) - which highlights our panelists' Arts Career journeys.



**Empowering our Future Artists with Skills  
ACES Students Attending the 3rd Annual  
Careers in the Arts Workshop**

**STEP AFRIKA!**

The "Step Afrika! Step Xplosion" performance was attended by students from Blake High School at Strathmore Music Center on Sunday, January 12, 2020. We are grateful to Strathmore Music Center for providing discount tickets to our ACES students to this amazing/yearly event!

**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S PERSONALIZED ACES ARTS DEPARTMENTAL TOURS**

MC Media Arts and Technology Department

In November 2019, our ACES students from James Hubert Blake, John F. Kennedy, Wheaton, Clarksburg and Watkins Mill high schools were introduced to the Media Arts/Technology Department by participating in special MCTV broadcast tapings, the MC radio booths, and an informative roundtable discussion all lead by Joanne Carl, Professor, TVRA & Broadcast Media Production Coordinator.



## MC PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PRODUCTION OF "AS YOU LIKE IT"

Montgomery College's Personalized "pre-production" roundtable discussion with faculty of the Performing Arts Department, followed by an invitation to attend the MC Performing Arts Series production (with MC college students) of "As you Like It".

In late February, 2020, those students interested in the performing arts program from Rockville High School were welcomed to a pre-performance tour and roundtable discussion about the vast opportunities in the performing arts - from costuming, set designing, backstage technicians, and directing. They were then treated to a performance of "As You Like It" at the Parilla Center performed by our very talented MC college students in their Performing Arts Series production. Special Bravos and thanks to Dr. Frank Trezza, Dean of the Visual, Performing, Media Arts Department; Lisa Carrier Baker, Professor of Voice, Artistic Director for Summer Dinner Theatre; and Ken Yatta Rogers, Professor of Theatre, and Coordinator of MC's theatre program who made this evening so special!



*As we all know, our Arts & Culture 2019-2020 program's momentum was abruptly muted by the abrupt devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in March 2020. We had so many more plans secured for our ACES student's visits to the NMAAHC, attendance to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra dress rehearsal, and 100 free tickets for our families to attend "Beauty and the Beast" by our dear and talented friends and students at Strathmore Music Center's Young Artists of America (YAA).*

*We look forward with anticipation to continue our dedication to nurturing the vast creativity of our ACES students to participate in the Arts in the future...but now must keep the safety of our students paramount.*