Now in its second year, the 202 Arts & Music Festival is a multi-faceted event with over twelve hours of continuous activities on multiple stages, featuring over 100 visual and performing artists. This vibrant, family-friendly festival celebrating visual arts, performance art and interactive cultural activities is presented as part of 202Creates.

An initiative of Mayor Muriel Bowser, 202Creates highlights the artists, makers and entrepreneurs who contribute to the city's creative economy. Led by the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities (CAH) and the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME), 202Creates engages residents through events and activities that feature the various talents of the DC creative community.

Visit www.202Creates.com to learn more.
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ARTISTS BIOS: PERFORMING ARTS
BATALÁ WASHINGTON, DC

Samba Reggae
www.batalawashington.com

Batalá Washington, DC is an all-women samba reggae percussion band, performing the syncopated rhythms and dynamic dance movements typical of northeastern Brazil, rooted in African traditional drumming.

The mission of Batalá Washington is twofold: to empower women through the experience of drumming, and expose communities to Brazil’s rich music and culture. In addition, as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, all band proceeds go towards community programming and providing instruments and costumes to members, all of whom are volunteers.
Black Alley has been pushing the art of music to its rhythmic limits for some time now. Determined to create a unique musical elixir, Black Alley has taken the finest ingredients of hip-hop, rock, and go-go to create their own genre-bending sound called “Hood Rock.” Each band member surrenders to the union of sounds, making each musician essential to the workability and funkability of the collective, known as Black Alley.

Black Alley is one of the most followed, trendsetting and sought-after music groups hailing from the nation’s capital. With endorsements from national recording artists such as Grammy Award nominee Raheem DeVaughn; Hip Hop standouts Common, Big Krit & Wale; and legendary musicians Doug E. Fresh and Sheila E, Black Alley is untouchable, striving to bring #HoodRock music to headphones and speakers all over the world.
BlaqueStone is a Neo Soul/Hip-Hop couple, with an outstanding live band, who has an great influence of the smooth sounds of the 90’s and beyond. “From notable styles and a stunning stage presence, BlaqueStone’s music is standing out as an entity all its own. The quality of art, music, and dedication put forth by this industrious couple is definitely making a mark and impact on the music community” is one of the many reviews of BlaqueStone.

The couple consists of rapper/singer/song writer and producer Nyne (Marcus Webster). The other half is singer/ rapper/song writer Cortney Knight, known as Queen. BlaqueStone has traveled up and down the east coast and has received a positive response.

They also do outreach. This associates with the outreach they do in their music. Homeless is a major issue, just as much as injustice and a commercialized system. The couple was able to speak about this issue live with Revolt TV in New York City. With reviews and positive feedback from One Love Massive, SoFar Sounds, AfroPunk, TeamBack Pack and their video being accepted to BET soul channel, BlaqueStone is a strong and positive force moving. BlaqueStone has committed their music, time and lives to promoting reality, good music and love.
Callaloo is an independent children’s media brand, co-created by Washington, DC artists and entrepreneurs, Marjuan Canady and Nabeeh Bilal. Callaloo promotes cultural understanding and social awareness education for children ages 3-7 through books, animation, live performance, digital content, games and arts education tools. Callaloo aims to empower all children to take pride in themselves and expand their horizons. Since 2012, Callaloo has self-published three children’s books, internationally distributed their digital animated series and performed their live puppet shows worldwide.

Chopteeth is a 12-piece Afrofunk orchestra exploring the common groove between the funkiest, most hip-shakin’ West African and American popular music on the planet.

The core of the Chopteeth sound is Afrobeat: a big-band funk invented by Fela Kuti in 1970’s Nigeria. Afrobeat is a spicy stew of modern jazz, Yoruba tribal music and burning, James Brown-inspired rhythms. Chopteeth’s sets feature original compositions along with updates of African dance classics, all while remaining true to the spirit of the music and its message. Band members step to the mic to serve up lyrics in a total of seven different languages.

Chopteeth, the “Crazy Fools of Afrobeat”, called for rhythmic regime change on the band’s award-winnning 2008 debut CD, with its dynamic original songs. And in 2010, the band’s live CD unleashed the power of Africa’s Golden Age, featuring choice selections from Ghana, Senegal, Congo, Guinea, and Nigeria. Since 2007, the members of the Washington Area Music Association (WAMMIE) have selected Chopteeth for a total of thirteen Wammie Awards, including Artist of the Year, Debut CD of the Year, World Music CD (twice) and World Music Group (for the last nine years in a row).
DAVE TAUER
MUSIC GROUP

Alternative Rock

Dave Tauler plays 31 instruments, speaks Korean, Spanish and English, and has won Amateur Night at the World Famous Apollo Theater in both the 2010 and 2011 seasons. Dave is also the 2007 Grand Prize and Lennon Award Winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest for R&B. In 2009, Dave was a winner of Washington FOX 5’s DMV Idol, earning him and his band a feature on FOX Morning News.

Dave Tauler set out in 2012 to challenge musical and cultural boundaries. Dave Tauler Music Group (DTMG) became the first American band to professionally cover Kpop. DTMG’s neo-soul cover of Kpop super group 2NE1’s “Lonely” gained international attention over YouTube earning Dave a trip to Korea and a featured performance on Star King, one of Korea’s number-one rated Saturday night TV shows — broadcasted in September of 2012. In December of 2012, Dave returned to the Apollo Theater with DTMG to headline the theater’s sound stage and become the first band to perform Kpop there in the Apollo’s 78-year history. DTMG has performed at venues such as KORUS Festival, Korean Cultural Center, Strathmore, Gibson Guitar Showroom, Howard Theatre, and more.

Recently, Dave Tauler had the honor of performing the national anthem for members of congress at the Cannon House Office Building and regularly performs the national anthem for the Washington Wizards at the Verizon Center.
Eli Lev is a folk singer-songwriter. His latest two-album release, All Roads East and Way Out West, imaginatively and intrepidly connect generations with a body of work that's irresistibly uplifting and emotionally resonant.

Eli’s infectious musicality, commitment to deep grooves, and his charisma foster an immersive experience for the audience that moves bodies and hearts. The artist says: “The most meaningful thing for me is being able to express what I always felt about humanity and community through my music. I want to bring people in, make them feel special, and break down the walls that keep us apart.”

Eli performs with a full band, featuring DC all-star musician drummer Michael Miraglia; wunderkind bassist Bojan Novevski from Macedonia; and mandolin player Corey Thuro who maintains a folk grounding while exploring the brave tones provided by his expansive pedal board. In performance, Eli uses his music to captivate the audience as if each song were its own story.
ELENA & LOS FULANOS

Latin Music
elenalosfulanos.com

Elena & Los Fulanos is a bilingual folk rock band based in Washington, DC. Since 2011, they have been making music that ranges from twangy, heartbreak-themed folk Americana, to soothing, introspective, violin-infused Latin rock. Influenced by front-woman Elena Lacayo’s experience growing up in two cultures (Nicaraguan and American), Elena & Los Fulanos creates a world where language and tradition meld with catchy melodies and inventive chords to enhance appreciation for diversity in an increasingly multi-cultural world.

Their debut album, Miel Venenosa, earned a Washington Area Music Association (WAMMIE) nomination for Best Latin Recording in 2014. They are currently working on their second album, Volcán.
FOOTWORKS
PERCUSSIVE DANCE ENSEMBLE

Americana music / percussive dance

Since 1979, Footworks has delighted audiences of all ages and cultures in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan and Finland. Footworks thrilled audiences as guest artists in the London run of Riverdance and was honored to be one of eight groups chosen to represent American culture in Japan on a tour with the Smithsonian Institution.

Footworks, considered pioneers in bringing traditional Americana music and percussive dance to the concert stage, has performed in such venues as The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Wolftrap Farm Park for the Performing Arts and many more.

Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble known previously as The Fiddle Puppet Dancers, are renowned for respecting the integrity of traditional dance while gaining recognition for it as a performing art. In search of the origins of Southern Appalachian clogging and flatfooting, Footworks went on to collaborate with and enlist masters of many forms of traditional percussive dance, including Irish, Scottish, English, Quebeccois, Cape Breton, South African and African American. This resulted in their unique theater productions presented nationally and internationally, receiving great reviews and enthusiastic responses from audiences and presenters.
Grupo Folklórico de Panamá en Washington, DC (GRUFOLPAWA) was founded by Mrs. Olga Small during the summer of 1976. Her inspiration was drawn from her pride and love for the beauty of her heritage and the desire to share this beauty with everyone. Her idea was conceived as a spin-off of the Latin American Festival of Washington, DC that continues today as “FIESTA DC”. Her dream sprouted more than 15 other volunteer folkloric groups throughout the United States. GRUFOLPAWA is committed to sharing the culture of Panamá and propagating its folklore through music and dance while displaying the warmth of the Panamanian spirit.

During its 40 years of existence, GRUFOLPAWA continues to surpass its audience’s expectations with its array of colorful authentic attire, enthusiastic dancers, vibrant music, and contagious atmosphere, inspiring others to learn about Panamá and its people. GRUFOLPAWA’s genuine and alluring performances have received innumerable accolades over the years. The group’s artistic exhibitions have taken them to major cities on the East Coast of the United States, as well as Tennessee, Texas, and California. Through GRUFOLPAWA, Panama’s essences have been represented in festivals, parades, churches and government activities, private parties, and international community functions.
Handsome Hound is a folk rock band formed in 2015 by Cuchulain Kelly and Claire Daviss in Washington, DC. The band is rounded out by Allison Rosenberg on trumpet, Andrew Northcutt on drums and percussion, and Ben Schifman on bass guitar. Their lyric-driven music has its roots in folk, rock, pop, Americana, country, and bluegrass — think Johnny & June Carter Cash meet Shovels & Rope. With the addition of upbeat rhythms, jazz flares, and New Orleans-style horn lines, Handsome Hound offers a medley of sounds and styles that could only be found in the melting pot of the nation’s capital.

In March 2016, the band released its debut EP, *I Guess We’re Doing Alright*, which was described as “the musical version of 60 mg of Prozac” by WAMU’s Bandwidth. Handsome Hound brings the same level of energy to shows, leading to a rapidly growing following in the DC area.
Howard "Kingfish" Franklin, Jr. brings you music for the soul. He is a professional drummer, musician, and bandleader given the nickname "Kingfish" by his late great mentor, Calvin Jones. He has performed with many prominent artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Jackie and Rene’ McLean, Benny Golson, Curtis Fuller, Slide Hampton, Fred Wesley, Robin Eubanks, and Delfeayo Marsalis.

His ensembles are ranging from trios to big bands, including strings, horns, and percussion; deejays, and vocalists and cover all musical genres including Jazz, R&B, Blues, Gospel, Rock, Pop, Reggae, Latin, and Classical.
I LOVE DANCE

K-POP

I LOVE DANCE (ILD) was founded in 2006 by MJ Choi. Currently, K-POP dance classes are offered in Manhattan and Flushing, where classes are filled with fun-loving, diverse group of K-POP fans that shares a very special bond. A truly unique characteristic of I LOVE DANCE is that despite its predominant K-POP focus, more than 90% of its membership is non-Korean. Truly, this has been a testament to the growing popularity of the K-POP culture, as well as the unifying characteristic of dance as an art form. At ILD, classmates of various backgrounds meet not only to learn dance, but also to socialize and embrace each other’s uniqueness. Currently, I LOVE DANCE has about 250-300 members enrolled in dance class.

Since it’s founding, I LOVE DANCE has experienced rapid growth in membership and has become the most popular K-POP dance class/crew in New York City. Classes are fun, energetic and exciting, and the club also hosts other unique activities, such as: KPOP dance cover music videos, Flash-Mobs, Special workshops, ILD Annual Showcase, etc. At the heart of it all, I LOVE DANCE is simply a collection of really cool people who truly create a warm and friendly environment.
The JoGo Project is an ensemble of musicians who all come from different backgrounds to create a fresh fusion sound that appeals both to the mind and the body. Founded in 2014 by Washingtonian and Chuck Brown alumnus Elijah Balbed, the group features several other DC natives, as well as Howard University grads from different places who now call DC their home. Currently working on their debut EP, The JoGo Project brings audiences of all kinds to their feet, so if you come to a show be ready to move and groove! And don’t forget, Jazz + Go-Go = JoGo!
JESSICA JOHN (VAUDOUX)

Aerial Dance
www.vaudoux.com
onewomancircus.com

Jessica John is a DC-based circus artist, coach, and choreographer who specializes in corde lisse (rope), dance trapeze, and footjuggling. An ardent movement researcher, she was a competitive athlete, a teenage “rockette”, and a ski bum, before finding a passion for circus. Jessica’s work challenges gender norms through displays of virtuosic strength and flexibility and rejects narrative structures as a primary humanizing device. The empathetic space she creates for performers combines with compelling visuals to make award-winning collaborative and solo works.

A sixth generation New Orleanian, Jessica is the creative and managing director of Vaudoux, a circus entertainment company. She is also the co-creator of Steal A Step, a postmodern circus company based in DC.
KANKOURAN WEST AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY

African Dance
www.kankouran.org

KanKouran West African Dance Company was founded for the purpose of contributing to the extension of the arts by introducing the essence of traditional African dancing and drumming to audiences; enriching American cultural heritage through the integration of authentic West African performing arts; and promoting intercultural understanding through education and the performing arts.

KanKouran was formed in 1983, in Washington, DC, by Artistic Director Assane Konte and former Director of Music, Abdou Kounta, who grew up together in Dakar, Senegal. After many months of recruiting, training and performing at local venues, the Company presented its first full-length concert, “A Visit to Africa” in 1985. And with that performance, an institution was born. Although many dancers and drummers have come and gone over the years, KanKouran continues under the leadership of its co-founder and Artistic Director, Assane Konte. The Company’s success is perhaps best judged by its longevity and by the large number of company and community members who are involved in diverse academic, professional, and entrepreneurial pursuits, and who credit KanKouran with instilling within them the discipline, pride, and commitment to self and community which have made their life pursuits meaningful as well as successful.
KOKAYI ISSA

Hip Hop

Artist; innovator; educator; Grammy nominated artist entrenched in the ethos of hip hop culture, yet colors outside of the lines of genre and tradition. Chief ideator and co-curator of “BeatsNBeans”: a discussion on creativity and re-imagining creative spaces, Kokayi continues to chase the origins of creativity and innovation. He is a recipient of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Artist Fellowship, Sister Cities Grant and Artist Grant. His music can be found in MTV's Rebel Music series, Kevin Hart’s Laugh At My Pain, A L’arrache (Canal +) and many others. He is currently faculty at the School of Improvisational Music in NY; guest collaborator with international arts program, OneBeat; and works as a music emissary with the US State Department.

“My work is an amalgamation of my life experiences, as filtered through the lens of DC; Go-Go and the music of the African diaspora overall.”
LAUREN WHITE

Soul, Jazz, Rock,
Hip-Hop, Gospel

Lauren’s experience ranges over a span of 20 years singing across the country and abroad. In 2001, she obtained her degree in Music Business with a concentration in Jazz Voice from Howard University. While there, she was able to incorporate her R&B foundation with her new jazz education. This gave her the confidence and support she needed to step out and become a solo artist. Since then, she has appeared at all the major venues in the Washington DC area and has written and collaborated with both local and national artists. She has also performed background vocals for Shante’ Moore, Kenny Latimore, Skip Pruitt and Anthony Hamilton just to name a few. Her debut solo project titled, The Biography, released in 2009, gives the listener a peek into all the feelings and emotions that make up this eclectic performer.

Being a lover of all genres, Lauren’s core is R&B with a fusion of Soul, Jazz, Rock, Hip-Hop, and Gospel. Some have described her voice as a “Sassy butterfly-wing voice. A bell ring with true clarity,” and “Powerful, with amazing control and multiple octave range.” However, the resounding agreement is that in each performance, Lauren leaves it all on the stage. Her presence is dynamic and commanding, guaranteed to keep the listener engaged, feeling like they are a part of her experience.
The Fly By Light (FBL) Ambassadors deliver the unbridled power of hope and youthful wisdom through their stunning live performances. As the most artistically accomplished graduates of One Common Unity’s Fly By Light Youth Development Program, the Fly By Light Ambassadors take the stage as agents of change, weaving together original music, spoken word poetry, and dance to shed light on the issues they face as young DC residents. Through their dynamic performances, Fly By Light Ambassadors raise up heartfelt calls for social and economic justice, environmental stewardship, compassion, unity, and an end to violence; leaving audiences feeling energized to carry on the work of making our city and our world a better place.

The Fly By Light Ambassadors ensemble is a select group of 4-8 deeply talented and experienced participants and graduates of the Fly By Light youth program. Members of the FBL Ambassadors ensemble develop experience as professional artists, enhance their artistic ability individually and collectively, and promote positive change and healing in our communities and around the world as representatives of the much wider One Common Unity and Fly By Light community.
Guts. Glory. Soul. Sweet Yonder is a fired-up, all-women, bluegrass band — think Steel Drivers meets the Carter Family. They deliver a soulful punch in every performance with straight up instrumental attitude and truly inspiring vocal harmonies. The driving mix of banjo, mandolin, guitar, fiddle, and bass combined with powerful vocals makes this a show you don’t want to miss.

From compelling originals to masterful covers of the great bluegrass classics, Sweet Yonder crafts a show tailored to each audience. They even include their own spin on American classic rock.

Recommended If You Like: Rhonda Vincent, Della Mae, Earls of Leicester, The Carter Family, Uncle Earl, Dolly Parton, The Steel Drivers, Emily Lou Harris
Rare Essence, Washington’s premier Go-Go band going on four decades has built a devoted fan base that spans multiple generations.

Originated in the mid ’70s by the late Godfather of Go-Go, Chuck Brown, Go-Go links songs together over percussion breakdowns—a raw, non-stop party groove fueled by congas, cowbells and timbales, with call and response interactions that obliterated divisions between a band that doesn’t stop playing and audience that won’t stop dancing.

Rare Essence has always been the city’s most popular and enduring Go-Go band. Formed by four students at a Southeast Washington Catholic school during the mid-’70s, the band was kept on track by several no-nonsense moms and mentored by the late Godfather of Go-Go, Chuck Brown. Dubbed “The Wickedest Band Alive” by rap pioneer Doug E. Fresh, Rare Essence remains the most consistently combustible live bands honed through countless performances in the Washington region, working the local and regional concert circuit full-throttle, performing nearly 150 shows annually. Go-Go thrives live and that’s where reputations, and legacies, are cemented.
Reverb is an award-winning Washington-area a cappella vocal group who sings Gospel, R&B and pop. Reverb has performed at the National Cherry Blossom Festival and along the East Coast. The group has toured East and Southern Africa, the Persian Gulf and the Caribbean. Each school year, Reverb performs BLACK HISTORY IN HARMONY, an educational program the group created for K-12 students. Reverb also teaches choral music at elementary schools in DC.
“My art aims to traverse the distance between traditional and contemporary, East and West, planned and spontaneous. As an American of Indian descent, my dance and music represent a hybrid of my two cultures - an effort to preserve the ancient cultures of India by interpreting them in a modern language and context. My artistic practice means, to me, acting as a conduit for the beauty of India’s cultural arts in the West. I consider myself on the fringes between two worlds, floating somewhere in between, trying to act as a bridge between them.” ~Rimi Basu

Rimi Basu, an Indian-American singer and dancer, represents a unique and versatile addition to performing arts in the USA. An ex-medical school student who defied Indian-American societal expectations to run away to India and become an artist, she has since completed two music albums, multiple dance projects, and toured around the world with her unique artistic vision. Trained in the several Indian classical dance forms including Odissi and Kathak, as well as Sufi whirling and belly dance, her unique selling proposition is the fusion of traditional and contemporary styles in her live performances. Rimi’s passion and purpose is in the preservation of world arts through innovative and experimental renditions.
THAYLOBLEU

Grunge/Punk Rock

Thaylobleu is a DC rocked band based in Anacostia. The group was founded by artist Terence Nicholson in 2010, and performs in the DMV, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Their sound has been described as “Classic rock with Punk Sensibilities”. Thaylobleu is currently promoting their latest album entitled, “Oscars and Jellyfish”. The band consists of Bill Vaughan, bass; Durl Purry, Guitar; Joe Hall, drums and frontman Terence Nicholson, baritone guitar.
The National Hand Dance Association (NHDA), is a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization formed in Washington, DC in 1994 and incorporated in 1996. The Mission of NHDA is to “Promote, Educate and Preserve” the art form known as Hand Dance. Hand Dance is a contemporary, improvisational form of swing style partner dancing which has been a traditional art form in the District for 60 years.

Hand Dance is the Official Dance of Washington, DC by Resolution of the DC Council. Through its Community Service, the organization has received special recognition for its Hand Dance presentations “Hand Dance: The Dance of The District”. NHDA members showcase the evolution of hand dance styles from the 1950s to today. The dancers also engage the audience in doing the fun freestyle dances of the 1960s.
The Thomas Kitchen + Friends is an ensemble of enthusiastic jazz musicians who live in and around the metro area featuring music from the great American Songbook and beyond. They can be any size from a duo to a quintet. They love to swing, sprinkle in some Latin vibes, and turn it up with some Bop, but they always keep it in the groove. Whether you’re enjoying a meal, relaxing with a drink, or chatting with some friends, The Thomas Kitchen + Friends can create the perfect ambiance and let you relax and enjoy the experience.
The Welders is a Washington DC playwrights’ collective whose mission is to establish an evolving, alternative platform for play development and production, putting the playwright at the center of playmaking and community building. The Founding Welders determined that over the first three years of the organization’s existence — from 2013 through 2016 — they would write, develop, and produce five new plays, one by each playwright, and then hand over the keys of the entire operation to a new cohort of artists. And they did, receiving the 2016 John Aniello Award for Best Emerging Theatre Company.

The organization is now in the hands of the second cohort of generative artists, Welders ‘2.0.’ They have already begun to build upon the strong legacy of the Founding Welders with the first year of productions, Stephen Spotswood’s *Girl in the Red Corner* and Alexandra Petri’s *To Tell My Story: A Hamlet Fanfic."

*Girl In the Red Corner* received the 2017 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play and was described by Maryland Theatre Guide as, “a truly captivating story of physical and emotional strength.” The next production, Deb Sivigny’s *Hello My Name Is...* is opening in November in Takoma Park at Rhizome. Applications for Welders 3.0 will open soon.
Nigerian Canadian Singer-Songwriter Artist TolumiDE (pronounced toe-lu-mee-day), describes her music as “Suya Soul” a phrase she coined herself to describe the fusion of Contemporary R&B with African Pop music. Suya, being a popular Spicy Grilled Shish kebab (skewered meat) indigenous to Nigeria and some West Africa regions, represents the alternative music flavour she offers her listeners. Her debut album, My Love reflects the term as a sonic cross-cultural blend of World Afro-pop Inspiration and Neo-Soul with mainly English lyrics and the touch of African Spice in the form of native language and rhythm.

Influenced by acts within R&B, Gospel and Classic Soul genres such as Sade, Stevie Wonder, and Africa Pop stars as, Onyeka Owenu and Christy Essien Igokwe, TolumiDE, whose name translates as “Thank God” in Yorùbá, has evolved as a female vocalist with audience-grabbing performances, rave reviews and multiple awards. Her love album is available at TolumiDEmusic.com
A new and exotic musical venture, Trifilio Tango Trio (TTT) features innovative programming and virtuosic performances. Their repertoire is almost entirely comprised of original Argentinian tango pieces: brand new, yet true to tango tradition. Led by Emmanuel Trifilio, Argentinian composer and bandoneonist, the DC based group also features Devree Lewis on cello and various star guitarists.

Founded in 2015, TTT has since recorded and produced two albums of original music: Original (2016) and Estaciones (2017). Milonga de la Ausencia from Original was nominated for Best Original Score as the soundtrack to the short film Vuelve con nosotros (Cabezahueca films) in the MOFF Film Festival in Milan.

Praised for their intimate and passionate performances, the refined group plays in small and large venues, locally and internationally; 2016/2017 appearances include venues in DC/MD/VA, New York, San Francisco, Boulder and Denver, Austin and Houston, Miami, Havana, and Buenos Aires.
VAVA UNITED SCHOOL OF SAMBA

Samba Dance
http://www.vavasamba.org/

Vava United School of Samba is DC’s only Brazilian Carnival-style performance group. “Vava” is the shorthand name for Washington, DC by its local Brazilian community, and “United” to state how it has brought together many different sources of talent from across the DMV, and beyond. They were established in 2015, when several local dancers and drummers convened to create a group that could offer a complete Rio-style Carnival experience, following the model of a traditional Brazilian samba school.

Traditional Brazilian samba school includes a Bateria (drum corps); Passista dancers (in feathers and bikinis); Baianas, revered for their wisdom and representing the strength and power of women; Malandros, male dancers who bring energetic element to the show; the Commissao de Frente, or “front guard”, who displays different characters and tells a story; and a team of Frevo dancers, a style that hails from the northern city of Recife, Brazil. Altogether, the school offers an experience to the DMV that may only otherwise be witnessed in Rio de Janeiro, the heart of Brazilian Carnival. The members are a true representation of the diversity of Washington, DC, all sharing a passionate love of Brazilian music and dance.
VERA OYÉ YAA-ANNA

Storyteller

Vera Oyé Yaa-Anna, affectionately known as Auntie Oyé, is a Liberian-born acclaimed master storyteller who transports her audiences to West Africa through “imaginary” interactive storytelling.

She is the Executive Director of Oyé Palaver Hut, an organization promoting health, wellness and the cultural arts. She tours nationally and internationally presenting her dynamic programs that include laughter yoga, dance and the traditional djembe drum. These energetic cultural educator’s performances are designed to celebrate diversity. She is a two-time DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities Fellowship Program recipient.
VIJAI NATHAN

Comedian
http://www.vijaicomedy.com/

Vijai Nathan is one of the leading Indian-American comedians making people laugh across America and internationally too!

You can catch her on an episode of Netflix’s Lady Dynamite starring comedy legend Maria Bamford, and in the film Meet the Patels, an Oprah Magazine pick that Variety calls “Sharp” and “Riotously Funny.”

Vijai was honored to be chosen to open for Comedy Legend Arsenio Hall in November @ the DC Improv, she’s appeared on NPR’s “Snap Judgment” July 2014 & April 2015. In February 2013, CBS Online called Vijai one of the best comics in DC.

Vijai, also a featured storyteller on NPR’s Snap Judgment and several Story District shows, will be performing a combination of stand-up and comedic personal stories.
WILD THE WATERS performs interpretations of American music, including: new and vintage country, rock, roots, rockabilly, jazz, folk songs, and oldies — all with acoustic guitar accompaniment. Their passion is to entertain by evoking authenticity of musical style and genre through classic songs and melodies.

Raised in Nashville, Tennessee, Lexi Jackson has never left her country roots and enjoys every minute of performing on stage with Wild the Waters. She is the lead singer in Wild the Waters and also plays rhythm guitar. Lexi started her career as a classically trained opera singer majoring in Music at the University of Virginia and has since performed in operas in Italy and musicals in New York City.

Mike Conner is the lead guitarist with Wild the Waters. He is a guitarist with broad musical interests and experience performing in both the midwest and DC area since the late 1990s. Mike has performed, written, and recorded in a variety of bands from brassy ska through alt-country folk to song-driven indie rock.
ARTISTS BIOS:
PUBLIC ART
CRAIG KRAFT

DC! / Neon light sculpture
craigkraftstudio.com
@craigkraftstudio

Over the past 35 years Craig Kraft has gained national recognition in creating original works of art that advance the techniques he has developed working with neon and the figure and, more recently, rolled aluminum. He is one of only a handful of light artists in the world who bends his own glass and is respected for his ability to precisely manipulate the figure and light to capture his own artistic vision. He achieved his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is presently a faculty member of the Smithsonian Institution Studio Arts Program. His sculptures have been featured in over 120 exhibits throughout the U.S.A. (17+ solo) and he has been a leader of the International Sculpture Conference twice. Recently, Kraft has been commissioned to create monumental rolled aluminum light sculptures for both Montgomery County Maryland and P.F.A. for the Downtown Silver Spring Development as well as for Anacostia Arts Center and The Arlington Arts Center in Arlington, Virginia. He was invited to exhibit at both The Busan Biennale Art Festival 2004 and Hermandades Escultoricas 2005 in Merida Yucatan Mexico. Kraft Resides at 1239 Good Hope Rd SE, Washington, D.C. U.S.A. His work can be seen at his home gallery and studio, a historic building in Anacostia. His pieces are for sale and he is available for commissioned artwork.
ERIC B. RICKS

Mandala / Interactive mural
@versatilevice

Originally from Liberia, Eric B. Ricks is a celebrated muralist, sustainable arts creative, and founder of Phoenix Fine Arts & Design. Always evolving, Ricks is a focused and expressive student of the arts. Embracing photography early on, Ricks quickly developed as a natural creative, gravitating to the fine arts where he explored traditional canvas painting with oil and acrylic mediums. After briefly studying film photography in college, Ricks became immersed in the culture and aesthetics of the aerosol street art scene. His passion for painting on canvase, crossed paths with the hip-hop and graffiti culture. Soon he began painting along the railroad tracks retaining walls (by his home) in Montgomery County, easily transitioning into a muralist, conceptualizing and installing large scale graffiti art projects.

In 2014 Ricks creative journey continued with a seven month trip across the country, painting murals along the way (Portland, Las Vegas, Cleveland and St. Louis), leaving his signature ‘humming bird’ and expanding his body of work as a muralist. Ricks continues to raise the bar with his murals, selected numerous times to produced commissioned work for both public and private entities. He was the first place winner of the Illuminated Village Mural painting competition.
Pat Goslee is a Washington, DC-based artist who incorporates ideas of chaos vs order and evolution vs entropy into layers of patterns and color in her paintings that depict energetic states. She has exhibited widely in commercial venues, universities, alternative art spaces and art fairs. Ms. Goslee was awarded a 2017 Visual Artist Fellowship grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Her work is included in the permanent collections of the National Institutes of Health, the Children’s National Medical Center, the US Embassy in Ethiopia, the US Embassy in Nepal, The John A. Wilson Building City Hall Collection, the Union of Concerned Scientists, as well as in many private collections. Her video art is featured in the textbook *Art 101: Understanding Visual Images in Our World*, and her paintings are included in the publications *100 Artists of Washington, DC* and *100 Artists of the Mid-Atlantic*.

She has served on the Board of Directors for the Washington Arts Museum and the DC Arts Center, and the Advisory Committee for Hillyer Art Space. She holds an MFA from Catholic University and a BFA from the University of Georgia.
Michael William Kirby is a leading public artist and street painter from Baltimore, MD, USA. He has nearly 20 years of experience creating permanent and temporary public art pieces around the world. Mr. Kirby has been commissioned and contracted since the early 1990's for his unique and original view of anamorphic or forced perspective street paintings or more commonly known as 3D street art, 3D street painting, 3D chalk art, ephemeral art, or 3D sidewalk art.

This technique of using sharp angles and adjusting the image to the viewers point of view was adapted from Kirby's time while creating sets and props for Opera companies and Movie/TV sets in Italy. The technique of forced perspective and 3 dimensional illusions have been around in theatre since the ancient Greeks. Mr. Kirby was one of the first artists to adapt this technique with his own unique style to public art.

Today Michael Kirby is considered a master in the art form and was the first American artist to have won the title of Master Street Painter in all the major European Street Painting festivals. He has spread the art form to numerous locations that include Germany, Colombia, Mexico, Italy, Canada, Guatemala, England, Ireland, France, various locations in the USA and many others.
Dan Steinhilber (born 1972, Oshkosh, Wisconsin) lives and works in Washington, DC. Steinhilber has presented solo exhibitions at museums including: The Hirshhorn Museum of Art and Sculpture Garden (Washington, DC), The Contemporary Art Museum Houston (Houston, TX), The Baltimore Museum of Art (Baltimore, MD), The Mattress Factory Art Museum (Pittsburgh, PA), The Cheekwood Museum of Art, (Nashville, TN), The Brigham Young University Museum of Art (Provo, UT) and Socrates Sculpture Park (Queens, NY) The Contemporary Art Museum (Raleigh NC) The Kreeger Museum (Washington DC). His work has been included in a variety of group exhibitions in museums such as MassMOCA (North Adams, MA), ArtSpace (New Haven, CT), D.U.M.B.O Art Center (Brooklyn, NY), the Des Moines Art Center (Des Moines, Iowa) the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art (Omaha, NE), The Fields Sculpture Park, Omi International Arts Center (Ghent, NY), the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University (Ithaca, NY), the South Eastern Center of Contemporary Art (Winston-Salem, NC), The Walters Museum (Baltimore MD), Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (Bentonville AK), The Palazzo delle Papesse Centro Arte Contemporanea in Siena Italy, and the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. Steinhilber is a recipient of an Artist Fellowship from the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities, a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptures Grant, and a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship.
Open Air: Interpreted / Local artist exhibition
curated by Rose Glaser Fredrick
rosefredrick.com

Rose Glaser Fredrick, curator and coordinator for OPEN AIR: INTERPRETED has worked in the visual arts for nearly thirty years. Her passion and dedication to artists coupled with a degree in business marketing from California Polytechnic has given her a unique vision for developing successful exhibitions that inspire, educate and enrich the lives of patrons and artists alike.