



COOK FOUNDATION

celebrating the arts for 20 years
1999 - 2019



We nurture and sponsor the arts in Gloucester, Virginia, and respond to the artistic dreams and needs of the community we serve. Lives touched by art and beauty are happier, healthier lives.

MISSION STATEMENT

Contents

- 3 Letter from the President
- 4 History
- 5 Timeline
- 7 Partners
- 13 Gloucester Arts Festival
- 15 By The Numbers
- 17 Note From The Director
- 18 Thank You

Opposite Page, Front L to R: Jenny Crittenden, Adrienne Ryder-Cook Joseph, Rosie Crawford
Back L to R: Melanie Chambers Hartman, Carolyn Thompson Dudley, Karen Flowe, Mollie Stewart

Why Cook?

"I work with the Cook Foundation because I believe that art is such a powerful tool. The beauty of art can cut through all boundaries and speak directly to the soul, encouraging understanding, elevation, and delight."

-Karen Flowe

"As a practicing artist, it is fulfilling to see the beauty and prosperity growing in Gloucester and I am grateful to be working on the Cook Foundation Board with its mission to promote this energy through the arts."

-Carolyn Thompson Dudley

"Through the exciting work of the Cook Foundation we can make a big splash in our small community, touching hearts and minds. These ripples spread outward beyond our borders, making waves throughout the world. Such is the power of art!"

-Melanie Chambers Hartman

LETTER from the President



My love of the arts is a gift from my mother, who believed in the power of the arts. She was a sculptor, played the piano beautifully and was part of a chamber orchestra. I grew up watching her create sculptures and listening to her make music.

Over the past 20 years, I feel incredibly fortunate to have the joy and privilege of working with a wonderful board and amazing community members to bring the arts, in its many forms, to Gloucester. Looking back at our history, it has been an incredibly exciting journey. I am proud of what we have accomplished together. From the Beehives to the Chalkfest, to the Symphony under the Stars to our third annual Gloucester Arts Festival, these are remarkable achievements. I look forward to every Cook Foundation and Gloucester Arts Festival meeting to see our “what ifs?” become the “and thens”, as we imagine all the wonderful events we can and do make happen in our own backyard. Our theme is, “Why not Gloucester?”

With this theme in mind, the Cook Foundation seeks to offer opportunities to enjoy and experience the arts right here in our community by bringing artists to our Main Street and into our galleries, by offering music and theatre performances, and by creating artistic events for one and all to discover their inner artist. We believe in and support our local artistic community, its artists and the galleries, Arts on Main and the Stewart Gallery. We are delighted to work with our neighboring museums including the Chrysler Museum of Fine Arts, Peninsula Fine Arts Center and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The latter brought their new Artmobile to our town and shared with our residents original artworks in an innovative context. We are thrilled with the launch this year of our Artist in Residence program in coordination with Arts on Main bringing artists from near and far to encourage their creativity as they spend time in our exceptionally beautiful surroundings and share their joy and interpretation of life with our community.

Arts are our lifeline, responding to a basic human need for harmony, balance, and rhythm. They are the source of creativity, a means of expression and celebration. They enhance, inform, and reflect our world. “Art is when you hear a knocking from your soul- and you answer”. (Terri Guillments) We at the Cook Foundation have been answering for 20 years.

I look forward to every Cook Foundation and Gloucester Arts Festival meeting to see our ‘what ifs?’ become the ‘and thens’.

-Adrienne Ryder-Cook Joseph



COOK FOUNDATION

HISTORY

When Adrienne Ryder-Cook Joseph first came to Gloucester, Virginia, she was awestruck by the rural county's natural environment - its riverscape and landscapes. "It's all just breathtaking," she said. Yet despite the county's inspiring beauty, few cultural offerings existed at that time in Gloucester. To find art festivals, symphonies, art galleries, murals or art museums, residents had to travel to other communities such as Richmond or Norfolk. But it was hard to find it right at home in this community so rich with inspiration.

Enter the Cook Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit, privately funded organization founded in 1999, with a mission to nurture and sponsor the arts in Gloucester, Virginia. In its first two decades the philanthropic, community-oriented, foundation has enabled the fruition of artistic dreams of myriad creative individuals and groups.

It has brought an annual outdoor Virginia Symphony performance, the Beehive Project, Main Street Flower Baskets, Chalkfest, original theatre productions, scholarships and many other initiatives to enrich, benefit and diversify the art experience for everyone in the community. In addition, the foundation has gifted three murals located in the Courthouse area that each celebrate Gloucester's shared culture and heritage.

The Foundation has invested in the restoration of notable buildings in the community. Architecture is art; and the living space nourishes creativity and a sense of well-being.

It's helped bring artists to Gloucester through support of the Artists in Residency Program launched by Arts on Main in 2019. Acclaimed artists visit the community to share their expertise while creating works of art. By making Gloucester an art-friendly place, the Cook Foundation showcases our community as an interesting place to live --- to the artists, to art collectors, and to businesses that appreciate a quality of life that cannot be found elsewhere.

Perhaps most notably, working in partnership with Arts on Main, Stewart Gallery and many volunteers, the Foundation created the Gloucester Arts Festival, a month-long celebration held each year.

The Cook Foundation is also building an art collection for the benefit of the community and has recently purchased a Seward Johnson sculpture which is on permanent display on Main Street. All combined, the Cook Foundation's efforts, with its partnerships with the community and volunteers, has changed the game for Gloucester and in time, Adrienne said, will help "put Gloucester 'on the map' as an art-loving community."



“*Art is one of those few things that has many, many functions in a community. It is often a way to get people to pause and reflect on their lives and the lives of others and what's important and what is meaningful.*”

-Adrienne Ryder-Cook Joseph

Why not
Gloucester?



TIMELINE

Just some of the many...

Beehives
of Gloucester
First Community
Public Art Project



2001

Lampost Baskets
Beautification project along
Gloucester Main Street



2007-2019

Symphony
Under The Stars
Annual Free Outdoor
Concert



2007-2019

Trick or Treat
Kickstarted Annual Trick or Treat on Main
Street that continues today through the
Gloucester Main Street Association



2007-2011

2007-2010

2007

2008-2010

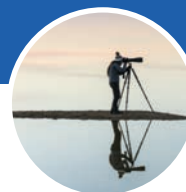
2008-2013



Chalkfest
Streetpainting Festival
for all ages and abilities



Gloucester Library Mural
"Life & Legend of Pocohantas"
by Michael Kirby



Picture My World
Photography contest
of Gloucester



Summer Art Camp
Art Camp for children
ages 6-12 (2 weeks)

“

Public art improves our quality of life by enhancing it and making our surroundings more attractive and thought provoking.

”

-Adrienne Ryder-Cook Joseph

Texaco Restoration

Funded the Purchase of the Historic 1930 Texaco Gas Station by the Fairfield Foundation



2010

Courthouse Players

Sponsored the Missoula Children's Theatre



2013-2019

Downtown Murals

“Narcissi” by Louise Jones



2018-2019

“Watermen, Waterfowl” by Amy Bartlett Wright



VMFA Art Mobile
State Partner



2019

2011-2019



Community Christmas Tree
Sponsor of Annual Christmas Tree

2011-2019



College Village Readers
Oral Reading Book Club

2015



Launch Gloucester
Awarded Start Up Capital for the Village Blacksmith

2017-2019



Seward Johnson Sculptures
Summer Long Exhibit of the “Familiar Series”



Gloucester Arts Festival
Month Long Arts Festival held each June

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

What does it mean to partner with the Cook Foundation?



When the Cook Foundation looks to partner with an organization or entity, it looks for a commitment to the mission of nurturing the arts and responding to our community's dreams.

When you partner with the Cook Foundation, you become a part of something greater than one person, one organization, or even one community.

An exciting success can happen from partnering with the Cook Foundation! Operated by a small and cohesive Board of Directors, the Foundation welcomes partnerships with others who have a vision and a passion for art, along with an understanding that we succeed by offering art to everyone.

The Cook Foundation promotes music, theater and art through partnerships including the Virginia Symphony, Arts at Abingdon, the Courthouse Players with Missoula Children's Theater, The Chrysler Museum, VMFA and many others.

The Cook Foundation welcomes enquiry from other groups with an idea for ways to nurture art that brings people together and uplifts the community. They can share impactful financial support and savvy for making things happen.



Arts on Main's collaboration with the Cook Foundation has been truly transformative for this young organization. The support from the Cook Foundation has allowed Arts on Main to mature from a volunteer led, start up organization to a thriving art center serving our community with exhibits, performances, classes, and a place for the arts to flourish.

-Betsy Henderson, Executive Director



*Betsy Henderson,
Executive Director*

The Cook Foundation has been instrumental in establishing Arts On Main as a premier art center. The Foundation, under the direction of Adrienne Ryder-Cook Joseph, realizes the importance that the arts have to the Gloucester community. A strong art program benefits residences and businesses alike. Gloucester is very fortunate to have the Cook Foundation and, of course, Arts On Main.

The Challenge grant and technical support provided by the Cook Foundation has helped secure new and increased funding and to develop the necessary staff and infrastructure to support the education and cultural programming. Most importantly, this partnership has created a dynamic, thriving arts scene for the region.

Arts on Main's partnership in the creation of the Gloucester Arts Festival will allow this exciting and innovative initiative to enhance the appreciation and experience of all the Arts for citizens of the region in new and creative ways.



AiR

“...to find inspiration in the people and in the beauty of this area while allowing the artists to work creatively at the highest levels.”

-Melanie Chambers Hartman, Director



Melanie Chambers Hartman,
Director

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

The creation of the Arts on Main Artist in Residency program is the realization of a dream of Adrienne Ryder-Cook Joseph. Sponsored by the Cook Foundation, the program is for invited artists of all disciplines from around the world. Artists enjoy deeply focused time to explore, experiment, and to work independently in the beautiful and serene setting of Goshen estate. While in residency, artists engage with the community adding excitement to our already vibrant arts scene.

Nominated artists from beyond Gloucester are invited to bring their creative energy to us! Our surroundings are exceptional in their beauty, tranquility and authenticity. By sharing our unique environment with artists from around the world, we hope to nourish those individual artists and to foster their connections with our community. Residencies happen throughout the year and for any creative discipline.

The purpose of the residency is twofold. To provide an immersive experience for emerging and established artists, alike, giving them time and space to challenge themselves to reach the next level of their artistic talent and experience. In addition, the

program is a catalyst for creativity and new ideas made accessible to the Gloucester community through events that are free and open to the public. “We look forward to encouraging these artists with the support of the local community and engagement through Arts on Main hosted events such as demonstrations, talks, workshops or performances,” said Betsy Henderson, Executive Director of Arts on Main.

“This exciting new program enables invited artists to bring creative energy to the Gloucester community.” said Melanie Chambers Hartman, director of the Artist in Residency program for Arts on Main.



“

I came to the Residency expecting to have the space and time to develop my art. I found this, but I also discovered I was embraced by an amazing, warm supportive community with a compelling history and a sense of place.

- Lynn Mehta
Artist in Residence
Alexandria, VA

”

...a dream come true

-Carole Böggeman Pierson

“

Being an artist-in-residence in Gloucester was the most rewarding and fascinating artistic experience. My work focuses in particular on the representation of rivers and seascapes; the stunning beauty of the Ware River could not have been more inspiring. Beyond having the precious opportunity to focus solely on my painting for two weeks, I particularly valued the chance to engage with local artists and with the wider community in Gloucester. Everyone was so welcoming and eager to share their ideas which made for the most enriching experience. In my view, community engagement is a unique and rewarding aspect of this particular residency. I'm exceptionally grateful to both the Cook Foundation and to Arts on Main for such a remarkable opportunity.

-Dr. Charlie Lee Potter, PhD
Artist in Residence
Oxford, England

”





We are very grateful for the Cook Foundation's support of VMFA on the Road, our re-imagined Artmobile for the 21st Century. With their investment, the Cook Foundation continues to nurture the arts in Gloucester while advancing the efforts of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to enrich the lives of all Virginians through the arts. This is the best form of partnership-one that furthers the missions of both organizations while serving a public good.



-Alex Nyerges, Director

VMFA's new state-of-the-art traveling museum and art studio, VMFA on the Road, launched in October 2018. Since then, it has traveled to all corners of Virginia, providing opportunity for residents of the Commonwealth to see and experience works of art from the VMFA collection up close.

Over 2800 visitors enjoyed the fine art from VMFA on the road. The art mobile was in Gloucester twice in 2019, first for the Daffodil Festival and then it returned for the Gloucester Arts Festival.

VMFA on the Road currently features the exhibition *How Far Can Creativity Take You: VMFA Fellowship Artists*, which includes works by the following acclaimed artists, all of whom have some connection to Virginia: Julien Binford, Ann Chenoweth, Esther Worden Day, Steven Fishman, Emmet Gowin, Sally Mann, Arthur Sawyers, Charles Sibley, and more.





“

It means everything to know that you're not alone. The Cook Foundation gave us the confidence to dream big, take risks, and make a difference in our community.

-Dave Brown

”

THE CAPE (The Center for Archeology, Preservation & Education) The Cook Foundation's support initiated the restoration and perpetual preservation of J. C. "Capt. Jack" Brown's Edge Hill Service Station. Through the Cook Foundation's transformative gift, we restored the 1930s landmark into a center for archaeology, preservation and education, providing hands-on learning opportunities for the community. Since opening in 2018, the CAPE has hosted dozens of events including speakers series, artifact washing days, and anchored events on Main Street for Christmas, Halloween, and the Daffodil Festival.





*The Middle Peninsula's
Premier Arts Festival*



GLOUCESTER ARTS FESTIVAL Residents and visitors alike aren't just saving one date each year to visit Gloucester. Thanks to the Gloucester Arts Festival, they're looking forward to and saving the entire month of June.

Presented by the Cook Foundation in partnership with Arts on Main, Stewart Gallery and many volunteers, the Gloucester Arts Festival launched in 2017 as an annual month-long celebration of the arts bringing together plein air painting, public art on display (some on loan from around the world and from private collections), music, workshops, demonstrations, artist gatherings, mural painting, and community paint events for artists of all experiences and ages.

The 2019 Festival, the 20th anniversary year of the Cook Foundation, kicked off and culminated with free community concerts, and featured an artist invitational where more than 20 artists from the mid-Atlantic region painted 'en plein air' at various scenic spots around the county, competing for more than \$20,000 in prize money.

Bi-annually, the Festival welcomes plein air artists to Gloucester. Plein air painting helps celebrate those places we all inherently recognize and with which we feel a connection. The vistas revive our senses, both grounding and uplifting us. They make our hearts soar with the joy of seeing what we love. An artist's fresh eye gently and unpretentiously reminds us to look up from our technological devices and take nourishment from the beautiful world in which we are so fortunate to live.

Art speaks to people in different ways and there is power in what it says. The Gloucester Arts Festival gives the entire community an opportunity to listen.

The Festival in 2019 also marked the year that 10 of internationally acclaimed Seward Johnson's painted bronze statues were on display throughout Gloucester Main Street as part of the event.

"That is the perfect illustration of making art available to all," Adrienne said. "Here, with these statues, children can crawl all over them. They can touch and feel and experience the art. You could never do that in a museum."

More than 5,000 people attend the festival throughout the month each year and the Cook Foundation anticipates it will continue to grow, furthering Gloucester's position as an arts destination and contributing to the economic vitality of the region.

We want to enhance the lives of Gloucester residents and visitors through the arts and through the shared beauty of the arts.

-Adrienne Ryder-Cook Joseph



SUPPORT BY THE NUMBERS

\$21K Scholarships



Annual & Renewable Scholarships Awarded

\$5K Art Education



Donations to Gloucester County Schools for Arts Programs

\$219K Public Art Investment



Includes Original Beehive Project, Pocahontas Mural, Seward Johnson Sculptures 2018 & 2019, Daffodil Mural 2018, Watermen Mural 2019 & Purchase of Permanent Seward Johnson Sculpture for Main Street

\$43K statewide Art Investments



VMFA on the Road – Art Mobile, Donations or sponsorships of regional and state arts organizations.

\$303K Symphony



Annual Symphony Under the Stars Outdoor Free Family Concert

\$38K Community Donations



Various donations to Local Organizations, Arts Entrepreneur Development, and Co-Op Marketing

\$130K Artist in Residency



Fundraising to Launch & Sustain Arts on Main's Artist in Residency Program

\$138K Gloucester Arts Festival



Presenting Sponsor of the Month Long Festival Each Year in June

\$165K Community Arts Events



Includes Cook Initiated Events & Support of Other Community Events

\$214K Lampost Baskets



Initiated & Continues to Sustain Annual Beautification Project in Gloucester Village

\$95K Arts on Main



Comprehensive Support that Included 3 Year Challenge Grant

\$1,371,000

GRAND TOTAL



NOTE from the Director

Dear Friends,

As I've reflected on the impact made by the Cook Foundation over the last twenty years, it is nothing short of amazing. From events, exhibits, public art, demonstrations, and the creation of the annual month-long Gloucester Arts Festival, the Cook Foundation has set in motion a movement to embrace the arts as a form of economic development. The arts fuel our local economy, drive tourism, foster civic engagement, educate and create a sense of place that comes from a community's unique identity. Within our world today, people are looking for experiences. They are looking for ways to connect to others and to themselves. There is no better way to do that than through experiencing art, and that is what the Cook Foundation is committed to providing. The Cook Foundation looks forward to bringing the community more public art, more performing arts, and the opportunity to meet artists from across the globe and maybe even inspire you to discover your own inner artist.

I began my work with the Cook Foundation in 2006 in tandem with my position as Executive Director of the Main Street Preservation Trust. It is a journey I look back on with fondness, appreciation and pride. I am thrilled and impressed by the investment made but it is the spirit in which those investments were made that warms my heart. The generosity of Adrienne Joseph and the Cook Foundation Board is only surpassed by their passion for the arts, building them, appreciating them and making art accessible to all. That passion is what drives each and every decision made and every dollar spent.

Personally, it is an honor and a joy to work with this Board of Directors and to serve our beautiful, grateful community. I am truly blessed to be a part of something that brings beauty and enjoyment to so many others' lives. That is the power of art.

Warmest Regards,

Jenny Crittenden
Executive Director
Cook Foundation
2006-current



Within our world today, people are looking for experiences. They are looking for ways to connect to others and to themselves.

-Jenny Crittenden



THANK YOU

The Cook Foundation has leveraged its contributions to Gloucester by involving many people in giving their time, energy and financial contributions. What began as the vision of a very few individuals has grown into an arts community that enhances the lives of many people.

-Breckenridge Ingles

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank all who have given so generously and supported the Cook Foundation over the years. From donations, corporate sponsorships, and workplace giving to attending an event here in our community, your support has totaled nearly \$200,000. We also thank our state and federal funding partners, the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts for their investment of over \$40,000 here in Gloucester. We appreciate each and every one of you and welcome you to continue the journey with us for years to come.

THANK YOU!





*"We're cultivating an appreciation for the arts simply
by making them available to all."*

-Adrienne Ryder-Cook Joseph

Cook Foundaton
P.O. Box 1383
Gloucester, VA 23061
804.824.9401
www.thecookfoundation.org