

Press Release

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Reston, VA: Located in Reston Town Center and celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) is dedicated to enriching community life by promoting involvement and excellence in the contemporary visual arts. The Center exhibits emerging and established artists from the mid-Atlantic region and beyond; its GRACE Art program delivers art enrichment experiences in over 40 schools regionally, impacting over 20,000 students; and its annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival is among the top such events in the country.

Founded by artists in 1974 as a source of cultural enrichment for the new town of Reston, GRACE has matured from its early beginnings in the Lake Anne Village Center to its current home in Reston Town Center. Today, GRACE serves 80,000 people annually, providing Northern Virginia's diverse community with abundant opportunities to experience and explore the visual arts. GRACE is dedicated to presenting contemporary art that illuminates new ideas and promotes dialogue between artists and the audience. The exhibition program offers artists from across the mid-Atlantic region opportunities to experiment and expand their work in a flexible supportive atmosphere. In conjunction with GRACE's exhibitions and mission, the Center offers a variety of educational programs for all ages, most noticeably the *GRACE Art* program, which has become a vital and an integral means of promoting an art enrichment experience on an elementary school level. The Center also organizes the highly anticipated annual *Northern Virginia Art Festival*, which is a competitive, juried, outdoor event that showcases the best contemporary fine art and craft from around the country.

*Greater Reston Arts Center programs are supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and the Reston Community Center.*

