



WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS

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May 9, 2019

**Washington Performing Arts and Councilmember David Grosso present
fifth annual *Politics & Art: District Vox* at the Wilson Building, June 13**

***Annual free-to-the-public mini-festival celebrates the role of the arts community
in fostering vibrant civic life in the nation's capital***

Washington, D.C. – Now in its fifth year, *Politics & Art: District Vox* is an annual “Made in D.C.” performing arts showcase presented by [Councilmember David Grosso](#) and Washington Performing Arts’ [Mars Arts D.C. initiative](#), taking place at The Wilson Building on Thursday, June 13, from 5:30pm–8pm. *Politics & Art* is celebration of D.C.’s vibrant arts community, featuring 15 performances by over 100 artists from all eight wards, ranging from spirituals and hip hop to spoken word and folk/bluegrass. Lifelong Washingtonian and “High Priestess of Love” **Rayceen Pendarvis**, the host of *The Ask Rayceen Show*, will emcee the Washington Gas Main Stage. This year’s event spotlights several D.C.-based Native American, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ artists who will share artistic representations of their lives in our community.

The presenters of this event are Washington Performing Arts and Councilmember David Grosso. Please note this information in any coverage of this event.

What: *Politics & Art: District Vox*

When: Thursday, June 13, 2018, 5:30pm-8pm

Where: The John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004

Tickets: Free and open to the public, reservations required: bit.ly/PoliticsArt2019

[Mars Arts D.C.](#) is a partnership of Mars, Incorporated and Washington Performing Arts, with support from Jacqueline Badger Mars. This program is made possible by Washington Gas; Tom Gallagher, in honor of Turnaround Inc.; Events DC; Fred and Lucia Hill; Gary and Silvia Yacoubian; and the Mayor’s Office on Latino Affairs

“Washington Performing Arts deeply values the creative artists who have made this city their home,” said Jenny Bilfield, President & CEO of Washington Performing Arts. “We’re thrilled that Councilmember Grosso and Washington Gas share our commitment, and we’re so proud to partner with them on this fifth edition of *Politics and Art: District Vox*.”

Politics & Art: District Vox is one of 20+ *Latinx in D.C.* events presented by Washington Performing Arts this season. In this series, Washington Performing Arts is collaborating with arts, cultural heritage, education, and literary partners throughout the city to facilitate a multi-disciplinary dialogue around the important contributions and experiences of Latinx immigrants in the United States. Students from the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School will present excerpts from their original stage work *I Am an Immigrant*, which was recently performed at Sidney Harman Hall.

“The arts, humanities, and cultural communities are more organized now than they’ve ever been, and we are seeing the results of this organization,” said Councilmember David Grosso. “Between last year’s dedicated funding for the Commission on the Arts and Humanities and this year’s independence for the Commission, the confluence of politics and arts and culture has never been more apparent. *Politics and Art* provides an opportunity for D.C. artists and politicians—and residents—to meet and discuss the bright future of the creative sector in Washington, and I’m proud to be hosting it at the Wilson Building for the fifth year.”

Lineup of performers:

Afi Soul	Mikva Challenge DC's Project Soapbox
DC Seniors Cameo Club	Nelwat Ishkamewe
Filiblaster	Purify Love
Flo Anito & Seth Kibel	Reverb
Hannah Jaye and the Hideaways	Songrise
Heritage Signature Chorale	Students from Carlos Rosario International
Konshens The MC/Classically Dope	Public Charter School
Meraki	Uptown Boyz

Community Partners:

Capitol Hill Arts Workshop	The MusicianShip
Dance Place	Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum
The Folklore Society of Greater Washington	Team Rayceen/The Ask Rayceen Show
Humanities DC	Zenith Community Arts Foundation
IA&A at Hillyer	Zine Making with Meg Metcalf

About Washington Performing Arts

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has more than a half-century history of engaging with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we present a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, jazz, international genres, and more.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods, Washington Performing Arts engages international visiting artists in community programs and introduces local artists to wider audiences. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through residencies and educational programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with three Mayor’s Arts Awards from the D.C. Government. We have now embarked upon our second half-century, ever-inspired by the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: “Everybody in, nobody out.”

About Mars Arts D.C.



Mars Arts D.C. is the new name of Washington Performing Arts' signature community engagement project (formerly known as the Mars Urban Arts Initiative). Soon to enter its sixth year, the program has grown steadily to new heights with artist residencies, new partnerships, events in venues across all eight wards of the District, and robust integration with the Washington Performing Arts main stage series, [World in Our City](#) global programming initiative, and signature education programs.

The logo reflects the vibrant partnership among Washington Performing Arts, Jacqueline Badger Mars, and Mars, Incorporated, which is one of metro D.C.'s hometown companies. We share a passion for D.C. artists and our city's many communities. The diamonds, which are paired with an interpretation of the D.C. flag, reflect the shape of the nation's capital, while the "M" (in Mars, Incorporated) evokes the geometric elements of the Washington Performing Arts logo, speaking to how both organizations are embedded in the work of Mars Arts D.C.

Use our [custom Google Maps tool](#) to explore Mars Arts D.C.'s wide range of programs and venues across D.C. in the 2018/19 Season.

About Councilmember David Grosso

David Grosso is chairperson of the Committee on Education of the Council of the District of Columbia. David was first elected to the D.C. Council as an at-large member in November 2012 to represent residents of all eight wards. During his first term in office, David focused on many issues with one main goal always at the forefront of his mind: making D.C. a better city. Central to that goal is education. A high quality public education system and an innovative public library system help residents gain fruitful employment, attract newcomers, and make the city appealing to businesses. Under David's leadership, the Committee on Education's work is collaborative and forward thinking. From early childhood education to adult learning, David is committed to the well-being of students, ensuring that they are in the best position to succeed.

In addition to his focus on education, David is committed to addressing inequities within the criminal justice system, improving health outcomes throughout the city, promoting transparency and open government, strengthening the arts, humanities, and creative economy, and further engaging residents in the political process.

In addition to Education, David serves on the Council's Committee on Health, Committee on Human Services, Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, Committee on Government Operations, and the Committee of the Whole.

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