



# WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS NAMES SHRUTHI MUKUND DIRECTOR OF  
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND SPECIAL PRODUCTIONS**

***Mukund will lead Washington Performing Arts's signature community engagement program, Mars Arts D.C., driving strategic partnerships and special productions that connect artists and communities across the Washington region***

**WASHINGTON** – Washington Performing Arts is pleased to announce Shruthi Mukund as Director of Strategic Partnerships and Special Projects, starting June 15. Mukund brings two decades of experience building meaningful connections through culturally responsive programming, cross-sector collaboration, and socially accountable community engagement across the Washington, D.C., cultural and civic landscape.

“Shruthi exemplifies the creative vision, artistic integrity, and expansive community relationships that define Washington Performing Arts at its best,” said **Jenny Bilfield, Washington Performing Arts President and CEO**. “Her record of building transformative programs and partnerships across sectors makes her an extraordinary addition to our team, and we are proud to welcome her.”

As Director of Strategic Partnerships and Special Productions, Mukund will advance Washington Performing Arts's work as a leading arts producer, creative convener, and community builder within the region's creative economy. She will lead Mars Arts D.C., Washington Performing Arts's signature community engagement program, bringing an

entrepreneurial approach, deep civic and cultural networks across the Washington metro area, and longstanding relationships with artists who live and work in the capital region. In addition, she will deepen partnerships with local businesses, cultural institutions, and civic organizations – work for which Washington Performing Arts was recognized with the 2025 Mayor’s Arts Award for Excellence in Creative Industries.

Mukund joins Washington Performing Arts from Olney Theatre Center, where she served as Director of Community Engagement. In that role, she built the organization’s community engagement department from the ground up, designing innovative programs and partnerships that expanded access and deepened community relationships.

“I am honored to join Washington Performing Arts and to contribute to its extraordinary legacy of connecting artists and communities,” said Shruthi Mukund. “I look forward to building on the remarkable work already underway and to deepening partnerships that reflect the full richness and diversity of Washington D.C.”

### **ABOUT SHRUTHI MUKUND**

Shruthi Mukund is a curator, consultant, and speaker with 20 years of experience in arts programming, strategic partnerships, community engagement, and special event production across the Washington D.C. cultural and civic landscape. Her institutional leadership includes significant contributions at Strathmore, in addition to her work building Olney Theatre Center’s community engagement department from the ground up.

A respected curator, consultant, and speaker, Mukund shares her expertise through panels, presentations, and grant review processes, and actively mentors emerging arts administrators, particularly women of color. She leads the Indian Dance Educators Association, a volunteer-driven organization supporting Indian classical dancers, schools, and companies nationwide. Mukund holds a master’s degree in arts management from American University.

## **ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS**

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has engaged for 60 years with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: for decades, in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we have presented 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. We also have an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence online, envisioning ongoing opportunities for online connection and community.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events online and in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods, we engage international visiting artists in community programs and introduce 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 education programs.

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

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