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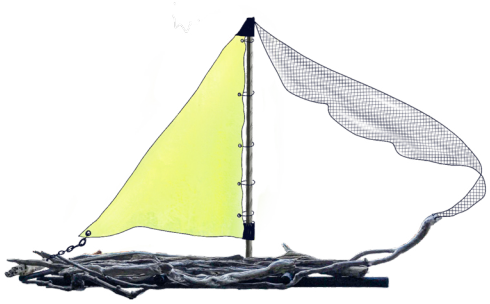
Public Art Installation Explores History Buried Beneath a Name in Arlington, Virginia Presenting the Work of Lynda Andrews-Barry

Lynda Andrews-Barry: *Passage*
On View: August 22 – December 13, 2020
Artist Talk: Saturday / September 26 / 2pm*

**Lynda Andrews-Barry's artist talk will take place on the front lawn of Arlington Arts Center. Visitors will be asked to wear masks and maintain a safe six-foot distance from one another during the talk. Any updates about scheduled events will be posted to www.arlingtonartscenter.org.*



Lynda Andrews-Barry, Artist sketch for *Passage*, 2020

ARLINGTON, VA – Arlington Arts Center (AAC) and the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia are pleased to present *Passage*, a site-specific public artwork by artist Lynda Andrews-Barry. The work will be featured on AAC's lawn at 3550 Wilson Boulevard in Arlington from August 22 through December 13, 2020.

Passage is the result of a unique partnership between AAC and the Community Foundation. The work was funded by the Foundation's Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts, and is undertaken in cooperation with Arlington Public Art.

Passage will include 26 large-scale sculptures created from driftwood, rebar, metal hardware, and canvas sails—designed to evoke the ships that transported more than 12 million kidnapped and enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean between the 16th and 19th centuries. The artwork skillfully reflects the ways in which Virginia was implicated in, and continues to be impacted by, this history, while also grappling with the legacy of Matthew Fontaine Maury.

Known as the "Pathfinder of the Seas," and the "Father of Oceanography," Maury was a pioneer of naval navigation. The systems he developed for recording and charting oceanographic data revolutionized ocean navigation, drastically reducing the length of ocean voyages and allowing for more efficient trade and transport in the 19th century.

A commander in the United States Navy, Maury resigned his post in 1861 to become a commander in the Confederate Navy and later Secretary of the Navy for the Confederacy. During the Civil War, Maury traveled to Europe, where he used his connections and reputation to acquire ships for the Confederacy and to lobby on its behalf with European leaders. Arlington Arts Center's historic building originally housed the Clarendon School, which was renamed the Maury School in 1944. The grounds surrounding the building, where Andrews-Barry's work will be

installed, continue to be known as Maury Park.

Artist Andrews-Barry has a very personal connection to the region's past as she is descended from enslaved people who were brought to Virginia and Maryland. It was this family history that drove her to respond to Maury's legacy. Says Andrews-Barry, "*Passage* addresses power dynamics, conflict, loss, marginalization, and deterioration." Convinced that Andrews-Barry's work would have relevance for the local community, Arlington Arts Center staff, with guidance from the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and Arlington Public Art, selected Andrews-Barry's proposal from a competitive pool of applicants in the fall of 2019.

"Arlington Arts Center has a long history of exhibiting work that asks us to question accepted norms, and to think more deeply," said Holly Koons, AAC's executive director. "We found Lynda Andrews-Barry's proposal for *Passage* compelling precisely because it reminded us of the history buried beneath a name, and asked us to consider its full implications. We are grateful to the artist for her bold vision, and to the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia for making this project possible."

Adds Eileen Ellsworth, President and CEO at Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, "Public art has this amazing capacity to help people reimagine the place they live. It serves as a powerful tool to educate, engage and welcome visitors in a unique way, to break down cultural barriers, and tell our collective history."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lynda Andrews-Barry is a multidisciplinary artist with a practice that encompasses time-based media, installations, and sculptures created from found and fabricated objects that reflect the often unseen or ignored beauty of our world.

Andrews-Barry's work has been featured in books and won numerous awards. Her work has been shown and sold at various art venues, including the National Building Museum, National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery. Her public art projects have been installed in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, and Florida. Recent solo exhibitions in 2019 include the Waddell Gallery at the Loudon Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, and Rockville Civic Center at Glenview Mansion in Maryland in 2018. Her work will be included in the Foggy Bottom Outdoor Sculpture Biennial in 2021.

Andrews-Barry received her BA in Interior Design from Mount Vernon College, and her MA in Exhibition Design from The Corcoran College of Art + Design. Her exhibition credits include the Sandy Spring Museum renovation, and design for a year-long installation of the Smithsonian's collection of art glass and pottery in the National Museum of American History.

ABOUT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia grows philanthropy to respond to critical need, seed innovation and lead and convene the community. Comprised of donor-advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and other charitable endowments, the Community Foundation connects donors to community and promotes a more equitable and inclusive prosperity that marries our economic strength with the full breadth of our diverse community. In 2019, the Community Foundation awarded more than $5.4 million in grants and scholarships and reported more than $72 million in managed philanthropic assets. For more information, please visit us at www.cfnova.org, follow up on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

ABOUT ARLINGTON ARTS CENTER

Location: 3550 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201

Arlington Arts Center's exhibitions and attendant lectures, workshops, and panel discussions offer opportunities for dialogue, and ultimately serve to illustrate the value of contemporary art. Established in 1974, Arlington Arts Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit contemporary visual arts center dedicated to enriching community life by connecting the public with contemporary art and artists through exhibitions, educational programs, and artist residencies. Housed in a historic building, Arlington Arts Center boasts nine exhibition spaces, working studios for 12 artists, and three classrooms. Arlington Arts Center is one of the largest non-federal venues for contemporary art in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. For more information, visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703.248.6800.

Arlington Arts Center (AAC) is an independent, 501(c)(3) organization. Our programs are supported in part by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Arlington County through the Arlington Cultural Affairs division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts; the Virginia Commission for the Arts/National Endowment for the Arts; the Washington Forrest Foundation; The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia; and generous individual donors.

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