

A Cultural Sector Update for Elected Officials

Fall 2018

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SUPPORTING

Culture For All.

ASC at 60: Celebrating 60 Years of Impact

Why this matters: For the past 60 years, ASC has worked to support and build the arts and cultural community in Charlotte-Mecklenburg by providing advocacy, cultural education programming, cultural planning, fundraising, grant making, public art and workshops and training.

On October 8, ASC officially celebrates the **60th anniversary** since its founding as the Charlotte Arts Fund in 1958. We were founded to support eight arts and science organizations – all of which are alive today and deliver excellent programming to the community.

Until 1974, the Charlotte Arts Fund functioned primarily as a fundraiser. However, in the mid-1970s, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, guided by citizen input, elected to invest in arts and science to set us apart from our competitor cities. The results not only reinvented the Arts Fund into the ASC we know today but more importantly brought us:

- Spirit Square;
- Discovery Place;
- Blumenthal Performing Arts Center;
- The Afro-American Cultural Center (now the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture);
- An urban artist colony (now the McColl Center for Art + Innovation);
- An uptown branch of the Mint Museum.



Today, ASC focuses on how to best serve Charlotte-Mecklenburg in the 21st century to ensure **Culture For All**. Our current efforts include our focus on building community; supporting innovative and relevant programming for our changing (and growing) population; and ensuring every child has access to participate in the amazing cultural community we have built.

If there's a key takeaway from our milestone birthday, it's this: Our cultural community has been built and sustained through the partnership of our private and public sectors and based on the visions articulated by our residents. This is our community, and **together, we can do anything.**

The Poetics of Data: A Conversation with Refik Anadol RESCHEDULED for Monday, Oct. 29

Why this matters: Artist Refik Anadol will return to Charlotte to discuss his project "Interconnected," a digital data artwork at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.



Mark your calendars – “The Poetics of Data: A Conversation with Refik Anadol” has been rescheduled for **Monday, Oct. 29, 2018**. Join us from **7:30 – 8:30 p.m.** at **UNC Charlotte Center City** to hear directly from Anadol about his cutting-edge artistic practice and Charlotte’s newest digital public artwork “Interconnected.” The event is free and open to the public.

Commissioned by Charlotte’s Public Art Commission and managed by ASC, Anadol’s “Interconnected” project at Charlotte Douglas International Airport converts three massive LED screens into constantly changing digital artwork. The artwork is modeled

on real-time airport operations data, ranging from flight times and shuttle bus circulation to departure and arrivals. Creator and digital media artist Refik Anadol is from Istanbul, Turkey and resides in Los Angeles.

Connecting Students to Cultural Education

Why this matters: ASC’s Cultural Education Expo allows teachers and school administrators to discover Cultural Education Providers who meet their students unique needs.

Each year, ASC hosts its Cultural Educational Expo to connect students to arts and culture. This year, parents, teachers and school representatives gathered at CPCC Harris Conference Center on Saturday, Aug. 25, to explore cultural programming availabilities, participate in mini-workshops and enjoy arts and cultural performances from more than 50 local teaching artists and **Cultural Education Providers**.

“This is a very differentiated approach to cultural education,” said Dr. Barbara Ann Temple, ASC vice president of Education. “Teachers can shop for and select the cultural opportunities that best align to the needs of their respective schools. And families will be able to see what their kids are going to be experiencing during the school year.”

Beyond connecting Pre-K-12 teachers and administrators to cultural providers, the free, annual Expo also serves to qualify Mecklenburg County schools for **ASC’s School Funding Opportunities**. Through these opportunities, public and independent schools can access professional artists, scientists, historians and other cultural providers for education-specific programming. This programming may involve on-site cultural experiences or visits to local cultural organizations and can even include professional development for teaching staff.



Culture Bites Premieres in North & South Mecklenburg

Why this matters: Through Culture Bites, ASC provides relevant, stimulating arts and cultural experiences to residents throughout Mecklenburg County.



Culture Bites, a new event series from ASC that premiered in **August 2018**, brought a taste of arts, culture, food and family fun to North and South Mecklenburg communities.

Culture Bites served as an appetizer to ASC's annual signature event Culture Feast, reaching beyond Uptown Charlotte to communities in **Pineville** and **Davidson**. Attendees enjoyed arts and cultural performances, live music, interactive activities, food and beverages and a chance to win tickets to Culture Feast.

Unlike Culture Feast's full family-style dinner, Culture Bites featured small bites from local restaurants and vendors, perfect for a park experience. While food and drinks were available for purchase, entertainment was **free and open to all**. Both Pineville and Davidson locations bustled with families and friends as the crowds watched dance, theater and music performances, perused a variety of food options and relaxed in outdoor community settings.

Culture Feast Returns to South Tryon Street

Why this matters: Culture Feast invites people to connect with the community by sharing a meal, having conversations and experiencing Charlotte-Mecklenburg's arts and culture scene.

Culture Feast brings together people from around the region to enjoy a family-style dinner and performances by the best of Charlotte-Mecklenburg's arts and cultural community. More than **700 guests** joined ASC on South Tryon Street in Uptown for the **fourth annual Culture Feast** on **Friday, Sept. 7, 2018**.

Guests shared their meals at community dinner tables that stretched along South Tryon Street from East Stonewall Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard while enjoying entertainment across artistic disciplines and cultural backgrounds. This year's highly anticipated event, the largest of its kind in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, featured **10 unique ensembles** including traditional Indian dance, African drumming, opera, New Orleans-inspired jazz, interactive chalk art and more.



Carolinas Aviation Museum – Impacting the Future through the History of Aviation

Why this matters: Carolinas Aviation Museum motivates Charlotte-Mecklenburg students to pursue STEM careers with operational support from ASC.



“We want kids to leave inspired, motivated and excited about their future.” – Stephen Saucier, President of Carolinas Aviation Museum

Carolinas Aviation Museum (CAM) strives to put visitors front and center when developing and implementing programs and exhibits through what president Stephen Saucier calls “human-centered design.” As a new recipient of ASC’s operational support, CAM is growing its reputation and capabilities as an educational institution in Charlotte and around the world.

“CAM has invested a lot of thoughtful energy into developing its capacity and is positioned for success,” said Katherine Mooring, ASC Senior Vice President of Community Investment. “ASC is proud to continue investing in CAM to help the organization deliver on its mission.”

Founded in 1992 and located just outside Charlotte Douglas International Airport, CAM tells the story of aviation heritage through science, math, history and art to inspire future generations to write aviation’s next chapter. A recognized affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute, CAM welcomes more than 60,000 visitors annually and showcases impressive exhibits like the iconic “Miracle on the Hudson” exhibition, which features the original aircraft involved in the 2009 crash.



But CAM contributes much more than astounding artifacts to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. Through ASC’s support and expanding partnerships with local schools, the museum delivers relevant, **hands-on STEM programming** that encourages innovation and learning. Each program focuses on impact and emphasizes reaching underserved students.

“Until a child visualizes themselves in a future, they will not pursue that future,” Saucier said. “If we haven’t motivated students to see a career, what’s the point?”

At the core of CAM’s mission and development efforts is a community vision of **creating opportunity and economic mobility**. Saucier’s team recognizes the importance of visibility and relatability in cultivating motivation. By linking the past to the future through aviation and STEM, CAM provides context for students to envision themselves as **future leaders and innovators**.

“We are hyper-focused on why we’re doing things, from hiring and training staff to developing programming to defining our mission,” Saucier said. “We want to be a point of pride about impact, to affect real change in the economic future of our students.”

Questions? Contact Rebecca Scroggins, Director, Government Relations, ASC
704.335.3261 | rebecca.scroggins@artsandscience.org