

Report of the Virginia Commission for the Arts on Progress toward Addressing the Impact of an Aging Population on the Arts

In compliance with § 2.2-5510 of the code of Virginia, The Virginia Commission for the Arts submits the following report on the impact of the aging population on its ability to deliver services.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts does not provide services specifically for people ages 65 and older in the fields of healthcare/wellness, education, public safety, recreation, financial security, and transportation. To date, the Commission has not maintained statistics on services to senior citizens. However, many of the ongoing activities of the Commission serve older Virginians.

1. All arts organizations that receive grants from the Commission are required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in making facilities and programs accessible to people with disabilities. These requirements address age-related disabilities.
2. Arts organizations that receive funding from the Commission provide a wide range of services for older Virginians, including performances and classes at assisted living centers and nursing homes; matinee performances that reach people who prefer not to come out in the evenings; and reduced tickets prices and membership fees for senior citizens.
3. Many arts organizations that receive funding from the Commission have created or performed work by or about older individuals. Examples of this work include *Mame*, *King Lear*, and *On Golden Pond*.
4. The Commission website, which is maintained by the Library of Virginia, is ADA compliant.
5. The Commission sponsors an annual conference for people who work in all fields of the arts in Virginia. The Commission has begun including a session at each conference on the arts in healthcare. Many of the issues addressed in these session apply to the aging population.
6. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, of which the Virginia Commission for the Arts is a member, and the National Center for Creative Aging are beginning a national public relations campaign on “The Art of Aging: Creativity Matters.” The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness that there is a vital relationship creative expression and healthy aging.