



### ***What is the Workhouse Arts Center?***

The Workhouse Arts Center, a project of The Lorton Arts Foundation, is Virginia's newest and most exciting center for history, arts and education. The historic buildings, once part of the DC Workhouse and Reformatory and now on the National Register of Historic places, provide essential visual and performing arts studio and exhibition space for more than 100 of the regions finest professional and emerging artists.

The Workhouse also offers engaging arts education programs for people of all ages and artistic abilities. The public is invited to visit the studios of the working artists, attend musical and theatre performances, enjoy art exhibitions, attend outdoor concerts and events on the Quad and reserve space for meetings and special events.

As renovations of the remaining historic buildings continue, the Workhouse will offer expanded performing arts offerings, large scale special event rental facilities, artist housing and a prison history museum. The mission of the Workhouse Arts Center is to enrich the lives of all within its reach by creating a vibrant cultural community that fosters a diverse offering of arts, education, social and entertainment experiences for people of all ages.

### ***What is the Lorton Arts Foundation?***

In March 1997, as part of the National Capital Revitalization Act, Senator John Warner introduced legislation that required the closure of the Workhouse and the entire DC correctional complex by the year 2001. In July 2002, Fairfax County purchased the title to 2,440 acres of the complex through the Lorton Technical Corrections Act. This act required that the county develop an adaptive re-use plan for the land and the former prison facilities.

During the spring of 1999, a citizen task force completed a modified plan for the former prison site. It was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in July 1999 as the official Reuse Plan and the Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the property. The Re-use Plan was included in an official report to Congress in January 2000. The Lorton Arts Foundation was then created and, in July 2004, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the rezoning of a 55-acre portion of the former correction's facility to become the Workhouse Arts Center.

The Lorton Arts Foundation (LAF) is a 501(c) (3) organization. LAF relies on contributions to sustain and grow its arts offerings to the community through the Workhouse. Companies can provide support through the sponsorship of special events, festivals, performances, programs and exhibitions and by donating equipment and supplies. Individuals can provide support through personal contributions, participation in Workhouses classes, performance attendance and by donating equipment and supplies.

### ***What will I find at the Workhouse Arts Center?***

Ten of the 30 historic buildings that make up the 55-acre cultural arts complex have currently been renovated. Seven of the buildings that were once dormitories for the prisoners now house Workhouse studio artists working in all mediums. Each of the seven buildings has its own exhibition space and classroom space. One of the buildings houses the Workhouse's Art of Mind & Body Program and Gallery W-16, the only two-story dormitory on the complex, is the Workhouse's visual art exhibition space. The Workhouse boasts a total of over 8,400 square feet of exhibition space in all. There is a dedicated glass and ceramics program at the Workhouse and it is home to a number of artist co-ops including fiber arts and photography. The grassy quad in the center of the complex provides the perfect spot for outdoor concerts, art festivals and other special events. There are over 130 classes and workshops being offered during the Winter 2009 semester and a number of exciting free and ticketed performances will take place in Gallery W-16. Visitors can find information about the Workhouse artists by visiting [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org) and clicking on *Artist Affiliates*.

***What is the difference between Workhouse Studio Artists, Artist Associates and Workhouse Artists Guild?***

There are two levels of Workhouse Artists Association (WAA) membership: Associate Member and Studio Member. Associate Members do not occupy studio space but enjoy the benefits of belonging to WAA. Studio Members occupy individual or shared studio space and work on site.

The Workhouse Art Guild (WAG) is the cornerstone of the gallery exhibition program. WAG is open to all, artists and non-artists alike, who are interested in gallery exhibitions. Artists working in all media, including photography, are welcome to join. There is no jury process to participate; however, artist-members are eligible to participate in a monthly juried show. WAG members will be invited to serve on committees to promote the exhibition schedule which will include local art organizations, solo artists and invitational exhibitions.

***Can I interact with the artists in their studios?***

Yes! The studio artists welcome visitors to their studios to watch them work and to answer questions about their art and about the Workhouse and its offerings.

***Can I purchase art at the Workhouse?***

Yes. Art can be purchased in all of the studio buildings in Gallery W-16. Ask the artists or an available gallery associates for assistance.

***How often do the exhibitions change?***

Exhibitions in the studio buildings and in Gallery W-16 change every 1-2 months.

***Is there an admission charge to visit the center?***

No. Visitors can come to the Workhouse during open hours and tour the studios and exhibition space at their leisure free of charge.

***Where can I find out what is happening at the Workhouse Arts Center?***

The most current list of exhibitions, classes and special events can be found at [www.Workhousearts.org](http://www.Workhousearts.org)

***How to get on the list to receive e-blasts?***

If you would like to receive notification of events and exhibitions at the Workhouse, send your e-mail address to Julie Curtis at [juliecurtis@lortonarts.org](mailto:juliecurtis@lortonarts.org).

***How to get on the mailing list?***

You can sign up for our mailing list online by going to [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org) and clicking on the *Mailing List* link at the bottom of the page.

***How can I become a member, a Friend of the Workhouse (FOW)***

You can become a Friend of the Workhouse (FOW) online by visiting the Lorton Arts Foundation website at [www.LortonArts.org](http://www.LortonArts.org) and clicking on the *Membership/Donate* link on the left side of the page.

***How to get to the Workhouse Arts Center?***

The Workhouse Arts Center is located at 9601 Ox Road in Lorton, Virginia at the corner of Lorton Road and Ox Road just north of Historic Occoquan.

***From Washington, D.C./Northern Virginia***

Follow I-95 South to Exit 160 to merge onto Gordon Blvd/VA-123 N toward Occoquan/Lake Ridge  
Continue to follow VA-123 N

The Workhouse Arts Center is on the right before the intersection of Rte.123/Ox Rd. and Lorton Road

***From I-95 South***

Take I-95 North to VA-123 North via Exit 160B toward Occoquan/Lake Ridge  
Continue on VA-123 past Historic Occoquan

The Workhouse Arts Center is on the right before the intersection of Rte.123/Ox Rd. and Lorton Road

***What are the hours for the Workhouse Arts Center?***

**GalleryW-16 and Artist Studio Buildings**

Wednesday – Saturday 11:00am – 7:00pm

Sunday 12:00pm – 5:00pm

*Closed Monday and Tuesday*

***How do I register for classes, workshops and performances?***

Registration for classes, workshops and performances can be done online at [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org) through the *Classes/Workshops* link on the front page. Registration can also be completed by calling 703-584-2900.

***How often are new classes offered?***

A new course catalog will be issued quarterly. Each quarter will offer over 130 classes and workshops for all interest levels and ability levels from beginner to master.

***Are there any classes offered for just 1 or two days?***

The Workhouse offers open class time and workshops on a regular basis. For more information, check online at [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org) through the *Classes/Workshops* link on the front page.

***How do I go about renting space at the Workhouse for my meeting or event?***

If you are interested in hosting your event at the Workhouse Arts Center or if you would like to schedule a tour of the available space, please contact Camela Speer, Public Relations and Events Specialist, at 703-584-2973, [camelaspeer@lortonarts.org](mailto:camelaspeer@lortonarts.org). Please note that events cannot be scheduled on holidays such as July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.