

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAULINA PHILLIPS

Paula Anne (Paulina) Delve Phillips is one of Maryland's most accomplished women in arts and culture. Since the mid-1970s, she has worked behind the scenes to present, promote and fund visual and performing arts projects. Known for a commitment to cultural diversity and artistic excellence, she contributes to cultural life in the Mid-Atlantic and beyond, helping artists and arts organizations develop and thrive. An accomplished writer, producer and segment host for radio, TV and cable news programs, she has also established educational programs and projects for adults, teens and children.

In 2018, she was nominated for an Annie Award in Anne Arundel County, Maryland in the Lifetime Achievement category. The first full time arts director for the county, she received two National Association of Counties Awards for a children's festival and annual performance series in Annapolis. She received a Citation from the Mayor of Annapolis for work as a producer and interviewer in the radio series "Voices of the Chesapeake Bay." Many of her interviews focusing on environment and culture appear in a related 2008 book by Michael Buckley.

Best known for her work with jazz artists, venues and festivals, she has guided many artists up the career ladder, gaining national and international attention for regional artists, Grammy and Latin Grammy winners. Her promotion of U Street jazz venues drew media attention around the world. Campaigns about Baltimore and Eastern Shore jazz earned similar results. She worked with jazz, national and international press to bring attention to contributions of the Byrd family in Jazz Samba Golden Anniversary celebrations, and promoted the Baltimore Jazz, Monty Alexander Jazz, Maryland Seafood and Chesapeake Bay Blues Festivals. She was a key figure planning, promoting and fundraising for First Night Annapolis. With 40 sites, it was one of the longest running and largest events of its kind in the U.S. In 2020 she launched a successful jazz series in Severna Park, MD. Despite the pandemic, it has been the only continuously running successful jazz series in Anne Arundel County in the past two years.

Phillips has managed landmark celebrations for many cultural organizations: the 25th year anniversaries of Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble and Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, and the 10th year anniversaries of Dance Place in Washington, D.C. and Maryland Summer Jazz in Bethesda. Much of her work has involved jazz album releases, landing most artists in the top half and top ten of the jazz, world music and CMJ charts. Her agency manages label and independent releases.

As an educator, Phillips developed themes and classes and hired instructors for adult jazz education program Maryland Summer Jazz (the predecessor to JazzWire). She has mentored undergraduate and graduate students in internships with area colleges and universities. Many became prominent performing artists and administrators. She established "Jazz Talks" at Montpelier Arts Center and produced the annual Women in Jazz events there for nearly a decade. She has been a guest lecturer on the music business for inDepth Jazz Clinics & Concerts, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), the Mid- Atlantic Jazz Festival, Baltimore Jazz Alliance and Capitol Hill Jazz Foundation.