

## **The FDA's 2016 Community Grants**

Every year the FDA presents it's popular Fan Holiday House Tour. And every year, at least half of the proceeds of this tour get put back into our neighborhood through through the FDA's community grants program.

These grants support Fan capital and park projects, neighborhood beautification efforts, Fan-based cultural, educational and human service organizations, and other Fan District enhancements.

The whole purpose of the Community grants is to reinvest in our community and to contribute to the vibrancy and spirit of Fan living.

Here's how the process works: Grant applications are submitted on line up until Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> of each year. A committee of Fan volunteers researches and vets the grant requests, and makes recommendations on which grants to approve to the FDA Board. The FDA Board makes the final decision.

Every year, we receive more grant requests than we are able to fund. We try our best to spread the funding to as many organizations as possible, in as meaningful a way as possible.

This year, the FDA received 16 grant applications totaling over \$42,000 in requested funds. With a budget of just over \$25,000, we had to make some tough choices. In the end, we were able to award grants to 13 organizations. This year's approved grants include

- initiatives in the schools serving Fan children,
- services provided to Fan residents by local non profit organizations
- support for law enforcement efforts
- and several Capital Improvement projects

The 2016 FDA grants have been awarded as follows:

<b>Organization Receiving a 2016 FDA grant</b>	<b>Awarded grant funds and project overview</b>
Binford PTA	<p>Enrollment in Binford middle school has been growing the last few years. The school is now poised to establish a Student Council to add to the vibrancy of student life at Binford. The FDA is granting \$200 to the Binford Middle school PTA to provide some seed money to get this successfully up and running.</p>
Albert Hill Middle School PTA	<p>While Albert Hill Middle School is not located in the Fan, many Fan homes are districted to Albert Hill. And therefore, Albert Hill has a significant number of Fan students. The FDA is awarding Albert Hill Middle School PTA \$1,000 for the purchase of a Science Lab</p>
Fox Elementary PTA	<p>The Strawberry Street festival held each spring is a major fund raiser for Fox Elementary School. For th third year in a row, the FDA has chosen to serve as the lead sponsor of this festival. For this sponsorship, we are awarding a \$ 2,500 grant to the Fox PTA</p>
Visual Arts Center of Richmond	<p>The Visual Arts Center of Richmond has been extremely successful in implementing and growing its ENGAGE: Art Around the Corner program which serve Binford Middle School. This is a curriculum enhancing program that started with one grade - and has grown such that in the 2016-17 school year, it will serve all Binford students. The FDA is awarding VisArts \$2,500 grant to support this well received, enriching program.</p>
ART 180	<p>Binford students will also benefit from a 12-week afterschool program in creative expression provided by Art180. The FDA is granting Art180 \$2,000 to help fund this program.</p>
FeedMore, Inc.	<p>Feedmore provides meal delivery services to home bound residents throughout the greater Richmond area. In 2015, Feedmore provided a total of 311 meals to 43 Fan residents needing assistance. The FDA is honored to support Feedmore's efforts to serve our Fan neighbors. The FDA is awarding Feedmore a \$2,000 grant for its Fan-based meal delivery route.</p>
Steve Nuckolls	<p>Many of you know Steve Nuckolls has been a champion in the fight against graffiti in the Fan. He has worked closely with the Richmond Police Department for years. The FDA is awarding a \$750 grant for the purchase of a camera to be used in Steve's collaborative efforts with the Richmond Police to deter and catch graffiti vandals in the Fan.</p>
Friends of the Mounted Police Squad	<p>And in another show of support for our law enforcement providers, the FDA has awarded the Friends of the Mounted Police \$1,500 to go toward the purchase a new saddle for the Richmond Mounted Police.</p>

<p>Ronald McDonald House</p>	<p>This year, the Ronald McDonald House on Monument Avenue lost several pieces of patio furniture and incurred landscaping damage during a bad storm. The FDA is awarding them \$1,000 to help with replacing the patio furniture and the landscaping</p>
<p>The Braille Circulating Library for the Blind, Inc.</p>	<p>People familiar with the Braille Circulating Library on Stuart Avenue have been watching a transformation taking place through the library's ongoing capital improvement projects. This year the FDA is awarding the Braille Circulating Library \$2,500 to help with needed repairs around the windows and stairs near the building's rear entrance, which is visible from the street.</p>
<p>Firehouse Theatre</p>	<p>Another Fan-based non-profit organization, the Firehouse Theatre- has also been in a state of transformation. The Firehouse theatre continues to improve and renovate its building on Broad Street. The FDA is awarding Firehouse Theater \$3,000 to support its outdoor lighting project. This project will improve not only the aesthetics of the building but its safety as well.</p>
<p>Historic Monument Avenue and Fan District Foundation (HMAFDF)</p>	<p>The Historic Monument Avenue and Fan District Foundation recently established the Drew Carneal Fund. This fund, named in honor of of long time Fan resident and historian Drew Carneal, has been created to support the efforts to replacing, repairing and maintaining the Fan's historic street signs. These brown, customized street signs are one of the many unique identifiers of the Fan District. These too are both aesthetically pleasing and a welcome safety feature. The FDA is awarding the HMAFDF \$4,000 for the Historic Street Sign project.</p>
<p>FDA</p>	<p>The FDA has reserved \$2,400 to go toward the purchase of additional trashcans for Fan public spaces. The location of these trashcans has yet to be determined.</p>

We hope all Fan residents are pleased to know how these grants will enrich our community.