

# Reston Community Center



*Enriching Lives. Building Community.®*

Message from the Chair	<b>4</b>
Message from the Executive Director	<b>6</b>
Board of Governors	<b>10</b>
Administration	<b>14</b>
Facility Rentals	<b>20</b>
Arts & Events	<b>24</b>
Leisure & Learning	<b>32</b>
Aquatics	<b>36</b>
Vision, Mission, Values	<b>41</b>
2011 Year in Data	<b>42</b>
Board & Staff	<b>46</b>

Thank you to our Staff Photographer, Linda Rutledge, for many of the annual report photos.

*Out of Place* Installation at Lake Anne Plaza  
Photo by Charlotte Geary, Reston Patch







Beverly Ann Cosham with Reston Founder, Robert E. Simon

I am grateful for the support and confidence in me that my colleagues on the Board of Governors showed by electing me to lead the Board for another term this past year. I feel strongly that the role of Chair of the Board of Governors of your community center is to strengthen our connections to the community we serve. The Board of Governors collectively

celebrates both what is wonderful about Reston and how Reston Community Center can continue to be a pivotal organization in helping our many partners and patrons realize their aspirations. This applies to all ages and to every interest that people in a connected community may have.

We were especially excited this past year to be engaged with so many different Reston groups. The February Public Input session brought ideas and interests to us from Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Reston founders Bob Simon, Reston elementary, middle and high schools, our partners at Reston Association, Reston Interfaith, Initiative for Public Art – Reston, Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Southgate Community Center, Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Al Fatih Academy, Reston Historic Trust, Friends of Lake Anne, Reston Town Center Association, Greater Reston Arts



Center, Sustainable Reston, Reston for a Lifetime, and individual participants in RCC programs. It was a "standing room only" event and the excitement generated by the creative energy of so many people planning ways to improve our community collaboratively remains with us.



Beverly helps with the Thanksgiving Food Drive

The accomplishments and hopes we share in the pages of this Annual Report can't be achieved without the energetic and committed leadership of my colleagues on the Board and our counterparts in other organizations across Reston. It is a humbling experience for me to be surrounded and inspired by so many dedicated and intelligent people who give hours of their

time every month to the pursuit of the Reston values and goals we all cherish. I am grateful beyond measure for their contributions and those of the staff of Reston Community Center. Together we work every day to realize our vision of "Enriching Lives and Building Community".



Beverly at Best of Reston with Carol Bradley and Ellen Graves

Beverly Ann Cosham





Leila Gordon  
with William Bouie

The first year of a five-year strategic plan necessarily requires that while we keep the "big picture" goals firmly in our view, we work hard to lay a foundation that will support achieving them. This has certainly been the case in this past year. In connecting the dots between our Strategic Plan areas – Facilities, Collaboration and Outreach, Communications, Programs, and

Internal Capacity—we have been mindful in the past year of how important key efforts would be to be able to realize the goals in each of them. Under the leadership of RCC's Board of Governors, critical policy and planning efforts have been directed at developing decision-making criteria. This assures that RCC makes the best use of resources and partnerships so we are performing in Reston's best interests.

At the same time we examined our agency capacities and systems to prepare them for the future, Fairfax County Government continued to pursue the enormous project of conversion to new software for its business systems.

Since Reston Community Center is a County agency, albeit one with our own source of revenue and superb local governance by our community-selected Board of Governors, we too were absorbed by the massive scale of change that these

systems' conversion processes involve. The staff teams at RCC adapted to and continue to manage this lengthy change process with success as they learn and practice new techniques and approaches to budgeting, purchasing, accounting, and payroll. The nearly four-year long effort to bring all building systems to the 21st century levels of service expectations our community demands, while continuing to serve patrons, reached another peak of activity in the past year with renovations, expansion, and enhancements in key areas.

I am so proud of the team of professionals who work for Reston and to make Reston Community Center an essential aspect of the high quality of life that people here expect. They put service at the center of their lives and regardless



Leila Gordon hosting  
State Department's Int'l Visitor  
Leadership Program

of the difficulty of the path, they take steps every day toward achieving our goals. On their behalf, I am pleased to share our past year's highlights with you. The foundation for our future is strong and we are excited about "Enriching Lives and Building Community" with you in the years ahead.





Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival

“Above all we need, particularly as children, the reassuring presence of a visible community, an intimate group that enfolds us with understanding and love, and that becomes an object of our spontaneous loyalty, as a criterion and point of reference for the rest of the human race.”

- Lewis Mumford -



# BOARD of Governors

## CHALLENGES

Even as we expand programming at RCC Lake Anne, we are confronted every day by the continuing need to support more patrons and provide new opportunities for leisure-time amenities in anticipation of Reston's growth. Adding the 4,500 square feet of space at RCC Lake Anne will help us greatly in that regard. However, coming growth means that our Strategic Plan priorities for specialized new capabilities in Aquatics and Performing Arts will continue to be our "big picture" capital facility outcomes. In the meantime, all the different groups that serve Reston interests continue to be our partners in leveraging community assets to deliver results in a variety of important endeavors.

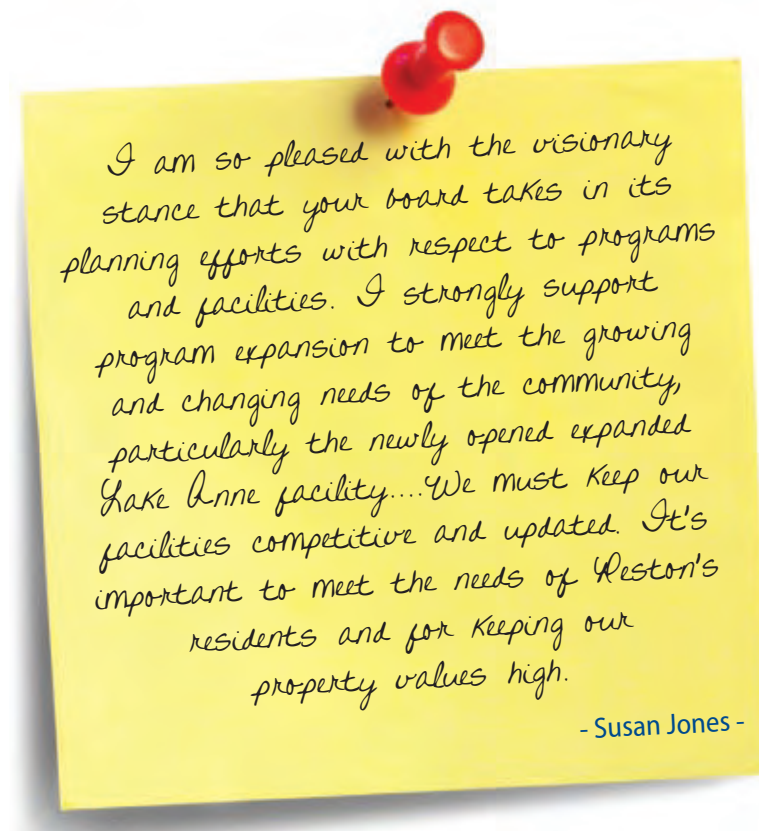
## SUCCESSSES

We continue to participate enthusiastically in the work of the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force. In the past year, as the Task Force moved toward consideration of reports about critical areas like Transportation and Education planning, we participated with Reston Association and Fairfax County Park Authority in presenting a vision for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Amenities associated with the development anticipated in the next twenty years. This report emphasized aspirations identified by constituents of and data analysis undertaken by the three organizations. The recommendations are a good starting point for the further planning discussions that will connect the new development opportunities associated with the Silver Line's arrival in Reston to the future of the Village Centers and Reston neighborhoods.

The Board of Governors hosted the *Moving Forward to a Sustainable Reston* forum last October where keynote speaker Michael Shuman provided inspiration to continue to think about spending local dollars on local sources for goods and services. Mr. Shuman celebrated the vision upon which Reston rests regarding planning for sustainability and exhorted those attending to not just continue to do things we are accustomed to doing to sustain Reston and lighten our carbon footprint on the earth, but to seek the bold answers to questions of stewardship that will confront us.

A new and dramatic signature public artwork has been conceived to be installed in Reston Town Center which will serve as a landmark and visual focal point among Town Center's iconic pieces like the Mercury Fountain. Artist Mary Ann Mears was selected to create the sculpture which is funded through a collaboration between Reston Community Center, Reston Town Center Association, and of course, Initiative for Public Art – Reston. Selecting the artist and her vision for the piece was a major effort of the past year.

Local documentary filmmaker Rebekah Wingert-Jabi, and the many Reston organizations represented on the Reston 50/25 Committee, launched the first year of fundraising for and filming of *The Reston Story* — which is the "working title" of this effort to capture the unique and compelling story of the community that represents an internationally recognized achievement in planning and development. Reston Community Center will be among the key partners producing this exciting reflection of the history and people who made Reston so exceptional.





## LOOKING AHEAD

The threads of the several community-wide conversations occurring during the past couple of years will continue to weave together and create the fabric of life in Reston in the decades ahead. Certainly as the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force turns its attention to the Village Centers and neighborhoods, RCC will be very involved in helping Lake Anne and Hunters Woods Plazas achieve success as gathering places that are vibrant, lively and beautiful. The potential for Lake Anne Plaza redevelopment is gathering force and the coming year presents opportunities to re-imagine the "historical heart of Reston." With new owners at Hunters Woods, Edens & Avant, we have the opportunity to work together to make people's experience there more enjoyable and attractive.

The fabrication and construction of the Reston Town Center public art project by artist Mary Ann Mears will occur in the coming months. Ms. Mears and IPAR will offer opportunities for people in the community to see a significant work of art realized. The shapes will appear before our eyes and a new place for people to engage with art will herald the next era of Reston Town Center's success as our "downtown."

Reston Community Center and Reston Association worked this past year with South Lakes High School to explore the feasibility of converting the high school's athletic and practice fields to synthetic turf. RCC and RA will each contribute substantial seed money to help SLHS acquire this important amenity. With the help of Reston Youth Soccer and other community athletic organizations, a budget and planning approach has been identified. With the new synthetic turf fields, playing quality and time for Reston youth and adult populations alike will be greatly enhanced and expanded. Projected completion of the fundraising for the project and its subsequent construction is planned for the spring through summer months of 2013.

While we advance these priorities, we remain mindful of our goals to add more indoor aquatic facilities and a larger performing arts stage for the already squeezed patrons who enjoy our current facilities but for whom more is needed to meet the demands of a growing population. These are capital facility priorities that will demand years of diligent planning and the engagement of the community to assure they are consistent with Reston's vision of how and where they can be realized.

"The addition of the large 3D showcases in the Lake Anne Community Center were absolutely wonderful this year! We increased the number of elementary students recognized during Youth Art Month by more than double and we were able to display different types of art pieces that have never been shown outside of our schools. Students that excel in stitchery and ceramics were celebrated and pieces that broaden the definition of art were highlighted. We displayed everything from bookmaking projects to masks! It was a great show (our best yet) and heavily attended due to the additional display space."

- Gretchen Harris -  
Resident Artist at Aldrin Elementary



Model of Mary Ann Mears sculpture to be installed at Reston Town Center



Silver Line at Wiehle Avenue Concept Drawing



# Administration

The administrative functions of Reston Community Center include Customer Service, Finance and Human Resources, Communications, Building Engineering and Information Technology. Collectively, they support our lines of business and programs for facility rentals and patrons.



## CHALLENGES

The expansion and renovation of Reston Community Center Lake Anne was a major undertaking of the past year and presented a very challenging process with unexpected construction obstacles. Preparing the areas for construction revealed major structural considerations that required more effort to address than had been anticipated. Renovating and expanding facility space in older buildings often reveals conditions that take more time to resolve. Additionally, we made the determination that we would phase the construction in order to be able to continue as much service to patrons in our registered programs as possible; this further complicated our construction scheduling.

We continue with the multi-year effort to undergo transition from old business software systems for Fairfax County agencies to a new integrated product. The first phase of implementation for Finances and Logistics occurred in November 2011. Like any undertaking of this magnitude, it was not without its hiccups. The staff team at RCC mastered new approaches and helped to troubleshoot and resolve the difficulties that the transition involved. No sooner were the elements of the purchasing and accounting software units mastered than this intrepid team turned their attention to the payroll processes in the next phase. As each layer of shifting from the old to the new reveals lessons that can be applied, the succeeding undertaking benefits and goes a little smoother. The systems will ultimately integrate all types of financial and human resources activities that are needed by Fairfax County government agencies and Fairfax County Public Schools.

Patrons also rely more and more on interacting with RCC in a virtual environment to prepare for their involvement in our facilities and programs. To further our ability to be accessible to Reston even when we are not open, our online presence will need to continue to improve to make that interaction positive and successful. The new Five Year Strategic Plan very specifically targets our website, use of social media, electronic communications and similar strategies to be more successfully connected to our community across many platforms.



RCC Lake Anne expanded Fine Arts Studio



New Fitness Studio at RCC Lake Anne



## SUCCESSSES

Although we had hoped to celebrate the conclusion of construction in the summer of 2011, we did finally cut the official ribbon on the expanded RCC Lake Anne in October. Our efforts and patience resulted in a newly beautiful and more functional facility being enjoyed by many more and new patrons in the studios now housed there. The impact of the ten-month project was mitigated by the creativity of RCC staff teams in moving and adjusting programs and services; the year to year data comparison reveals that even with major construction projects in both of our facilities, we remained near or at the capacity utilization levels we have seen for the past several years.

Our Hunters Woods facility's centerpiece, the Community Room, underwent its enhancement project during the late summer weeks of 2011. Speaking, social, learning and community events that take place in this space now are greatly improved by the new acoustical and lighting options that have been installed. Performances by our key constituents, Reston Chorale and Reston Community Orchestra, look much more beautiful. We are finalizing specialized improvements that support their unique acoustical requirements.



The projects involving ADA features are nearly complete, all that remains are adaptations to update the RCC Hunters Woods elevator features and construction of an accessible family restroom on the main floor of the building that will occur in the late summer of 2012.

The Media Communications team put together the technical and design specifications for an Invitation for Bid (IFB) to a variety of firms with the expertise to design and build a new website for RCC. This had to include Fairfax County web and ADA communications standards, and specifies a Content Management System and Mobile-Enabled technology. The Media department expanded to include a position exclusively devoted to web architecture. Once we have the new website and are

ready to use the tools available in electronic environments to communicate with patrons, we will have the best expertise to manage our content and its relevance to the people seeking it.

As our community continued to feel the effects of the pace of slow economic recovery, they participated in our activities and offerings with the support of the RCC Fee Waiver program. With the Board of Governors adoption of a policy approach that provides for anyone who qualifies for this program being able to register and participate on the same basis as any other Reston-qualified patron, its utilization has grown each year since 2009 when the Board adopted this policy. In 2011, utilization of the RCC Fee Waiver program accounted for \$81,000 of waived fees for participants. Those who qualify for and participate do pay a \$5 fee for any participation in a class, workshop or activity.

## LOOKING AHEAD

With major capital improvement projects to the facilities' structures concluding in 2012, we will be turning our attention to the cyclical large-expense capital maintenance projects. We anticipate converting from fuel oil to natural gas for our Hunters Woods systems. The dehumidification system for the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center will be replaced. Our CenterStage floor is nearing the end of the current floor's life and it will be replaced. These are just a few of the maintenance projects that keeping RCC facilities up to date and at peak function require. While not annual in nature, the major systems repairs, replacement and maintenance activities are closely observed and planned for periods when they will least impact our users and before their operation becomes too expensive due to being less reliable than they should be.

Once the new RCC website designer is selected, that firm will work with staff and patrons to be sure that it too has high functionality and reliability. A major objective will be to transition from walk-in and paper delivery of our registrations to providing online access to Reston patrons from the start of any season's registration period. A detailed engagement process, *Get Clickin' @ RCC*, will precede implementation of online registration to assure that our patrons will be well-versed in how to use this more convenient approach if they wish to do so.

From the vantage point of our internal capacities, we are laying the right foundation to continue pursuit of our Strategic Plan. In the coming years, this past year's and next year's efforts will provide the right launching pad for exciting new programs, services and facilities.





Thanksgiving Food Drive

“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people.”

- Jean Vanier -



# Facility Rentals

The Reston Community Center Facility Rentals team has been working hard to continue to provide high-quality affordable rental space for private events, while also accommodating the thousands of classes, meetings, community events and other programs that RCC hosts annually. The end result continues to be facilities that are fully utilized seven days per week. As always, our staff works to ensure that individuals and groups that qualify for Reston status are given priority in the process.

Many of Reston's charitable and civic organizations continue to call RCC their home when it comes to meeting space. Additionally, as one of RCC's primary lines of business, RCC makes rooms available for rent for such activities as gatherings, birthday parties, weddings, and other social events. These types of events bring nearly 100,000 people through the doors of our facilities each year.

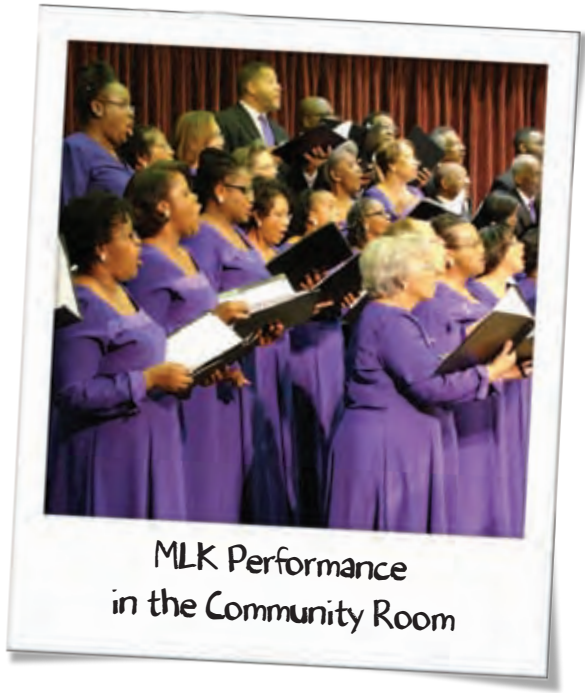
## CHALLENGES

As has always been the case, our staff works diligently to balance the extremely high level of demand with limited facility space. We have a process and policies in place to manage the Facility Rentals program that gives first consideration to Founding Partners, then RCC sponsored programs and events, then Reston-qualified patrons requesting rental space, and finally, if space permits, non-Reston applicants.

RCC's Founding Partners are a select number of organizations that were instrumental in getting the Center built and have been using the facilities since they opened in 1979. These organizations include Reston Chorale,

Reston Community Players, the Reston chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Reston Contra Dance, Conservatory Ballet, Reston Duplicate Bridge, and Narcotics Anonymous.

Once the needs of our Founding Partners are met, we then book RCC programming and internal events. RCC's seasonal program guide comes out three times per year, and each program season features hundreds of classes, workshops, and trips. We also continue to host many public meetings and major community events. After these uses are all scheduled, we then open our calendar for rentals. Our facilities are available for non-commercial use only. Our larger rooms are extremely popular and often booked nearly a year in advance.



MLK Performance in the Community Room

## SUCCESSES

As described in the previous pages, major facility improvements were completed this past year. While some of the general purpose meeting rooms at RCC Lake Anne were lost as part of that project, the new programming spaces will free up time in the meeting rooms at RCC Hunters Woods, resulting in increased overall availability. Acoustical sound baffles were installed in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery, RCC's most elegant rental space, in order to improve its acoustics dramatically.



At RCC Hunters Woods, the new state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems installed make the Community Room much more attractive for events of all types. Previously, the lighting in the room was basic with minimal options for adjustments, and the sound system was antiquated and inadequate for most of the types of uses the room receives.

Last fall, RCC partnered with Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine Hudgins and a number of Reston's civic organizations to kick off a campaign known as Sustainable Reston. This campaign is aimed to increase Reston citizens' awareness of current trends and get them thinking about potential sustainability practices, such as growing their own food. RCC continues to host many other community events, such as public meetings with our elected officials and meetings of groups like Reston for a Lifetime and the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force as these new organizational and community collaborations are undertaken to improve living in Reston.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Staff will continue to monitor trends and work to maximize opportunities for utilization of all of RCC's facilities. A recent staff restructuring will allow our facility operations support group to focus more on providing a quality experience for all of our rental and program patrons. The reorganization will focus RCC employees on the support to facility activities and events while maximizing the contract-led efforts to keep RCC facilities and their systems operating, clean and efficient. Our focus is on providing the greatest level of service while continuing to maintain first-class facilities.

*I just wanted to thank all of your staff for their kindness and efficiency in helping me plan my mom's party (and my family reunion). Everything worked perfectly from planning to execution. Please let everyone involved know how much I appreciate their attention.*

- Cathy Vivona -



Wedding reception in RCC's Community Room



# Arts & Events



Festival on the Square

Every year, our community’s professionally operated theatre facility, the CenterStage, hosts professional artists, community-based arts organizations performing theatre, music and dance, and a variety of community forums, films for different interests and the teaching and performing associated with our Young Actors Theatre program. The CenterStage calendar is bursting because there are such diverse tastes, groups and opportunities to host and support.

In addition to managing the CenterStage and support resources for activities there, the Arts and Events department offers a full-spectrum program of classes and workshops for people who love the visual and performing arts across all ages. Our Community Events team rounds out this department with direction of RCC signature events such as Reston Multicultural Festival, Reston Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Festival on the Square, Take a

Break Concerts, Family Fun Series, Reston’s Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and many other opportunities to bring people together in celebration of what makes Reston such a culturally vibrant community.

## CHALLENGES

The Arts and Events team works to bring as many people as possible to programs every year. The performances and activities scheduled compete with many other schedules so audience development and expanding public knowledge of the opportunities in Reston to pursue the arts are a constant challenge, year in and year out for RCC and the constituent arts groups that use our facilities. The many events that we sponsor and present outdoors face the challenge of weather having an inordinate impact on whether or not people will enjoy attending.

In our Arts Education program, the challenge is often the opposite. The Studio sizes and specialized nature of many of the visual and performing arts classes and workshops limit how many participants can be enrolled and we are always endeavoring to move more patrons off our wait lists and into classes.



Reston Multicultural Festival at Lake Anne Plaza



## SUCCESSSES

### *Performing Arts*

The Professional Touring Artist Series at the CenterStage this past year featured a focus on the variety in music and hosted artists who either are at the top of their careers or are headed there on an unmistakable trajectory of success. Audiences enjoyed greats in the world of music like singer Nnenna Freelon, the renowned Irish band Lúnasa, and guitarist Larry Coryell and the Hot Club of Detroit. They wowed audiences with sold-out concerts and wildly enthusiastic encores. Up and coming artists like Sierra Hull, Grace Kelly, and the International Chamber Soloists left deep impressions here and they will be remembered as they reach wider and wider audiences.

CenterStage hosts Reston Community Players and many local dancers in programs that also generate intense audience loyalty and garner acclaim. The staff of the CenterStage believes in “building community” among and between the arts groups and the people enjoying them here in Reston. There is wonderful cross-pollination between these groups, local students, and the visiting artists in our community which are exemplified in both the ways the groups work together and the visits from professionals who extend themselves in artist residency work. This year, those efforts included outstanding professional artists Nnenna Freelon, Leon Bates, TS Monk, Larry Coryell, Trout Fishing in America and AXIS Dance Company.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute collaborated with CenterStage this past year to present free performances by top musicians to Thursday afternoon music lovers. This “Meet the Artists” format and daytime curtain time proved to be a big hit and will continue in the coming season.

AXIS Dance Company - Professional Touring Artist Series



## SUCCESSSES

### *Community Events*

Combining community celebrations with opportunities for community service was a major focus of this year’s planning and program execution. The Reston Multicultural Festival again featured a moving and inspirational Naturalization Ceremony that reaffirmed the privilege and obligations of citizenship for all attendees. The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive continued a history of compassion. The Reston Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration broadened to include new groups and projects designed to help our non-profit human services organizations like Reston Interfaith, The Closet, and cleanups and sprucing up by Reston Association and Southgate Community Center. The speaker for middle and high school student audiences, Dr. Bill Magee of Operation Smile, inspired and moved these young people with his stories of how each person can make a big difference in the lives of others simply by reaching out a helping hand.

Of course, often the point of community events is simply to get together and have fun. This year partnership efforts with Reston Association expanded the number of Community Cookouts, and our relationship with Reston Town Center Association provides the Family Fun Entertainment Series and Holiday Performances there. RCC’s popular Take a Break concerts and our sponsorship of the Annual Jazz Festival at Lake Anne Plaza are outdoor entertainment highlights for visitors to this historic heart of Reston. As always with outdoor events, the weather plays a significant role in people’s enjoyment and we had our fair share of not-so-fair weather during the past year. These impacts tend to balance out over the years.

Community Events programming requires strong partnerships and collaborations with many other organizations and our partners which included most of Reston’s civic and cultural organizations.



Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival

Robert E. Simon at Founders Day





Ceramics Class at RCC Lake Anne

## SUCCESSSES

### Arts Education

The greatest success of the past year was concluding the renovation and expansion at RCC Lake Anne. This has allowed us to plan added visual arts classes and workshops, and to accommodate more students in our Ceramics Studio. Performing Arts classes that were moved to the RCC Hunters Woods facility also grew in enrollment to bring more participants to the excitement of music, dance and theatre.

Our partnership with Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) continues to enable our two organizations to offer even more visual arts learning experiences at the GRACE Gallery in Reston Town Center with the Appetite for Art, T.G.I.F., and Super Studios programs. Of course the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival is a great opportunity to work with GRACE to bring the excitement of the visual and performing arts together in a terrific festival setting that draws thousands of arts enthusiasts to it every year.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The year ahead will feature more innovative and fascinating film explorations of public art projects presented jointly with Initiative for Public Art – Reston, in addition to the realization of a major public art project set in Reston Town Center. This sculpture by Mary Ann Mears will be a visual landmark for people. RCC will continue to collaborate with IPAR to help people learn more about unique projects, artists, and the intersections they create with different communities.

The core pillar of the Arts and Events department is programming that people love for its high quality and sense of cultural adventure. Our local schools rely on RCC for wonderful opportunities for students to engage with renowned artists and their work. Encouraging people to enjoy the company of friends and neighbors at festivals, cookouts and events will continue to enrich the lives of people living and playing in Reston.

During the past several years, the RCC has made it possible for our students and faculty to meet and work with some of the finest professional musicians in the United States .... We at South Lakes are grateful for the RCC for providing cultural enrichment and we are equally grateful to the staff and the board for making these events a priority....I believe that funding for the RCC and its outreach events to be one of the most important projects the board undertakes. These events touch thousands of lives and I earnestly hope they continue.

- Bryan Baldwin -  
Orchestra / I.B. Music Teacher at SLHS



Leon Bates at South Lakes High School





“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

- Martin Luther King Jr. -

MLK artwork created by Hunters Woods Elementary School 4th, 5th and 6th graders





# Leisure and Learning

RCC's Leisure and Learning department fills Reston's "spare time." Whether the interest is fitness and wellness or social programs, trips and tours or camps, culinary interests or chess, this team of talented professionals in the field of recreation seek the most interesting and enjoyable programs for RCC patrons.

With an eye to the Strategic Plan goals for "Collaboration and Outreach," and "Programs," RCC's Leisure and Learning department seeks new places for enrichment, new options for improved health, and new ways to connect people with their passions.

## CHALLENGES

The construction calendar of RCC Lake Anne's expansion and renovation certainly offered opportunities to be creative with maneuvering around obstacles. The continuing challenge of the various program directors in Leisure and Learning is to find ways to enroll a growing population of patrons for the programs offered.

## SUCCESSES

Undoubtedly, 2011 was a banner year for both expanded initiatives and new collaborative efforts with community organizations and partners. The Reston for a Lifetime initiative (formerly known as Aging in Reston) gained even more energy with a new, more encompassing name that embraces the spirit of the initiative and encourages all ages to join efforts to make Reston an even better place to live. In October, RCC supported the well-attended, free community workshop, *Staying in Reston for a Lifetime: Can I Afford It?* This event was held at RCC Lake Anne and covered topics such as Fairfax County tax relief, the cost of home ownership and apartment rental in Reston, senior housing options, home modifications, legal documents to protect assets, investment strategies, and accounting and financing strategies. The presenters then agreed to lead individual seminars at Reston Community Center throughout the year to allow interested community members to get more acquainted with specific topics of interest. Additionally, RCC launched a pilot transportation program in the fall 2011 season to promote,



Youth Cooking Camp

For the last six years since I retired, I have been going to Jackie Dantonio's senior exercise classes and I have never felt better... Her classes are fun (in spite of the pain of exercising) and I look forward to them each day. I feel that I have never been in such good shape as I am now in spite of my increasing years. Jackie is the best!

- Diane Zink -

encourage and help coordinate ride sharing and carpooling among senior adult community members to programs and events at RCC Hunters Woods and RCC Lake Anne. The pilot has transitioned into a regular offering and will continue to be coordinated and promoted by both RCC and Reston for a Lifetime.

A highlight for RCC was establishing a joint relationship with the civic organization, Sustainable Reston, and one of our key community partners, Reston Association. In October, 2011, the Office of Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, in cooperation with numerous community groups, presented a forum at RCC Hunters Woods to introduce Reston residents to the principles of sustainability.



The forum supported an exciting effort to make Reston an environmentally sustainable, self-reliant community able to withstand various ecological and economic challenges for the next 50 years. The collaboration with Sustainable Reston and Reston Association produced a new series, Green Living, which resulted in seven one-day workshops and a multi-session discussion program. Topics included Rain Barrel Making, How to Make a Solar Oven, Organic Gardening, Eco-Friendly Cleaners, Backyard Composting, and a six-week discussion course titled Menu for the Future. The new series was very well received and as a result of its success, several dozen more cooperative Green Living programs have been scheduled throughout the 2012 season.

In October 2011, with the official re-opening of RCC Lake Anne, people could tour an expanded facility that now houses three fitness and wellness studios as well as new visual arts spaces. The renovation allowed RCC to premiere 12 new fitness and wellness classes and broaden our schedule by more than two dozen individual class offerings. Popular classes included several boot camps for women, martial arts, a number of new Yoga offerings, walking clubs, and strength training sessions for senior adults. As a result, we were able to reduce the number of waitlisted patrons and serve 1,000 more registrants in 2011 compared to 2010.

Along with these new offerings, 50 new programs arrived in 2011 program guides that spanned all areas of interest. We are very lucky to have enthusiastic and knowledgeable community members willing to teach so many types of courses for RCC, and equally fortunate to have delightful participants who provide terrific feedback and suggestions for future programming.

Thank you so much for providing these programs for families! They are affordable (and sometimes free) and we have fun. The activities are always something my daughter is excited about. We love the community feel as well. From music and pottery to ice skating and tea parties, it's always great for memory-making!  
Thanks again!

- Helen Hauer -

Summer camp programming continues to flourish. In 2010, we transformed our traditional on-site day camp to a field trip adventure camp and added several dozen new, half-day specialty camps. These changes were met with tremendous enthusiasm as evidenced by high enrollment and very positive parent and camper feedback about 2011 summer programs. Staff reviewed camp enrollment trends and revised the schedule by eliminating less popular camps and adding in 11 new specialty camps. This effort resulted in RCC offering 78 camp programs and being able to serve up to 1,150 campers in 2012.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The Leisure & Learning Department will continue to collaborate with community partners by providing fresh ideas and innovative programming in pursuit of energetic and empowering initiatives. As the next year unfolds, we will be doing focused planning with Reston for a Lifetime to improve transportation options for Reston residents, particularly older adults. Continued support will be given to our ongoing after school program, Heritage Language Literacy Club, held at Lake Anne Elementary School. A new partnership will be forged with Dogwood Elementary School to allow students to participate in more summer enrichment programs and camp opportunities. The objectives of Sustainable Reston will be a prominent feature in the RCC programming schedule with several new courses and an innovative community event, RCCcycle, designed to encourage the recycling of gently used household items among neighbors. Collaborative programming among four key Reston organizations — Reston Community Center, Reston Association, Reston Interfaith, and Southgate Community Center — is underway to implement beneficial and affordable programs, beyond the walls of RCC, in neighborhood settings.

Eggnormous Egg Hunt







# AQUATICS

Within the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center at RCC Hunters Woods, swimmers of all ages, skills, and abilities share the facility and its beautiful and restful Spa. RCC Aquatics Department staff teams guard patrons using the pool, enroll students in swimming classes and programs that align with their swimming skills and abilities, and provide guided water exercise to people with a variety of therapeutic or fitness swimming goals.

## CHALLENGES

Maximizing programming opportunities and minimizing popular time conflicts continued to and will always challenge us given the one pool and related support areas to utilize. As the population of Reston increases, the demand rises for instructional, recreational and fitness swimming programs to meet that growing population's needs.

This year also presented RCC with a new cost environment for use of American Red Cross for our swim lesson curriculum. An operations shift in American Red Cross partnerships with communities will necessitate significant exploration and planning of how to manage this change in ways that comply with our fiscal requirements.

## SUCCESSES

The year ended with the number of patrons visiting the center slightly higher than the previous year and a few modifications to historical class programs allowing for more diverse swim lesson offerings. By changing the traditional Monday and Wednesday twice-a-week classes into a once-a-week format, more patrons were served with convenient class time options. A new curriculum was developed as an alternative to the American Red Cross Learn To Swim program in collaboration with leading public Aquatics programs in Fairfax County and surrounding jurisdictions. Based on proven teaching techniques and well established learning criteria, the new program has been very well received by our patrons since our transition to it in the fall of 2011.

*We have been extremely happy with the swimming lessons at the Community Center. My daughter has been taking lessons for several years and loves the instructors, especially Allie. A previous instructor even encouraged her to join a summer swim team, which she did and she loves it!*

*- Gail Toth -*



55+ Aquatics Class

Planning for and investigating opportunities that could help the community build another indoor Aquatics venue continues to be a key component of the Strategic Plan and remains a significant objective. In the interim, RCC's facility objectives remain to continuously improve the systems that keep the pool comfortable and safe. New systems replacement projects are on the horizon and as always, RCC's Aquatics staff team, our contractors, and Building Engineer will plan these projects for the annual maintenance period for the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center. Swimmers have appreciated all the upgrades to our ADA features that were accomplished this past year, including automatic door openers, accommodatingly placed hair dryers, and other amenities that make the facility even more accessible.



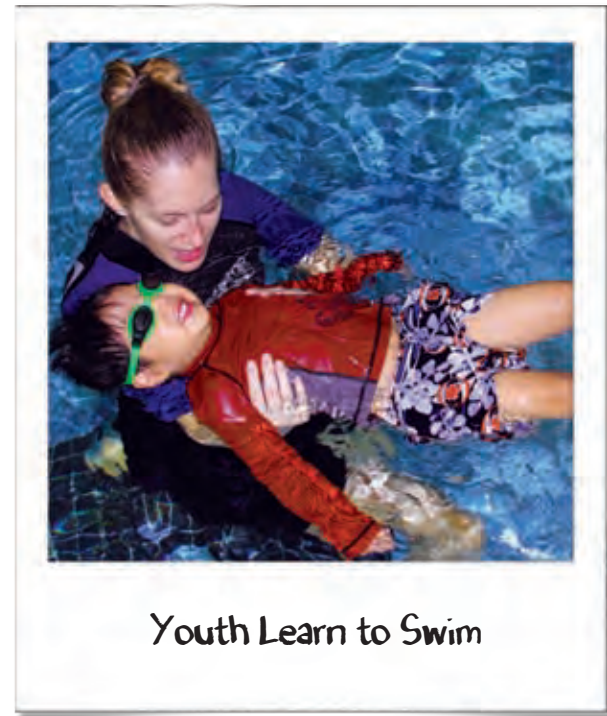
## LOOKING AHEAD

Based on feedback from the annual community input meeting last February, the Aquatics team will unveil three significant programming adjustments in the year ahead to benefit residents and employees of Reston.

Summer 2012 class offerings will include sessions for teens exclusively in addition to offerings for adults that teens may have chosen in the past. This will provide an instructional option with their peers and could reduce their concerns about participating in a Learn to Swim class. In fall 2012, the popular Family Swim night (offered on the last Friday of each month) will be priced at \$7.00 for a group of up to seven people. This will allow families and friends to enjoy a fun evening of aquatics recreation at a substantial price reduction (if every individual paid the normal gate fee).

RCC's Aquatics department has also developed an approach to offering "one-on-one" swimming instruction at mutually scheduled times for those for whom this focused instruction would be desirable. For some families, this approach may be the only way to obtain swimming instruction that accommodates complicated scheduling issues. By enrolling in this Private Swim Lesson module, patrons will be registered participants and arrange the times for lessons through the department staff team so as not to conflict with other pool users.

RCC and its partner in the Drowning Education Awareness Program (DEAP), Reston Association, will continue to offer these popular orientations to water safety in classroom and dry land settings wherever and whenever possible. The DEAP program is a core offering for the community's benefit and is provided without charge. Our goal remains to make Reston the most water-safe community possible.



Youth Learn to Swim



Water Introduction Class for ages 6-18 months





Reston Community Orchestra and Reston Chorale performing in RCC's Community Room

## **Vision**

**Reston Community Center enriches lives and builds community for all of Reston.**

## **Mission**

**To create positive leisure, cultural and educational experiences which enhance the quality of life for all people living and working in Reston by:**

Providing a broad range of programs in arts, aquatics, recreation, enrichment and lifelong learning.

Creating and sustaining community traditions through special events, outreach activities, and facility rentals.

Building community through collaboration and celebration.

## **Values**

**In accomplishing our Vision, RCC will be:**

A welcoming community resource committed to improving citizens' quality of life,

A builder of sense of place and community traditions,

Celebratory of peoples' traditions, cultural and recreational aspirations,

An active partner with other Reston Organizations,

A barrier-free organization - physical, financial, cultural,

An accepting and open organization,

A responsible and accountable steward of community resources,

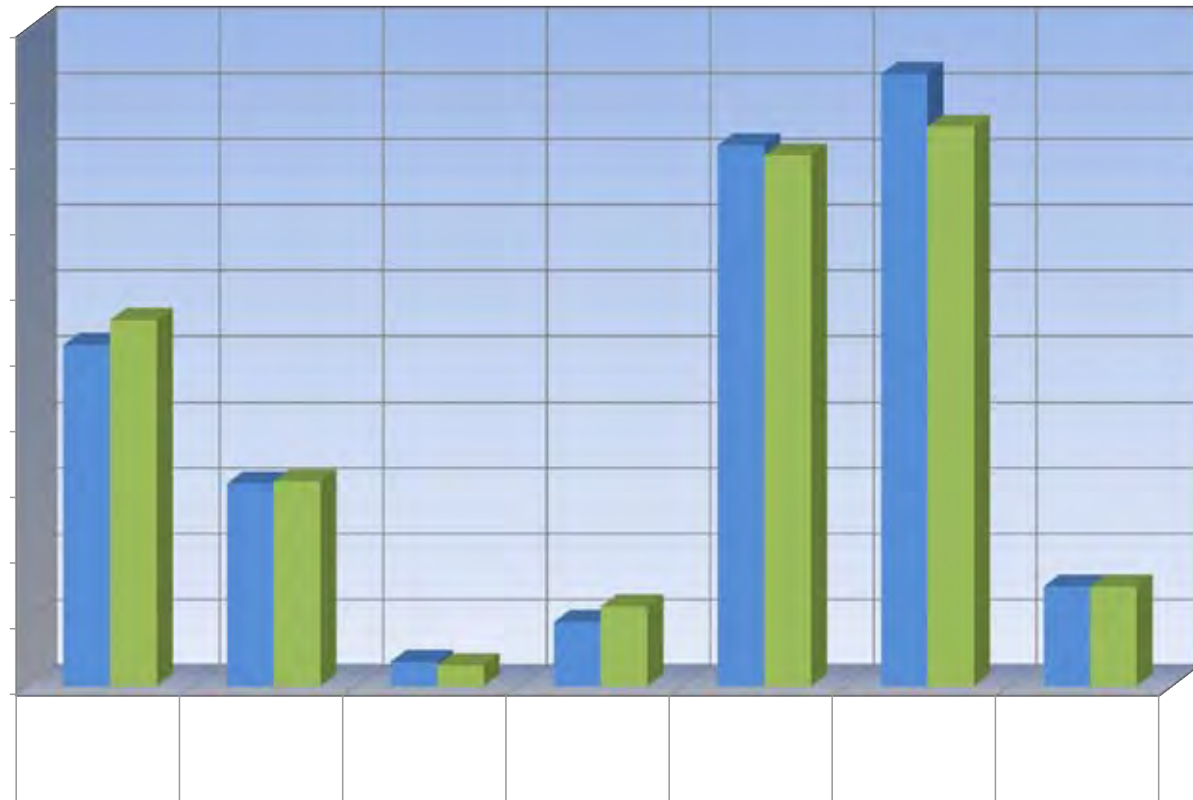
A respectful organization that supports and nurtures its staff, board, volunteers, constituents and patrons.



## 2011 Year in Data

The following tables and charts reflect a calendar year of activity in order to present a complete picture of RCC participation for every program season (winter, spring, summer and fall). We routinely monitor data on patron participation to be sure we are offering programs that patrons enjoy and that are diverse in content and approach and, to the extent possible, to address program wait lists.

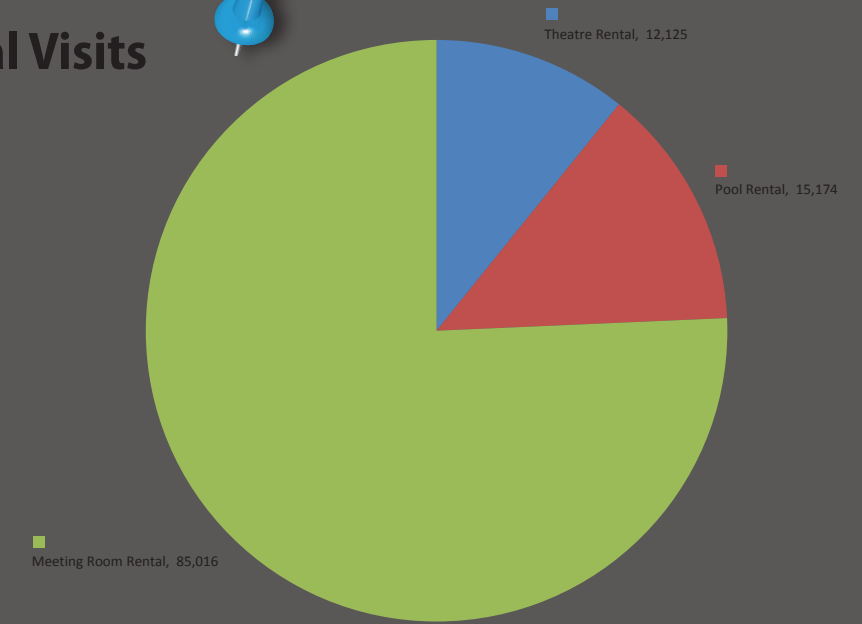
### Program Participation by Program Type 2010 & 2011 Compared



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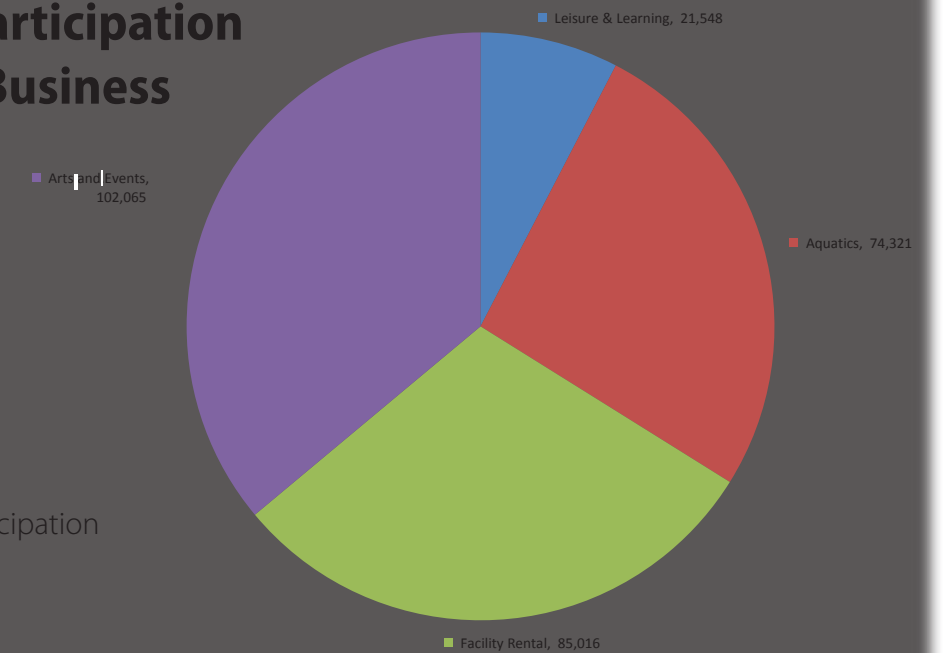
## Facility Rental Visits

2011



## Program Participation by Line of Business

2011

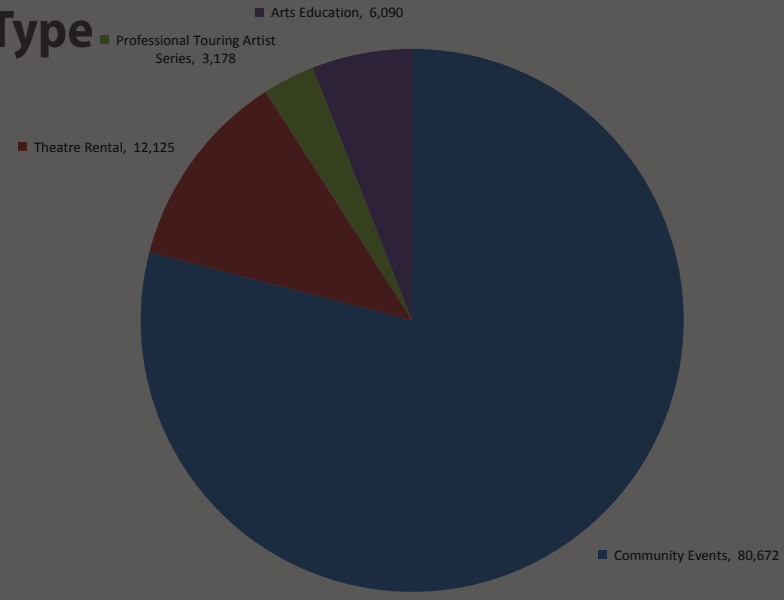


Total Program participation in 2011: 282,950



# Arts & Events Program Participation by Type

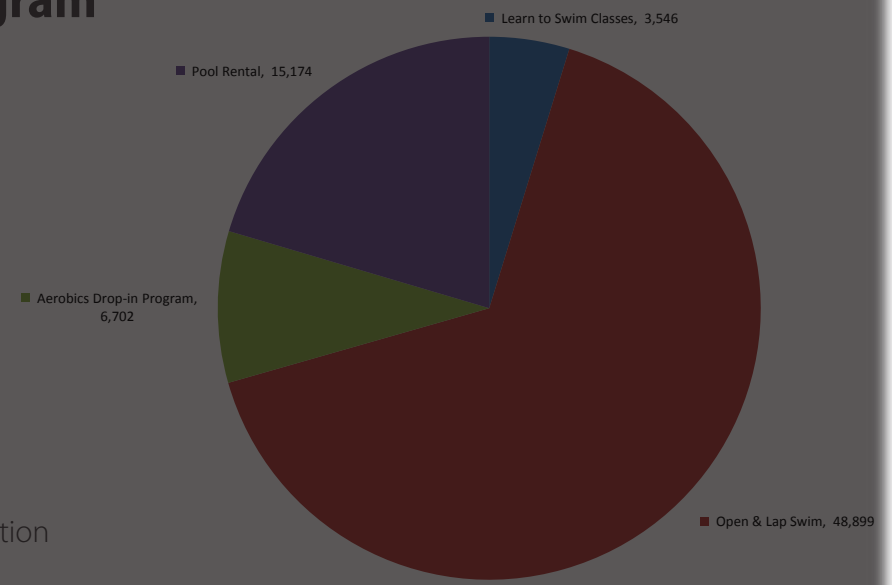
2011



Total Program participation in 2011: 102,065

# Aquatics Program Participation by Type

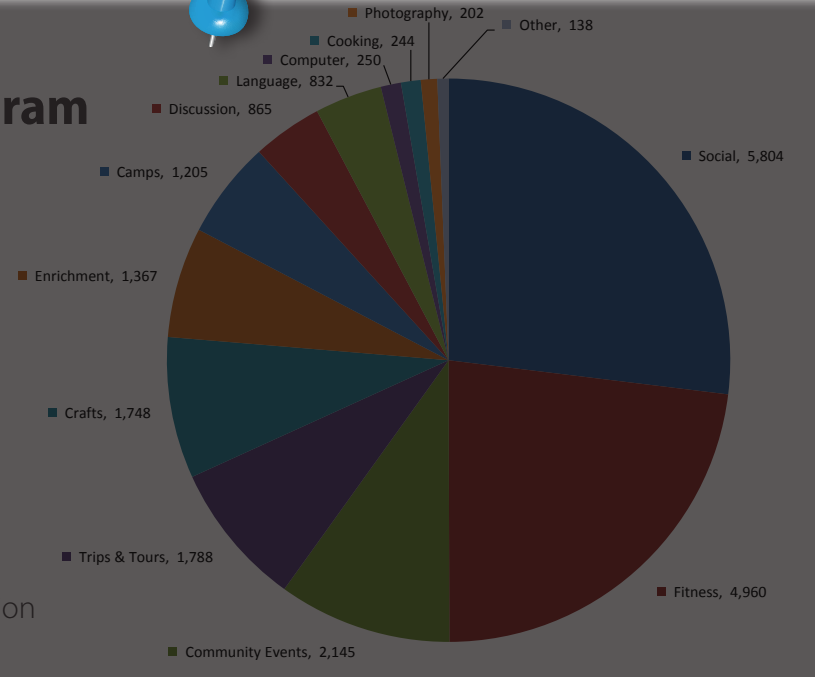
2011



Total Program participation in 2011: 74,321

# Leisure and Learning Program Participation by Type

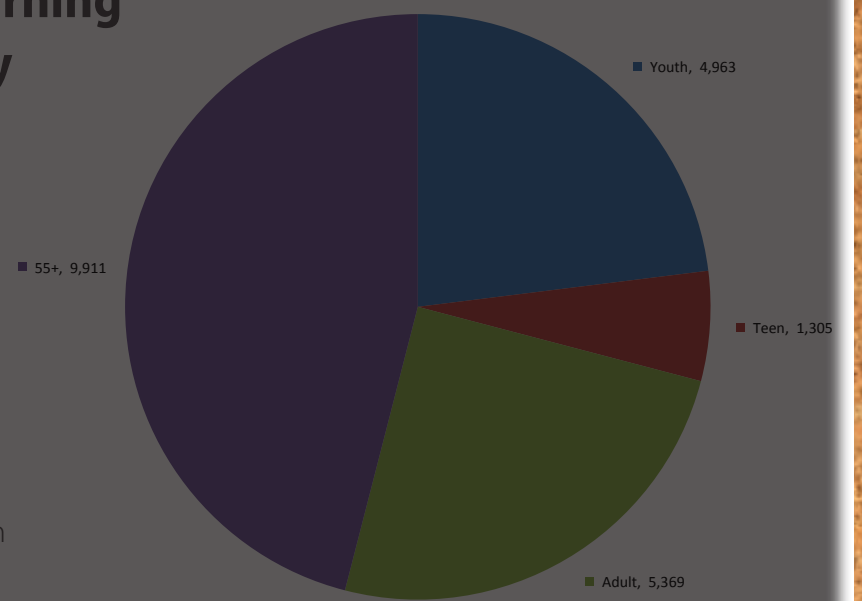
2011



Total Program participation in 2011: 21,548

# Leisure and Learning Participation by Age Cohort

2011



Total Program participation in 2011: 21,548



## Board of Governors



**Beverly Cosham,**  
Chair



**William Bouie**



**Carol Bradley**



**John Gasson**



**William Keefe**



**Roger Lowen**



**William Penniman**



**Cathy Vivona**



**Vicky Wingert**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the hundreds of talented, hardworking individuals who also support RCC in part-time, instructional, lab supervising, lifeguarding, theatre technical assistance, and many other roles. These outstanding individuals are too numerous to list here. We can't do what we do without their key contributions.

RCC also extends its profound gratitude to our wonderful volunteers who give everything they do the shining touch of their generous community spirits. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the RCC experience.



## Administration

**Leila Gordon**

**Executive Director**

**Thomas Ward**

**Deputy Director**

**Renata Wojcicki**

**Finance Director**

**BeBe Nguyen**

**Director of Communications**

**Harunor Rashid**

**Network Administrator**

**Pam Leary**

**Customer Service Manager**

Mia Arguinzoni

Personnel Specialist

Warren Bailey

Customer Service

Jan Bradshaw

Customer Service

Vincent Brown

Customer Service

Sumi Gallas

Asst. Customer Service Mgr.

Tim Elcesser

Financial Specialist

Mahsa Layazali

Customer Service

Greg Minassian

Customer Service

Samantha Pallo

Graphic Artist

Evelyn Rosa

Customer Service

Grazyna Siebor

Accounting Specialist

Kristin Terrill

Public Information Officer

Ling Zhao

Customer Service

## Aquatics

**Joe Leary**

**Aquatics Director**

Rifat Chowdhury

Customer Service

Ivan Cole

Customer Service

Melissa Murray

Customer Service

Scott Sorenson

Aquatics Night Manager

Jennifer Vought

Aquatics Assistant Director

## Arts & Events

**Paul D. Michnewicz**

**Arts & Events Director**

Brian Biel

Box Office Assistant

Mark Brutsché

Asst. Technical Director

Cheri Danaher

Arts Education Director

Kevin Danaher

Community Events Director

Linda Ifert

Technical Director

Gloria Morrow

Arts Education Assistant

William Parker

Box Office Manager

## Leisure & Learning

**Eileen Boone**

**Leisure & Learning Director**

Karen Brutsché

55+ Program Director

Kenny Burrowes

Teen Program Director

Debbie Heron

Youth Program Director

Jonathan Navarro

Adult Program Director

Kim Gollop-Pagani

Youth Program Assistant

Diane Scott

Adult Program Assistant

Susan Zaboji

55+ Program Assistant

## Facility Rentals & Operations

**Brian Gannon**

**Facility Booking Manager**

**Fred Russo**

**Building Engineer**

Trung Nguyen

Facility Team - Lake Anne

John Scurto

Facility Team - Hunters Woods

Mohammed Alhadi

Facility Team

Jose Ayala

Facility Team

Santos Campos

Facility Team

Patricia Farrell

Facility Supervisor

Gilberto Guardado

Facility Team

Terry Maynard

Facility Rentals Assistant

Ken Wade

Facility Team



# Reston Community Center

2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, Va 20191



*Enriching Lives. Building Community.®*

***Get Clickin'@RCC***

**[www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com)**