



# Arlington County Civic Federation

## 2024 Award Citations

### **Community Impact Award – Kim Haun**

As the Arlington County urban agriculture program coordinator, Kim is the lynchpin of the county's network of 10 farmers markets, the centerpiece of a 45-year-old program that is emblematic of warm and healthy community relations. She smooths relations between markets and County zoning, permitting, traffic, and health departments. Her lifelong interest in supporting a robust regional food system is a gift to us all.

### **Community Impact Award – Jean Henceroth**

Jean has shown the power of one person. Newly elected as president of Leeway Overlee Civic Association, she faced the near-certain demise of its community centerpiece, an aging community center with good bones. With unquenchable skill and undaunted initiative and energy, she persuaded County authorities to take another look at preserving and updating this historic building. Its chances of survival have risen from nil to probable.

### **Community Impact Award - Ginger Brown and Sandi Chesrown**

Two women had a vision about the future of Lee Highway/Langston Boulevard. Ginger and Sandi saw vibrant neighborhoods, pedestrian-friendly streets and shopping, a healthy tree canopy and parks as well as more housing to meet the future needs of our growing community. Ten years later, the Arlington County Board adopted the Langston Boulevard Area Plan: a comprehensive plan and policy framework for this critical and vibrant corridor.

### **Community Impact Award – Livability22202**

Faced with waves of transformative development in their neighborhoods, the Arlington Ridge, Aurora Highlands, and Crystal City Civic Associations banded together to confront staggering change. The achievements of the nascent Livability22202 coalition over the past few years, and the enhanced impact made possible by uniting to achieve shared goals, have enabled area residents to collectively offer cogent and practical responses to daunting challenges.

### **President's Award – Anne Bodine and Matt Hall**

Anne and Matt have served as co-chairs of the Arlington County Civic Federation's rejuvenated housing committee for over a year, and during that time they have organized and conducted

many very well-received public meetings on topics of great current interest and much divergent public opinion. Their meetings have served to set a standard for much-needed civil civic discourse on housing issues in Arlington.

#### **President's Award – David Smith**

Every organization boasts several members who make it tick. Sometimes it is just one, as was the case with CivFed during 2023-24. That one person was David Smith. From making our monthly membership meetings possible for hybrid participation, to ensuring voting and participation rules were observed, to somehow making a lucid record of the proceedings, he was the singular indispensable element for our successful meetings.

#### **President's Award – Nicholas Giacobbe**

When Nick joined the Civic Federation board of directors in 2023, the organization was still recovering from COVID-induced torpor. Several beloved traditions had languished, including the annual banquet. Displaying obvious leadership potential from the beginning of his service, Nick took charge of reviving the traditional banquet. Imaginatively yet meticulously, he has single-handedly organized the 2024 gala event. His leadership epitomizes a broader organizational resurrection.

#### **Order of Distinguished Meritorious Service – Adam Henderson**

Often tapped by his peers for leadership roles, Adam inspires confidence in any situation by his calm, reasoned manner and thorough preparation. He has capped decades of community service to Arlington County in helping to lead the return of the Civic Federation from the depths of COVID back to renewed relevance. Always mindful of what is right and just, Adam has inspired many who will follow behind him.

#### **Order of Distinguished Meritorious Service – Jacqueline Snelling**

Tireless determination to improve life for everyone in Arlington has been the hallmark of Jackie's four decades of dedicated service to our home place. Passionate and dedicated, she has focused on lifting up those who are down, fearlessly seeking out solutions to bureaucratic and systemic problems, and selflessly assisting those who share her commitment to make things better, including her beloved Arlington County Civic Federation.



# Arlington County Civic Federation

## 2024 Community Impact Award

Presented to Livability22202,  
The Coalition of the Arlington Ridge, Aurora Highlands, and Crystal City Civic  
Associations

With the 2018 announcement of Amazon's plans to locate its second headquarters with 25,000 employees in the 22202 area of Arlington, the three active civic associations in the area decided to band together to ensure the continued livability of the neighborhoods. During 2019, the neighbors met on numerous occasions in a series of workshops to develop a framework for development in the area that could serve as a guide for both the County and developers planning projects in the distinct neighborhoods that have since been rebranded as National Landing.

The framework and action plan have been heralded as an excellent example of a neighborhood coming together and laying out a clear vision so that each project could contribute in a coordinated fashion to the fulfillment of the vision. These Livability documents, taken in tandem with the County's detailed sector plans for Crystal City and Pentagon City, ensure that there is good planning from the inception of a project idea.

The action plan laid out key priorities, and working groups were established to support each element. These included:

- Housing Affordability
- Ensure Essential Services such as a library, community center, and dog parks
- Environmental Sustainability
- Encourage Engagement, Arts and Culture
- Extend the Multimodal Transportation Network

In the ensuing years, progress was made on each of the priorities, and by 2023 it was time for a reboot. Once again, the three civic associations came together in various fora, including a large community event at the new Amazon community space, to update and recraft the priorities based on the successes of the original priorities and issues that had emerged in more recent years. The product of this months-long process was a December 2023 letter to the County Board outlining the new priorities for Livability22202 going forward.

Some issues remained the same: there is still a need for a robust, central, walkable library and community center, along with a branch library in Crystal City. Other, new themes have emerged, such as a central elementary school, the need to deliver, protect, and enhance open space, and the inclusion of a new concept, the connecting Green Ribbon, which had emerged with the Pentagon City Sector Plan. Transportation remains a vital part of the conversation, with the neighborhood once again pressing for safe crossings of Route 1 to unite the neighborhood, and for true community-wide transportation planning. The report highlighted the tremendous success in adding affordable housing in 22202, largely thanks to Amazon, but noted the ongoing challenge with housing affordability.

In recognition of the achievements of the Livability22202 coalition over the past few years, and of the enhanced impact made possible by uniting to achieve shared goals, the Civic Federation presents the Community Impact Award to the Arlington Ridge, Aurora Highlands, and Crystal City Civic Associations.



# Arlington County Civic Federation

## 2024 Community Impact Award

Presented to Jean Henceroth  
Leeway Overlee Civic Association

In 2013, when Jean moved into the community, the Lee Community Center was full of residents all day long. People played music, they danced – ballroom and they were good – took yoga classes, used the computer room, and utilized an array of 55+ programs. There was a co-op day care. Neighbors used the large multi-purpose room for children’s parties. Neighbors voted there and picked up free leaf bags there in the fall. There were art studios in the luminous second-floor former classrooms.

Then, before COVID, those programs stopped. Some moved to other community centers. Some didn’t continue. Some neighbors started going to the other community centers; many, especially the older 55+ group, did not. They stopped using the County’s excellent programs. The former school building became known as the LAC Studios since the ceramics and print studios continued in place.

The polling place moved to the Westover Library and then to a church when the Cardinal School attached to the library was rebuilt. Neighbors started driving to other community centers for leaf bags (not a big issue but more driving required, not a “community” resource).

During COVID, in 2022, Jean was asked to take over as President of the Leeway Overlee Civic Association. As an enticement, she was told it wouldn’t be much work.

Then the daily barrage of very informative emails started, most about Missing Middle, but there were some about Plan Langston Boulevard. There were engagement opportunities and an extensive draft plan outlining an inspirational future for this corridor.

Jean started attending Plan Langston Boulevard meetings, met some amazing people, and realized that future plans for the Lee Community Center included probable demolition with several proposed options in its stead. She realized that many people considered the Lee Community Center obsolete and falling apart but there were a lot of people who thought it should be saved. But Parks and Rec had already moved its programs to other community centers and the Art studios had an anticipated moving date of early 2025.

## 2023 – Why Keep The Community Center?

Jean started researching the building, its history, and the programs which had been moved. She discovered that most of the offerings had been the 55+ programs and that they had been fully subscribed.

She also learned that this 1925 building was one of six elementary schools built as a result of Arlington's historic consolidation of its three school systems in the 1920s. The school was designed by a prominent architect, Percy Crowley Adams, who had been known for designing schools, banks, courthouses, residences, apartment Buildings, movie theaters, commercial, manufacturing facilities, office buildings, and automobile Showrooms. He also collaborated with other architects to create other buildings which we know today, including the House of Representatives Longworth Office Building, the Avalon Theater in Chevy Chase, and the Rixey Mansion at Marymount University. Between 1924 and 1926 his firm designed at least six schools in Arlington, perhaps those six elementary schools.

Throughout 2023, Jean attended many meetings and talked to many people, including several members of the Planning Commission and the Chair of the C2E2 Commission. She invited them all to tour the building. In October 2023, Jean presented the neighborhood's hopes to save the building to the County Board at its meeting when it approved the Langston Boulevard Area Plan. Also in October 2023, Jean attended the County Manger's Round Table and met other civic association presidents who were interested in historic preservation and renovation. Jean was always looking for allies among the County Commissions and Committees meetings and met many of these dedicated volunteers who give so much to the Arlington community.

## 2024 – Developing a Plan

Today, Jean has the support of a group of architects and building contractors who developed plans for the building with several options, all of which are green and biophilic – including features such as solar panels on the roof and a ductless HVAC system. They are sharing the plans with the County Manager and County Board as a viable alternative that will once again give life to a cherished activity center in the community.

## **2024 GazetteLeader Cup**

Presented to John Ford, President

As President of the Arlington County Civic Federation for the past two years, John Ford has worked tirelessly and skillfully to manage the organization through a particularly challenging time for Arlington and its civic organizations. John's highly skilled leadership through an inclusive team management style that recognizes, welcomes, includes, and supports individual contributions through collaboration has been critical as CivFed has emerged from COVID and resumed its traditional role at the center of the Arlington County's civic life.

John has thoughtfully engaged the County Manager, staff, and the County Board to collaboratively focus on the specific priorities of CivFed-adopted resolutions including open government and FOIA, a review and planning for an update of the guidebook for commissions, restoring joint roundtables with the Manager, ACCF, and civic associations. John has not only laid the groundwork and participated in the hands-on work to make progress on all fronts.

In his prior role as chair of the Public Services Committee, John led the development of an effective campaign to identify and address critical countywide flood mitigation and stormwater management. Through his work, the committee drafted and passed four resolutions with guidance for the County in the approach to flooding and stormwater and he successfully led coordination with the County staff to implement the recommendations. He coordinated a strategy to organize civic associations by watershed to develop and promote collaborative plans. This approach allowed these groups, totaling 25 civic associations and several hundred individual members, to speak with a unified, powerful voice to a busy County Board. The result was a ten-fold increase in stormwater mitigation funding in the Capital Improvement Plan.

As President, John has encouraged and supported extensive outreach for re-energizing the ACCF committee structure, the heart and strength of ACCF. He has led the restoration of ACCF's ability to engage on critical community issues by appointing new chairs or co-chairs for the Housing Committee, the Planning and Zoning Committee, the Arts and Culture Committee, the Legislative Affairs Committee, and the Schools Committee.

He has engaged members directly on their issues and priorities by re-structuring the ACCF General Membership meetings to include regular exchange with members to develop interactive member conversations that are well beyond the traditional Q and A session or interaction with a talking head. He has strategically identified programs to focus on key issues and added ACCF jointly sponsored and hosted events led by committees and partnerships with members to feature topics that expand the reach of ACCF education programs. This approach began with a program by the Environmental Affairs Committee on Arlington's dwindling Tree Canopy, an educational program on rank choice voting held jointly with the League of Women Voters, and a timely presentation by the Environmental Affairs Committee on Deer Management.

John has quietly and persistently been instrumental in outreach to seek new and diverse organization members and to personally welcome and promote inclusion of individuals with different backgrounds and perspectives. He has been a critical part of the ACCF leadership team commitment to foster and require civil discussion as the bedrock of CivFed deliberations, particularly on controversial topics. John's leadership has reinforced CivFed as the County's leading civic voice and restored its enormous positive potential to improve residents' lives and our County.