A Note from the Executive Director

As summer unfolds, the Didlake Foundation is excited to celebrate a season of growth, partnership, and new opportunities for connection throughout our community.

Over the past several months, we have been working alongside community leaders, nonprofit partners, advocates, artists, educators, businesses, and supporters who share a common belief: that individuals with disabilities deserve every opportunity to create, contribute, work, belong, and thrive.

That shared vision has led to meaningful collaborations focused on inclusion, creativity, wellness, workforce readiness, and community engagement. One of the most exciting outcomes of these partnerships is the launch of **artWORKS Collaborative, a new initiative between the Didlake Foundation and ARTfactory** that brings people of all abilities together through art, creativity, and connection.

We are thrilled to officially launch artWORKS and invite the entire community to join us for our **artWORKS Collaborative Launch Party on August 4th at the ARTfactory from 5-7pm.** This **FREE**, special celebration will include ice cream generously donated by **Baskin-Robbins Gainesville** and showcase the power of inclusive arts programming while bringing together artists, advocates, families, supporters, and community members to celebrate what is possible when creativity and belonging come together.

The enthusiasm surrounding artWORKS reflects something we continue to see throughout our community: people and organizations are eager to think differently about inclusion and to create spaces where everyone has the opportunity to participate, contribute, and connect.

More than anything, this season has reminded us that meaningful change happens through relationships, shared vision, and communities willing to invest in one another.

Thank you for walking alongside us as we continue building a future where opportunity, independence, creativity, and inclusion can truly flourish for all. We hope to see you at the artWORKS Launch Party as we celebrate this exciting new chapter together.



With gratitude,

Kelsey

Kelsey DeWispelaere, CFRE, ACNP
Executive Director
The Didlake Foundation, Inc.

artWORKS COLLABORATIVE

We are excited to announce a new partnership between The Didlake Foundation and ARTfactory: **artWORKS Collaborative**, an innovative program that creates opportunities for individuals with disabilities to engage in the arts, develop workforce skills, and participate fully in community life.

Combining ARTfactory's expertise in arts education with Didlake Foundation's commitment to inclusion and opportunity, the program offers hands-on experiences in visual, performing, digital, and media arts, along with arts administration and workforce readiness.

"We are proud to partner with ARTfactory to expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities through creativity, workforce skills, and community engagement. The artWORKS Collaborative reflects our shared commitment to inclusion, creating a space where people of all abilities can learn, contribute, and thrive together while building skills, confidence, and meaningful connections," said Didlake Foundation Executive Director, Kelsey DeWispelaere.

As part of the partnership, ARTfactory will dedicate its newly named artWORKS Theatre, a welcoming space for performances, learning, and community engagement.

"Through performances, educational programs, and special events, the theatre will showcase the creativity and contributions of individuals of all abilities while advancing the mission of artWORKS Collaborative," said Talya Conroy, CEO of ARTfactory.

The organizations will celebrate the launch with a free Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, August 4, from 5–7 p.m. at ARTfactory in Manassas. Community members of all ages are invited to attend and celebrate creativity, inclusion, and opportunity.

Didlake®
FOUNDATION

2026 Gala Invitation

You're invited to an evening where possibility unfolds layer by layer, celebrating care, connection, and community for individuals with disabilities.

Saturday, November 7, 2026
6:00 ~ 10:00 PM
Magnoliya Grand Manor
Manassas, Virginia

Tickets and sponsorships available at
bit.ly/DFgala26

Elegant attire. Black tie optional.

DFoundation@didlake.org 571-632-1465

Didlake®
FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING OUR NEW

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Please join us in congratulating these outstanding leaders as they begin serving the Didlake Foundation in their new leadership roles.

We are grateful for their commitment to creating opportunity, advancing inclusion, and strengthening our community.



MICHELLE HALEY
Chair



GWEN NIGHTINGALE
Vice Chair



DEBRA YAMANAKA
Secretary



PAULA DANQUAH-BROBBY
Treasurer



Please join us in congratulating
our Executive Committee!



Empowering the disability community by eliminating barriers, creating opportunities, and fostering inclusive communities.

OPPORTUNITY | INCLUSION | BELONGING

Did you KNOW?

Since its founding in 1965, Didlake, Inc. has continually evolved to meet the changing needs of people with disabilities - from education to employment and community inclusion.

Today, The Didlake Foundation represents the next chapter in that journey. Established to advance philanthropy, partnerships, advocacy, and innovation, the Foundation works to expand opportunities beyond traditional services by investing in inclusive communities where people of all abilities can thrive.

Through collaboration with businesses, community organizations, educators, artists, civic leaders, and donors, the Foundation is helping create new pathways for employment, creativity, wellness, and belonging throughout Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

DFoundation@didlake.org

571-632-1465

artWORKS COLLABORATIVE

You're Invited to Our

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Celebrating a Sweet Collaboration

Join ARTfactory and Didlake Foundation as we come together to celebrate artWORKS Collaborative, our partnership, creativity, community, and inclusion!

This special event is an opportunity to celebrate the impact we can make when organizations work together to create meaningful opportunities and strengthen our community.

All Are Welcome!

August 4, 2026
5:00 – 7 PM

9419 Battle Street
Manassas, VA 20110

Didlake FOUNDATION

ART factory



www.virginiaartfactory.org

Supporter Spotlight!

A sweet thank you to **Baskin-Robbins Gainesville** for supporting the launch of **artWORKS Collaborative** by generously donating ice cream and service for our Ice Cream Social and program launch on August 4!

Their support will help create a fun, welcoming celebration as we bring the community together to launch this exciting partnership focused on creativity, inclusion, and belonging.

Thank you, Baskin-Robbins Gainesville, for helping make this event possible and for investing in opportunities for people of all abilities.

BR baskin robbins®

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