

Donaldson Run Civic Association

June 11, 2026

Matt de Ferranti, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Lee Center

Dear Chair de Ferranti:

Based on the discussion at our membership meeting on June 10, 2026, the Donaldson Run Civic Association is writing in support of the position of the Leeway Overlee Civic Association in their letter of May 12, 2026, concerning not only the future disposition and use of the building formerly housing the Lee Arts Center (LAC), but also funding of the building renovation in the upcoming Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Renovation of the building ensures that the building would continue to serve the community in crucial ways.

Before the community center closed in 2020, former activities here included a wide range of 55+ programs, a meeting place for local organizations, and a polling location. Residents reserved space for celebrations like birthday parties and there was once a co-op for day care. A small kitchen was a useful amenity. Now that the arts program has been located elsewhere there will be numerous ways in which the renovated building and its contiguous park area will serve the community.

There are a limited number of community centers and programs along Langston Boulevard. Such support for LAC is consistent with the priorities set forth in Plan Langston Boulevard, including its designation of LAC as an activity hub.

We request the County keep \$15.3 million for Lee Center renovations in the ten-year CIP budget, and move these renovations sooner -- from 2030 to 2028. There has been ample delay in this work, and a 2030 target date only further undermines the availability of this resource.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this subject.

Sincerely yours,



Bill Richardson
President
Donaldson Run Civic Association