

May 01, 2019

FDIC Regional Office
10 10th Street, Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30309-3849



To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I am writing to provide comments in support of the work SunTrust has done in the community through its contributions to the Virginia Arts Festival.

Since the Virginia Arts Festival's creation in 1997, SunTrust has supported a key component of the Festival's mission – to positively impact the lives of students through outstanding year-round arts educational programs. During this time, SunTrust has provided funding in support of the Virginia Arts Festival's education program and Rhythm Project and their support has positively impacted the lives of over 540,000 local students.

The Rhythm Project is the Festival's year-round community engagement program that teaches music to under-served students, grades 5-12, using Caribbean steel drums. This program is free to all participants and provides children the enjoyment of learning to play a musical instrument, while nurturing self-esteem through individual and cooperative achievement.

The Festival's education programs serve students, grades K–12 throughout Southeastern Virginia. These programs contribute to the educational excellence of the region by providing meaningful performing arts experiences to students through matinees, in-school performances, residencies, workshops and masterclasses in music, theater and dance.

The Festival's aim is to reach the broadest possible cross section of students, with the ultimate goal that every student in our region experiences a Festival education event at least once during his/her school career. These programs are accessible to all students throughout our region regardless of race, class, or financial resources. Emphasis is placed on reaching students from Title I Schools with under-served student populations.

We are truly grateful to the continued support that has been provided by SunTrust and the Virginia Arts Festival supports the merger application with BB&T. We are pleased to hear that after the merger, the company will continue to be deeply committed to and invested in our community.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Cross
Executive Director
Perry Artistic Director