



For Immediate Release:
May 19, 2023

Contact: Ariana Vruwink
608-267-8823

Dane County Awards Over \$121,500 in Grants to Local Arts Organizations

Dane Arts Awards Grants Supporting Arts and Cultural Activities Countywide with Public-Private Funds

Dozens of local organizations that promote community arts, history, and culture are receiving “Dane Arts” grants, County Executive Joe Parisi and the Dane County Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission announced today. 52 project, five Short Order, and two Capital requests totaling \$121,557 were recently awarded in Cycle 1 for “Dane Arts” grants in 2023.

“Congratulations to this year’s recipients of the Dane Arts grants. We are fortunate to have such a strong and vibrant community of local artists in Dane County,” County Executive Joe Parisi said. “Through county funding, private donations, and ongoing partnerships, the Dane Arts grants support the incredible work of local artists and organizations in the Dane County community.”

The “Dane Arts” grants are funded by county dollars in conjunction with private donations from the Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation, the W. Jerome Frautschi Foundation, and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation. County Executive Joe Parisi and the County Board of Supervisors have allocated an additional \$40,000 to fund project grant requests that provide equitable opportunities for youth to participate in the arts.

This year, Dane County’s Dane Arts will award over \$220,000 in public-private funds to nonprofit organizations, schools, individuals, and municipalities for arts, cultural, and local history projects and programs offered countywide.

The next project grant deadline is August 1, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

###

Grant recipients are listed below this announcement.

Dane County Arts and Cultural Affairs: **2023 Cycle 1 Grants**

Arts in Education

American Players Theatre - *2023 Student Matinees & Workshops*

Award: \$2,839

APT will perform student matinees of William Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet" and "The Merry Wives of Windsor" and Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," for over 3,000 middle and high school students. Post-show discussions, study guides, and accompanying workshops with APT teaching artists will be provided to complement the theatrical experience.

Arts & Literature Laboratory - *ALL Arts Outreach 2023-2024*

Award: \$2,922

Arts + Literature Laboratory's ALL Arts Outreach Program focuses on removing barriers for youth, families, and seniors to access high-quality arts education.

Benjamin Fritz (Children's Film Academy of Madison) - *Yustiana Rudnitzky's Short Film: A Pirate's Life*

Award: \$1,881

Yustiana is an eighth grader in the Verona School district. Her short film, "A Pirate's Life," is about embracing your uniqueness, quirks and all.

Girls Rock Camp Madison - *Girls Rock Camp Madison*

Award: \$2,958

Girls Rock Camp Madison is a one-week day camp for girls/trans/non-binary youth ages 8-18 where campers learn an instrument, write a song, form a band, record in a professional recording studio, then rock out in front of hundreds of screaming fans at a showcase. GRC Madison's mission is to support a culture of positive self-esteem and collaboration among our campers while building community through music.

Madison Children's Museum - *2023 MMSD Summer Arts Academy at Madison Children's Museum*

Award: \$2,716

Madison Children's Museum is partnering with Madison Metropolitan School District and Madison Schools Community Recreation to support MMSD's 2023 Summer Arts Academy. The collaboration is projected to serve 1,500 MMSD students with arts enrichment programming and discovery learning through private museum visits, with facilitated programming by experienced teaching artists.

Madison Symphony Orchestra - *Symphony Soup 2023*

Award: \$2,742

Symphony Soup serves as the foundation of the Madison Symphony Orchestra's Young People's Concerts series, reaching their youngest audience members. This concert brings students in grades K-3 out of the classroom and into the concert hall, introducing them to the symphony orchestra and exploring age-appropriate musical concepts.

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center - *Lakeside Kids 2023*

Award: \$904

Monona Terrace organizes "Lakeside Kids," an innovative program that provides cultural and arts-focused play activities that bring visual and performing arts to children ages four and up. Lakeside Kids is free to the public and is enjoyed by families of all income levels.

Monroe Street Arts Center - *Family Art Making Studio, "FAMS"*

Award: \$1,756

Family Art Making Studio (FAMS) is a free art-making opportunity for families in the Madison area. FAMS provides exposure and access to art education without the barrier of registration fees for families. Weekly classes explore various visual art mediums and techniques which foster creativity & connection.

Opera for the Young - *Countywide school tour of a new production of the opera "Beauty and the Beast" by André Grétry*

Award: \$2,977

Funding from Dane Arts will support the countywide school tour of OFTY's new production of "Beauty and the Beast" by André Grétry. Teaching materials will include Tutorial Videos, a Student Handbook, a Teacher's Guide about opera and "Beauty and the Beast," and activities for integration of the opera into academic subjects.

Simpson Street Free Press - *Writing for Publication: The Arts and Local History in Dane County*

Award: \$1,011

SSFP's coverage of local history and the arts engages students in the cultural mosaic that is Dane County. Young reporters explore history and the arts, and they tell stories in authentic youth voice. Young readers find fascinating newspaper content that celebrates Dane County.

Dance

Dance Wisconsin - *Dance Wisconsin presents Sonder*

Award: \$2,390

Dance Wisconsin presents "Sonder", an evening of original choreography. Sonder is the profound feeling of realizing that everyone, including strangers passing in the street, has a life as complex as one's own, which they are constantly living despite one's personal lack of awareness of it. Choreographers have been asked to examine this concept in their art. How will you, the observer, interpret their work?

Li Chiao-Ping Dance - 2023 SEED Intensive & Performance Festival

Award: \$2,533

The 2023 SEED Intensive & Performance Festival is an opportunity for people of every age and ability to join the Li Chiao-Ping Dance community in week-long celebration & exploration of movement, breath, and creativity. Offerings include a wide variety of movement classes daily, discussions, workshops, and two performances at the conclusion of the festival.

Madison Contemporary Dance - Gratitude and Connection

Award: \$2,476

The Gratitude Project will continue MCD's commitment to building relationships and connecting dance studio and street-style communities to provide opportunities to Dane County artists and families through: 1) New dance works inspired by gratitude 2) No-fee children's classes 3) Collaboration between dancers from different backgrounds 4) Videos and documentary 5) Free performances theater concert.

Sessions at McPike Park - Artist-in-Residence, NYC Choreographer Valerie Green, to produce SPLASH! a Celebration of Summer and Water

Award: \$931

Their Artist-in-Residence, NYC choreographer Valerie Green, will work with local dancers to perform SPLASH!, a celebration of summer and water.

Multidisciplinary Arts/Culture

Disability Pride Madison - Disability Pride Festival

Award: \$2,790

The Disability Pride Festival celebrates the lives and civil rights of all people with disabilities. Through art and performance, they will share the stories of their lives, break down and end internalized shame and stereotypes and build a stronger, more inclusive community for everyone.

Drum Power - Drum Power Summer Arts Camp 2023

Award: \$2,569

Drum Power's Summer Drum and Dance Camp at MYArts provides an opportunity for young people to practice discipline, community, and leadership through drum and dance traditions from Brazil, Cuba, Peru, Guinea, Senegal, Mali, and the United states as well as dance forms including Afro-Peruvian, Breaking, Hip Hop, Modern, and Capoeira.

First Person Productions - "Remember to Write Talks, Spring 2023", public presentations on reminiscence writing

Award: \$1,190

Madison-area reminiscence writing teacher Sarah White offers talks on the benefits of life story writing, especially in small groups, to libraries and community centers throughout Dane County. Her message: the stories of our lives connect generations and communities. That's a priceless gift anyone can create, with guidance.

LunART - LunART Festival 2023

Award: \$2,967

The mission of LunART is to support, inspire, promote, and celebrate women in the arts through public performances, exhibitions, workshops, and interdisciplinary collaboration—thus enriching the community and creating a welcoming space for learning and experimentation. The driving idea of LunART is to create a vibrant, safe space for all women where creativity is the queen!

Madison Reading Project - Summer Reading Books & Art Inspiration Kits

Award: \$1,112

This grant will help fund the "Summer Reading Books and Art Inspiration Kits" project, fortifying a unique partnership with Dane County-wide neighborhood centers and social services organizations (and several co-visit programs with MSCR's Art Cart), where they bring culturally and linguistically diverse books, along with literacy-related creative art projects, to stimulate the love for reading and nurture a culture of in-home reading.

Neighborhood House Community Center - Madison Good Neighbor Gathering 2023

Award: \$2,013

The Madison Good Neighbor Gathering ("GNG"), held every September in Brittingham Park to honor national Good Neighbor Day, is the ONLY Madison area festival that puts children and families first. The GNG is a free event, sponsored by seven neighborhood associations on Madison's near west side who have been working together to build community across demographic and geographic boundaries.

Oiñ Productions - Summer of Love and Community Connection 2023

Award: \$2,284

Summer of Love and Community Connection (SoL) offers arts and movement activities for the whole family. In 2023, they will hold the event in four parks across Dane County (likely Penn, Leopold, Warner, and McFarland) from June thru August. On Saturdays from 10am to 2pm, workshops in a variety of art forms will engage families and neighborhoods.

Rachel Werner - The Little Book Project WI: Edition #7

Award: \$1,190

The Little Book WI Project weaves together visual and literary arts focused on a central theme, providing a mechanism to spark "uncensored" public discourse by providing a platform for artists from a variety of disciplines—especially those who have encountered barriers to making their work accessible to a wider audience.

Sessions at McPike Park - The Sessions 10th Season: Performing Arts Excellence in the Park

Award: \$2,001

The 2023 Sessions at McPike Park are seven evenings and two weekend afternoons of local and national music, dance, & stand-up comedy. The free events enable the community to take in excellent mixed artistic performances from near and far.

Urban Community Arts Network - *Mad Lit: Where Arts and Culture Shine*

Award: \$2,953

Mad Lit is a free, outdoor concert series featuring live music and highlighting local musicians, artists, and businesses owners of color. The series runs every other Friday from June through September from 8pm to 11pm at the top of State Street in Madison and includes live music, dance, pop-up shops, and visual exhibits.

Music

Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society - *Off the Cuff--Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society's 32nd Summer Chamber Music Festival*

Award: \$2,768

Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society combines musicians from around the country, meaningful traditional and new diverse repertoire, and delightful surprises to create a joyful summer festival with 11 concerts during three weekends in June. BDDS will also perform two virtual one-on-one musical conversations per month, year round with patients in care centers.

Community Organizations Promoting the Arts - *Community Organizations Promoting the Arts (COPA) Harmony Project*

Award: \$2,757

The Harmony Project from COPA provides music education to 1st graders from One City Schools. Performances are held on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Dane Dances - *DANE DANCES! 2023*

Award: \$1,160

In its milestone 20th season in 2019, Dane Dances! continued to be one of the premier trademark summer activities in Dane County. It is also recognized as the most successful volunteer community effort at promoting racial and cultural diversity and bringing people of all ages, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and incomes together. Due to the pandemic in 2020, Dane Dances! was cancelled. In 2021-22, average attendance was about 75% of prior years, due to Covid concerns.

Friends of Allen Centennial Gardens - *summer series 2023*

Award: \$2,799

SUMMER SUNDAYS IN THE GARDEN offers compact 75-minute jazz concerts, free every other Sunday June through August. Covering a wide variety of jazz styles—swing, gypsy, Latin, bebop, modern, big band—this family-friendly outdoor series takes place in the inspiring natural surrounds of Allen Centennial Gardens, and showcases the area's best local musicians with occasional outside guests.

Grace Presents - *Grace Presents - Artist Fees and HD Live Streaming Capabilities for April – Dec 2023*

Award: \$1,992

The Grace Presents Concert series offers both in-person and high-quality multcam livestream access, connecting Madison's diverse communities to local musical performances during the ongoing pandemic. Featuring a range of musical styles reflective of Dane County's cultural diversity, these top-quality concerts feature exceptionally talented, locally-based musicians, and are free to enjoy either live in-person or from the safety of one's home.

Handel Aria Competition - *10th Annual Handel Aria Competition*

Award: \$1,660

The tenth Handel Aria Competition held in Madison, promoting the performance and appreciation of Handel's vocal repertoire, will again captivate audiences. Founders Dean and Orange Schroeder are thrilled to offer the community this music—now for a decade! Audiences can also hear youth perform during the High School Singers Showcase.

Jazz at Five - *2023 Jazz at Five Performance Series*

Award: \$2,318

Jazz at Five's 2023 Summer Performance Series is every Wednesday from August 9 to September 6. The outdoor concert series begins in August. Join them at the top of State Street from 4:30pm - 8pm. Enjoy free outdoor performances each week from a wide range of Dane County's best jazz musicians—some performances featuring regional or national acts. Come experience the sounds of summer in Madison!

Just Bach - *Just Bach Concerts Inc. 2023*

Award: \$1,245

Just Bach is a free monthly concert series celebrating the music of J.S. Bach. Founded to share the immense range of Bach's repertoire, the musicians use performance conventions that were present when Bach lived, in order to bring the music to life in the manner and style Bach intended.

Kristin Redman - *Auricle Concert Series 2023-24*

Award: \$2,855

Auricle is a new concert series focusing on experimental music and sound art curated by Phil and Cricket Redman. Through a mix of free and ticketed concerts spread throughout the year, June 2023 to May 2024, Auricle will connect Dane County audiences with local, national, and international musical innovators.

Madison Bach Musicians - *Vivaldi & Venice" with guest Baroque Violinist Marc Destrubé: Oct. 6 Outreach at Middleton HS, October 7 & 8 Concerts at Holy Wisdom Monastery*

Award: \$1,616

Madison Bach Musicians will open its 20th anniversary season with performances of Vivaldi & Venice on October 7 & 8 at Holy Wisdom Monastery. The October 7 concert will also be livestreamed for ticketed patrons—available on-demand Oct. 7-24. On the morning of October 6, MBM will give a concert/discussion outreach event for students enrolled in the Middleton High School Orchestra.

Madison Music Collective - *DIG JAZZ Concert Series Fall 2023: Original Music from Local Artists*

Award: \$2,214

The DIG JAZZ Series presents new music composed by local and regional musicians in a wide variety of jazz-related styles. Completing its ninth year, in which it will present its 60th concert and beyond, the series has been enthusiastically received and remains immensely popular.

Madison New Music Ensemble - *The Madison New Music Ensemble Two Concerts in 2023-24*
Award: \$966

The Madison New Music Ensemble will present two concerts featuring the works of prominent international and national composers of contemporary concert music. The concerts will be held Saturday, September 16, 2023, and Saturday, April 6, 2024 at the First Unitarian Society Atrium Auditorium and the Arts + Literature Laboratory, respectively.

Madison Youth Choirs - *MYC Presents "Madison's Big Sing"*

Award: \$2,591

In the 2023-2024 season, Madison Youth Choirs will present "Madison's Big Sing," a free collective singing opportunity for all ages and voices in the community to learn songs and stories from local culture bearers, presented at the Starlight Theater at MYArts in Madison.

Mazomanie Charitable Alliance - *Gandy Dancer Bluegrass Festival*

Award: \$2,518

The Gandy Dancer Bluegrass Festival, a production of the Mazomanie Charitable Alliance, is a one-day event which features musical performances by local, regional, and nationally known American artists, along with family activities, rides, and exhibits. The event commemorates the intertwining of our rich railroad and circus history.

Middleton Community Orchestra - *Kicking off MCO's 14th season with three concerts in Middleton and downtown Madison at the Hamel Music Center*

Award: \$2,739

Performed by outstanding amateur musicians from Dane County, in collaboration with some of classical music's brightest local stars, MCO's Fourteenth Anniversary concerts are affordable, accessible community events perfect for audiences of ALL ages. General Admission is \$20, and all students (including college age) are admitted FREE of charge. This project expands the MCO's reach by performing one concert at the new, downtown Hamel Music Center.

NewBridge Madison - *NewBridge Summer Concerts in the Park*

Award: \$1,985

Enjoy free, live music for all ages at two venues this summer. Party in the Park (a new event) will be held Friday, May 26, 5-8 pm at Brittingham Park in Madison. The NewBridge Summer Concert Series returns for another season at Warner Park Shelter, 2930 N. Sherman Avenue. Monday evenings June 12, 19, 26, July 10, 17, 24 from 6-7:30 pm. Live music, food trucks, and resource tables. More information available at www.newbridgemadison.org.

PEBOGA - *2023 Next Level Showcase Park St. Music Fest*

Award: \$2,294

Next Level Showcase/Park St Music Fest is in its sixth year. The music festival is a free outdoor music event that serves as a platform for a cross section of music genres (i.e. Blues, R&B, Pop, Smooth Jazz, etc.) featuring primarily local artists. Next Level Artists Showcase is designed to provide high quality promotional exposure to aspiring local artists while serving as an on-ramp to improving race relations through diversity and inclusion.

Stoughton Chamber Music Festival - *Moon & Sun*

Award: \$2,886

The music of MOON & SUN—the Stoughton Chamber Music Festival returns in August 2023 to present six immersive and inventive concerts depicting the cycle of day into night.

Willy Street Chamber Players - *Willy Street Chamber Players 2023 Summer Season*

Award: \$2,898

The Willy Street Chamber Players present their popular summer series of classical music concerts this July, including three ticketed performances at Immanuel Lutheran Church, one free outdoor concert in Orton Park, and performances for students attending summer camp programs at Lussier Community Education Center and WYSO Music Makers. Performances include world-class guest artists and musical works that span continents and centuries.

Theater

Music Theatre of Madison - *Who's Your Baghdaddy? or, How I Started The Iraq War*

Award: \$2,006

Who's Your Baghdaddy? Or, How I Started The Iraq War will have its Midwest premiere at Music Theatre of Madison. The story is of a series of mistakes that led to the greatest CIA blunder in modern history.

StageQ - *StageQ - 2023 CapitalQ Theatre Festival*

Award: \$1,398

StageQ is proud to present the second CapitalQ Theatre Festival: a one-weekend event showcasing new works from local and national playwrights.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation - *Talking Spirits XXV: Forest Hill Cemetery Tours*

Award: \$2,432

This award-winning living history program illuminates the lives of many prominent and lesser-known figures in Wisconsin history. This year's theme is "Vietnam: 50 Years Later." The tour this year will focus on how the Vietnam War changed the lives of thousands of Wisconsinites for decades to come.

Visual Arts

Artworking at Work Opportunity in Rural Communities - *Artworking at Work Opportunity in Rural Communities - Romano Johnson: Artist in Community Discourse*

Award: \$2,829

Artist Romano Johnson will host a series of workshops and discussions in conjunction with an exhibition of his artwork at the Arts + Literature Laboratory in Madison. Johnson is a self-taught, Black artist with a disability, who is known for his large scale, colorful, figurative paintings. Johnson has presented or co-presented at schools, conferences, and museums throughout the region.

Linda and Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice & Sustainability - *Earth Connections*

Award: \$2,479

Using only natural materials from the land or materials that can naturally decompose back into the land, area artists create outdoor art installations in the Farley Center/Natural Path Sanctuary woods outside Verona, celebrating our connection to the earth.

Madison Public Library Foundation - *Madison Public Library Foundation--Art Exhibitions 2023*

Award: \$2,902

Madison Public Library works with local artists to exhibit work throughout its buildings and pays each artist whose pieces are displayed. All artists receive stipends for their exhibitions in order to fairly compensate participants for the time spent creating their art, as well as to help defray the costs of exhibition.

Mills Folly Microcinema - *Mills Folly Microcinema 2023-2024*

Award: \$2,490

Mills Folly Microcinema is a monthly showcase for experimental film and video art at the Arts + Literature Laboratory at 111 S. Livingston Street in Madison. Screenings will highlight films and videos from the national film festival circuit, other regional microcinemas, and Dane County filmmakers and video artists.

MYArts - *Launching Community Youth Arts Exhibits at MYArts*

Award: \$2,131

This project will enable MYArts to create equitable, accessible processes for managing rotating youth arts exhibits in their facility; perform outreach around Dane County about this opportunity; engage young artists in decision making; and celebrate young artists from across our community.

Victoria Maidhof - *Collateral Damage Exhibition (May 2024)*

Award: \$1,969

Mental illness knows no social, ethnic, or economic bounds. At least 15 diverse artists turn their voices to their experiences with mental illness and mental health.

Short Order

Conjunction Arts - *Path of Voices: a Public Artwork at Madison High Schools*

Award: \$1,000

The Path of Voices is a public artwork that is located at four Madison area high schools and is a work of art dedicated to non-violence and serves as a memorial to victims of gun violence. Created in 2001, the work combines granite benches and audio pylons to create listening spaces to reflect on Madison area residents who have been impacted by gun violence. This grant will reactivate the audio with new stories recorded and edited by high school students.

Hawthorne PTA - *Disney Musical for Kids*

Award: \$900

Hawthorne Elementary School plans to stage a production of 101 Dalmatians. It will be their fourth year doing a Disney Kids school musical.

Madison Area String Orchestra - *Madison Area String Orchestra*

Award: \$500

MASO needs funding to begin building their own music library, with a specific focus on women, BIPOC and living composers.

Rotate Theatre Company - *Rotate Theatre Mini Fest*

Award: \$1,000

Rotate Theatre Mini Fest celebrates short plays featuring underrepresented perspectives. Performances on June 10-11, 2023 at the Starlight Theatre at MYArts offer an entertaining and thought-provoking lineup of favorites from Rotate Theatre's catalog performed alongside world premieres. In addition, Rotate presents a pre-fest mini performance at the Overture Rotunda on May 5, a talk-back following the 7:30pm show on June 10, and a post-fest mini writing workshop on June 17.

SENSE, LLC - *Embodied Water Cycles*

Award: \$1,000

Heidi Krause, Wisconsin Representative for the documentary film 'Global Water Dances,' will be showcasing a collaborative production with T.J. Milne—an internationally recognized ballerina, who you may have seen on the cover of Beyond Dance Magazine or in her roles with the internationally celebrated show: House Of Dancing Water! Their project, titled 'Embodied Water Cycles' will feature donation-based outdoor performances and open workshops in Somatic Dance and Ballet.

Capital

Madison Circus Space - *Madison Circus Space Theatrical Lighting*

Award: \$1,500

The Madison Circus Space will purchase lighting equipment to enhance productions in their permanent facility.

Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters - Capital 2023 - Cycle I

Award: \$655

To meet the growing interest in online access and enhance visitors' experience, the James Watrous Gallery staff plan to acquire audio/video recording equipment to capture, edit, and share events like studio visits with artists, gallery talks and panels, workshops, and short courses. They also wish to purchase lightweight folding stools that can be reconfigured for different kinds of events and tall platform chairs to lift presenters up for better visibility.