

Contact: Melanie Cooper

 mcooper@yorkcountyarts.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Arts Council of York County Announces**

**Small Grant Recipients – 3rd Quarter 2021-2022**

ROCK HILL, SC – The Arts Council of York County is pleased to announce the allocation of Small Grant awards for the third quarter of the 2021 - 2022 fiscal year. Small Grants are available to individual artists, non-profit organizations, teachers, and schools throughout York County. These grants are designed to support arts activities that promote the individual artist’s professional development or career advancement and/or to support a wide variety of quality arts projects and programs that promote excellence in arts disciplines and make such disciplines accessible for general community-wide audiences.

Organizations and individual artists residing in York County, SC may request up to $1,000 per grant and may receive up to two grants each calendar year. The Arts Council awarded six Small Grants for the 3rd Quarter of the 2021 - 2022 fiscal year.

**Angelo Geter | $1,000**

*One Word Poetry Festival*

Established in 2021 by Rock Hill Poet Laureate Angelo Geter, artists, educators, and poets, the One Word Poetry Festival elevates and enhances poetry in the Rock Hill community. This three-day festival seeks to expose the community to the power of poetry and celebrates the countless ways that it impacts our lives. It engages participants of all ages in a variety of activities that highlight the various mediums of poetry. These activities include workshops, open mic events, performances, readings, live music, competitions, and public art throughout downtown Rock Hill.

This Small Grant supports the promotional and advertising efforts of the 2022 One Word Poetry Festival. | https://onewordpoetryfestival.com

**Molly Lastra | $1,000**

*Art Supplies*

From acrylic to canvas to gouache and watercolor on canvas, Molly Lastra’s work explores the natural and environmental world with a playfulness between chaos and uniformity. Her works are deeply inspired by flora and fauna, often incorporating collaged leafy imagery. Lastra will use this Small Grant to develop her new body of work, which will be exhibited in spaces across York County. | https://www.mollylastra.com

**J. Michael Simpson | $1,000**

*Shipment of Artwork*

 J. Michael Simpson has been creating paintings, graphite drawings, and experimental videos based on events in nature since 2005. Each work included in his current exhibition, *Since Then*, transcribes the hydrologic drama of a moment of river turbulence. As an artist, Simpson sees the downstream tumult as a metaphor for the ephemeral flow of life. This show is scheduled for exhibition in Lenoir, NC at the Caldwell Arts Council. This Small Grant will be used to defray the costs of preparing, delivering, and installing the show. | https://jmichaelsimpson.org

**Maya A. E. Thompson | $850**

*GOATPoetry Slam*

Maya A. E. Thompson kicks off GOATPoetry’s inaugural poetry slam event on January 29, 2022 at The Elite Event Center Venue on Cherry Road in Rock Hill, SC. This event allows Thompson to pursue her craft through creative expression. This Small Grant provides event support.

**Women’s Art Initiative | $1,000**

*2022 Haiku Poetry Project*

The Women’s Art Initiative enhances the quality of life for the greater Rock Hill area by reflecting its cultural values and artistic vitality through public art. The Women’s Art Initiative is set to stencil 25 new haiku poems on sidewalks in Rock Hill’s Cultural District. The Small Grant will be used to produce the stencils, purchase paint, brushes, rollers, and tape needed to place the poetry on sidewalks. | https://womensartinitiative.org

**York County Library | $1,000**

*Patchwork Tales Festival*

A celebration of timeless tales and music, York County Library’s 21st Patchwork Tales Festival is taking place March 24 – 26, 2022. Patchwork Tales began in 1996 with a small grant from the South Carolina State Library with a goal to support reading and literacy through traditional storytelling and a variety of cultural arts. This festival embraces the arts with powerful lessons of history and principles along with reading knowledge and the importance of education.

The 2022 iteration of Patchwork Tales brings a virtual, educational, fun storytelling event that showcases storytellers, artists, and puppeteers. Returning for a second year will be Lona Bartlett, Rock Hill High’s Drama Class, and York Preparatory Academy’s Drama Class. This will be the second year the festival will be presented virtually due to the COVID pandemic. YCL’s YouTube and Facebook Live platforms will serve as the primary viewing locations for the events.

This Small Grant will be used to create prepackaged craft projects geared for all ages. Patrons are encouraged to make and enjoy these Take and Make Projects during the virtual storytelling events. | https://www.yclibrary.org/patchwork-tales

**Total Allocations This Quarter: $5,850**

To review guidelines, visit www.yorkcountyarts.org/grants. The next deadline is Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 5 PM for programs occurring in April, May, and/or June 2022. Informational sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, February 1 from 12 – 1 PM, and on Thursday, February 3 from 6 – 7 PM. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss the proposed project with Lori Robishaw, Executive Director, at least 10 days in advance of the application deadline date. Should the deadline fall on a holiday or weekend, grant applications are due the last business day prior to the deadline.

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This Small Grants program is provided by the Arts Council of York County Small Grants Program and the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Arts Council is headquartered in downtown Rock Hill, a state-recognized cultural district. For more information on Arts Council events, contact the Arts Council of York County at (803)328-2787, by email at arts@yorkcountyarts.org, or visit our webpage at <http://www.yorkcountyarts.org>.

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