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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Arts Council of York County Announces**

**Small Grant Recipients – 2nd Quarter 2018-2019**

ROCK HILL, SC – The Arts Council of York County is pleased to announce the allocation of Small Grant awards for the second quarter of the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Small Grants are available to individual artists, non-profit organizations, teachers and schools throughout York County. These grants are designed to support specific 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.

Recipients include:

**Ashley Beard | $600**

*Team Building through the Arts*

Ashley Beard will lead 36 faculty and staff members at South Pointe High School in a 2-hour painting class as a team building exercise after school in October or November of 2018. This event will advocate for the arts, and will provide a creative and artistic opportunity for staff. The Small Grant will help pay for supplies.

Ms. Beard is a practicing artist and art teacher who works in acrylics, ceramics, jewelry-making, and mixed media. She loves teaching art to people of all ages - high school students at South Pointe, after-school lessons to elementary children and adult painting classes at her Gettys Art Studio located downtown Rock Hill. | http://beardedlady.wixsite.com/artwithashley

**ChristmasVille | $800**

*Life-Size Replica of Vernon Grant’s “Santa Remembers Everyone”*

ChristmasVille, Rock Hill’s annual festival that celebrates Vernon Grant and his favorite subjects - Santa and his gnomes, has welcomed more than 80,000 visitors to Old Town Rock Hill. This award-winning festival has not only been named *Festival of the Year* by the North Carolina Festivals and Events Association, but it has received the Southeastern Festivals and Events Association *Best 2018 Festival* award, as well as Silver in *Best Festival Video*, Bronze in *Best Social Media Marketing*, and Bronze in *Best Event Program*. Each year, over 70 events comprise the 4-day festival, including art exhibitions, music, markets, workshops, and more!

The ChristmasVille planning committee has commissioned local artist, Ashley Beard, to construct a life size model of the scene from the 2017 People’s Choice Award winning image, *Santa Remembers Everyone*. Linda Kay, a New York-based artist who specializes in polymer clay, will create Santa. The replica of this scene will be constructed so that it can be disassembled for storage in a climate-controlled storage facility at Smooth Move, and re-used for many years to come. In 2018, the life-size model of *Santa Remembers Everyone* will be displayed in the front window at the Center for the Arts throughout ChristmasVille and the month of December. This Small Grant will subsidize the artist fees and production expenses. | http://www.christmasvillerockhill.com/

**Friday Arts Project | $600**

*Art Party*

The visual and performing arts community of Rock Hill is holding the 3rd annual Art Party in South Carolina’s first Cultural District. From November 15 – 17, 2018, local and nationally recognized artists will showcase their work at locations in Old Town Rock Hill. Art Party will begin in the Courtroom at the Gettys Art Center on Thursday night. Friday and Saturday will feature open studios and art shows, and a performance on Friday night facilitated by Concerts at the Courtroom’s Mike Gentry. Local theatre guru, Terry Roueche will also arrange local performances. This multi-faceted event will also include the Competitive Portrait Drawing Competition hosted by the Arts Council of York County during the reception for the Studio Artists Exhibition at the Center for the Arts on Friday night, as well as workshops, seminars, and demonstrations on Saturday that feature topics related to the Arts. Jurors Dominique Verechia-Bunce, Chris Evans, and Foozshan Kashkooli will select the top three works of art during this year’s Art Party Juried Show. This event continues to grow each year, helping to establish York County as a top arts destination in the nation. The Small Grant awarded to Art Party helps offset artist fees and marketing expenses. | https://www.fridayartsproject.com/

**Friendship College Trustee Board | $300**

*Artistic Tribute to the Legacy of Friendship College*

The Friendship College Trustee Board is set to host the Artistic Tribute to the Legacy of Friendship College: Honoring Rev. Dr. Osbey. This tribute will highlight the talents of Jaki Shelton Greene, Poet Laureate for North Carolina, the Rock Hill Symphony Orchestra, and jazz saxophonist Carl Ratliff. Rev. Dr. Osbey Roddey made significant contributions to Friendship College and Rock Hill, SC. He is the President Emeritus, serves on the Friendship College Board of Trustees, and is a former Rock Hill City Councilman. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Dr. James H. Gouldlock Community Resource Center, currently under construction on the camps of Friendship College, 442 Allen St., Rock Hill, SC. This Small Grant helps offset the production costs including artistic fees, marketing, and awards.

**Fort Mill Middle School | $1,000**

*Willy Wonka Jr.*

In 2015, Fort Mill Middle School launched a specialized related arts course, co-taught by the chorus and theatre arts teachers. This course began as an avenue to provide high-quality musical theatre education and experience at the middle level, which concludes with a production of a Broadway junior musical. Within the course, students explore a wide range of curricular topics related to musical theatre such as acting craft, choreography, vocal technique, costume design, set design, and set construction. The 2018-19 school year brings Willy Wonka Jr. to the stage.

Fort Mill Middle School does not have a theatre. This puts the program at a disadvantage and limits the scope of the productions as they are staged in the school’s gymnasium. This Small Grant will allow the program to purchase additional pipe and drape to create a black box theatre environment within the walls of the gym, creating a more authentic theatre experience for future productions. | http://fmms.fortmillschools.org/arts

**Rock Hill Symphony Orchestra | $1,000**

*RHSO Educational Outreach Program*

The Rock Hill Symphony Orchestra is committed to developing and nurturing partnerships in communities throughout Rock Hill and the surrounding region, seeking opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to actively participate in the life of the symphony. It is the aim of the RHSO to build strong connections with Rock Hill schools through performances and residencies that directly benefit students.

In the fall of the 2018-19 school year, the Rock Hill Symphony Orchestra Outreach Program will perform introductory concerts at York Road Elementary and Northside School of the Arts. These concerts will acquaint audience members with the Symphony and provide an overview of their programs. In the Spring, the RHSO string quartet will conduct 3 – 4-day residencies at both York Road Elementary and Northside School of the Arts to introduce 5th graders to some of the basic techniques of playing the violin. These residencies will conclude with a concert during which the 5th graders will join forces with the string quartet to showcase the knowledge gained during the residency.

School orchestras play a major role in the cultural life of the community and help create an environment supportive of symphonic music. Research has proven that students who are engaged in music programs have improved neural processing, have lower school drop-out rates, and increased test scores. The RH Symphony plans to follow up with each of the participating schools in the second year to determine the impact the program has on students and on enrollment in the newly established/re-established strings programs in several of the middle schools. This Small Grant will be used to pay professional musicians who perform with the RHSO for their time and talent in working with the students in the schools, and for the rental of violins for use in the program. | https://rhsymphony.org/educational-outreach

**Town of Clover/Gallery 120 | $500**

*Blues & Jazz Festival*

Gallery 120 was established in January 2015 in Clover, SC as a community art gallery with a mission to build a strong, vibrant arts community. Gallery 120 encourages growth and exposure of professional and emerging artists while educating the Clover community in the fine arts. The gallery serves as a center where partnerships between art groups are nurtured, artists and the community are encouraged to engage in discourse, and art experiences such as summer art camps, art workshops, and artist receptions spark lifelong learning and engagement.

Gallery 120 is working to establish itself as the cultural center of Clover by expanding arts programming. It is the organizers’ hope that by creating a vibrant and diverse arts community, future generations will be inspired to live, work, and play in Clover. The latest offering has the Town of Clover and Gallery 120 partnering with the Arts Council of York County to bring the 14th Annual Blues & Jazz Festival to Clover with a Kickoff concert featuring Letron “L-Train” Brantley at The Larne Building, 103 N. Main St., Clover, SC. on Thursday, October 4, 2018 from 7 – 10 PM. This Small Grant supports programming expenses. | https://www.cloversc.org/newsView.aspx?nid=10433

**Benjamin Sliker | $400**

*Short Film Production*

Heavily influenced by movies from the 1980s and 1990s and science fiction, film director and editor, Benjamin Sliker aspires to create films that highlight the storytelling process. Sliker’s works are artfully created and often take the audience on journeys that include surprising twists on the expectated. His style includes longer shots, well-staged action, and a focus on the actors’ performances. Benjamin’s stories often indulge his passion and excitement for the unknown – alien planets, space travel, etc. His film, *Expectant*, was screened at the 2018 Underexposed Film Festival yc.

Sliker’s current project, *What Remains of Us*, is a story that is explores what it means to be brave in extraordinary circumstances. Set 20 years into the future, his protagonist, Jack, is a coward who learns that the only way to survive is to be true to himself and embrace his faults. This Small Grant allows Benjamin to realize his vision of filming this movie in a high resolution so that it may be screened in the cinema. | https://www.bensliker.com

**Special Needs and Family Empowerment | $300**

*Art Exhibit*

SAFE Spectrum Arts Exhibit and Sales is a four-day event designed to heighten awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) through the display of works by student artists in the tri-county area. This event is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the students’ creativity and talents. Honda of Rock Hill will host the SAFE Spectrum Arts Exhibit and Sales event. All works on display will be available for sale; the artists will receive 90% of each sale, and 10% of the sale price will be donated to SAFE to promote future Autism Spectrum Disorder events. This Small Grant will offset programming expenses. | https://www.specialneedsadvocates.org

**Total Allocations This Quarter: $5,500**

To review guidelines, visit [www.yorkcountyarts.org](http://www.yorkcountyarts.org) on the Grants page under The Arts heading. The next deadline is Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 5 PM for programs occurring January, February, and/or March of 2019. Prospective applicants MUST discuss the proposed project with the 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.

This Small Grants program is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission (which receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts), and the John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund of the Coastal Carolina Community Foundation, and Comporium Communications.

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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