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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Arts Council of York County Announces**

**Small Grant Recipients – 4th Quarter 2021-2022**

ROCK HILL, SC – The Arts Council of York County is pleased to announce the allocation of Small Grant awards for the fourth quarter of its 2021 - 2022 fiscal year. Small Grants are available to individual artists, nonprofit 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 and are accessible for general community-wide audiences.

Organizations and individual artists residing in York County, SC may receive up to two grants each fiscal year. The Arts Council awarded seven Small Grants for the 4th Quarter of its

2021 - 2022 calendar year.

**Myles Calvert | $1,000**

*Solo Art Exhibition*

Myles Calvert’s current work explores the relationships that develop between everyday objects of comfort and color theory. The chosen focal objects have been universal, recognizable, and at times, mundane. He questions why they must be objects at all, when the broad subject of landscape should also be challenged.

Calvert’s work is currently on display in the Dalton Gallery at the Center for the Arts in Rock Hill, SC through May 7, 2022. Within the space, he has displayed numerous works on paper, neon, wood, reams of fabric. This Small Grant was used to offset the costs of production, framing, and installation. | <https://squirrelpigeonfish.com>

**Don’t Sweat It Inc. | $1,000**

*Concerts in the Courtroom*

Don’t Sweat It Inc. will use the funds from this grant to host two concert performances in the Courtroom at the Tom S. Gettys Center. These events will take place on May 21st and June 30th. The May 21st show will feature Vintage Harmonic Symphony, a favorite local Americana/Folk band that writes catchy melodies and utilizes intricate vocal harmonies. The June 30th show will feature dreamy indie rock band Daddy’s Beemer. With over 200 shows under their belt, they are a seasoned original performance act. The two events will be Don’t Sweat It Inc.’s first since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the launch of Don’t Sweat It Inc. as an independent nonprofit organization. The goal of this nonprofit is to offer free and low-cost events by local, regional, and touring acts, provide cultural enrichment to our community, and create opportunities for local artists to perform. | <https://www.facebook.com/thecourtroomrockhill>

**Devann Donovan Gardner | $500**

*Solo Art Exhibition*

Devann Donovan Gardner’s work explores the malleability of memory through experiencing the warped sense of nostalgia. Her study of memory has uncovered that no matter how unique or specified it is, the provoked feeling of nostalgia is universally recognized. It is the bittersweet feeling of remembering the past, happy moments, and the pain of not being able to return or relive those moments. She explores what we trust most - our own memory and its inaccuracy. Memory is the foundation of our identities, and she exposes its dishonesty by creating environments of intense discomfort. The worry and anxiety that goes hand in hand with adult responsibilities is gained through the act of growing up and metaphorically packing away your childhood toys; you are closing the trunk on the unedited mindset of childhood.

Gardner is completing the creation of her solo exhibition *Replays*, her MFA Thesis Exhibition at Winthrop University. *Replays* is set to be a fully immersive and interactive gallery show that tackles all five senses. This Small Grant will be used to defray the costs of preparing, delivering, and installing the show. | <https://www.devanndonovan.com>

**Reginald Kee | $850**

*Youth Poetry Anthology*

Poet, youth advocate, and motivational speaker Reggie Key is curating and producing an anthology book of poetry. The book will consist of works by local youth poets who participated in the Rock Hill Youth Poet Laureate selection process as well as in other poetry contests held over the past year. Kee will publish the anthology, which will be available on Amazon, and teach the selected poets how to operate a small business through the promotion of and sales of their book. The book will be released in 2022 at the inaugural York County Youth Authors Showcase, during which each author will read their piece from the book. The young authors will have the opportunity to sell their books and works at individual booths during the event. Kee will use this Small Grant to publish the anthology and produce the showcase. | <https://inkwellspoken.com>

**Benjamin Sliker | $1,000**

*Music Production*

Filmmaker Ben Sliker is in pre-production for his feature length film *Paulie Q*, a film about a middle-aged musician who is struggling to find himself ten years after the death of his best friend and bandmate. *Paulie Q* will feature many styles of music, and a large portion of the film is dedicated to the creative process of making music. This Small Grant will be used to pay the artistic, technical, and studio rental fees associated with the production of the music for the film. | <https://bensliker.com>

**Visit York County | $2,000**

*Ag + Art Tour of York County*

The South Carolina Ag + Art Tour is the nation’s largest free, self-guided tour of farms and farmers’ markets featuring local artisans at every stop. This unique tour allows visitors to learn about South Carolina’s rich agricultural and cultural heritage. York County hosted the first Ag + Art Tour in 2012 to showcase local homemade and homegrown goods. On the tour, visitors have the chance to see first-hand where their food comes from, watch artists in action, purchase homemade and homegrown goods, and learn more about rural life. Many farms host family-friendly activities including hayrides, farm tours, and opportunities to visit barnyard animals. Participating artisans often include bakers, painters, potters, quilters, fiber and fabric artists, musicians, and storytellers – including Dori Sanders.

For the third year in a row, the Ag + Art Tour of York County will take place over two weekends, doubling the time tour-goers can explore the county’s farms and farmers markets while meeting local artists. Farms on the eastern side of the county will be open for visitors on Saturday, June 4th and Sunday, June 5th, while farms on the western side of the county will welcome visitors on Saturday, June 11th and Sunday, June 12th. This Small Grant will be used to pay participation fees and for marketing. | <https://www.agandarttour.com/york>

**York County Choral Society | $1,000**

*Concert*

York County Choral Society is celebrating the final concert of its 40th season on May 22, 2022 with the production of Johannes Brahms’s *A German Requiem* at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill under the direction of Dr. Katherine Kinsey. This Small Grant provides financial support for the production of this classic work, which includes professional instrumentalists. | <https://yorkcountychoralsociety.org>

**Yorkville Historical Society | $1,000**

*Juneteenth*

The Yorkville Historical Society is presenting the inaugural Juneteenth Celebration in the City of York, SC. Plans include a formal dinner, the Juneteenth Gala, in the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd’s Fellowship Hall, with keynote speakers, Winthrop University professors of history, Dr. Edward Lee and Dr. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight. Dr Dixon will speak on the national implications and effects of Juneteenth, now a national holiday. Dr. Lee will speak on the local and regional meanings and applications of the holiday. African American Shape Note Singers and a jazz band including Carl Ratliff will perform at the gala.

In addition to the formal dinner, the Yorkville Historical Society may establish an essay contest featuring students from all grade levels in York County School District 1. Submissions will be judged, and prizes awarded for top essays in specific age/grade categories. The winners and their parents will be invited to the Juneteenth Gala where the awards will be presented.

The Small Grant will be used to cover artistic and production fees related to the gala and writing contest. | <https://yorkvillehs.com>

**Total Allocations This Quarter: $7,350**

To review guidelines, visit www.yorkcountyarts.org/grants. The next deadline is Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 5 PM for programs occurring in July, August, and/or September 2022. 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](mailto:arts@yorkcountyarts.org), or visit our webpage at <http://www.yorkcountyarts.org>.

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