



Dane County Awards over \$120,000 in Grants to Local Arts Organizations

Dane Arts Awards 48 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. Forty-nine project and short order grants totaling \$128,583 are being awarded in Cycle 2 for “Dane Arts” project grants in 2020. Two \$1,500 capital grants are being awarded, along with four Blockstein awards at \$500 each to organizations with projects that included political and civic engagement.

“Now more than ever, people are looking for innovative ways to remain connected to our arts and culture communities,” said Dane County Executive Joe Parisi. “We are excited to provide this cycle of Dane Arts grants and celebrate the many talented artists and institutions who call Dane County home. Congratulations to this year’s recipients.”

The “Dane Arts” grants are funded by county dollars in conjunction with private donations from the Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation, the Evjue Foundation, Inc., charitable arm of *The Capital Times*, the W. Jerome Frautschi Foundation, and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation.

This year, Dane County’s Dane Arts will have awarded almost \$250,000 in public-private funds to nonprofit organizations, schools, individuals, municipalities for arts, cultural, and local history projects and programs offered countywide. The next project grant deadline is Monday, February 1, 2021 at 4:00pm.

Grant recipients are listed below this announcement.



2020 Cycle 2 Project Grants

Multidisciplinary Arts/Culture

Africasong Communications, Inc. – *2021 State of Wisconsin Tribute & Ceremony to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* **Award: \$1,110**

The 41st Annual State of Wisconsin Tribute & Ceremony honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a multi-disciplinary and multi-ethnic arts and cultural showcase that celebrates Dr. King's legacy and inspires hope using music, dance and spoken word.

UW Madison Arts on Campus – *Big Streams, Little Folks* **Award: \$ 3,500**

Held virtually, Big Streams, Little Folks is part of the Wisconsin Film Festival (April 8, 2021 - April 15, 2021), curated specifically to educate and inspire elementary school children through film arts. The program encourages creativity, builds bridges between communities, and introduces youth to the art of the cinema when theaters are shuttered.

Opera for the Young – *Family Opera Day featuring "Hansel and Gretel"* **Award: \$1,400**

Opera for the Young presents its 11th annual Family Opera Day at the Overture Center for the Arts in June 2021. A free performance of "Hansel and Gretel" will be complemented by area partners with workshops in theater and design (Madison Children's Museum), movement and mindfulness (little om BIG OM), and music (Madison Youth Choirs).

Wisconsin Union Theater – *Black Arts Matter Festival* **Award: \$3,406**

In November 2020, the Wisconsin Union Theater and award-winning artist Shasparay Lighteard will co-produce the second Black Arts Matter Festival. The Festival is an interdisciplinary arts festival celebrating and promoting Black art, and it consists of performances, discussions, and educational programs.

TNW Ensemble Theater, Inc. – *Stop Time: Sharing the Ensemble Theater Process with Older Adults* **Award: \$2,040**

Stop Time, a collaboration between TAPIT/new works and St. Mary's Care Center, a nursing home, links the worlds of ensemble theater and memory care to promote creative engagement and social connection in a post COVID-19 world. Artists guide residents and staff through theater games and share this work with audiences.



Emily Morrison Weeks – *A Dash of Mystery Podcast*

Award: \$3,050

A Dash of Mystery, a false crime comedy podcast, is an original scripted anthology.

Music

Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras, Inc. – *WYSO's Adaptive Fall Program of Chamber Orchestras and Recorded Concerts*

Award: \$3,675

For WYSO's first Orchestra Program-in-Residence at McFarland PAC, WYSO has divided 5 full orchestras into 19 Chamber and String Orchestras, who will rehearse in-person and perform in front of professional videographers in an empty 800 seat auditorium. The recorded concerts will be broadcast Dec. 13-17 during *WYSO's 5 Nights of Extraordinary Concerts*.

Madison Music Collective – *InDIGenous JAZZ Series Spring 2021 Concert Series: Original Music from Local Artists*

Award: \$ 3,602

The InDIGenous Jazz Series presents new music composed by local musicians in a wide variety of jazz styles. Concerts feature two hour-long sets and a Q&A session for audience members to pose questions to the performers. Entering its 7th year, the series has been enthusiastically received and remains immensely popular.

Madison Youth Choirs – *Madison Youth Choirs' Spring 2021 Concert Series, "Give Light"*

Award: \$ 3,675

From January through May 2021, the 350 young singers engaged in Madison Youth Choirs' "Give Light" project will explore the way musical expression throughout history has allowed composers to amplify suppressed voices, illuminate complex issues surrounding oppression and revolution, and provide comfort and hope in times of struggle.

Willy Street Chamber Players – *PROJECT 2020 REVISION*

Award: \$ 3,100

This fall, the Willy Street Chamber Players will present PROJECT 2020 REVISION which will include both a virtual BEYOND THE SCREEN concert with interactive elements and 32 in-person INTERLUDE "micro-performances" designed to cultivate meaningful artistic experiences during the time of the pandemic.



Madison Youth Choirs – *Madison Youth Choirs' December 2021 Concert Series*

Award: \$3,640

From September through December 2021, the 350 young singers engaged in Madison Youth Choirs' inaugural season at the new Madison Youth Arts Center will explore a diverse range of classical and contemporary repertoire and have the opportunity to learn from talented fellow musical artists who will call the center home, including Black Star Drum Line and Drum Power.

UW Community Arts Collaboratory – *Drum Power Equitable Access and Affirmation Through Language*

Award: \$3,675

Drum Power video lessons will be translated into Wolof, Spanish, and other languages reflective of the cultural backgrounds of participants or the traditions themselves.

Madison Opera, Inc. – *Youth Engagement Programs 2020-2021*

Award: \$3,675

Madison Opera offers a range of Youth Engagement Programs, all designed to share the magic of professional opera with students from across Dane County, helping to bridge the gap left by dwindling arts exposure and education in our schools.

Madison Choral Project – *Madison Choral Project's February 2021 Concert: "Privilege/Images, Shadows, and Dreams"*

Award: \$2,814

The Madison Choral Project, Wisconsin's first fully professional choir, will present two timely musical works that wrestle with complex social justice issues embedded in modern American life, "Privilege," by Ted Hearne and "Images, Shadows, and Dreams" by David Baker. The works will be presented in a final concert on Friday, February 5 at First Congregational Church in Madison, as well as recorded and streamed for a wide online audience.

Madison Choral Project – *Madison Choral Project's 2021 Spring Concert Series, "Hope Eats You Alive"*

Award: \$3,115

In May 2021, Madison Choral Project, Wisconsin's first fully professional choir will present "Hope Eats You Alive," a thought-provoking concert series pairing inspiring classical and contemporary vocal music, including a world premiere by Madison composer Scott Gendel, with literary readings from around the world.



Oakwood Chamber Players – *Oakwood Chamber Players Concert Videography*

Award: \$2,786

The goal of this project is to present Oakwood Chamber Players' 2021 concerts using professionally produced videos as an innovative delivery medium during a period of unprecedented health and social challenges.

Grace Presents – *Grace Presents HD Virtual Concert Series. Nov 1, 2020-May 31, 2021*

Award: \$2,135

Grace Presents HD Virtual Concert Series is an answer to the COVID-19 pandemic. With a broad range of musical styles including jazz, classical, folk, and more, these high-quality, multi-camera concerts feature exceptionally talented musicians based in Dane County, and are free for all to enjoy from the comfort and safety of their living rooms.

Children's Theater of Madison – *CTM-Peter Pan 2021*

Award: \$917

The musical Peter Pan, based on J.M. Barrie's classic tale, whisks you away to a place where dreams are born, and no one ever grows up! This high-flying show will be performed in the historic Capitol Theater of Overture Center.

Madison Flute Club – *2021 Wisconsin Flute Festival*

Award: \$3,413

Wisconsin Flute Festival is an engaging and educational day celebrating flute. The Festival includes workshops, lectures, performances, competitions, masterclasses, and an exhibit hall. Our guest artist is Claire Chase a 2012 MacArthur Fellow known for advocating new music and who is on the faculty of The Juilliard School and Harvard University.

Just Bach – *Just Bach Season 3*

Award: \$1,886

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 that Bach intended.



Madison Bach Musicians, Inc. – *Tenth Annual Baroque Holiday Concert and Live-stream: December 12, 2020 Virtual Outreach Event for Memorial HS on December 11.* **Award: \$2,561**

Madison Bach Musicians will give its tenth annual *Baroque Holiday Concert* on Saturday evening December 12, 2020 at First Congregational Church. On Friday December 11, MBM will give a virtual concert/discussion of this repertoire for students at Madison Memorial HS.

Madison Bach Musicians, Inc. – *Haydn & Mozart Chamber Music: October 2 Virtual Outreach Event for Middleton HS. October 3 (with live-stream) & 4 Concerts* **Award: \$1,749**

Madison Bach Musicians will open its 17th season on October 3 & 4, 2020 with concerts exploring the chamber music of Haydn and Mozart. On Friday, October 2, MBM will perform and discuss this music--in a virtual setting--for orchestra students and other classes at Middleton High School.

Madison New Music Ensemble – *Madison New Music Ensemble: Two concerts at the First Unitarian Society during 2021* **Award: \$690**

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 Friday, April 9th and Friday, September 17th at the First Unitarian Society Atrium Auditorium.

con vivo!...music with life – con vivo! presents "Black Music Matters," a concert of chamber music by Black composers **Award: \$1,440**

con vivo!...music with life presents a performance of live chamber music on Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 7:30 pm at First Congregational Church in Madison.

con vivo!...music with life – con vivo! presents a chamber music concert, "Without Borders" **Award: \$1,380**

con vivo!...music with life presents a performance of live chamber music on Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 2:30 pm at First Congregational Church in Madison.



Dimensions In Sound & The Studio Orchestra Inc. – *DISSO bringing joy to seniors during COVID-19* **Award: \$2,480**

Dimensions In Sound & The Studio Orchestra (DISSO) is a non-profit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. The organization's two separate music ensembles are dedicated to performing for residents in senior living communities who are unable to seek out big band and orchestral entertainment because of their advanced age or disabilities.

PEBOGA – *2020 Fall Gospel Fest* **Award: \$3,250**

Fall Gospel Fest is a one-day inspirational music event that serves as a platform for both contemporary and traditional gospel music and features national recording artists who share the stage with local artists.

Visual Arts

Mount Horeb Area Arts Association – *2021 Spring Art Tour* **Award: \$2,200**

The Spring Art Tour is a free and family-friendly, 3-day weekend, open-art-studios event from June 4 to June 6, 2021. It showcases the artwork of about 2-3 dozen high quality Wisconsin artists within 20 miles of Mount Horeb, WI. Guest artists will be permitted in 2021, providing visitors with expanded exposure to a wider variety of artists and media. Small-town and rural studios will be visited by the public and all artists will be demonstrating and/or describing their work in a variety of media.

Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters – *Stephen Perkins / Two in One: Print Works & Accordion Books* **Award: \$1,362**

An exhibition in two parts, featuring curated assemblages created from artist Stephen Perkins' extensive personal archive of mail and print art, and accordion books by a wide range of contemporary artists, also from Perkins' personal collection. Perkins will offer a gallery talk and the Watrous will host a series of informal sharing sessions with Perkins and a number of local artists who create their own zines, comics, and other self-published print material.



ARTS for ALL Wisconsin, Inc. – *2021 ARTS for ALL Wisconsin Call for Art* **Award: \$3,150**

Each year, ARTS for ALL Wisconsin invites submissions of artwork from Wisconsin residents with disabilities and receives hundreds of submissions. Each submission is juried by arts professionals who look for creativity, originality, and craftsmanship in selecting ten artworks to be added to Creative Power, ARTS for ALL Wisconsin’s Traveling Exhibition. The program is free to participants and includes the opportunity to exhibit and sell artwork.

Madison Museum of Contemporary Art – *An Exhibition by Faisal Abdu'Allah* **Award: \$ 3,150**

Madison Museum of Contemporary Arts (MMoCA) seeks funding for an exhibition of work by Madison-based artist Faisal Abdu’Allah. Now more than ever, museums must address and correct the ways in which they have perpetuated racial inequities, particularly in regard to whose narratives are prioritized in galleries and publications. Abdu’Allah’s artistic practice offers MMoCA and the community a platform to confront assumptions pertaining to race, representation, and power.

Dance

UW Community Arts Collaboratory – *Performing Ourselves Virtual Curriculum & Translation*
Award: \$3,413

Performing Ourselves virtual dance and movement curriculum and accompanying worksheets will be translated to reach bi-lingual youth dancers across Dane County.

Li Chiao-Ping Dance – *Li Chiao-Ping Dance Spring 2021: Here Lies the Truth* **Award: \$3,250**

Here Lies the Truth is a multimedia dance performance that unearths the truths, half-truths, and untruths that permeate our political, personal, and bodily landscapes. Li Chiao-Ping Dance invites you to experience our questions of position, privilege, power, and equity in this evening length work.



Kanopy Dance Theatre Inc. – *Kanopy Dance Company presents "THE NOT SO Far-Out Prophecies of Nostradamus"* **Award: \$3,150**

Kanopy is excited to announce its new summer season of performances. In a landmark collaboration, *Kanopy Dance* will partner with another of 'Madison's own' the daring theater company *Are We Delicious?* From start to finish, *Kanopy & Are We Delicious?* will create a theater-dance emerging from the pandemic, and fittingly absurd, surrounding the prophecies of astrologer and poet Nostradamus.

Dance Wisconsin – *A Refreshing Nutcracker; removing racially insensitive stereotypes from an arts tradition. Providing a Nutcracker to be enjoyed by all.* **Award: \$2,441**

Dance Wisconsin is proud to announce their newly refreshed Nutcracker Ballet! Artistic Director, JoJean Retrum together with her artistic staff has removed costuming and choreography, found in the original production, that was unwelcoming or demeaning to various cultures. Nutcracker will warm the collective heart of Dane County while celebrating diversity.

Madison Ballet – *2021 New Works: Centering and Amplifying Choreographers of Color* **Award: \$3,150**

Featuring exclusively choreographers of color, Madison Ballet's 2021 production will inspire and overjoy audiences while challenging any preconceived notions about this dynamic artform. As these new works enter the company's permanent repertoire, the impact of including and amplifying the voices of the most diverse group of creators in the company's 39-year history will be felt for years to come.

Theater

Children's Theater of Madison – *CTM Stellaluna 2021* **Award: \$2,652**

Stellaluna: Adapted from the popular children's book by Janell Cannon. Stellaluna is the story of a baby fruit bat separated from her mother who falls into a bird's nest, where she does not quite fit in. *Stellaluna* teaches themes of diversity, tolerance, and staying true to who you are.



Capital City Theatre – *Ain't Misbehavin'*

Award: \$3,008

Ain't Misbehavin' is a three-time Tony-award winning musical revue that animates the world in which Fats Waller lived and largely represented: Harlem in the 20s and 30s. One of the most popular, well-crafted revues of all time, the sassy and sultry musical has moments of devastating and unforgettable beauty.

Music Theatre of Madison – *Beyond the Ingenue: Trailblazers*

Award: \$1,680

BEYOND THE INGENUE: TRAILBLAZERS will explore diverse womxn throughout history and current events who have stepped forward to pave the way for today's society. The piece will explore people chosen by the actors, who will partner with Wisconsin-native composers to write a piece.

Arts & Literature Laboratory, Inc. – *Watershed Reading Series 2021*

Award: \$3,000

The Watershed is Madison's longest-running monthly curated reading series. As poet Sean Bishop noted, its audience includes "students from East High School sitting beside local retirees, Wisconsin Poets Laureate, graduate, and undergraduate students from Edgewood, MATC, and UW, and authors with books...on the bestseller list."

Forward Theater – *THE NICETIES and accompanying community engagement*

Award: \$3,150

Forward Theater will produce *The Niceties* by Eleanor Burgess January 21 – February 7, 2021.

Arts in Education

Madison Symphony Orchestra Inc. – *Spring Young People's Concert 2021*

Award: \$3,380

MSO's Spring Young People's Concert brings middle and high school students into a world-class concert hall to experience live music performed by a professional symphony. The concert is performed by the Madison Symphony Orchestra led by MSO Associate Conductor Kyle Knox.



Music con Brio, Inc. – *Music con Brio's 9th Annual Community Concert Series* **Award: \$2,400**

In 2020-21, Music con Brio will focus on Black Lives Matter. In partnership with Goodman Community Center and Emerson Elementary, they will provide two Community Arts Showcases. Then, they will professionally record repertoire by Black composers and showcase these recordings free online. These events provide student motivation, community outreach, and enriching collaborations.

Madison Jazz Society – *Madison Jazz Society School Residency Program* **Award: \$3,393**

Enriching Jazz Education for Madison Metropolitan School District students provides access to high-quality jazz music experiences and addresses the lack of familiarity with this American art form. This project will enable grades K-12 students to learn from locally based musicians who share their love of jazz and improvisation with students.

Arts Wisconsin – *Little Picassos: Art enrichment for Low-income Children*

Award: \$3,150

Little Picassos is a free after school art enrichment program for underserved, low-income children in Madison, Wisconsin. Little Picassos provides a safe, nurturing place in which to: create, learn about art, artists, and art history. In the program, every child is celebrated for their own unique talents and gifts.

UW Community Arts Collaboratory – *Whoopsocket Curriculum and Performances for Bi/Multi-lingual learners* **Award: \$3,150**

Whoopsocket works with emergent readers and writers. This project will support Spanish translation and overdub of our virtual residency curriculum and performances. Whoopsocket presents the writing of young people from Madison schools, community centers, and libraries through unique, kid-authored, professionally performed short plays.

American Players Theatre – *Alternative educational programming for the 20-21 academic year*

Award: \$3,150

APT is preparing a host of educational programming including play-readings, accompanying workshops, and residencies that will be made available in-person or via a virtual platform for Dane County students. These programs will utilize the unique performance skills of APT's teaching artists to infuse students with appreciation and comprehension of complex classical texts.



Short Order Grants

Rachel Werner – *The Little Book Project WI: Edition #3 ('Spaces')* **Award: \$440**
The Little Book WI Project weaves together visual arts and literary work based on a central theme & provides another mechanism to prompt "uncensored" public discourse by providing a platform for artists from a variety of disciplines—especially those who have encountered barriers to their work being accessible to a wider audience.

Magnum Opus Inc. – *Seeds: A Ballet Collaboration with GiGi's Playhouse* **Award: \$600**
Magnum Opus is proud to present its first collaborative performance with GiGi's Playhouse, Seeds! This ballet is a beautiful blend of the professional ballet dancers and the participants from its adaptive dance class.

Capital Grant Awards

Arts & Literature Laboratory, Inc. – Literary Arts Center Furniture & Equipment **Award: \$1,500**

Madison Circus Space – Lighting Equipment **Award: \$1,500**

Liesl Blockstein Awards

Liesl Blockstein was a self-described "professional volunteer" and served on The Madison Jewish Community Council, The League of Women Voters, and United Way of Dane County. She was honored for "her efforts in maintaining and promoting Wisconsin's progressive political traditions."

To be considered for this special funding award, proposed project must align with the Liesl Blockstein legacy to further the call for civic and political involvement

Wisconsin Union Theater – *Black Arts Matter Festival* **Award: \$500**

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