



Dane County Arts and Cultural Affairs:
2026 Cycle 1 Grants

Arts in Education

American Players Theatre - 2026 Student Matinees & Workshops

Award: \$1,674

APT will perform matinees of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker*, for Dane County middle and high school students. Post-show discussions, study guides, and accompanying workshops with APT teaching artists will also be provided.

David Alvarez - Gil - *Connecting Children with Endangered Animals: A Bilingual Educational Initiative in Spanish*

Award: \$1,394

This bilingual initiative connects children with endangered wildlife through Spanish storytelling, school programs, and community activities, empowering them as Wildlife Ambassadors and conservation advocates, and culminating in a public event celebrating learning and language.

Innovation Center Stoughton - *Innovation Center Stoughton STEAM Camp*

Award: \$936

Innovation Center Stoughton is offering a summer STEAM camp with an Art emphasis for youth ages 9-16; participants will work on drawing skills, color theory, painting, and printmaking techniques while learning digital programs Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to design for laser- and vinyl-cutters.

Madison Contemporary Dance - *Creativity, Confidence, and Community Project*

Award: \$1,669

Weekly classes and performance opportunities are offered for underserved youth in the Dane County area. Children will train with professional dancers Sara Rohs, Papa Kobina Brewoo, Tyra Lex, and others. They will study ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, breakdancing, and tumbling.

Madison Jazz Society, Inc - Ignite Jazz: Summer Jazz Camp

Award: \$1,711

The Madison Jazz Society invites musicians of all ages and skill levels to an exciting summer jazz camp and educational intensive. Participants dive into immersive jazz experiences through combo playing, instrument-specific coaching, and engaging week-long elective classes. Join us!

Monona Terrace Community Programs Inc - Lakeside Kids 2026

Award: \$614

Monona Terrace's Lakeside Kids program offers free, engaging cultural and arts-focused activities that bring visual and performing arts to children ages four and up, fostering creativity and accessibility for families of all income levels.

Monroe Street Arts Center - Create & Connect at Monroe Street Arts Center

Award: \$1,210

Create and Connect is a free, community-based program for adults that builds connection through creative expression. Participants explore a variety of accessible art projects in a welcoming, supportive environment, while meeting new people and forming social connections.

Opera for the Young - Countywide school tour of a new production of the opera Rusalka: A Mermaid's Tale" by Gaetano Donizetti"

Award: \$1,662

Funding from Dane Arts will support the countywide school tour of OFTY's new production of Rusalka: A Mermaid's Tale by Dvořák. Teaching materials will include Tutorial Videos, a Student Handbook, a Teacher's Guide about opera and Rusalka: A Mermaid's Tale, and activities for classroom teachers.

Prairie Music & Arts Inc - GO-CART: Community Arts & Recreation Trailer

Award: \$1,102

The GO-CART Kids Cabaret Series, a project co-created by Prairie Music & Arts and Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation & Forestry, provides enriching outdoor cultural arts experiences for youth and families in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, during the summer months.

Sandburg Elementary - Sandburg Stage Estrellas After School Musical Theater Program

Award: \$1,690

The Sandburg Stage Estrellas is an after school theater arts program offered to 3rd-5th grade students attending Sandburg Elementary School. Our free 17 week program culminates in an annual 30 minute Disney Musicals in Schools production in the Madison community.

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

Award: \$1,229

Simpson Street Free Press operates newsrooms at multiple sites and provides high-quality academic support during after-school and summer hours. Simpson Street Free Press student reporters deliver articles, features, and multi-media content focused on local history and the arts.

Dance

Dance Wisconsin - *Exploring a Contemporary Renaissance Through Original Choreography: Inspirations*

Award: \$1,299

Experience an evening of concert length dance pieces inspired by artists who embody the humanism of our time and place in the universe. Audiences will leave the theater with a renewed sense of possibility, compassion, and faith in the goodness of humanity.

Freedom Inc. - *Freedom, Inc.: Viv Ncaus Dance Troupe*

Award: \$1,665

Viv Ncaus Dance Troupe (VNDT) is a year-round program for Southeast Asian Hmong girls and QTI+/gender-expansive youth (ages 7 - 18) that cultivates a sense of community and belonging. This space centers Hmong dance, preservation of Hmong textiles, and storytelling for youth survivors of GBV.

Hmong Family Society Inc - *Hmong Dance Program with Hmong Family Society InC*

Award: \$1,599

Hmong Family Society Inc.'s volunteer-led dance program empowers youth to preserve and celebrate Hmong culture through traditional dance. Featuring four teams for ages 5 to 18+, the program promotes cultural pride, artistic excellence, and leadership development, nurturing the next generation.

Isthmus Dance Collective Inc - *Shifting Gears Bike Path Dance Festival 2026 - Artist Honoraria*

Award: \$1,077

Back Labor Day 2026 for its 6th Annual Shifting Gears Bike Path Dance Festival, the Isthmus Dance Collective brings dozens of professional regional dance artists to perform and teach interactive minilessons at three beautiful parks along Madison's bike paths: Brittingham, McPike, and Wirth Ct Parks.

Kanopy Dance Theatre Inc - *Celebrating the Power and Cultural legacy of Mexican Born, Modern Dance Legend José Limón with Guest Stars Daniel Fetecua Soto and Colin Connor.*

Award: \$1,579

Inspiring Immigrant Stories: Celebrating the Power and Cultural legacy of Mexican Born,

Modern Dance Legend José Limón with Guest Stars - award winning choreographer Colin Connor, former artistic director of the Limón Dance Company NYC, 2016-2020, and acclaimed Colombian dancer, Daniel Fetecua-Soto.

Li Chiao-Ping Dance - *Portrait of Michael, a screendance*

Award: \$1,567

A dance film focusing on 69-year old Michael Zeimet, a disabled Dane County resident and beloved employee at the DMV since 1987, known for his friendly and cheerful demeanor while taking your photos. Less known is his love for dance and performing, which he began doing 20 years ago with LCPD.

Raka Bandyo - *Sujata Mohapatra Odissi Dance Performance*

Award: \$932

Sujata Mohapatra's performances blend sculptural precision, lyrical fluidity, and deep spiritual resonance. With flawless technique and expressive subtlety, she creates a meditative, emotionally rich experience that captivates audiences and honors the classical traditions of Odissi dance.

Local History

Culture Trip LLC - *History in Our Hands: An Intergenerational Memory Care and Arts Experience*

Award: \$1,463

History in Our Hands is a gentle, arts-based memory experience for elders, including those at end of life, using curated vintage objects, storytelling, and intergenerational exchange to honor personal histories, foster connection, and create moments of meaning beyond words.

The House Urban Arts Initiative Inc - *The Ultimate Juneteenth Experience 2026*

Award: \$864

The House Inc. will provide an eight-week professional African heritage arts training for 30-50 Black youth, culminating in their participation in Madison's Juneteenth celebration through performance, custom costumes, parade presentation, and supported sound and equipment needs.

Multidisciplinary

African Association of Madison, Inc. - *Africa Fest 2026*

Award: \$1,406

Africa Fest is the community's annual celebration and sharing of Africa's wonderful cultural heritages with residents of Dane County and environs. This free event includes educational showcases, onstage musical & dance performances and colorful fashion & flag parade of 54 African nations.

Arts for All Wisconsin, Inc. - *Madison Veterans Arts Studio*

Award: \$1,688

Madison Veterans Arts Studio supports veterans with disabilities in Dane County through visual art and creative writing. In partnership with the Madison Vet Center, we anticipate reaching 13 veterans with disabilities, totaling 60-80 contact hours per participant, and 50 exhibition audience members.

Disability Pride Madison - *2026 Disability Pride Festival*

Award: \$1,713

The festival is an afternoon where disabled lives are celebrated, where children and adults with disabilities share their experiences. Aerial dancing, a parade through the park, music and celebration. Over 50 disabled artists and crafts people a festival that tries to include everyone.

Friends of Schumacher Farm, Inc. - *Schumacher Farm Park Indigenous Culture Celebration*

Award: \$941

The Indigenous Culture Celebration is a free, family-friendly event at Schumacher Farm Park highlighting Indigenous arts, performance, and storytelling. Led by Native artists, the celebration fosters cultural understanding through interactive, community-based experiences.

Madison Children's Museum - *Free Cultural Heritage Celebration Series*

Award: \$1,652

Through MCM's Cultural Heritage Celebrations and across four free events in collaboration with local artists and community partners, we will co-create activities that uplift the vibrant cultural traditions of our Asian American & Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous communities.

Madison Parks Foundation - *Live at The Glen*

Award: \$1,338

Live at The Glen is an opportunity for all residents of Madison to enjoy the scenic beauty of one of the City of Madison's golf courses. We strive to provide diverse and cultural events that include the use of this beautiful park land.

Midwest Linen Revival - *Field to Frock Festival 2026*

Award: \$1,259

The purpose of the festival is to create community engagement to instigate cultural change in relationship to our clothes, with an emphasis on regional agriculture, the potential of growing flax for linen, traditional skills for future resilience, and individual crafting with community wellbeing.

Midwest Mujeres, Inc. - *Midwest Mujeres Inc. Storytelling Event America's Dream "El Sueño de Las Americas"*

Award: \$1,657

Midwest Mujeres Inc. presents a community storytelling program that invites the public to define the American Dream in their own words. Through the arts, community members reflect on belonging, opportunity, and shared civic values shaping our collective future.

Neighborhood House Community Center - *Madison Good Neighbor Gathering*

Award: \$915

Madison Good Neighbor Gathering is an alcohol-free festival held in Brittingham Park every September. Hosted by the District 13 Neighborhoods this festival features a stage with live music and dance, bouncy castles, rock climbing, crafts, and information tables hosted by local organizations.

Puppets in the House, LLC - *Puppets in the House Community Day*

Award: \$982

Community Day is a free street-fair-style festival showcasing puppetry professionals. An integral feature of a weekend conference, it is an opportunity for local audiences to join registered attendees and enjoy several puppet shows, local arts and crafts, food, and walk in a giant puppet parade.

TNW Ensemble Theater, Inc. - *The Caffeinated Book Club of Chestnut Street Performs the U.S. Constitution*

Award: \$1,271

In *The Caffeinated Book Club of Chestnut Street Performs the U.S. Constitution*, TNW Ensemble Theater combines participatory outreach sessions with performance of an original play to enhance public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and explore how personal relationships shape communication.

Urban Triage - *Urban Triage Harvest Festival*

Award: \$1,657

The 5th Annual Urban Harvest Festival is a free, community-centered celebration in Dane County honoring agriculture, culture, and connection. The festival brings together families, youth, and residents, centering Black joy through live performances, interactive activities, and free food.

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

Award: \$1,685

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum's 28th annual Talking Spirits: Forest Hill Cemetery Tours commemorates 250 years of American independence and the museum's 125th anniversary through powerful vignettes honoring Wisconsinites who shaped our nation's ideals, service, and innovation.

Music

Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society - *Never Say Never: 35th Summer Chamber Music Festival*

Award: \$1,658

BDDS creates unforgettable concert experiences by combining serious music

and serious fun. Exhilarating performances blend world-class artistry with bold repertoire in an intimate setting, fostering an atmosphere so people from all backgrounds experience the transformative power of chamber music.

City of Middleton Community Development Authority (CDA) - *Strollin' Middleton Jazz Festival 2026*

Award: \$1,560

Now in its 11th year, Strollin' Middleton Jazz Festival presents two days of live jazz by top local and regional musicians at Stone Horse Green in the heart of Downtown Middleton. This free event makes our community stronger and more vibrant while celebrating jazz's rich variety.

con vivo!...music with life - *con vivo! performs chamber music by Mozart and Prokofiev*

Award: \$748

con vivo!...music with life presents Chamber Masterpieces, a performance of live classical chamber music on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 7:30 pm, at First Congregational Church in Madison. The program includes music by Mozart and Prokofiev.

Fresco Opera Theatre - *Opera on the Point*

Award: \$839

Opera on the Point is an immersive evening of opera, fire, and folklore on the shores of Lake Mendota. Around a bonfire at Picnic Point, audiences encounter woodland legends as arias and ensembles weave into the natural landscape, blurring the line between story and reality.

Friends of Allen Centennial Gardens, Inc. - Summer Sundays: Jazz in the Garden 2026

Award: \$1,598

A series of compact jazz concerts on alternating summer Sundays presented outdoors in the inspiring natural surrounds of a jewelbox botanical garden, showcasing a wide variety of styles by the areas best local musicians, this year including a renowned European trio from our Sister County in Germany

Girls Rock Camp Madison - Girls Rock Camp Madison

Award: \$1,621

Girls Rock Camp is a one week day-camp for girls, transgender and gender non-conforming youth ages 8-18. Campers of all skill levels learn guitar, drums, keyboard, bass and vocals; form a band, write a song and perform their original composition at an end-of-camp showcase to hundreds of supporters.

Grace Presents - Grace Presents 2026-2027 Saturday Concert Series and Midwinter Concert Series

Award: \$1,161

Grace Presents features free, monthly concerts by an eclectic array of emerging and established local musicians. Concerts take place in the acoustically resonant nave of historic Grace Church on the Capitol Square.

Handel Aria Competition - 13th Annual Handel Aria Competition

Award: \$1,601

The 13th annual Handel Aria Competition is for music lovers of all ages. Seven finalists will be performing in the final round on August 7 at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison. The performance will be livestreamed for free to broaden the reach of the competition to those who cannot attend in person.

Jazz at Five, Inc. - Jazz at Five Performance Series 2026

Award: \$952

The Jazz at Five Summer Performance series begins in August. Join us at the King St side of the Capitol Building to enjoy FREE outdoor jazz performances each week. Bring a picnic or enjoy food from our vendors!

Just Bach Concerts Inc - Just Bach Concerts Season 9 - Midday Series and Evening Concert (Luther Memorial Church)

Award: \$869

Just Bach Concerts presents the music of J.S. Bach and his contemporaries via free and accessible concerts throughout Madison and Dane County. Our musician's sing and play using the performance techniques and instruments that were commonplace during Bach's time almost 300 years ago.

Kristin Redman - *Auricle New Music Series 2026-2027*

Award: \$1,607

Auricle is a concert series focusing on experimental music and sound art curated by Phil and Cricket Redman. Through a mix of free and ticketed concerts held from August 2026 through June 2027, Auricle will connect Dane County audiences with local, national, and international musical innovators.

LunART, Inc. - *LunART 2026 Festival Resonance*""

Award: \$1,677

LunART is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission of supporting, promoting, and celebrating women in the arts. The annual festival (May 25-31, 2026) intertwines classical and contemporary music performance with visual art exhibits, workshops, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Madison Bach Musicians, Inc. - *"Cantatas by J. S. Bach" with guest violinist Marc Destrubé: October 10-11, 2026 concerts at Holy Wisdom Monastery. October 2, 2026 outreach event at Vel Phillips Memorial High School*

Award: \$1,417

Madison Bach Musicians will open its 23rd season on October 10 & 11 with concerts featuring "Cantatas by J. S. Bach." Violinist Marc Destrube will lead an instrumental & vocal ensemble.

On Oct. 2, MBM members will play an outreach event for orch., band, and choir students at Vel Phillips Mem. HS.

Madison Choral Project - *Madison Choral Project 2026*

Award: \$1,600

Madison Choral Project kicks off its 12th season in Oct. 2026 with a major collaborative performance, uniting professional singers and passionate volunteers. MCP's annual Dec. concert will feature new music and readings in an intimate setting, before another large community concert in Feb.

Madison Conservatory - *MC Chamber Music Camp*

Award: \$875

Madison Conservatory's Third Annual Chamber Music Camp enriches middle and high school students in Dane County with a week of coaching, mentorship, and performances of great works for strings and piano. Students develop problem solving, communication, and discipline in a fun setting.

Madison Jazz Festival - *Madison Jazz Festival 2026 Community Events*

Award: \$1,738

The Madison Jazz Festival is a 10-day celebration of jazz, including a week of programs across the Greater Madison area. Events ranging from talks and film screenings to concerts, collaborative performances, and jazz jams occur daily from June 19-28.

Madison Music Collective - *DiG Jazz Series Fall 2026*

Award: \$1,000

The DIG JAZZ Series presents new music performed by local musicians in a wide variety of jazz styles. The DIG JAZZ Series also seeks to attract new audiences to the realm of jazz and improvised music, while making the music accessible by presenting it in a variety of spaces.

Madison New Music Ensemble - *The Madison New Music Ensemble Two Concerts in 2026-27*

Award: \$719

The Madison New Music Ensemble will present two concerts featuring the works of prominent international/national contemporary concert music. The concerts will be held Saturday, October 3, 2026, at the Arts + Literature Laboratory, and Morphy Hall, School of Music, (SOM) Saturday, April 10, 2027.

Madison Opera, Inc. - *Madison Opera Studio Artists Program*

Award: \$1,508

The Madison Opera Studio Artist Program is an important part of the company's artistic and educational mission, offering young singers significant professional experience. The Studio Artists also serve as our musical ambassadors, engaging with the Dane County community.

Madison Savoyards, Ltd. - *The McAdo, a new adaptation of Gilbert & Sullivan's Mikado*

Award: \$1,588

Madison Savoyards presents The McAdo, a new adaptation of Gilbert & Sullivan's The Mikado, set in the Scottish highlands. While the setting and character names are updated and altered, it's otherwise the same topsy-turvy tale that has delighted audiences worldwide for well over a century.

Madison Symphony Orchestra Inc. - *HeartStrings 2026-2027*

Award: \$1,674

HeartStrings® is the MSO's music-therapy informed community engagement program which brings live, participatory music directly to individuals who encounter barriers to attending concerts. The program is presented by the Rhapsodie Quartet, a professional string quartet made up of MSO musicians.

Madison Youth Choirs - *Madison Youth Choirs' 2026 Spring Concert Series, In Other Works*

Award: \$1,568

On May 17, 2026 at the Verona Performing Arts Center, over 400 young singers of Madison Youth Choirs will present the spring concert series In Other Works, an exploration of 20th-21st century commissioned works and arrangements, and a celebration of the human impulse to keep creating new music.

Middleton Community Orchestra - *2026-2027: MCO's 17th season. Three concerts in October 2026, December 2026 and February 2027.*

Award: \$1,627

Performed by outstanding musicians from Dane County in collaboration with some of classical music's brightest local stars, MCO's 17th Anniversary concerts are affordable, accessible community events perfect for audiences of ALL ages.

NewBridge Madison, Inc. - *2026 NewBridge Summer Concert Series*

Award: \$805

Press-Release Summary (≤50 words)

NewBridge hosts free, summer concerts at Warner Park that bring neighbors together through live music, food trucks, and community resources. NewBridge Summer Concert Series foster social connection, accessibility, and inclusive community gathering.

PEBOGA - *Next Level Park St. Music & Community Fest - Copy*

Award: \$1,348

Next Level Park St Music Fest is in its 9th 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.

Salon Piano Series - *Salon Piano Series 2026-2027 Season*

Award: \$1,548

Salon Piano Series presents world-class piano performances in intimate settings, showcasing exceptional artists and rare, historic instruments. Through concerts, masterclasses, and community outreach, SPS fosters a deep appreciation for the art of piano and its profound connection to audiences.

Sondermusik Inc DBA Samtala - *Samtalä | Musicians in Dialogue Summer Festival 2026*

Award: \$1,517

Samtalä creates innovative concert experiences that explore novel combinations of established, contemporary, and newly commissioned works. Through chamber music concerts and interactive children's concerts, Samtalä participates in the evolving landscape of classical music within community.

Token Creek Festival, Inc. - *Token Creek Chamber Music: 2026 Mid-Season - Three Concerts*

Award: \$1,715

Token Creek Chamber Music continues its 2026 series with three early summer concerts: Chicago's superb Kontras Quartet; the adventurous cellist Robert Burkhart, from New York; and Present Music, one of our nation's premiere new music groups, from Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra - *Concerts on the Square 2026: July 1, 2026: United in Sound*

Award: \$1,634

United in Sound, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra's second Concerts on the Square performance, celebrates the United States' 250th anniversary through music that reflects our shared history and future, featuring composer Brittany Green and her powerful work Testify.

Theater

Capital City Theatre - *Impact Series: 30th Anniversary Production of Rent*

Award: \$1,593

This season, we proudly celebrate the 30th anniversary of RENT, the groundbreaking rock musical that redefined Broadway and touched a generation. Jonathan Larson's electrifying score and powerful storytelling follow a year in the lives of young artists and friends struggling to survive in 1990s NYC

Forward Theater - *Forward Theater: Steady She Goes*

Award: \$1,639

Forward Theater will present STEADY SHE GOES by Erica Berman, the story of Mary Patten told through dialogue and sea shanties.

Music Theatre of Madison - *Trevor: Based on the film that inspired The Trevor Project*

Award: \$1,650

TREVOR is a new musical based on the film that inspired The Trevor Project.

Visual Art

Arts & Literature Laboratory, Inc. - *Arts + Literature Laboratory 10th Anniversary Exhibition*

Award: \$1,668

ALL's 10th Anniversary Exhibition features paintings, prints, photography, fiber, digital art, drawings, and sculpture, including glass and ceramics. Spanning three floors, this free exhibition presents exceptional contemporary local and national art in a welcoming, accessible space.

City of Middleton Arts Committee - Art Walk Middleton 2026

Award: \$1,339

On Saturday, May 16, 10am-5pm, Art Walk Middleton will feature 70 booths by Wisconsin artists working in a wide range of mediums - painting, ceramics, woodworking, sculpture, jewelry and metals, textiles, photography, and more - plus hands-on demos, live music and kids' corner. Free admission!

Dakota Mace - 2026 Native Art Market

Award: \$1,678

On Saturday, November 7, the 2025 Native Arts Market will celebrate and support local and regional Indigenous culture and heritage by presenting the work of more than 40 Native artists, along with performances, artist demonstrations, and workshops leading up to and during the market.

HARRY WHITEHORSE INTERNATIONAL WOOD SCULPTURE FESTIVAL INC - 2026 Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Symposium

Award: \$1,628

The Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival celebrates the art wood sculpting. Fourteen world-renowned sculptors will join us for a week-long artist in residence, featuring the creation of new sculptures, an exhibition of previous works, demonstrations, food and entertainment.

Mills Folly Microcinema - Mills Folly Microcinema 2026-2027

Award: \$1,547

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

The Center for Black Excellence and Culture - Four Seasons: Adventures in Art (Year 2 - 2026-2027)

Award: \$1,470

Four Seasons: Adventures in Art is a free quarterly art program for adults. The program aims to promote brain health through regular engagement with the visual arts. Presented by The Center for Black Excellence and Culture and African Americans Fighting Alzheimer's in Midlife study.

Urban Art Bloom Inc. - Sun Prairie Mural Fest 2026

Award: \$1,637

Sun Prairie Mural Fest is a live-painting public art festival that brings artists, residents and visitors together in Sun Prairie through large-scale mural creation, community events, and downtown activation.

Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters - Grounded Materials

Award: \$681

Grounded Materials features six Wisconsin artists -- Babette Wainwright, Matthew Groshek, April Stone, Matthew Vivirito, Ger Xiong, and Abby Sunde -- who engage materials that resonate with personal, cultural, environmental, and historical significance. Co-curated by Melanie Herzog and Susan Messer.

Short Order Project Grants

Dance

Amy Owen - Ferdinand

Award: \$500

Creating a multi-disciplinary dance interpretation of the classic children's book "Ferdinand the Bull," suitable for all ages, with original choreography and a modernized storyline read live in Spanish and English. Set during rising Fascism in 1940's Spain, themes include the performance of masculinity, political and social contexts pressuring boys and men to engage in violence and to endure threats of violence, experiences of pain and isolation that can influence gender identity, and envisioning a masculinity that centers caring and an appreciation of beauty and peace.

Unincorporated Dance Lab - Unincorporated Dance Lab presents dis | sonance

Award: \$500

dis | sonance is the culminating performance of Unincorporated Dance Lab's third season. In collaboration with artists from other disciplines, local choreographers will present original works that contemplate the themes of discordance, disharmony, and dissent.

Central Midwest Ballet - Central Midwest Ballet Academy's Spring Showcase 2026

Award: \$500

A delightful fusion of artistry, technique and storytelling, Central Midwest Ballet Academy's 2026 Spring Showcase features new works and storybook classics highlighting ballet's bright future.

Multidisciplinary Arts/Culture

Araceli Esparza Poet - *Teacher Artist in MMSD schools*

Award: \$500

I will lead two Spanish-language poetry workshops at Leopold Elementary—one for families and the public, and one designed specifically for school staff and offer relief, reflection, and restoration, using interactive creative writing activities and a collective word bank exploring home, casa, and hogar to foster belonging and connection.

Leslie Iwai - *Feel Quill: A Reading in Braille*

Award: \$500

Feel Quill is an interactive art installation in which feather quills punctuate cast concrete forming Braille text. During this event, a Braille reader will touch and read texts including Emily Dickinson's poem, "Hope" is the thing with feathers" while giving others a unique opportunity to see how words are felt.

Rooted Inc - *Angela Puerta Kids Show*

Award: \$500

Rooted will host 3 music events by Angela Puerta Kids Band. Angela Puerta is a seven-time MAMA Award winner, Latino Musician of the year (2025), Wisconsin's Most Influential Latino Leader 2024, and Best of Madison Latin Artist (2019 & 2020). A Colombian-born singer-songwriter and guitarist based in Madison, Wisconsin. Angela Puerta Kids Band offers a one-of-a-kind musical experience that blends entertainment, education, and cultural exploration for young audiences. Each performance is highly interactive—kids are invited to borrow small instruments and play along during each show.

Briarpatch Youth Services - *Briarpatch Youth Services' 2026 Youth Arts Festival*

Award: \$500

The Youth Arts Festival is an annual, youth-centered community event that celebrates creativity, self-expression, and connection through hands-on art activities, performances, and youth-led showcases. By centering youth voice and removing barriers to participation, the festival fosters belonging, empowerment, and community engagement.

Umu Igbo Unite Wisconsin - *Umu Igbo Unite Wisconsin: Igbo Arts & Culture Series*

Award: \$500

UIU Wisconsin will present an Igbo Cultural Arts Series in Dane County featuring Biafra remembrance storytelling through spoken word/music and a New Yam Festival with Igbo masquerade performance arts. Events will be hosted at The Hub/Black Business Hub and other Dane County venues, inviting the public to experience Igbo culture through multidisciplinary arts and education.

PAMANA (Philippine-American Association of Madison and Neighboring Areas) - Pinoy Sama-Summer 2026: Filipino Arts and Culture Program

Award: \$500

Pinoy Sama-Summer 2026 is a nine-week program comprising free public activities from June to August, with the goal of enriching the cultural awareness, appreciation, and literacy of Dane county residents through performances and learning opportunities related to Filipino arts, culture, and history.

Christopher Holland - PARADE! - Short Order Project

Award: \$500

PARADE! is a variety cabaret where Madison's LGBTQ+ community stages their own Pride parade when corporate sponsors bail. Through comedy, dance, singing, and performance, we prove you don't need permission to celebrate who you are with two shows at Crucible, June 2026.

Maria Segura - Jake and Emily

Award: \$500

"Jake and Emily" is a (somewhat) fairy tale story about love, hope, and the desire to find that perfect place that leads to happiness. However, as we all know, there is no such thing as a fairy tale story which is well depicted in the story of "Jake and Emily."

"Jake and Emily" travel far from one place to another, facing challenging landscapes and hardships; but nevertheless, the birds continue to cling to each other in search of hope, love, peace and happiness."

In the end, I quote, "Believing in fairy tales is perfectly fine, yet, life itself isn't one. Life is a journey filled with highs and lows, along with unexpected twists and turns. Always remember that." - Maria Segura

Music

Capitol City Band Association - Capitol City Band Free Concert on the Square for America 250th

Award: \$500

The Capitol City Band will play a free concert on Capitol Square (Hamilton St.) in celebration of America 250 on Saturday, July 4th 2026 from 10:30AM-12PM. Bring a chair or take a break from farmers market shopping to enjoy a program of all American music performed by one of the best concert bands in Dane County!

Madison Area Concert Handbells - *MACH-Commissioned Music Piece for 30th Service Anniversary*

Award: \$500

Madison Area Concert Handbells is commissioning a piece celebrating our 30th year of service to the Dane County Community, to be performed at our Spring 2027 concert weekend. This piece will celebrate the natural beauty and cultural impact of the Madison area.

Wormfarm Institute - *Soil Horizons*

Award: \$500

Wormfarm Institute is commissioning a new musical work by rural sociologist and musician Dr. Michael Bell, inspired by soil horizons and processes of decomposition and renewal. Premiering at Decomposium in Sauk County, the piece will be shared with Dane County audiences through a subsequent Madison performance with university and science-engagement partners.

Stoughton Opera House Friends Association - *Catfish River Music Festival 2026*

Award: \$500

Held July 3–5, 2026 in Rotary Park, the Catfish River Music Festival is a free, community-driven celebration of live music in Stoughton. Presented by the Stoughton Opera House Friends Association, the festival brings people together, supports local businesses, and highlights Stoughton as a place where arts, culture, and community matter.

Capitol Chordsmen - *Capitol Chordsmen Community Concerts*

Award: \$500

The Capitol Chordsmen Men's Barbershop Chorus will offer a Spring Show and a Christmas Show at the Oakwood West Auditorium, featuring favorites from the Great American Songbook. Join us to experience the joy of acapella singing in the unique 4-part "close harmony" of the Barbershop style.

Visual Arts

Rachael Hunter - *Figure Modeling and Drawing Collective Group Residency and Exhibition*

Award: \$500

The Figure Modeling and Drawing Collective will host a residency from July 19th to 25th for its members to create an exhibition, with daily viewing hours for the public. There will be a free figure drawing/community building workshop July 22nd, and the residency will conclude with a reception July 24th.

Verona Maker Space - Joyful Parades

Award: \$500

The Verona Maker Space is collaborating with both the ART House 360 and Puppets in the House to host two joyful parades to celebrate arts and crafts in the Verona Community. The headpieces will be showcased at the Hometown Day parade held on May 29-31st on Main Street Verona and the second will be on October 9-10th at the ART House 360 and New Century Park.

Mark Golbach - HUMAN : NATURE

Award: \$500

The show will consist of fifty self-published photography books in a variety of formats. The style in each case reflects the varied subject matter, content or a theoretical issue regarding the practice of photography. The installation will be inventive and invite visitors to handle the books. In addition, single images selected from the books will be mounted on the gallery walls near the books displayed. The exhibit overall is meant to illustrate the artistic journey of the photographer as he attempted over a 15 year period to answer the seemingly simple question: "What's a good picture?"

Artworking at Work Opportunity in Rural Communities, Inc - Exhibition Support for a Disabled Artist in Dane County

Award: \$500

ArtWorking is seeking funding to support local artist Stephon Ashley in producing a solo exhibition at Abel Contemporary Gallery's No. 5 space.

Charlotte Easterling - BridgeWork solo exhibition (title TBD)

Award: \$500

This exhibition focuses on the artist's Lakota culture, featuring work that highlights history, philosophy, and contemporary expression. It includes illustrations, an installation, and interactive elements for visitors to explore. The artist will offer a talk at the opening reception. This show will be appropriate for all ages.

Jan Lin - Short Order Project Visual Arts

Award: \$500

Art exhibition of "Life of Faces" will be held at Aubergine Gallery from 6/5 to 8/15. The artists in residency will hold three workshops for the community members on 6/20, 7/18, and 8/15. The workshops are free and provide art supplies. This will be a fun and educational experience for attendees when the artists provide pottery, portrait and comic stripes workshops. There will also be concurring live music and live painting activities at Cafe CODA, the jazz club next door. All events are free for public.

Capital Grants

Isthmus Dance Collective Inc - *Isthmus Dance Collective, Capital Grant for portable, modular,*
Award: \$1,132

IDC sees increasing need for dance-safe staging, especially with our efforts to support more dance forms that represent our city. We can better serve regional dance with the purchase of a portable, modular stage capable of being leveled on a variety of surfaces to also lend to regional dance groups

Madison Area Concert Handbells - *MACH Capital Grant Application-D2 Handbell*

Award: \$1,094

Madison Area Concert Handbells, now in its 29th year of serving the Dane County community, is expanding its instrumentation to bring a fuller sound to its audiences for a deeper experience and appreciation of this four-century-old unique musical artform, performed by one of the best handbell choirs in the nation.

Madison Conservatory - *Music Stands and Chairs*

Award: \$550

Madison Conservatory is seeking support to replace our time-worn and heavily-used music stands and chairs. This vital equipment is necessary to facilitate student learning in lessons, classes, rehearsals, and at summer camp.

Madison Flute Club - *Expanding Low Voices, 2026 Contr'Alto Flute Capital Campaign c1*

Award: \$1,132

The Madison Flute Club will expand our soprano, alto, bass, and contrabass flute choir voices to include a contr'alto flute! This unique harmony instrument plays an octave lower than an alto flute, adding new depth and color to the voices of our ensembles. The low flute section of our 35+ member adult flute choir is expanding to balance the upper voices. Club-owned instruments create unique educational and engagement opportunities for youth and adult flutists as well as audiences in Dane County.

Madison Opera, Inc. - *Props Workshop Creation*

Award: \$1,132

Madison Opera is applying for grant support to help create a props workshop at the Madison Opera warehouse.

Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras, Inc. - *Audio Recording Equipment Purchase*

Award: \$760

The WYSO Center for Music is in need of quality recording equipment. This will be available to our students, renters, and the community at large.