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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Arts Council of York County Announces**

**Small Grant Recipients – 2nd Quarter 2019-2020**

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 2019-2020 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. The Arts Council awarded Small Grants to eight artists, teachers and organizations for the 2nd Quarter of 2019-2010. Recipients include:

**Ashley Beard | $242**

*Professional Development*

Ashley 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.

Ms. Beard will be using the funds from this Small Grant to attend the Palmetto State Art Education Association’s three-day professional development conference. There, Beard will attend sessions that focus on STEAM (science, technology, arts, and math), and PBL (project-based learning). These initiatives align with South Pointe’s focuses and are considered best practice when teaching students in order to prepare them for careers in the 21st century. She is looking forward to learning and implementing new ideas and techniques in teaching, impacting more than 100 art students from diverse backgrounds this year alone. Additionally, Ms. Beard will share the learning experience with her colleagues so they may also use this information in the design and implementation of arts integration, thereby potentially impacting a majority of the students attending South Pointe High School and beyond. | http://beardedlady.wixsite.com/artwithashley

**ChristmasVille | $500**

*Artwork*

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 Linda Kay-Biviano, a New York-based artist who specializes in polymer clay, to create *Don’t Forget*, a Vernon Grant classic Santa image for festivalgoers to enjoy for years to come. *Don’t Forget* was selected as the People’s Choice Vernon Grant image in 2018, and will be featured prominently in the 2019 festival. This Small Grant will subsidize the artist fees and production expenses. | http://www.christmasvillerockhill.com/

**Clinton College | $935**

*Winter Holiday Choral Concert*

The Fall 2019 semester has begun at Clinton College with exciting new programming and academic opportunities for current students and the community. One of the new initiatives involves the development of a Department of Music. In July, Clinton College announced the hiring of Dr. Tony McNeill as the new Director of Choral Activities and Department Chair of Music. On December 8, 2019, the Clinton College Choir will host a Winter Holiday Choral Concert that showcases music from a broad spectrum of secular and sacred genres, and features musical collaborations with community-based musicians and singers from the Rock Hill/York County area. This event will celebrate the season and serve as a platform to announce the vision for the department of music. One of the highlights of the evening is a holiday medley that will involve audience participation. Clinton College will be using the Small Grant to help buy choral sheet music, 2 trumpets, 1 flute, and 10 music stands. Funds will also be used to secure an audio technician, additional brass, winds, percussion, and pianist to accompany the choir on select pieces during the program. | https://clintoncollege.edu

**Friday Arts Project | $500**

*Art Party*

The visual and performing arts community of Rock Hill is holding its 4th annual Art Party in South Carolina’s first Cultural Development District. From November 20 – 23, local and nationally recognized artists will showcase their work at locations in Old Town Rock Hill, SC. The Art Party will begin on Wednesday, November 20 with a night of short films and possibly stand-up comedy. On Thursday, Winthrop University’s Union of Student Artists’ Auction will be held at the Gettys Art Center Courtroom, and on Friday night, there will be multiple events in several locations within Old Town. There will be seminars and demonstrations on Saturday that feature topics related to the arts. In addition to the events, there will be art on display in many of Old Town’s restaurants, shops, and venues. A Juried Art Competition will be held as well, where a cash prize will be awarded to the top three works of art, chosen by Seth Rouser, Seymour Simmons, and a third juror who has yet to be named. In the first three years, Friday Arts Project partnered with local businesses including Friends of the Library Books, Rock Hill Brewing, Vinyet Architecture, Arts Council of York County, Legal Remedy Brewing, and Joe’s Video. This Small Grant will be used for Shindig expenses, programs, marketing pieces, and prize money for the Juried Competition. | https://www.artparty.fridayartsproject.org

**Michael Gentry | $1,000**

*Concerts at the Courtroom*

Michael Gentry is working hard to bring music to Old Town Rock Hill. Since 2010, Gentry has booked and coordinated Concerts at the Courtroom performances, including local, regional and international acts ranging from acoustic folk rock to aggressive metal. The goal of the Concerts at the Courtroom project is to create and sustain an edgy and innovative music and performing arts scene that supports local performers as well as touring acts. This Small Grant will allow Gentry to provide better customer service to his clients and ticket buyers. He will use the funds to purchase iPads. One will be used for ticket sales at the door, allowing him to accept credit card payments, and another will be used to mix sound. Michael also plans to purchase shelving to organize supplies, lights and stands to better light the performers, and signage for concessions. | https://www.facebook.com/thecourtroomrockhill/

**Old Town Theatre Company | $600**

*“Sleepy Hollow”*

Old Town Theatre Company is a brand new theatrical endeavor which operates under the umbrella of Old Town Association, a non-profit in Rock Hill, SC. Creative risk takers who are humble, hard-working, focused, and skilled comprise the Old Town Theatre Company. The shows produced by the company are all site specific. Their first show, *The Secret* *Garden,* was staged in Glencairn Garden during the Come-See-Me Festival. Their current production, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, will be performed on-site at The Historic White Home October 24 - 26 and October 31 - November 2. This Small Grant supports the marketing, set design, technical equipment, and costuming. | <https://www.onlyinoldtown.com/auditions>

**York County Library | $500**

*Winter Reading Program*

For the second year, the York County Library presents a Winter Reading Program. Built upon the foundation of the annual Summer Reading Program, this program encourages reading during the winter holidays. The “Totally Cool Reading Challenge” of 2020 will begin in December 2019, and concludes at the end of January 2020 in conjunction with Shark Tank’s Mark Cuban’s Community Reads Challenge. In 2018-2019, participants exceeded the reading challenge of 400,000 minutes by 1,146,960 recorded minutes, and YCL gave the prize money to the York County Animal Shelter. This Small Grant will allow the YCL to provide arts and crafts during the Winter Reading Challenge Kickoff Productions at all locations. | <https://www.yclibrary.org>

**York Economic Development Corporation | $600**

*Yorkville Literary Festival*

The 2nd Annual Yorkville Literary Festival is a one-of-a-kind in South Carolina Happening October 15, 17, and 19. This project was created by the Engage Team of the York Economic Development Corporation to promote and celebrate the value of reading and writing for families within and beyond our community. The multi-ethnic, multi-age event will include author talks in shops and cafes in downtown York, book signings, book character street performers, children’s activities, a community read, a free screening of *Charlotte’s Web* at the Sylvia Theater, and a Poetry Slam kickoff event featuring Josh Bovill & The Peace Club. Pablo Cartaya, nationally renowned author of *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* will also be in attendance for a free, community book discussion. This Small Grant will offset printing costs, pay for 500 *Charlotte’s Web* books, and allow for tent, chair and porta-potty rentals for the events.| <https://www.facebook.com/Yorkville-Literary-Festival-549804402118535/>

**Total Allocations This Quarter: $4,877**

To review guidelines, visit www.yorkcountyarts.org on the Grants page under The Arts heading. The next deadline is Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 5 PM for programs occurring January, February, and/or March 2020. 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](mailto:arts@yorkcountyarts.org), or visit our webpage at <http://www.yorkcountyarts.org>.

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