arts council of york county

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Arts Council of York County Announces**

**Small Grant Recipients – 4th Quarter 2016-2017**

ROCK HILL, SC – The Arts Council of York County is pleased to announce the allocation of Small Grant awards for the fourth quarter of the 2016-2017 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 an arts discipline and make such an excellence 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:

**City of Rock Hill Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism | $700**

*BMX UCI World Championship Lamp Post Banners*

As Rock Hill hosts the BMX UCI World Championships in July of 2017 , it presents a unique opportunity to demonstrate the connection between the arts and sports tourism. The City of Rock Hill is working with a number of local artists to feature cycling-related public art installations and other cultural opportunities as 7,000 international visitors come to Rock Hill for the BMX races. Area artists and art teachers have already embraced this opportunity.

The York County High School Art Show held at the Center for the Arts in December 2016 featured several works from area students that incorporated the bicycling theme. Eight of these works will be featured on 24” x 48” lamp post banners, lining East Main Street in Rock Hill in the weeks before and during the World Championships.

This Small Grant will be used to pay for production and installation of the banners. The banners will hang during the months of June and July in Old Town Rock Hill. | http://www.cityofrockhill.com/departments/parks-recreation-tourism/more/parks-recreation-tourism

**Carlo Dawson | $737**

*Juneteenth Celebration Activities*

Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas on June 19, 1865, and more generally, the emancipation of African-American slaves throughout the Confederate South. The 2017 celebration is scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 8, Friday, June 10, and Friday, June 16 – Saturday, June 17 in Old Town Rock Hill, with activities in Fountain Park, and at the York County Main Library, 138 E. Black St., and Mt. Prospect Baptist Church, 339 W. Black St.

This Small Grant will support several of the planned activities, including *Lil’ Lilly Ann’s Story of Jubilee: A Celebration of Freedom*, and *On the Front Porch with Mama Millie*. *Lil’ Lilly Ann’s Story of Jubilee: A Celebration of Freedom* is scheduled for Thursday, June 8. Lil’ Lilly Ann will share her story of Jubilee at the very first Juneteenth celebration. Participants will also engage in childhood songs, games, and will interact with artifacts such as a wash basin and washboard, and more. Those in attendance are eligible to receive a Juneteenth children’s book, and they will have the opportunity to design a quilt square and to create a group quilt. During *On the Front Porch with Mama Millie* on Saturday, June 10, attendees will listen to Mama Millie interactively share Brer-Rabbit Tales and other African American folklore in celebration of the heritage of Juneteenth. Participants will have the opportunity to create masks of the characters in the stories read during the program, and will be eligible to receive a Juneteenth children’s book. | https://www.juneteenthrockhill.com

**Michael Gentry | $1,000**

*Don’t Sweat it FEST*

The Don’t Sweat It FEST Has been bringing local, regional, and touring bands to the Gettys Art Center in Old Town Rock Hill in the sultry heat of summer since 2012. Over the years, this unique festival has featured local favorites like LEGGGs, Terror Pigeon, Amigo, Motel Glory, and Mall Goth, while infiltrating the lineup with fresh, new acts each year. The Don’t Sweat It FEST doesn’t limit itself to music though. Over the years, Festival Director Mike Gentry has added a curated art sale to the fray that has included works by Jordan Sommer, Dylan Bannister, Lila Shull, and Zach Greenway.

This Small Grant will be used to pay for general operating costs, as well as band fees and marketing. | https://www.facebook.com/dontsweatitfest/

**Rock Hill Community Theatre | $700**

*Seussical JR.*

“Oh, the thinks you can think if you’re willing to try” kicks off Seussical JR. the next production by the Rock Hill Community Theatre. This song about the power of imagination introduces Horton the Elephant and a host of delightful Dr. Seuss characters and transports everyone to the Jungle of Nool, where the adventures begin.

Christie Young, who directed Aladdin, Jr. in 2016, leads the way as director of Seussical JR. Kim Sloane, chorus teacher at Mount Holly Elementary School assists vocal director, Monica D. Murphy. Karlyn McLeod has choreographed the show. Corey Mitchell, theatre instructor at Northwest School of the Arts in Charlotte and recipient of the first Excellence in Theatre Education Award at the Tonys in 2015, assisted with auditions. With thirty local youth actors involved in this musical, the Small Grant helps support production and marketing costs. | http://rockhilltheatre.org

**Rock Hill/York County Convention and Visitors Bureau | $1,000**

*Ag + Art Tour of York County*

The Ag + Art Tour of York County is a part of the South Carolina Ag + Art Tour – the nation’s largest free, self-guided farm and art tour. Agritourism has been on the rise. This tour allows people to witness first hand where their food comes from, watch artists in action and purchase their works, and learn more about rural life.

Over the past 6 years, the Ag + Art Tour has grown significantly, both at the county level and within the state. The tour originated as a single county event in 2012, in York County, and in 2017, 11 counties in South Carolina will be participating. There were approximately 2,500 participants who visited 14 farm sites that featured 27 artists and artisans on the first tour in 2012. In 2016, nine counties from across the state of South Carolina participated, and there were more than 5,400 visitors to the 18 participating farm sites that hosted 21 artists and artisans in York County alone. Twenty farms sites are confirmed for 2017 Ag + Art Tour of York County, and a call for artists and artisans will be issued in late March. This Small Grant provides support for the organization and marketing of the 2017 Ag + Art Tour of York County, happening June 10 – 11. | http://agandarttour.com

**Rock Hill Sports Commission | $800**

*Thread by Leah Cabinum*

When the 2017 UCI BMX World Championships roll into town, the international spotlight will shine on Rock Hill for six days in July 2017. The Rock Hill Sports Commission sought out partners from across the county, and has infused this exciting event with culture and the arts. Activities including concerts and art exhibitions are scheduled to occur from Old Town Rock Hill to the Novant Health BMX Supercross Track, and beyond.

*reCYCLE* featuring works by Sean Mueller and Leah Cabinum will be on display in the Dalton Gallery at the Center for the Arts during the UCI BMX World Championships. Coinciding with this show, Leah Cabinum will create and install the sculptural mural, *Thread*, on the side wall of Swim, Bike & Run, located at 153 E. White St.Created from used bicycle inner tubes and tires, *Thread* will be mounted on the brick wall, extending beyond the flat surface into three-dimensional form. This project is an ideal cultural opportunity, connecting the arts and sports in Rock Hill. The public art installation is not only serves as a promotion for upcoming events at the Novant Health BMX Supercross Track, and is also a semi-permanent, one-of-a-kind landmark. In keeping with the active rejuvenation of Rock Hill’s Cultural District, *Thread* will provide an inspiring destination for visitors and Rock Hill’s own community.

This Small Grant will provide some of the funding needed for the development and production of this project.

**Total Allocations This Quarter: $4,937**

To review guidelines, visit [www.yorkcountyarts.org](http://www.yorkcountyarts.org) on the Grants page under The Arts heading. The next deadline is Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 5 PM for programs occurring in July, August, and September of 2017. Prospective applicants MUST discuss the proposed project with the Executive Director at least 10 days in advance of the application deadline date.

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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