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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Arts Council of York County Announces**

**Small Grant Recipients – 4th Quarter 2017-2018**

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 2017-2018 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.

Recipients include:

**Ansley Adams | $845**

*Art Installation*

With this project, Ansley Adams will address concepts of body image and self-esteem issues related to weight. Her paintings and installation will reject the idea that fat is a flaw, and instead promote the celebration of all women as having authentic inward and outward beauty. Her large-scale, brightly colored paintings and installation project will promote body positivity will encourage women to hold a positive awareness of self. As many young women suffer from eating disorders, body dysmorphia and self-esteem related mental health issues, Adams feels this topic is essential to discuss.

This grant allows Adams to purchase materials to build 28 large-scale surfaces and to create a hanging painted silk installation. | https://www.ansleyadams.com

**Karen Collins | $1,000**

*Underexposed Film Festival yc*

Celebrating its 7th season, the Underexposed Film Festival yc is an international, short film festival that focuses its attention on encouraging, nurturing, and supporting the creativity and vision of independent filmmakers, and providing a forum where their work can be viewed. The Underexposed Film Festival yc sets itself apart by actively looking for “the undiscovered talent” waiting to be exposed. The UFFyc seeks diversity in storytelling and provides an opportunity for both emerging and seasoned filmmakers to screen in the same forum while encouraging dialogue between the two. Nearly 400 films were submitted for consideration, shattering previous season records. This grant provides hotel accommodations for up to nine filmmakers who travel to York County to present their films, and for the awards presented in 9 categories.| <http://www.underexposedfilmfestivalyc.org>

**Carlo Dawson | $845**

*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 2018 celebration is scheduled to take place on June 7th, 9th, and 15 – 16, 2018 in Old Town Rock Hill, with activities in Fountain Park, and at the York County Main Library, 138 E. Black St., Kenneth Monroe Transformation Center, 745 Saluda 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 7th. 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 9th, 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 locally and regionally trending 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/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 7 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 2018, 12 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. Since 2013, the York County tour has seen between 4,000 – 6,000 visitors each year. Twenty-two farm sites are confirmed for 2018 Ag + Art Tour of York County, and a call for artists and artisans was issued in early April. This Small Grant provides support for the organization and marketing of the 2018 Ag + Art Tour of York County, happening June 9 - 10. | http://agandarttour.com

**York County Library | $845**

*Libraries Rock Musical Interludes @YCL!*

In conjunction with the South Carolina State Library, York County Library will present a series of musical concerts at all locations to compliment the Summer Reading Program, “Libraries Rock!” The concert series, “Libraries Rock! Musical Interludes @YCL!” will be provided during lunch hours at Clover and Lake Wylie locations so that citizens can enjoy their brown bag lunch while listening to musical concerts emphasizing different musical genres. Included at each concert will be an educational conversation about musical genres and opportunities for citizens to check out library materials focused on Arts and Humanities. This grant helps pay musicians fees and programming. | https://www.yclibrary.org

**Total Allocations This Quarter: $5,535**

To review guidelines, visit [www.yorkcountyarts.org](http://www.yorkcountyarts.org) on the Grants page under The Arts heading. The next deadline is Friday, June 1, 2018 at 5 PM for programs occurring in July, August and/or September of 2018. 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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