

**For Immediate Release**

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**Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester**

**Awards \$90,100 in Grants to Artists and Cultural Organizations in Monroe County**

**Rochester, NY, January 28, 2009** – The Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the New York State Legislature, is pleased to announce the 2009 Decentralization and Education through the Arts grants. Twenty-six area artists, cultural organizations and school partnerships will receive a total of \$90,100 for programs taking place in 2009.

“We are very grateful to New York State Council on the Arts and the New York State Legislature for their significant investment in our county’s economic, educational, and cultural vibrancy,” said Sarah Lentini, President and CEO of the Arts & Cultural Council.

An award ceremony for grantees will be held Thursday, January 29, from 10 am – 12 pm at the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, 277 N. Goodman Street, Rochester.

**Decentralization Grants (Organizations)**

The Arts & Cultural Council administers the Decentralization Grant program with funds provided by the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York State Legislature. Decentralization grants are awarded through a competitive process. The grants provide financial and technical assistance for community-based arts activities offered by eligible nonprofit organizations and individual artists sponsored by nonprofit organizations in Monroe County. The term “decentralization” refers to the way these grant funds are distributed or decentralized, by the state to arts councils throughout the state so that local priorities and needs are addressed.

**Funds Awarded: \$69,000 for projects taking place in 2009.**

*Awardees*

- **Amadeus Chorale, Inc.:** \$2,350.00 to present a Concert for Young Children and their families. A series of six workshops for interested children will follow with attendees performing at the Amadeus Chorale's next concert.
- **Asian/Pacific Islander/American History Project of Greater Rochester, Inc. (APA-HIP):** \$4,800.00 to host its 7th annual film and discussion series "Identity and Perspectives" featuring national and emerging filmmakers Mara Ahmed, Curtis Chin, Noel "Sonny" Izon, Grace Lee, and Lane Nishikawa in celebration of the 30th anniversary of national Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in 2009.
- **BIODANCE Inc.:** \$4,655.00 to present a formal evening of live concert dance and an interactive Family Matinee at the School of the Arts Theater. This will

mark the second year of an annual Rochester home season for BIODANCE as it presents original dance theatre works including one premiere.

- **Bop Arts Inc.:** \$4,800.00 to bring new, exciting and challenging music and art, sharing the experience of innovative and forward thinking music and art with the Rochester community. The emphasis is on internationally and locally recognized musicians who represent the future trends in jazz and improvised music and art.
- **Brighton Symphony Orchestra:** \$3,834.00 to perform a series of twelve community orchestral concerts at accessible sites around the Rochester area.
- **Chinese Choral Society of Rochester (CCSR):** \$3,800.00 to will present its 26th annual concert on May 2, 2009 at the Sutherland High School auditorium. The objective is to introduce Chinese choral music and Chinese Zither instrumental music to the Greater Rochester Community through the concert. In addition to the performance by the CCSR chorus members, the concert will include special performance of the Park Road Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir in singing Chinese and American songs.
- **Dance Rochester! Ltd.:** \$2,655.00 to produce a performance using original musical compositions from three local composers accompanied by original choreography from nine member choreographers. 60-100 dancers will interpret three pieces of music performed three times, each unique. This live concert will promote and develop an audience for dance and music in our community.
- **Friends of the Bach Children's Chorus, Inc:** \$4,175.00 to create a multi-media event honoring the lives of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass. In the year of the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth, the BCC will honor both Lincoln and Douglass, who is Rochester's own connection to Lincoln and the Abolitionist movement.
- **Gateways Music Festival, Inc.:** \$5,000.00 to create a weekend of classical music concerts presented by musicians of African descent in community locations such as City Hall, Zion Hill Missionary, and Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. Performances are free and open to all.
- **Immanuel Baptist Church:** \$4,975.00 to support Friday Jazz at Immanuel, which provides affordable topflight Jazz programming in a community setting at the historic Immanuel Baptist Church. The program promotes interaction between the artist and the audience and provides performance opportunities for students of Jazz. The program design is unique and encourages the exploration of Jazz for everyone.
- **Pegasus Early Music:** \$5,000.00 to present five chamber-music concerts in 2009, featuring world-class artists performing renaissance, baroque and classical era music. Community events in conjunction with the series include pre-concert talks and receptions with the musicians at each concert, as well as master classes for local music students.
- **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester:** \$2,490.00 to develop awareness of and popularize a medieval Polish holiday tradition. A workshop led by an artist who has studied this art form in Poland will result in up to 15 creches (szopkas) build by registrants. These szopkas will be displayed throughout the community during the holiday season.

- **Quartsemble, Inc.:** \$5,000.00 to present and perform "Kidsemble", a series of three interactive children's concerts for K-6 graders. Each concert features a workshop, where children make simple instruments and learn a basic part which they can perform with the Quartsemble. One guest artist, who exemplifies a specific musical genre (Latin, Jazz, Klezmer) is featured at each concert.
- **Rochester Community Players, Inc.:** \$3,133.00 to present ten free public productions of a Shakespeare play at the Highland Park Bow, to be staged in July 2009.
- **South Wedge Planning Committee:** \$4,000.00 to support the "South Avenue Totem Project," which is a continuation of the 2008 "Parking Meter Totem Project", which resulted in eight sculptural "totems" (also serving as bicycle racks) that were installed over defunct parking meter posts. The new totems are planned for areas along South Avenue that also need bicycle racks.
- **Third Presbyterian Church/The Corner Place Outreach Center:** \$3,333.00 to present a study of musical theatre and stagecraft using art, dance, music, and creative writing. The interdisciplinary and content-based curriculum will model high artistic standards, build knowledge and performance skills, and open new worlds of creative experience for children in a culturally diverse setting.
- **TYKEs (Theatre Young Kids Enjoy, Inc.):** \$5,000.00 to present six live performances of the New York Times best-selling children's book, Pinkalicious. Never-before seen in Rochester, this incredible musical will be performed by the original off-Broadway cast, featuring the script and lyrics written by the book's original authors.

#### **Decentralization Grants (Individuals)**

The Arts & Cultural Council administers Decentralization Grants to individual artists with funding provided by the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York State Legislature. Four grants of \$2,000 per grant are awarded to artists in Monroe County for creation of new work. Artists are to involve the public in some significant way in the creation of their art.

#### **Funds Awarded: \$8,000 for projects taking place in 2009.**

##### *Awardees*

- **Reenalda Golden, Poet:** \$2,000 for Black Girl Tunes. Real Women, real stories, real life will inform the writing of Performance Poet, Reenah Golden to create a dynamic new work of literary and performance art. The new work will merge spoken word poetry, movement and music into a multidisciplinary stage production dealing with women's issues at all stages of life.
- **Margaret W. Miyake, Photographer:** \$2,000.00 for Our Town at the Market. Margaret Miyake will photograph and interview farmers, vendors, shoppers, and workers at the Rochester Public Market, documenting the market's vital and important role in our community today, more than 100 years after its opening in 1905.

- **Kevin Serwacki, Painter:** \$2,000 for Portraits From Upper Monroe. Kevin Serwacki will teach youth from the Upper Monroe Neighborhood, to draw "blind contour portraits" and then use these to paint portraits of people who live and work in this neighborhood. Youths will also interview their subjects, with support from Joseph Sorrentino. There will be an exhibit of the blind contour portraits, final portraits, and quotes.
- **Darren Stevenson, Choreographer:** \$2,000.00 for Dracula: A Postmodern Retelling. Based on Bram Stoker's classical novel Dracula, 'Dracula' is a physical theatre work created by Darren Stevenson and performed by the PUSH Physical Theatre performers and Danny Hoskins (who will narrate as the madman Renfield). The project blends the mystic/modern conflict of the novel with postmodern themes and a Rochestarian gothic/steampunk visual style.

### **Education through the Arts Grants**

The Arts & Cultural Council administers Education through the Arts grants with funds provided by the New York State Council on the Arts (through the local Capacity Building Initiative) and the New York State Legislature. Education through the Arts is awarded through a competitive process and provides financial and technical assistance in support of partnerships between schools and teaching artists or cultural organizations that focus on the integrated study of the arts and non-arts subjects in Monroe County.

**Funds Awarded: \$13,100 for projects taking place January – June 2009.**

#### *Awardees*

- **The Water Tower Academy:** \$1,500.00 for "Man-Up," a theatrical project that will integrate theatre, ELA and social studies concepts at the secondary level working specifically with a group of students from the Rochester City School District (RCSD) Youth and Justice program. These students will participate as actors, stage crew, set designers, and program designers. The culminating event will be the performance presented to other RCSD secondary students during the school day and one performance during the evening for the Rochester community.
- **Young Audiences of Rochester:** \$2,600.00 for "Leveraging Artful Leadership." This project will provide an opportunity for the Performing Arts Department at Eastridge High School to take a leadership role in the integration of the arts across the school community for the purpose of exploring and demonstrating the attributes to community leadership. This will be developed through the faculty in language arts, dance, theatre and the counseling and audio/visual staff.
- **Schlegel Road Elementary:** \$5,000.00 for "The Science of Art." This residency with PUSH Physical Theatre will revolve around the exploratory work of Dr. V.S. Ramachandran, "The Science of Art". It will involve the entire Schlegel 4th grade and will end with two school wide performances.
- **The Freedom School:** \$4,000.00 for students to design and create a mosaic mural on the exterior wall of the Freedom School Building. The theme "freedom" will be represented with bird imagery that students will design themselves. A series of interdisciplinary lessons will provide the inspiration, as well as field study at Wild

Wings and Mendon Ponds Park. Students will use a combination of mirror, glass, tile, and ceramics.

For more information about grant opportunities, contact Jennifer Watson, Grants Manager, at (585) 473-4000, extension 206, or via email at [jwatson@artsrochester.org](mailto:jwatson@artsrochester.org).



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*The Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester is a nonprofit corporation serving the arts, culture, and education in the 10-county greater Rochester region. Our mission is to strengthen and promote the region's creative sector through grant programs, constituent services, and special initiatives; and to act as an advocate, planner, and funder, supporting artistic vitality and cultural diversity throughout the region. For more information about our programs and services, visit [www.artsrochester.org](http://www.artsrochester.org).*