

For Immediate Release

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Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester Awards \$82,145 in Grants to Artists and Cultural Organizations in Monroe County

Rochester, NY, January 19, 2010 – 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 2010 Decentralization and Education through the Arts grants. Twenty-six area artists, cultural organizations and school partnerships will receive a total of \$82,145 for programs taking place in 2010.

“We are very grateful to the 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 2010 grantees will be held Friday, February 26 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 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: \$ 61,445 for projects taking place in 2010.

Awardees

- **BIODANCE Inc.:** \$3,000.00 to present a formal evening of live concert dance and an interactive Family Matinee at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance on September 11-12, 2010. This will mark the third annual home season for BIODANCE as it presents original dance theatre works including one premiere.
- **Bop Arts, Inc.:** \$5,000.00 to present 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 recognized musicians who represent the latest trends in jazz and improvised music and art.

- **Bread and Water Theatre, Inc.:** \$2,000.00 to expand its repertoire of productions to include 9 performances of "Nijinsky's Last Dance" by Norman Allen. This one man show combines many traditional theatrical elements with aspects of dance and performance art to create a tour-de-force production that delves into the hidden recesses of the great dancer's psyche.
- **Brighton Symphony Orchestra:** \$2,950.00 to perform a series of twelve community orchestral concerts at accessible sites around the Rochester area, including two summer concerts and a special concert celebrating Dr. John Marcellus' 30th anniversary as Music Director.
- **Chinese Choral Society of Rochester:** \$3,660.00 to present its 27th annual concert on May 8, 2010 at Pittsford Sutherland High School Auditorium. The objective is to introduce Chinese choral music to the Greater Rochester Community through the concert. The concert will feature performance by the CCSR chorus members and Pittsford Barker Road Middle School Choir.
- **Genesee Street Corporation:** \$3,000.00 for professional photographers to lead students on an intensive excursion into photography including instruction in elements of composition, camera components and techniques, field trips, hands-on printing, creating a final presentation including music, writing/spoken word and dance.
- **Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus, Inc.:** \$2,735.00 to establish a core, paid, string quartet for the Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus to strengthen the orchestra by enabling regular, effective, rehearsals with consistent personnel; providing mentoring of volunteer players and attracting new members.
- **Immanuel Baptist Church:** \$3,000.00 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.
- **Madrigalia, Ltd.:** \$1,000.00 to support the 2010 world premiere performance of a new choral work by noted American composer Libby Larsen. The work, "Voices of Freedom," will honor Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, two visionary human rights pioneers who made their homes in our Rochester community.
- **Mental Health Association of Rochester/Monroe County:** \$5,000.00 to produce the Reel Mind Film Series to raise awareness in the greater Rochester community that recovery from mental illness is possible, and is facilitated when stigma is minimized.
- **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester:** \$2,100.00 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) built 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-6th graders. Each concert features an instrument petting zoo, where children meet the musicians and try small sized

- instruments, and a workshop where children make simple instruments and learn a basic part so that they can perform with Quartsemble.
- **RISEGO:** \$2,000.00 to support the Kuumba Arts Lab series of arts and business classes taught by artists to the public. On Saturdays a variety of arts classes will be offered and the art produced will be sold in a marketplace designed during the business seminars.
 - **Rochester Chamber Orchestra:** \$4,500.00 to perform an imaginative two-concert spring series featuring: a premiere commissioned from Rochesterian, W. Cahn for the RCO, Simon Pontin, narrator, and the Bach Children's Chorus and concertos by Vivaldi and Bach featuring local artists E. Agnew, D. Brickman and P. Sunwoo; and Arvel Bird, Native American violinist and flutist performing his original music with the RCO and the Fortissimo Youth Ensemble.
 - **South Wedge Planning Committee:** \$4,500.00 to paint nine traffic control boxes throughout the South Wedge neighborhood by airbrush artists in a "graffiti as art" fashion by local airbrush artists.
 - **Southeast Area Coalition:** \$4,500.00 to design and install a sculpture for the Ellwanger & Barry Park, in an effort to utilize public art as cultural anchors at neighborhood gathering places. An artist lecture, history program, and compiled community response to the project published online will complete the initiative.
 - **TYKEs (Theatre Young Kids Enjoy, Inc.):** \$5,000.00 to create and present eight live performances of the musical, "A Year with Frog and Toad," based on the Caldecott and Newbery award-winning series of books by Arnold Lobel.
 - **Wilson Commencement Park:** \$2,500.00 to present High Society Ballroom Dancing and Plays on the Playground, which includes the experience of dramatic arts for participants and a number of public performances.

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. Three grants of \$2,300 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: \$6,900 for projects taking place in 2010.

Awardees

- **James Mott, Painter:** \$2,300 for a project that involves the creation of 50 small-format landscape paintings depicting 8-12 representative Rochester-area locations, from rural outskirts to inner city. The series will be developed in collaboration with the public through: media outreach soliciting input; an interactive blog; and on-site interactions, including conversations with volunteer hosts at each location.
- **Melissa Pfohl Smith, Choreographer:** \$2,300.00 to create a new dance entitled, Generation Gap, inspired by stories and experiences shared during at least two "Share Your Story" workshops for combined groups of 10-20 multi-generational

community members. Generation Gap will be choreographed for 6-8 dancers to commissioned music by composer Mark Olivieri.

- **Susan Link, Painter:** \$2,300 to work with members and youth in the Corn Hill and PLEX neighborhoods to create a mural painting for the Flying Squirrel Community Space, a historic Elks Lodge, that will include local people's oral histories and ideas.

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: \$13,800 for projects taking place January – June 2010.

Awardees

- **AKWAABA: The Heritage Associates, Inc.:** \$4,470.00 to implement the program, "Steps Toward Freedom" and bring the history of the Underground Railroad Movement in the Rochester area to life for fifth grade students and teachers at Number 39 School through drama, literature, art, music, history, dance and cultural tours.
- **John Marshall High School:** \$1,800.00 to provide students with a vehicle of expression through poetry and art, grounded in the time period of the Holocaust and to build higher level thinking skills in English Language Arts, Social Studies, Art, and Music.
- **Writers and Books:** \$4,030.00 for a creative writing residency that will inspire high school students to produce, publish, and perform their own works through a process of skill building and self-reflection. Using pieces of literature as examples of inspiring writing, inventive writing prompts, and the tradition of both written and oral storytelling, students will be encouraged to find the power of their own inner voice.
- **Elizabeth Clark Dance Ensemble:** \$1,500.00 to introduce second grade students to the human body through movement sequences which reflect and compliment the NYS Standards in the Arts and Sciences. Through movement activities students engage in life-long learning habits about the brain, how the body works, nutrition, and keeping healthy.
- **Theodore Roosevelt School No. 43:** \$2,000.00 for a Social Studies, English Language Arts, and Arts residency to engage fourth grade students in guided discussion/debate, interviews and critical thinking analysis to research, write, rehearse, and perform a historical play about how contact between three cultural groups of early New Yorkers set the foundation for how we interact today.

For more information about grant opportunities, contact Jennifer Watson, Director of Development and Grant Programs, at (585) 473-4000, extension 206, or via email at 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.