



Contact: Lorain Smalligan, Executive Director  
 LowellArts  
 149 S. Hudson, PO Box 53  
 Lowell, MI 49331  
 (616) 897-8545  
 lorain@lowellartsmi.org  
 www.lowellartsmi.org

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**LowellArts announces \$40,000 in MCACA Minigrants for Fiscal Year 2017**

LOWELL, MI – Through the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Minigrant Program, LowellArts awarded **\$32,000** for **ARTS PROJECTS** to eleven local arts and cultural organizations and **\$8,000** for **PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** to seven organizations and one artist.

LowellArts serves as one of the regional regranting agencies for the MCACA for the counties of Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo and Osceola. .

In Fiscal Year 2017 LowellArts received thirteen grant applications for **ARTS PROJECTS**, with a total of **\$44,862** in requests and **\$32,000** awarded. Organizations could request up to \$4,000 for locally developed, high quality arts and cultural projects, which are special opportunities to address local arts and cultural needs and increase public access to arts and culture. These grants support a broad range of artistic expression from all cultures through projects which preserve, produce or present traditional or contemporary arts and culture and arts education.

**The following twelve organizations received ARTS PROJECTS awards:**

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>GRANT AWARD</b>
Arts Center of Newaygo County	Newaygo	\$3,000
Croton Township Library	Newaygo	\$3,128
Gilda’s Club Grand Rapids LaughFest	Kent	\$3,038
Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives	Kent	\$3,165
Grand Rapids Film Festival	Kent	\$3,075
Grand Rapids Latin American Film Festival	Kent	\$3,230
Grand Rapids Swing Dance	Kent	\$3,237
Hastings Public Library	Barry	\$1,374
Heartside Ministry	Kent	\$2,860
Hope Network – Big Rapids	Mecosta	\$2,818
Morton Township Library	Mecosta	\$3,075

In addition, LowellArts received mome grant application for **PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**, with a total of **\$13,550** in requests and **\$8,000** awarded. Organizations and professional artists could ask for up to \$1,500 to support a variety of nonprofit organizational and individual needs, which strengthen the capacity of the organization or artist. These dollars can be used to attend conferences, workshops, seminars or to hire short-term consultants.

**The following eight organizations received PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT awards:**

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>GRANT AWARD</b>
Artists Creating Together	Kent	\$1,121
Artworks: Big Rapids Arts and Humanities	Mecosta	\$1,005
Grand Rapids Children’s Museum	Kent	\$720
Grand Rapids Film Festival	Kent	\$998
Grand Rapids Public Museum	Kent	\$1,050
Jim Shaneberger – Artist	Kent	\$960
West Michigan Center for Arts and Technologies	Kent	\$1,085
West Michigan Flute Association	Kent	\$1,061