



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

## **LowellArts! announces \$39,022 in MCACA Minigrants for Fiscal Year 2015**

LOWELL, MI – Through the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Minigrant Program, LowellArts! awarded **\$31,022** for **ARTS PROJECTS** to fourteen local arts and cultural organizations and **\$8,000** for **PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** to six organizations or individual artists.

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 2015 LowellArts! received seventeen grant applications for **ARTS PROJECTS**, with a total of **\$47,837** in requests and **\$31,022** 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 fourteen organizations received ARTS PROJECTS awards:**

| <b>ORGANIZATION</b>                              | <b>COUNTY</b> | <b>GRANT AWARD</b> |
|--|---------------|--------------------|
| Actors' Theatre Company                          | Kent          | \$2,850            |
| Arts in Motion Studio West Michigan              | Kent          | \$3,450            |
| Grand Rapids Latin American Film Festival – GVSU | Kent          | \$4,000            |
| Greenville Area Community Center                 | Montcalm      | \$3,022            |
| Hastings Public Library                          | Barry         | \$ 965             |
| Mecosta Area Committee                           | Mecosta       | \$1,400            |
| Morton Township Library                          | Mecosta       | \$3,450            |
| Newaygo County Council for the Arts              | Newaygo       | \$4,000            |
| Saranac Public Library                           | Ionia         | \$ 360             |
| Society for Theatre Arts Growth & Enjoyment      | Mecosta       | \$2,565            |
| Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce                  | Kent          | \$2,880            |
| West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association        | Kent          | \$1,035            |
| West Michigan Blues Society                      | Kent          | \$ 600             |
| West Michigan Flute Association                  | Kent          | \$ 445             |

In addition, LowellArts! received nine grant application for **PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**, with a total of **\$17,110** in requests and **\$8,000** awarded. Organizations 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 individual to do business in Michigan. These dollars can be used to attend conferences, workshops, seminars or to hire short-term consultants.

**The following six organizations or individual artists received PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT awards:**

| <b>ORGANIZATION</b>                          | <b>COUNTY</b> | <b>GRANT AWARD</b> |
|--|---------------|--------------------|
| Artists Creating Together                    | Kent          | \$1,115            |
| Diane Penning – Artist                       | Kent          | \$1,000            |
| Grand Rapids Ballet Company                  | Kent          | \$1,500            |
| Opera Grand Rapids                           | Kent          | \$1,500            |
| St. Cecilia Music Center                     | Kent          | \$1,500            |
| West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology | Kent          | \$1,385            |

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**ARTS PROJECTS summary:**

**Actors' Theatre Company**

Actors' Theatre's grant award will be used to compensate performing artists and production staff, some production costs, advertising, printing and mailings for three productions: "Water by the Spoonful" – winner 2012 Pulitzer Prize; Tony Award Winner "Light in the Piazza"; and "Other Desert Cities" – also 2013 Tony Award nominee.

**Arts in Motion Studio West Michigan**

Arts in Motion Studio West Michigan's grant award will be used to support open workshops during the DisArt Festival in Grand Rapids in April 2015. Workshops will range from individualized instruction and group learning to provide opportunities to educate interested instructors on how to adapt and assure provision for access to the arts. In addition the grant will support an evening performance during the festival.

**Grand Rapids Latin American Film Festival – Grand Valley State University**

Grand Rapids Latin American Film Festival's grant award will be used to support a four-day festival at Wealthy Street Theatre in Grand Rapids in September 2015. The all-volunteer festival will feature twelve films and showcase three keynote speakers.

**Greenville Area Community Center**

Greenville Area Community Center's grant award will be used to support a Technical Theatre Camp for youth actors with education sessions in Costumes & Makeup, Lighting, Audio, Set Design, Set Construction and Props, and Theatre Management.

**Hastings Public Library**

Hastings Public Library's grant award will support a series of six weekly programs as part of the library's summer reading program. The programs are planned with the intent of providing youth with culturally enriching experiences, while educating them and helping them to maintain and improve their reading skills.

**Mecosta Area Committee**

Mecosta Area Committee's grant award will support a series of free summer concerts held on Friday evenings in the Village of Mecosta's Bromley Park. The concert series will run for ten weeks and feature many music genres.

**Morton Township Library**

Morton Township Library's grant award will support "Every Hero has a Story", featuring fifteen different artists with performances for children, teens and adults throughout the summer.

### **Newaygo County Council for the Arts**

Newaygo County Council for the Arts' grant award will support "Positive Impact Through the Arts", weekly programs aimed at impacting Newaygo County youth who may be at risk for continuing behaviors destined to negatively impact their lives. The 38 weeks of programs will include hands-on art activities with Michigan Artists.

### **Saranac Public Library**

Saranac Public Library's grant award will support "Author's in April" featuring four Michigan authors to speak to patrons about their own work and writing experiences.

### **Society for Theatre Arts Growth & Enjoyment**

Society for Theatre Arts Growth & Enjoyment's grant award will support the musical theatre production of "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Big Rapids High School Auditorium in July 2015. The company will include around 60 children and adult.

### **Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce**

Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce's grant award will support a series of free outdoor concerts in Rogers Park on Wednesday evenings. The concert series will run for ten weeks and feature many music genres.

### **West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association**

West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association's grant award will support the JuneGrass 2015 Bluegrass Music Festival in Lowell the last weekend of June 2015.

### **West Michigan Blues Society**

West Michigan Blues Society's grant award will support their "Blues in The Schools" program, a free arts and education live music performance that educates students about the blues genre as well as the cultural and historical context surrounding the blues. Through an interactive performance program, kids learn about the origins of this uniquely American art form and its influence on most modern music genres.

### **West Michigan Flute Association**

West Michigan Flute Association's grant award will support a one-day flute festival in May 2015 for school age flutists with emphasis on ensemble playing. The day will consist of three rehearsals for the two flute choirs with emphasis on intonation, dynamics and technical playing. There will be two workshops on playing the large flutes and another on having effective practice sessions.

## **PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT summary:**

### **Artists Creating Together**

Artists Creating Together's grant award will support the professional development of the organization's executive director and development director with training sessions at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy in fundraising and management, giving opportunity for the organization to expand programs.

### **Diane Penning – Artist**

Diane Penning's grant award will provide her an opportunity to work with consultant Paul Langford on building her career as a classically trained coloratura soprano. The consulting will include business management in building a body of work consisting of 3-4 completed theme programs for voice and orchestra.

**Grand Rapids Ballet Company**

Grand Rapids Ballet Company's grant award will support the professional development of three staff members through attendance at the annual Dance USA Conference in June 2015. The staff members include the organization's executive director, artistic director and administrative and operations staff member.

**Opera Grand Rapids**

Opera Grand Rapids' grant award will support the professional development of the organization's development director at the DePaul University Continuing and Professional Education School in the 10-week Certificate in Grant Writing course.

**St. Cecilia Music Center**

St. Cecilia Music Center's grant award will support the professional development of the organization's development director to attend the international conference of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in March 2015.

**West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology (WMCAT)**

WMCAT's grant award will send the organization's Teen Arts + Tech Program co-directors to the Arts Education Partnership National Forum in September 2015 to engage in panels, small group discussion sessions and networking around best practices in arts education.

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Begun with a grassroots effort in 1977, LowellArts! has grown in its 38 year history, in part as a result of receiving grants from the MCACA. Today LowellArts! offers a full calendar of gallery exhibitions, theatre and music performances and community arts events and festivals in the greater Lowell area. LowellArts! greatly appreciates the efforts of other local arts organizations to foster the arts in their community.

**LowellArts! MISSION** is to *connect regional artists and audiences through the visual and performing arts.* **LowellArts! VISION** is for *our community to be a vibrant hub for the arts, bringing audiences and artists together in quality environments.* LowellArts! encourages the understanding, appreciation and importance of the arts in the schools and communities we serve and provides opportunities for expression and enjoyment of the arts to all segments of these communities.

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