

Arts and Culture Cycle Grant Award Summaries 2023

Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance

Granted: \$1,000

The Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance (BIPAA) produces the Baroque on Beaver music festival and promotes the performing arts to enrich the cultural life of the greater Beaver Island community. In particular, BIPAA provides the opportunity to experience world-class professional performances of both classical and contemporary music. This year, BIPAA aims to strengthen the Baroque on Beaver festival chorus by supporting four choral scholars to perform in the chorus. In recent years, the number of strong amateur singers who have participated in the past has declined, while the importance of choral music in the overall festival has increased. Bringing on professionally trained singers ensures that the quality of the festival chorus will match the high quality of the festival orchestra. Besides strengthening the chorus, choral scholars will gain valuable professional experience, including the unique opportunity to sing with a full orchestra.

Charlevoix Circle of Arts

Granted: \$1,000

Charlevoix Circle of Arts (CCA) will use their grant award to support core arts programming, which provides children and adults in Charlevoix and surrounding communities with opportunities for expression, connection, and creating through a variety of arts experiences, including fine art exhibits, art workshops, dance classes, youth programs, and lectures. CCA has an increased need for program funding as demand for programs continues to grow. Based on community feedback, CCA recently expanded its offerings to include Art-Ventures, a children's after school art program, and in the coming months, CCA is also planning to add a ceramics/pottery program with classes for multiple ages and skill levels.

Charlevoix Historical Society

Granted: \$4,500

The Charlevoix Historical Society is producing a new exhibit on the maritime history of Charlevoix, which will open at the Harsha House Museum during the 2023 summer season. The display will include over 250 historic images, plus relevant text and maritime artifacts. The exhibit will include topics like: Indigenous Relationships to Water, Improving Waterways (bridges, docks, channels, lighthouses), Coast Guard, Shipwrecks, Vessels, (Steamers, Schooners, Tugs, Passenger Liners, Yachts), Personal Stories from the Lakes, Commerce and Industry (Fishing, Lumbering, Boatbuilders), Regattas and Recreation. Funds will be used to create professional exhibit displays.

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Crooked Tree Arts Center

Granted: \$2,000

Crooked Tree Arts Center (CTAC) is working to update and beautify the CTAC Theater. Situated in the sanctuary of the former Petoskey United Methodist Church in downtown Petoskey, the 220-seat CTAC Theater is a cornerstone in our northern Michigan community. It is not only home to CTAC's performing arts series but also serves as community resource for other area nonprofit programming, including the Little Traverse Civic Theater, Blissfest Music Organization, Charlevoix Circle of the Arts, and more. Funds will help to repair and paint the walls, stage, ceilings, trusses, windows, doors, and replace the carpeting as part of a \$68,000 capital improvement project.

East Jordan Public Schools

Granted: \$6,000

East Jordan Public Schools is improving infrastructure for arts displays and performances at the school. Purchasing lightweight, durable, professional art display panels will elevate the quality of student art shows and increase student confidence and pride in their art. Replacing the projection screen in the community auditorium and upgrading the screen to be controlled from one location in the auditorium will improve the efficiency and quality of student and community performances. Funds will be used to purchase these important upgrades, thus enhancing the experience for students and the community.

Great Lakes Center for the Arts

Granted: \$3,500

In the past three years the Dorothy Gerber String Program has almost doubled its enrollment to 200 students, 50 of whom are from Charlevoix County. Through the program, students may participate in free classes for violin, viola, cello, and bass offered in 11 different schools for beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. These free classes are offered in three Charlevoix County schools: East Jordan, Boyne City, and Charlevoix, plus private lessons for Beaver Island students. As the region's only string instrument education program, the DGSP offers Northern Michigan families and students an opportunity to learn a musical instrument at a young age and to continue their musical education as they move through school. The funds will be used in direct support of the free class program serving Charlevoix County schools and students.

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Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra

Granted: \$4,500

The Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra (GLCO) is planning to host “Women Composers Night,” a concert that will be dedicated to orchestral works of women composers. The GLCO selected this theme in their continued efforts to promote gender equality in arts. Female artists in visual arts, literature, and music have been in the shadow of their male counterparts for centuries. Film directors, producers, authors, and conductors around the world are recognizing this disparity and calling for change through the use of their platforms. Dedicating the September 2023 concert to women composers is another step in the GLCO’s commitment to breaking the barriers of gender inequality in the arts. Funds will help make this production possible for the community.

Raven Hill Discovery Center

Granted: \$5,000

Raven Hill Discovery Center’s mission is to provide a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts. Raven Hill will host another Smithsonian Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibit called "Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America," which will be open from late August to early October, 2023. The Center will use this grant to help cover September and early October 2023 field trips for Charlevoix County students to experience the national Spark! exhibition and the Center’s related exhibits.

Tara's Meadow Education & Retreat Center

Granted: \$2,500

Tara's Meadow (TM) has hosted group retreats, individual sojourns, and collaborative events on Beaver Island and on the mainland in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. Weaving nature, culture, history, and creativity with current social and environmental challenges, they prepare individuals and organizations to become empowered participants in their own lives, the health of their communities, and our global future. The Anishinaabe Water Ceremony, Celtic Blessing, and Strawberry Moon Feast are annual events that anchor the well-attended Beaver Island Sustainability Fair each June. Their purpose is to bring people together to honor and share in traditions from both Anishinaabe/Ojibwa and Irish/Celtic heritage. Funds will help support this important cultural event.

