

Arts & Culture Grant Cycle March 2024

Arts

Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association

Award: \$1,500

Live theater on Beaver Island has generally been the purview of community productions. While amateur productions serve important communal purposes, the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance aims to bring professional performers to the Island for the enjoyment and enrichment of the entire community. Mounting a play with professional direction and actors reflects the organization's commitment to elevate, extend, and diversify the performing arts on Beaver Island to meet the cultural needs and interests of an ever widening audience of residents and visitors. Grant funds will support production of the play and costs associated with bringing performers to the Island.

Charlevoix Circle of Arts

Award: \$1,635

Charlevoix Circle of Arts (CCA) is requesting funding 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, artist lectures, and other events. From 2019-2023, CCA experienced significant growth in the number of people using the organization's exhibits, educational programs, workshops, and classes. Programs are effective and highly rated, with 98% of participants developing or improving a skill or technique as a result of CCA programming. Feedback from constituents consistently requests new and continued program offerings. Grant support will help CCA in developing new programs and continuing to provide existing, high-quality programs.

Charlevoix Public Schools

Award: \$3,000

As part of the Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics course curriculum, students must engage in an activity that benefits the community in which they live. This year's class has decided to place interactive murals along the corridor/alleyway on the backside of the Berkshire Hathaway building, the Van Pelt 1909 building, and the Peppers Boutique building in downtown Charlevoix. The artists are former Charlevoix High School students, Edith Pair and Paige Pemble, and current Charlevoix Middle High School Fine Arts students. Grant funds will be used to purchase materials for the artists to create their murals. Murals will be created on detachable materials and affixed to the buildings so that they can be moved, adjusted, or removed as needed.



Crooked Tree Arts Center

Award: \$2,500

This summer, Crooked Tree Arts Center is premiering the locally developed art and culture exhibition called Michigan: An American Portrait. Curated by CTAC Visual Arts Director, Liz Erlewine, Michigan: An American Portrait is a dynamic, creative, and multifaceted cultural exhibition exploring the history, identity, environment, and "placehood" of the state of Michigan. The exhibition is inspired by the PBS documentary film of the same name and connects viewers to the film's themes through compelling original works of art, didactic text, and clips from the film. A series of public programs deepens the experience for youth and adults throughout Northern Michigan. As a community center based in the arts, CTAC designed this summer programming for year-round and seasonal residents, as well as visitors. The exhibition will take the state-wide thematic content from the PBS film and incorporate regionally specific connections through the work of local artists, businesses, and community-focused programming.

Northwest Michigan Arts and Culture Network

Award: \$1,000

Northwest Michigan Arts & Culture Network is trying to build capacity specifically in Charlevoix County for the Network's backbone services, technology and programming benefitting local artists/culture bearers, arts and cultural organizations, creative businesses, and related community projects. While the Network serves and connects regionally, the creative work and those they serve are at the local level. A key strategic goal is for the organization to extend their branches and deepen their roots in Charlevoix County. Grant funding will help bring focused efforts in marketing, relationship building, and convening of local artists, arts organizations, culture bearers, and community members in Charlevoix County.

Raven Hill Discovery Center

Award: \$5,000

Raven Hill Discovery Center (RHDC) actively connects history, art, & science in Charlevoix County for everyone. Deer Creek runs under Fuller Rd and through the north end of Raven Hill's property. Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) is working on a large-scale project, which includes restoring the natural river flow of Deer Creek and the Jordan River at certain road crossings. The project will improve Deer Creek by replacing the current aging infrastructure with a timber bridge, restoring the creek to its original state. Raven Hill is proud to collaborate with CRA on this work, but it also means that RHDC may be less easily accessible during the busy summer season while the CRA construction is taking place. To make lemonade out of lemons, RHDC plans to staff a pop-up museum in a tent at the corner of Fuller, Pearsall, and BC/EJ Roads, just down the hill from RHDC's main campus. This will allow patrons the choice of making a longer detour on a seasonal road to access RHDC's main campus, or to enjoy the more easily accessible pop-up museum on the main road. Grant funds will be used to help RHDC purchase large inflatable tents to house the pop-up museum.



Traverse City Dance Project

Award: \$2,400

The mission of the Traverse City Dance Project (TCDP) is to produce and present professional dance in Northern Michigan, promoting collaboration among artists and actively engaging with the community, expanding audience reach and ensuring inclusivity for all, and recognizing the transformative power of the arts to unite, empower, and inspire communities. In Charlevoix County, they are impacting the local arts, music, and cultural scene by returning to downtown Charlevoix for the second year this summer, with a live dance performance in East Park, as part of their 2024 Community Tour. Grant funds will support the Charlevoix show.

Wagbo Peace Center

Award: \$8,000

To fulfill its mission, Wagbo Farm offers a variety of educational programs related to sustainable agriculture, homesteading, the environment, creative expression, historically relevant cultural practices, community resilience, peace and justice and the intersections of all of these. Wagbo is seeking to transform the old workshop building on site from a cold storage area into an arts and culture classroom space that can be used year-round. Grant funds will help to raise the building, and to repair the foundation and lower portion of the exterior walls. This work, coupled with the work they are already undertaking to address drainage issues, install a heating system, and put in windows for more natural light, will help make this space suitable for year-round community fiber arts workshops.

History/Culture

Beaver Island District Library

Award: \$2,000

As a part of their mission, the Beaver Island District Library addresses the cultural, informational, educational, recreational, and technological needs of the community. They are planning cultural programming highlighting Indigenous peoples (Native Americans and other Indigenous peoples from Asia, Hawaii, and Pacific Islands), including crafts like pottery, basketry, beadwork, art, music and dance, writing and storytelling, and cultural foods. Indigenous families reside on the island and attend school, but as a small minority, not much is offered for them to learn about their culture outside of the family unit. It is important that non-Natives also learn about the culture of those who resided in North America prior to the arrival of the Europeans. Grant funds will help bring presenters to the Island and will support program supply costs.

Beaver Island Historical Society

Award: \$2,000

The Beaver Island Historical Society (BIHS) will bring unique arts & culture programming opportunities to the Beaver Island Community in 2024. From kids programming about fossils and paleontology to storytelling and music about the Great Lakes told through historic working songs called sea shanties, to stories of female lighthouse keepers, and the MSU Irish Dance Group performances; each program will highlight the unique history and culture of Beaver Island and the Great Lakes.



Charlevoix Historical Society

Award: \$3,250

In 2006 the Charlevoix Historical Society (CHS) was offered the Charlevoix Courier's extensive archive of photos, slides, negatives, and proof sheets, which is now estimated to be comprised of 45,000 items that date from the 1940s to 2007, including a collection from long-time Courier photographer Fran Martin (1909-1989). In 2021, CHS began working to digitize, catalog, and archive these historic materials. The goal is for these to be accessible and searchable by anyone who wishes to do so, at the museum under supervision of museum staff, and eventually online. Grant funds will help staff to progress with digitizing materials from the Charlevoix Courier's collection.

Music

City of Boyne City

Award: \$750

The Boyne City Farmers Market is looking to expand their Wednesday Market Music series this summer and to increase the pay for musicians. Last season they hosted music during eight Wednesday markets and noticed a decrease in patron traffic on market days without music. They partner with Blissfest Music Organization to showcase local musicians from around the region, which provides a more enriching experience to farmers market patrons while providing an avenue for artists to gain exposure and a wage. The pay increase will help to build a wider range of artists and bring in new musicians to the series. Music at the market creates an infectious energy that draws people in and keeps patrons at the market. Grant funds will help pay for musicians to perform during the summer music series at the BC Farmers Market.

City of East Jordan

Award: \$9,500

The City of East Jordan's Southern Bandshell was constructed in 2004 and has hosted an increasing number of concerts, festivals and ceremonies since its inception. The Music in the Park series takes place each Friday in June and July, welcoming concerts to the Memorial Park/downtown area. In the past, the city has provided a single loudspeaker and microphone for events and has collaborated with Jordan River Arts Council to provide a sound system for bands. Both of these have been helpful but are underpowered for the size of Memorial Park, are becoming outdated, and are lacking in professional quality. Grant funds will help the City to purchase an appropriate PA system as well as a sound system to attract more and better bands and entertainment to downtown East Jordan.

Great Lakes Center for the Arts

Award: \$4,000

The Great Lakes Center for the Arts' Dorothy Gerber Strings Program (DGSP) provides string music instruction to students in our region, about half of whom reside and take classes in Charlevoix County. Grant funds will help to support Charlevoix County students learning music



through the DGSP, specifically by providing instrument repairs and replacements, new sheet music, and operational support for programming in Charlevoix County.

Tunes Music Makers

Award: \$2,000

The mission of Tunes Music Makers is to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive musical community on Beaver Island, providing access to quality music education, fostering creativity, and promoting social cohesion. They provide music instruction, in person and virtually, as well as instrument lending, to the residents of Beaver Island. Two local instructors teach piano and acoustic, electric, and bass guitar in person. There are also virtual lessons for vocal, mandolin, and ukulele, and a monthly, virtual fiddle lesson with the Donegal Fiddlers group from Ireland. It has been a few years since any music program was offered for the youth of Beaver Island and there has never been one that was also open to adults, nor one that has offered such a wide variety of instruments and genres. The lessons are individual and private and each student is able to learn at their own pace. There has been more interest in the program than they initially projected, so grant funds will help to provide more students interested in music education the opportunity to participate without financial barriers.

