



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over \$85,000 Awarded through CultureWorks' Annual Grants Program to Fund Powerful Arts & Culture Projects in Richmond & the Tri-Cities

Richmond, VA - July 22, 2021

CultureWorks announces that over \$85,000 has been invested into the local arts and culture community to fund 15 organizations and six professional artists.

Grantee, Ava Holloway of Brown Ballerinas for Change shares about the impact of the Grants Program, "Since its creation, Classical Ballet has been seen as a white art form. It's largely remained inaccessible for Black and Brown dancers due to cost and proximity. We are thrilled to have been selected to receive a grant through CultureWorks which will be used to help fund a year-long ballet and advocacy program for dancers who would otherwise be unable to afford to dance. We are truly humbled by your generosity."

Through the generosity of Altria Group, Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, and the proceeds from local artist, Baxter Perkinson's online auction, these grants support a wide variety of projects and experiences that focus on two distinct areas: Building Capabilities and Cultural Equity. Building Capabilities grants uplift an organization or artist through improving infrastructure, technology, and strategic development, while Cultural Equity grants supports initiatives that reach, serve, and engage underrepresented populations in the community.

The CultureWorks Annual Grants Program assists professional artists and nonprofit organizations around Richmond and the surrounding areas with operating budgets of less than \$500,000.

"The Community Foundation applauds these organizations and artists. They make art accessible to the entire community, increasing our quality of life and creating opportunities for learning and discussion for parents and their children in neighborhoods across our region." said Scott Blackwell, the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond's Chief Community Engagement Officer.

This program provides funding for diverse organizations and initiatives that benefit the cities of Richmond, Colonial Heights, Hopewell, and Petersburg, the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and the town of Ashland.

"We are honored to partner with Altria Group and Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, and all of our supporters to make these grants possible" says CultureWorks President, Scott Garka. "Collectively, we have shared the consequences of a dark year. These grants help our community to look forward and open our hearts and doors to new work, new performances and new audiences."

2021 Grants Awards

Organizations



Artspace - \$6,000 to improve the Artspace website accessibility and create an inclusive redesign

Autism Society of Central VA - \$5,000 for the Beyond “Ability”, an innovative arts education for adults with autism to access high quality art programs

Brown Ballerinas for Change - \$5,000 to increase access to ballet and amplify voices of underrepresented youth through their Ambassador Program

Cadence Theatre Company - \$3,000 to support development and production of the film series, “Sitelines Black Lives Matter”, featuring the works of BIPOC artists

Classical Rev + Rap - \$1,810 to support the production of a documentary featuring local vocalists, MCs, musicians, and poets

Elegba Folklore Society - \$5,000 for a 12-week cultural enrichment program to connect youth with their African heritage through the arts

HARPS/Greenspring Foundation - \$5,000 for the Hybrid Music Program and Instrument Loan for low-income students and youth with disabilities

Latin Ballet - \$3,000 to support two multi-cultural dance works that broaden, inspire, and unify our world through dance

Moore Legacy/K Moss and Associates - \$4,100 for the “This Poetry Life” Project for youth in Hopewell

Oakwood Arts - \$5,000 for the Oakwood Arts Residency Program which supports internationally-recognized artists to produce community-based projects

Richmond Triangle Players - \$3,000 for the support of the So.Queer Southern Playwriting Festival

Robinson Theater Community Arts Center - \$7,500 for after-school programs and summer camps with transportation

Podium – \$4,000 for the Richmond Youth Literary Art Programs for youth throughout the region

Virginia Community Voice - \$5,000 for the creative placemaking on the Richmond Highway Corridor through the Arts, Racial Reconciliation, and Civic Advocacy (ARCA) art program for Southside youth

Artists

Mickael Broth - \$2,133 to purchase tools to improve their sculpture work and implement a safer and healthier work environment

Jowarnise Caston - \$3,000 for “Quintessence” a visual arts summer camp to build self-esteem for middle school girls



Merenda Cecelia and Blythe King - \$2,500 for “Functional Ceramics: From Planting to Eating”, a collaborative project to teach arts and food justice

Alex Criqui and Dustin Klein - \$6,000 for equipment upgrades for “Reclaiming the Monument”, a collaborative project which uses projectors to amplify community voices and address social issues

Steve Gay - \$3,000 for sign purchases for the ”Postcards Petersburg” project to showcase the history of the city

Hamilton Glass - \$6,000 for the “Mending Walls 2021” project that pairs artists from different cultures to create public art in collaboration with a youth service organization

Victor Haskins - \$3,000 for the creation and promotion of an album of original music by the ensemble “Victor Haskins’ Skein”

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ABOUT CULTUREWORKS

CultureWorks is an independently funded 501(c)(3) organization that values diversity and inclusivity and believes everyone in our community should have access to arts and culture, as well as the opportunity to express their culture through the arts.

CultureWorks is committed to strengthening artists and arts and culture organizations to drive community health and success. We will accomplish this through grant opportunities, deepening access to communities with barriers, increasing the capacity of small and medium-sized organizations and individual artists, and the promotion of events to the public.

Learn more about CultureWorks: www.richmondcultureworks.org.