



ArtsinStark

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Kids. Jobs. Communities.

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ArtsinStark Awards \$141,000 in Special Project Grants

The ArtsinStark Board of Directors has unanimously approved awarding \$141,000 to support 63 Special Project Grants. A total of 63 grants were awarded with 32 being regular grants (\$501 - \$10,000) and 31 being \$500 mini grants. These Special Project Grants are part of the more than \$1.1 million in grants the County Arts Council will give out to more than 100 Stark County non-profit organizations and artists. "We are delighted in these challenging times," says ArtsinStark Board Chair Bob Timken, "that we can continue our commitment to keeping the arts here growing and strong."

Among the \$500 mini grants, nine of them were awarded to individual artists for the first time, which is a brand new to the Special Project Grants category. "All the artist applications were reviewed according to the same criteria we use to evaluate all the Special Project Grants: We look for innovation and impact," says Max Deuble, ArtsinStark board member and chairman of the grants committee. A sampling of these projects awarded to individual artists include artist Craig Joseph to mount a play and art exhibit about censorship and artistic responsibility, artist Emily Vigil to create an exhibit about women's stories called "Constellations," and artist Kathy Pugh Guidone to begin restoring artwork at a playground in Louisville that had been destroyed by vandals.

Mini grants were also awarded to area non-profit organizations that include: Lake Elementary School to use Dr. Seuss materials to improve science and language art skills, the J.R. Coleman Community Renovation Corporation to create a public art gateway on Mahoning Road, and the YMCA of Alliance to have artist Nola Haiss present book making workshops. "What I am always impressed with is how much programming these groups offer in their mini grant proposals," says Grants Officer Anne Wadian. "Some of our best projects are done with only \$500!"

Regular Special Project Grants for larger amounts went to 32 non-profits: Pathway Caring for Children received \$4,500 for an 8-week arts program for foster children, the Stark County District Library was awarded \$5,600 to present an environmental arts program to 800 participants, the Massillon Museum got \$6,800 to mount the exhibit "Against the Grain" for 4,000 participants, and the Alliance for Music and Art was allocated \$3,600 to allow disadvantaged kids to take music classes.

A complete list of all grant winners is on ArtsinStark.com under the heading of GRANTS.

ArtsinStark background:

We began **41 years** ago in **1968**, with the dream of building a **Cultural Center for the Arts** along side the Canton Civic Center. In 1972, that dream came true. We are a non profit organization that gives out grants, manages the Cultural Center, and runs the Annual Arts Campaign. Our annual budget is \$2.6 million --- and **99%** of it comes from the private sector. What we don't earn, we raise from individuals, companies, and foundations. Every spring ArtsinStark conducts the **Annual Arts Campaign**. In the last 4 years we've increased giving to the arts by **50%**. In May 2009, in the middle of a recession, we raised the largest amount in 41 years: **\$1,450,000**. Out of every dollar raised --- 91 cents goes directly to support programs that "create smarter kids, new jobs, and healthier communities."