

FY2021 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Asheville Area Arts Council		
Project Name:	Support for Community Initiatives		
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021)	

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Overall project updates:	<p>The Arts Build Community Grant funds were disbursed in January. Funded projects include:</p> <p>\$500.00 Andrea Clarke – Funds the creation of an artist-designed map for the James Vester Miller Community Trail.</p> <p>\$500.00 Aurora Studio & Gallery – An eight-week virtual arts workshop in partnership with the WNC chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.</p> <p>\$750.00 BeLoved Asheville Arts – Supplies for an exhibition featuring young artists of color.</p> <p>\$500.00 Black Mountain Center for the Arts – Materials for a Tile Tapestry focusing on those experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>\$500.00 Children First/Communities in Schools Create + Connect Circle – Provides arts-based training for Pisgah View Learning Center staff.</p> <p>\$700.00 Emma Elementary School – Supplies for the Wind Chimes for Esperanza program and celebration.</p> <p>\$750.00 Hola Carolina – Performance funding for the 2021 Hola Festival.</p> <p>\$500.00 Journeymen Asheville – Woodworking workshop of young men in partnership with the In Real Life afterschool program.</p> <p>\$500.00 Justice Film Collective – Support for a documentary highlighting trauma, healing, and resilience of the local Black community.</p> <p>\$600.00 LEAF Global Arts – Provides the Easel Rider for Juneteenth celebration hosted by the Hillcrest Community Association.</p> <p>\$500.00 Avery’s Creek Elementary – A Sonor soprano xylophone for the Esperanza Rising Marimba Club.</p> <p>\$750.00 North Carolina Glass Center – Funding for mosaic kits in partnership with the Wesley Grant Center.</p> <p>\$750.00 Raices Emma – Erwin – Art supplies for interactive arts activities serving Latinx families in the Erwin School District.</p> <p>\$500.00 Street Creature Puppet Collective – Supplies for puppet parade in the Southside in partnership with Asheville Writers in the Schools & Community.</p> <p>\$500.00 The Asheville Darkroom – Provides disposal cameras for the Six Feet photography project in partnership with A.C. Reynolds High School.</p> <p>\$500.00 W.D. Williams Elementary School – Supplies to paint inspirational words of hope in different languages on the giant wall with the help of the artist, Nate Barton.</p> <p>\$500.00 William W. Estes Elementary School – Funding to purchase a glockenspiel to enhance outdoor music programming.</p> <p>\$500.00 Wortham Center for the Performing Arts – Supports Rovin’ Ronnie’s Yard Art performances in local community centers.</p> <p>\$700.00 Youth Artists Empowered – Provides six art workshops for underserved youth (12-17 yrs.) in Asheville’s Southside Community.</p> <p>96 veterans were served through the Arts & Wellness classes. Spring schedule:</p> <p>Music for Veterans - Tuesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. from February 16 - April 20, 2021. Classes will be held virtually in partnership with the PRRC.</p> <p>Poetry for Veterans - Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. from March 23 - May 25, 2021. Classes will be held virtually in partnership with the PRRC.</p> <p>Pottery for Veterans - Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from March 20 - May 8, 2021. Classes will take place at Odyssey ClayWorks or virtually in necessary.</p>
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<p>COVID-19 impacts:</p>	<p>Due to necessary health restrictions the writing and music classes could not be held in-person at the PRRC. Instructors instead held the classes virtually on Zoom which impacted attendance.</p> <p>Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (A,E,& R) was the top creative sector in Buncombe County (BC), growing 53% from 2015-19. However, by 2020, the A, E, & R industry had experienced the greatest percentage of employment loss in BC-- an overall loss of 34% representing a decline of over 1,300 jobs. At the same time, many creative businesses suffered over a year of closure due to necessary health restrictions (Buncombe County Creative Jobs Report, AAAC, 2021).</p> <p>Extended business closure impacted not only the venue owner/ operators, but all the organizations and arts professionals that use these spaces or are hired to perform at these spaces including many of our local actors and musicians. Over a year of mass gathering limits and venue closures also hurt festival and art fair operators and the artists/ arts vendors that depend on these events to sell their work. This resulted in cancellation of contractors and almost total loss of income for many arts professionals.</p>
<p>Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:</p>	<p>Arts equity, and more specifically racial equity is a top priority for the Asheville Area Arts Council. We are currently undergoing an equity audit with The Adaway Group to ensure our grants and other services are equitable and accessible.</p> <p>AAAC is required to regrant a minimum of state arts funding to BIPOC led organizations based on county population demographics, which is between 15-20%. The arts council works to ensure that our awards are closer to 20% or more.</p> <p>Lack of diversity among creative sector leadership has been identified as a problem area. 82% of leadership jobs were held by White non-Hispanic workers and 58% of the jobs were held by male workers. AAAC hopes to improve equity in the creative sector by more actively investing in BIPOC led organizations. For this reason, AAAC is prioritizing BIPOC led nonprofits, programs, and artists in our grant programs.</p>
<p>Activities related to increasing operational excellence:</p>	<p>Asheville Area Arts Council continue to re-evaluate and enhance our program offerings to better serve the needs of Buncombe County and the local creative community. Recently we announced the formation of the Arts Coalition in order to drive policy in all major focus areas within the creative sector. https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?u=f7543fced86dbb109481326b3&id=7c897d8ea8</p>

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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of Arts Build Community Grants awarded	16	0	19	0	0	19
# of free support classes for veterans held through the Arts & Wellness Program	3	0	0	3	0	3
# of participants in the Arts & Wellness Program	75	0	0	62	34	96

Comments:

Arts Build Community Grant

A total of \$11,000 was dispersed to 19 projects. 8 or \$5,050 (46%) of these awards went to BIPOC led initiatives. 6 or \$3,450 (31%) of these awards went to Title 1 schools.

Arts & Wellness Program

- Pottery: 8 week course with the same 8 participant each week. Demographics were: 1 male, 7 females, 2 : 35-44, 2 : 55-64, 4: 65+, 6 White, 1 Black, and 1 Latinx.

- Writing: 10 week course with the same 15 participants each week. Demographics were: 8 male, 7 females, 1 : 22-34, 2 : 35-44, 5 : 45-54, 6: 55-64, 1: 65+, 14 White, and 1 Black.

- Music: 10 week drop in class with same/ different participants each week. There were 73 total participants, but the instructor failed to track whether participants were returning/new or include their demographics in the final report.

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 4,000		\$ 2,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ -
Training	\$ -					\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ -					\$ -
Meetings	\$ -					\$ -
Equipment/Furniture	\$ -					\$ -
Printing/Marketing	\$ -					\$ -
Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions	\$ -					\$ -
Client Support	\$ -					\$ -
Contracts	\$ 8,000			\$ 3,920	\$ 4,080	\$ -
Professional Services	\$ -					\$ -
Insurance and Bonds	\$ -					\$ -
Building Maintenance	\$ -					\$ -
Grants Disbursements	\$ 8,000			\$ 8,000		\$ -
Total	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 12,920	\$ 4,580	\$ -

Comments: