



For Immediate Release

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2023-24 Arts Grants Awarded by Lane Arts Council

\$63,800 Awarded to Artists, Arts Projects, and Arts Organizations in Eugene

Eugene, OR – Lane Arts Council announces the awardees of three local grant programs. The Community Arts Program Grant, Community Arts Project Grant, and Artist Grant will provide \$63,800 in support to artists, arts projects, and arts organizations in the Eugene area.

The [Community Arts Grants](#) and [Artist Grant](#) programs are funded by the [City of Eugene Cultural Services Division](#) and administered by [Lane Arts Council](#).

The **Community Arts Program Grant** supports nonprofit arts organizations in their strategic development and organizational goal fulfillment and is essential in sustaining Eugene's vibrant and diverse arts and culture community. The following ten small to mid-sized community arts 501(c)(3) organizations received funding for operating support:

- #instaballet
- Adventure! Children's Museum
- Chamber Music Amici
- Eugene PeaceWorks
- Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts (MECCA)
- Maude Kerns Art Center
- Music Educators and Performing Artists Association (MEPAA)
- Viking Textile Maker Hub
- Willamette Jazz Society
- Xcape Dance Academy

The 2023-24 Community Arts Program Grant will support Xcape Dance Academy, which serves dancers of all ages, aspirations, and walks of life to enjoy freedom of movement and self-expression through dance. Vanessa Fuller, Artistic Director, shared, "We will use funding to support the build out and transition into our new 7,500 square foot facility, set to open in September 2023!"

The Community Arts Program Grant will also fund Chamber Music Amici, supporting subsidized free lawn seating for families and children at their outdoor summer concert series at the White Oak Pavilion at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.

The **Community Arts Project Grant** supports individuals, collectives, and organizations with projects that emphasize accessibility to underserved audiences and provide programming that takes place in Eugene. Awarded projects include art installations, educational programs, theatre productions, dance events, and more. The following eight groups were awarded Community Arts Project Grant funds:

- Autism Rocks
- Eugene Cuban Salsa, LLC

- Eugene Difficult Music Ensemble
- Irving Grange
- Music's Edge Rock Camp
- NATIVES Program
- Out and About Theater
- Wordcrafters in Eugene

The Irving Grange received a project grant to fund the planning, design, and painting of a new 600 square foot mural on the exterior of the Irving Grange building. This mural will involve neighborhood residents in both the conceptualization and painting of this new public artwork.

Eugene Cuban Salsa, LLC will utilize awarded grant funds to bring professional Cuban dance instructor Wilfredo Guilbiac Rodriguez to Eugene to provide a series of Cuban dance workshops to the community for free. The goal of this effort is “to increase opportunities for the current Cuban Salsa dance community to grow their skills and to attract newcomers,” shares Courtney Garcia, Eugene Cuban Salsa, LLC Manager.

Artist Grants provide financial support to artists to pursue a new creative endeavor (Production), invest in their artistic development (Development), or bolster artistic business capacity (Investment) to advance their career. The following seven artists were awarded an Artist Grant:

- Ciara Cuddihy-Hernandez
- Dee Etwiler
- Sarah Grew
- Cynthia Gutierrez Garner
- Emily Halnon
- Rachell Jarvis
- Jen Sennett

Artist Grant recipient, Emily Halnon, will use the funds to support her forthcoming memoir *TO THE GORGE* (Pegasus Books). In describing the book, Halnon says, “it’s about losing my mother to a rare cancer and attempting to set the speed record on the 460-mile Oregon Pacific Crest Trail to celebrate her life – and to find a way to keep going through the grief of losing her.” Funds will be used to finish writing the book and host regional events and conversations after publication in May 2024.

Ciara Cuddihy, owner of Studio West, will use the Artist Grant funds to purchase a new, larger kiln for the studio. She shares, “With this wonderful new piece of equipment, we will be able to accommodate larger school groups and members of the community.”

Lane Arts Council Executive Director, Stacey Ray, shared: “The arts are a connective force in our community, building a sense of place and creating opportunities for belonging, expression, curiosity and cultural exchange. They make Eugene a vibrant place where people want to live and play. We are fortunate to have so many arts organizations, cultural groups, and artists here, and these funds help ensure that the arts continue to be an important part of the cultural, social, and economic fabric of our city.”

View the 2023-24 [Community Arts Program Grant recipients here](#), [Community Arts Project Grant recipients here](#), and [Artist Grant recipients here](#).

About Lane Arts Council

Lane Arts Council, founded in 1976, is a nonprofit organization that works to cultivate strong and creative arts communities throughout Lane County by providing high-quality arts experiences, engaging people of all ages in arts education, and encouraging artistic endeavors. Learn more at lanearts.org

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