

Arts Council shows diversity in grant awards for 2015-2016 cycle



SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Retired teacher Diane Faison, who depicts Harriet Tubman, was one of the many recipients of an Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County grant announced at the organization's "Community Investment Reveal."

The Arts Council announced more than \$1.8 million in grants for its 2015-2016 grant cycle at the Milton Rhodes Center for The Arts on Oct. 29. Thirty-eight different organizations, some in more than one category, and 16 individuals received grants.

Faison, who received a grant enabling her to take her one-woman show, "The Spirit of Harriet Tubman," to middle and high schools, presented a short, moving scene from the show to the representatives of arts organizations and arts advocates who gathered for the "Reveal."

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company, which presents the

National Black Theatre Festival, received one of the largest grants. Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts, a long-time Arts



Sparrow

Council Funded Partner, received a grant under the new "Annual Event and Series Grants." Carolina Music Ways, which presents "Carolina Live, Our Musical Heritage," a 45-minute program that introduces elementary school students to the Piedmont's cross-cultural musical legacy, received funding as well as William Scheidt, who takes hands-on African drumming and dancing workshops to elementary and middle school students.

In his comments, Jim Sparrow, President and CEO of The Arts Council, said that priorities in the grant making process included "diversity and a

sense of touching people." This was evident in both the larger grants and the smaller but impactful "mini grants" that included an original play to be presented at the WSSU Anderson Center and a cultural arts festival with live music and entertainment at Easton Park.

Sparrow elaborated by saying, "This year is especially significant because The Arts Council has revamped its awards process so grant categories are clearer and better fit the diverse organizations and artistic projects that comprise the Winston-Salem and Forsyth County arts community. We are moving toward a model that will allow us to target specific needs and take advantage of opportunities when they arise throughout the community."

This year, The Arts Council solicited input about the future direction of The Arts Council and had a committee comprised of Funded Partners, Board members and others assess the grants process.

"When all is said and done," said Sparrow, "our objective is to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by donors, ensure we meet their expectations, and strengthen and move forward the arts community in some manner through every grant we make."

At the Community Investment Reveal, The Arts Council highlighted its six grant categories by showcasing performances and presentations by grantees in each of the categories.

*Organizational Support Grants - Matthew Troy, Artistic Director of Piedmont Wind Symphony

*Annual Event and Series Grants - Kernersville Little Theatre

*Regional Artist Project Grants - Wurlitzer Prize

*Arts in Education - Diane Faison, one-woman Harriet Tubman show

*Innovative Project Grants - The Olio glass-works, youth in transition

project

*Community Enrichment Mini Grants - Winston-Salem South Asian Film Festival

The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County raises funds and advocates for the arts, sponsors events in conjunction with other arts organizations, promotes and funds arts education, creates cultural and learning opportunities, develops social capital and aids economic development.

About Arts Council Grant Awards for the 2015-2016 cycle

- *109 grants awarded. Total of \$1,807,116 in grant awards.
- *Organizational Support Grants - 14 totaling \$ 1,398,500
- *Annual Event and Series Grants - 14 totaling \$112,000
- *Duke Energy Regional Artist Project Grants - 11 totaling \$25,000
- *Wells Fargo Arts-in-Education - 17 totaling \$100,000
- *Innovative Project Grants - 13 totaling \$49,000
- *Community Enrichment Mini-Grants - 7 to date with 30 by end of this fiscal year totaling \$15,000
- *Advertising Assistance Grants - 10 totaling \$107,616

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African American Memorial planned for Capitol site

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH—The North Carolina Historical Commission voted unanimously to proceed with planning a memorial on the grounds of the State Capitol to commemorate the contributions of African Americans to the life of the state.

"We must begin to tell the story of the great contributions African Americans have made to North Carolina," Gov. Pat McCrory said.

The vote came after a recommendation of McCrory to Natural and Cultural Resources Secretary Susan Kluttz. The endorsement follows a 2010 study of monuments both inside and outside the Capitol and concurrent recommendations for developing additional memorials.

The Historical Commission joins the African American Heritage Commission in seeking to fully represent the diversity of North Carolina's history. Those backing the proposal commend the work of the North Carolina Freedom Monument Project and seek to complement, not supplant, its ambitious plan for a public art project two blocks northeast of the Capitol.

The planning committee is charged with site selection and identification of one or more designers to be placed before the Historical Commission for final selection.

The first step will be identification of a suitable space on the State Capitol grounds with consideration of the northwest, southwest and southeast corners. The Vietnam Memorial occupies the northeast corner and offers the prime model for scale.

As to thematic elements, a host of potential subjects will be made known to prospective designers.

The first meeting of the planning committee is set for January 2016.

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