

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2019 Community Arts Awards Recipients Announced

The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo announces the recipients of the 2019 Community Arts Awards.

Community Medal of Arts

Gloria Badiner – a former scientist and studio artist whose studio, Arts & Artifacts, makes commissioned and custom kiln formed glass for architects, designers and furniture makers. Gloria has dedicated herself to teaching others. While her reach is global, she instructs students in small classes at her home studio.

Theodore C. Cooper Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service

James Palmore – a volunteer in the Kalamazoo arts community for more than 30 years. A founding member of the Black Arts & Cultural Center, he has also taught visual arts -- from painting to photography -- to a diverse array of people-- from youth to seniors.

Adam F. Carter Young Artist Award

Trinity Posey – accepted into the Musical Theatre program at NYU - Tisch School of the Arts. Trinity has been a member of Kalamazoo Children's Chorus, Kalamazoo Main Stage and Youth Theater, Face Off Theatre, and Portage Northern high school productions.

Epic Award

Speak It Forward, Inc. – a mission to transform the lives of youth and adults by using spoken-word poetry and performance as a vehicle to raise awareness, challenge stereotypes, break down barriers and instill a sense of empowerment and community. Its founders are Gabriel Giron and Kirk Latimer, both dynamic keynote speakers and spoken word artists who have made a career out of inspiring youth and adults to follow their passions and live life for today.

Gayle Hoogstraten Arts Leadership Award

Arts Administrator – *Yolonda Lavender*, Executive Director of the Black Arts & Cultural Center, has advocated to strengthen its board and governance. She places priority on the "next generation" of leaders in the Kalamazoo community to bring fresh ideas and a new perspective.

Arts Educator – *Susan Eckhardt*, worked as an art teacher in the Gull Lake Public Schools, Education Director at the Art Center of Battle Creek, Curator of Education at the Muskegon Museum of Art, and as Curator and Director of Museum Education at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts until she retired in 2018.

“Kalamazoo is a broad and diverse artistic community full of talented and inspirational artists, arts educators, and arts organizations. Our 2019 Community Arts Awards recipients represent the breadth of our arts community as well as the tremendous support and love for the arts in Kalamazoo. It is an honor to celebrate and share their achievements and contributions to the arts by recognizing them through the Community Arts Awards,” says Executive Director, Kristen Chesak.

The Community Arts Awards will be presented on Sunday, August 25th at 4 pm at *The Playhouse* on the campus of Kalamazoo College. The reception, immediately following the ceremony, is free and open to

the public. Reservations are encouraged (not required) and can be made by emailing Alyssa at aweiskopf@kalamazooarts.org or by phone at 269.342.5059.

About the Awards

Community Medal of Arts

The CMA recognizes an artist who is a leader in their field, has a significant body of creative activity, who has received local and/or national acclaim, and has impacted on our community through art. This award encompasses all art forms, including but not limited to visual, musical, theatrical, literary, performing, multi-media, architecture or design.

Theodore C. Cooper Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service

The recipient is to be a person, persons or group whose lives exemplify a broad range of service to the arts community that is not related to his/her professional occupation. The distinguished volunteer award may be given to any person or married couple.

Business Arts Award

The Business Arts Award is presented to honor businesses in Kalamazoo County for their leadership commitment and vision in developing exemplary alliances with the arts and arts organizations. The award recognizes a business for creating outstanding initiatives with the arts and arts organization, furthering the educational development of youth, enhancing the economic vitality of the community and enriching the quality of life in our community.

Adam F. Carter Young Artist Award

The Adam F. Carter Young Artist Award is designed to recognize and encourage the next generation of artists in our community. The winner is a student who has had an impact both in their field of study and in our community and is nominated by their arts teacher, director, or a community member. This award is generously supported by the Mary and Brooks Godfrey Family.

Epic Award

The Epic Award recognizes a non-profit organization or program within Kalamazoo County that is of high artistic quality and serves to enhance life in our community through the arts. The award pays special attention to both long standing programs and organizations that have played a consistent role in the community and new organizations and programs that meet a previously unmet community need or focus area.

Gayle Hoogstraten Arts Leadership Awards

The Arts Leader is an arts educator or arts administrator. The nominee is a recognized leader in the arts and/or the education community with an impact beyond his/her job description, a strong impact on the community through art, and positive and productive relationships in the community outside of his/her institution.

For more information on the Community Arts Awards, including information on each of the recipients and the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, please visit kalamazooarts.org/ca-awards.