

EMBARGOED UNTIL: May 1, 2020

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Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo announces 2020 COVID-19 Bridge Fund for Arts Organizations Grant Program

Kalamazoo, MI -- The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo is pleased to announce the 2020 COVID-19 Bridge Fund for Arts Organizations Grant Program. This program was developed to provide operational relief for arts organizations that exist in and/or serve the communities of Kalamazoo County. Attention is paid, and weight is given, to the demonstration of financial need, overall organization impact to the community, and demonstration of business plan for future success. "COVID-19 has been devastating in a lot of ways to our community, our health and well-being, and arts organizations have not been immune to the devastation. Many organizations have lost thousands of dollars in revenue by having to cancel concerts, classes, and events. This programming was what made Kalamazoo such a wonderful place to live and work, these organizations are so deserving of assistance as we begin our recovery," says Kristen Chesak, Executive Director of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

Generously created by seed grants from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, The Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation, and the Suzanne U.D. Parish Foundation, this grant is intended to provide emergency relief funding for operations as needed to nonprofit organizations up to a maximum of \$10,000. Chesak commended the swift action of the area foundations, "We could not have provided this type of emergency funding without the leadership and lead gift of the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, and the generous funding of our area arts and cultural foundations, all of which are very aware of this critical need to bridge the funding gap and get our arts organizations back on the road to recovery." Funding priority will go to arts organizations that operate in Kalamazoo County and projects that occur in and benefit Kalamazoo County. COVID-19 Bridge Funds will only be granted once per organization. Recipients of these funds must agree to attend a non-profit business best practices/sustainability workshop provided by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo in conjunction with ONEplace @KPL. "Sustainability is one of the Arts Council's core values. We hope that in addition to financial assistance, participants in this grant program will also have

The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo exists to infuse arts and culture into the commercial, educational, and creative economies of our region.

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organizational development opportunities to strengthen their sustainability model and in turn our whole arts community.” says Chesak.

Nonprofit organizations interested in applying for the COVID-19 Bridge Funds may do so immediately. Funds will be awarded until the grant fund is exhausted. Other foundations are currently considering funding this relief effort, and a second wave of funding may become available.

Eligibility, review criteria, restrictions, grant instructions, and additional Information including details on how to apply for the COVID-19 Bridge Funds may be found online at KalamazooArts.org/grants.

If you are interested in learning more about this grant, the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, or our programs, or the artists, and arts organizations we exist to promote and support, please contact Executive Director Kristen Chesak at kchesak@kalamazooarts.org or 269-342-5059.

The logo for the Irving S. Silmore Foundation features a handwritten signature in cursive script above the word 'FOUNDATION' in a clean, uppercase, sans-serif font.

**DOROTHY U DALTON
FOUNDATION**

**SUZANNE U. D. PARISH
FOUNDATION**

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