



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Visit Canton and ArtsinStark Award \$253,400 in Marketing and Event Grants

Stark County, Ohio – Visit Canton, the Stark County Convention & Visitors’ Bureau, and ArtsinStark, the County Arts Council, awarded \$253,400 in marketing and events grants for the 2018 grant cycle.

Visit Canton and ArtsinStark entered into a cooperative agreement in 2017 to make a portion of the Stark County lodging tax available in grant assistance for arts initiatives and events consistent with the promotion of travel and tourism to Stark County. Grants were awarded to initiatives in two categories; Arts Support and Community Partnership Grants.

Visit Canton and ArtsinStark awarded \$61,400 in Community Partnership Grants, funds intended for community marketing and events initiatives that encompass authentic historic and cultural places, attractions, traditions, history, music or art. The following organizations received Community Partnership Grant awards ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 each:

- Bender’s Tavern - Downtown Canton Restaurant Week (new event support)
- Downtown Canton Flea - Saturdays in the City (marketing campaign support)
- Akron Canton Jellystone Park - Stay and Play Packages (marketing campaign support)
- Grapes in a Glass - wine industry education (new event support)
- Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce - Canton Blues Festival (marketing campaign support)
- Canton Brewing Company - Canton Oktoberfest (marketing campaign support)
- Crafty Mart - Crafty Mart Canton (marketing campaign support)
- Noble Steed Music - Little C Music Festival (marketing campaign support)
- Jupiter Studios - JupiterFest Art and Music Festival (new event support)
- University of Mount Union - Shakespeare at Glamorgan Castle (marketing campaign support)
- Troll Hole Museum - Guinness World Record Celebration (new event support)
- Minerva Area Chamber of Commerce - Minerva Oktoberfest (marketing campaign support)
- St. Raphael Center - Mother Angelica Tour (marketing campaign support)
- Spring Hill Historic Home - group tour itinerary (marketing campaign support)
- St. Haralambos Church - Canton Greek Fest (marketing campaign support)

- Muggswigz Coffee and Tea Company - Celebrating the Craft (marketing campaign support)
- The Essential Alternatives - Date Night on 4th Street (new event support)
- Ridgewood Historic Association - Historic Ridgewood History & Architecture Tour (new event support)
- Louisville-Nimishillen Historical Society and the AHH Gallery - Umbrella Mania (new event support)

Visit Canton and ArtsinStark also awarded \$192,000 in Arts Support funds for use by the seven current ArtsinStark major operating grantees – Canton Museum of Art, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Canton Palace Theatre, Players Guild Theatre, The Canton Ballet, Massillon Museum, and Voices of Canton – for the purpose of enhanced events and marketing initiatives with merit to bring new visitors from outside of Stark County.

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Visit Canton

The Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, d.b.a. Visit Canton, is funded by a lodging tax administered through the Stark County Commissioners. The organization's mission is to promote travel to Stark County. Visit Canton facilitates operations that support a travel and tourism industry in Stark County that generates a \$1.7 billion dollar economic impact.

Contact: Tonja Marshall, Executive Vice President | tonjam@visitcanton.com | 330.454.1439

ArtsinStark

The 47-year-old County Arts Council, ArtsinStark is devoted to creating smarter kids, new jobs, and a healthier community by funding arts programs. ArtsinStark owns and operates the Cultural Center for the Arts, home to 4 of the 7 major arts organizations; Canton Museum of Art, Players Guild Theatre, Canton Ballet, and Voices of Canton. ArtsinStark raises money for the arts through the Annual Arts Campaign, the only united arts fund drive in the United States to ever make goal for 13 years in a row.

Contact: Robert J. Hankins, CEO | RobbHankins@ArtsinStark.com | 330.453.1075