



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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\$303,250 in Stark County Arts & Cultural Tourism Grants Awarded for 2019

Stark County, Ohio – \$300,250 in Arts & Cultural Tourism Grants has been awarded for the 2019 cycle. The 2019 Arts & Cultural Tourism Grant cycle is the second of a 10-year cooperative agreement between Visit Canton and ArtsinStark to utilize 1/6 of the portion of Stark County lodging tax committed for the operation of the Convention & Visitors' Bureau, for granting financial support to arts initiatives and events that attract travel and tourism into Stark County.

Funds earmarked for Arts & Cultural Tourism were awarded in the form of Community Partnership Grants (\$70,250), Arts Support (\$200,000), and ArtsinStark Marketing & Event Support (\$33,000).

A committee of five representatives from or appointed by Visit Canton, the Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, and ArtsinStark, the Stark County Arts Council, awarded Community Partnership Grants totaling \$70,250 to 15 of 30 applicants. Community Partnership Grants for 2019 were awarded to:

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church - Canton Greek Fest
\$500 – Community Partnership Existing Event Grant

Royal Docks Brewing Co. – Docktoberfest
\$5,000 – Community Partnership Existing Event Grant

720 Market - 2019 Season
\$7,500 – Community Partnership Existing Event Grant

Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce - Canton Blues Festival
\$5,000 – Community Partnership Existing Event Grant

Canton Christmas Spectacular
\$10,000 – Community Partnership New Event Grant

Alliance Chamber of Commerce - Tourism Committee
\$1,000 – Community Partnership Marketing Campaign Grant

Downtown Canton Flea – Saturdays in the City
\$10,000 – Community Partnership Existing Event Grant

Bender’s Tavern – 2019 Restaurant Week
\$7,500 – Community Partnership Existing Event Grant

Pro Football Hall of Fame – HOF Craft Beer Fest
\$5,000 – Community Partnership New Event Grant

Massillon Zombie Walk – 2019 Massillon Zombie Walk
\$750 – Community Partnership Existing Event Grant

Minerva Area Chamber of Commerce – Oktoberfest & The Lost French Gold Craft Beer Motherlode
\$1,500 – Community Partnership Existing Event Grant

McKinley Presidential Library & Museum – Project EAT!
\$7,500 – Community Partnership Marketing Campaign Grant

Seat of the Pants Productions – Seat of the Pants’ Festival of New Plays
\$5,000 – Community Partnership New Event Grant

4th St. Merchant Cooperative – Shop 4th Street
\$2,500 – Community Partnership New Event Grant

Troll Hole Museum – Troll Mania on Main
\$1,500 – Community Partnership Existing Event Grant

\$200,000 in Arts Support was awarded to Stark County’s seven major arts organizations; 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 marketing and event support to attract new visitors from outside of Stark County. Arts Support Grants were awarded as follows:

Canton Ballet - \$14,000 Arts Support

Marketing throughout Northeast Ohio of the 2019 productions including “The Little Mermaid”, “Celebrate Dance!” and “The Nutcracker”.

Canton Symphony - \$30,000 Arts Support

Marketing throughout Northeast Ohio of the 2019 Divergent and Pops Concerts Series.

Canton Museum of Art - \$36,000 Arts Support

Marketing throughout Northeast Ohio of the 2019 Spring, Fall and Winter Exhibitions.

Massillon Museum - \$38,000 Arts Support

Marketing campaign to promote the opening of the new Paul Brown Museum at the Massillon Museum.

Canton Palace Theatre - \$35,000 Arts Support

Marketing 2019 programs throughout Northeast Ohio as well as marketing to and incentivizing third party event producers.

Players Guild Theatre - \$32,000 Arts Support

Marketing throughout Northeast Ohio of the 2019 season.

VOCI - \$15,000 Arts Support

Marketing throughout Northeast Ohio of the 2019 programs including a new “VOX Audio” a cappella ensemble and additional dates and location for Sing Stark series.

\$33,000 was awarded for ArtsinStark Marketing and Event Support for an extension of the “First Friday” event concept in summer 2019. ArtsinStark will utilize the grant to operate and advertise a “First Friday” event format every Friday in downtown Canton next summer starting Friday, June 7 through Friday, August 2.

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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 \$1.8 billion dollar economic impact.

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ArtsinStark

The 48-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 14 years in a row.

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